

Relative clause in Khwarshi

This work is a preliminary account of the relative clause in Khwarshi. This language belongs to the Tsezic subgroup of the Avar-Andic-Tsezic group within the Nakh-Dagestan language family. Khwarshi is spoken by about 3000 people in the southern mountainous part of Dagestan and on the lowlands near the capital of the republic. Among different types of subordinate clauses relative clause can be distinguished in the language. Any argument of a sentence such as subject, direct object and indirect object can be made the head of the relative clause. The predicate of relative clause is always a participle. As for the word order relative clause usually precedes the head noun but the other order is also possible. There is no special verbal morphology for relative clauses in Khwarshi. There are different positions that could be relativized.

Position 1 – Subject

- (1) a. *Buλ* *l-it-x-in* *goli*
Flock of sheep (G4)/ABS G4-rob-CAUS-PST: UW COP
'Flock of sheep was stolen.'
- b. *Hun-λ'o* *kok-še* *l-ečč-u* *buλ*
Mountain-SUP eat-PRES G4-be-PST: PTCP flock of sheep (G4)/ABS
l-it-x-in.
G4-rob-CAUS-PST: UW
'The flock of sheep that had been feeding on the mountains was stolen.'

Position 2 – Agent

- (2) a. *kad-i* *heše* *cališ-še*
Girl-ERG book/ABS read-PRES
'The girl is reading the book.'
- b. *Heše* *calidd-u* *kad* *y-ok 'i*
Book/ABS read-PST: PTCP girl/ABS G2-come-PST: WIT
'The girl who read the book came.'

Position 3 – Patient

- (3) a. *Pačtal'ón-i* *kayat* *m-eq-un*
Postman-ERG letter/ABS G3-bring-PST:UW
'The postman brought the letter.'
- b. *Pačtal'ón-i* *m-eq-un* *b-ečč-u* *kayat*
Postman-ERG G3-bring-PST: UW G3-be-PST: PTCP letter (G3)/ABS
žen ustul-λ'o *goli*
still table-SUP COP
'The letter that the postman had brought was on the table.'

Position 4 – Recipient

- (4) *Isu-l* *os* *uλλ-u* *žik'o*
He/OBL-LAT Money/ABS give-PST: PTCP man/ABS
'the man to whom money was given'

Position 5 – Adjunct

- (5) *Isu-l os b-oqq-u zebu ise*
He/OBL-LAT money(G3)/ABS G3-get-PST: PTCP day/ABS he/ERG
saiyat-ba l-ez-i
gift-PL NHPL-take-PST: WIT
'The day when he got the money he bought the presents.'

Position 6 - Possessor

- (6) a. *Edu uže lux-i*
Inside boy/ABS stay-PST: WIT
'The boy stayed at home.'
- b. *Edu uže lux-i haqu maxačkala-λ'a-li*
Inside boy/ABS stay-PST: W family/ABS Makhachkala-SUP-LAT
m-ok'k'-u
HPL-go-PST: PTCP
'The boy whose parents gone to Makhachkala stayed at home.'

There are also some other positions of relativization. This paper presents different possibilities of relativization in Khwarshi.

Abbreviations

ABS - Absolutive, CAUS - Causative COP – Copula, ERG – Ergative, G – Gender, HPL – Human plural, LAT- Lative, NHPL – Non-human plural, OBL – Oblique, PL – Plural, PST:PTCP – Past Participle, PRES – Present, PST:WIT – Past Witnessed, PST:UW – Past Unwitnessed, SUP – Super.

References

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