SYNTAX

With regard to morpho-syntactic feature of Brok-skad it may be said that in a way various aspects of it have already been taken care of in connection with the analysis of various categories of its constituents. Therefore, in this section only a formal presentation of the syntactic features of it will be done. In brief the nature and structure of various types of sentences may be presented as follows .

Types of Sentences

Traditional grammarians, normally, recognize three types of syntactic compositions, viz. simple, compound and complex. But the language under consideration favours simple and short sentences only, even ideas of a complex nature are expressed by splitting them into distinct simple sentences. With regard to other types of sentences too it may be mentioned that the mechanism of combining them by means of connectors is not favoured. Usually, the purpose of various categories of conjuncts is served by a mode of open juncture (pause).

Types of Simple Sentences: Semantically and structurally

too, a simple sentence can be designated as an affirmative, interrogative, imperative, negative, etc. And an affirmative sentence can further be classified as active, passive, impersonal, causative, etc. As pointed out above, all the aspects of a simple sentence correlated with the morpho-syntactic character of the verb, have already been dealt with in respect of various verbal systems and modal formations. Here, reproduction of all of them will be a mere repetition of those facts which have already been explained earlier. These may, therefore, be seen there itself.

Moreover, morphologically, a simple sentence could be subjectival or objectival as well. Obviously, in the former type the agreement, in respect of person-number-gender categories, is attested between the subject and the verb, and in the latter case it takes place between the verb and the object. In Brok-skad syntactic structures of both the types are attested. (See Agreement, p. 91).

Besides this language, like many T.H. languages of the Himalayan regions makes a structural distinction between the use of transitive and intransitive verbs. Accordingly in sentences with transitive verb the subject is invariably in the ergative case, whereas with intransitive verbs in the nominative case (for examples see Nom.-& Erg. cases p. 61, 63).

Components of a Simple Sentence : The essential components of a simple sentence are phrasal units called 'noun phrase' and 'verb phrase,' constituting as subject and predicate of it, respectively, as in /mo goṭə-ra biyuŋs /I am going home.

Noun Phrase : Constituents of a noun phrase could be a single noun /pronoun or both or a noun head plus one or more modifiers, preceding or following it. For instance,

/myo sasŋyo trə həni /I have three sisters.
/həmo mi goṭ bet /this is my house.
/ña wa-r bəsuŋ /fishes live in water.
/byoi molei riṭhyaŋ /a boy saw a girl.

Extension of Noun Phrase : A noun phrase is extendable in the form of case markers and various types of qualifiers of the noun head, as in /ram-i mohəno-r spira-k razos /Ram asked Mohan one thing (about something). Also /lodo puṣo /red flower, /homo goṭ/ this house, /pha mole /that girl, /tes boyo /his brother, /ten bo / their father, /myo əbs /my horse, etc.

/məi (ek bono kyono) śwa riṭ /I saw a (big black) dog.

Verb Phrase: Verb is a part of the predicate of the sentence

and as such occupies an important place in it. Positionally, in Brok-skad, it comes at the fag end of the sentence and carries all the grammatical categories of the subject in subjectival constructions and of the object in objectival constructions, as in /m∂s∂ šuguku zbrithi yuŋs /I have to write a letter.

A simple verb phrase or VP. contains either a simple finite / copulative verb form with all morphological markers or a main verb plus one or more auxiliaries /helping verbs. In case of a simple finite verb the VP can stand by itself, but in case of a transitive or a verb of incomplete predication it may need an object /complement to complete the sense of the utterance.

/m∂s ti-ra dyuŋs /I shall give to you.

/m∂i ek šwa rit /I saw a dog; /mo goṭ∂ra biyuŋs /I am going home.

/myo bayo-da tr∂ h∂n /I have three brothers.

However, the components of a composite verb phrase are--a principal verb stem+one or more full verb stem+aux. /helping verb+object /complement, further extendable by modifiers. Syntactically, the place of an aux. or helping verb is at the end of the VP and it is the real bearer of all the morphological markers of the VP concerned. Thus owing to its affiliation with the SOV group, the normal order of the placement of different constituents of a sentence is-subject (NP.)+object+verb (VP). Moreover, in case of double objects the indirect object precedes the direct object.

/ayes sina-di dyut pyayal /mother feeds the child with milk.

/siŋthok- po-ži ek seni cei la /(there) is a small bird on the tree.

/sene sinas ayes dyut pyalen /young babies suck (drink) mother's milk.

/so tis∂ ba cisum byasu bet /he has to go with his father.

NON-SIMPLE SENTENCES

In traditional terminology non-simple sentences are termed as compound and complex sentences.

Compound sentences are combinations of two or more independent simple sentences, joined together by coordinative conjunctions. But, as pointed out earlier, the use of these conjuncts is not favoured in a non-formal speech. There its purpose is, normally, served by a pause juncture, as in /soi k∂ya bet † tes khwai bet / he continued cooking (and) they continued eating.

(for more examples see co-ordinative conjunctions)

Complex sentences too are a combination of more than one clause /sentence, but in this, one of the constituent clause /sentence is subordinate or dependent on the other. There the number of dependent clauses could be more than one as well. The clause of which other clause /clauses are subordinate is called the principal clause. This clause may or may not have other phrases, except the subject and the verb. The following type of complex sentences have been noted for this speech.

(i) *Complemental:* In this type of complex sentences the subordinate clause functions as a complement or complementary object of the principal clause. Both the clauses are joined by a conjunction which in this speech is usually left out and a pause juncture takes place instead, e.g.

/soi rǝzit † mõ ṭhamyõ la /he said, I am hungry.

/soi razos † ti kyan bǝsuŋ /he asked, where do you live?

(for more examples see : Particles : subordinative conjunctions)

(ii) *Correlative :* In this type of complex sentences the relative clause, which is introduced by a relative pronoun, functions as a subject or a complement of the principal clause. Positionally, it precedes the principal clause. Both the clauses are conjoined by relative pronouns, e.g.

/hǝm mihilpo-r ko uttoga † byas /whosoever comes in this world+will go (=goes)

/so kere ut † miǝ gia huaw /when he came, I had gone.

/pǝrpo bǝŋdis † zo myo hem bet /the one who is running, (he) is my friend.

/run bǝndeto mõ-dyo seno bet /the one who ran yesterday (he) was younger to me.

/kosǝ krum krumito † tera khus busu /who does work, he will get food.

/so sinasǝ silith-to † ho sina pas busu /he who studies will pass. (lit. which boy studies that boy will get through).

(iii) *Conditional:* In this type of complex sentences the constituent clauses are bound together with condition markers like if, 'when' and 'then' (expressed or understood). In this the clause containing the sense of 'if', 'when' etc. is the subordinate clause and the clause with 'then' is the principal clause. Positionally, the subordinate clause precedes the principal clause.

But in this type of clause constructions this speech sometimes instead of contructing two clauses with conjuncts expressing

condition, prefers to construct it as a single sentence with the use of the conjunctive participle. For this type of syntactic construction a logical reason may be that in this the action denoted by the verb of the principal clause takes place only if the action denoted by the verb of the subordinate clause takes place first, which is a domain of the conjunctive participle as well. For instance, a statement like 'if you come, I will also accompany you' can be rendered as 'an your coming, I will also accompany you' as well. Some of the examples of the conditional construction in it may be illustrated as under:

/krum krumis chəribus go-to pəpa khun /

(when) the work was finished, then food was eaten.

/čhisak isgo-to mõ ga sum yuŋs /

(if) you come, then I shall also go with you.

/so ga ut-to ṭok busu hua /(if) he had come, then nice it would have been.

Interrogative: At a syntactic level, this speech, besides the use of interrogative terms belonging to pronominal /adverbial class of words, uses an interrogative suffix as well which is affixed to the finite verb form concerned, e.g.

/so ut-a /did he come? (with an interro. intonation with a).

/so khat-a /did he eat? ; /tiyə are-t-a /did he bring;

/homo tyo goṭ bet-a /is this your house?

/teso bun-po seno həŋ -a /is their village small?

Otherwise-/tyo byo kyan həŋ /where is your son?

/tera kəluk pene həŋ /how much money have you?

/tyo nu-r ye rəzisin /what you are called? =what is your name?

/ti kyano udo /where are you coming from?

Word Classes

On the basis of their morphological peculiarities and syntactic relations the word classes attested in Brok-skad are-- noun, pronoun, modifiers, verb and function words/ enclitics. Normally, words of all classes, except the function words, as in OIA, enter into various types of morphological inflections, i.e. these are variable, and are inflected for various grammatical categories, wholly or partially.

Word Formation

In it a word can be both, mono-morphemic and poly- morphemic. The morphological processes employed for the formation of a poly-morphemic word are—juxta-position, suffixation, reduplication and compounding.

TRIBAL LANGUAGES OF LADAKH--I

(Part One)
(A Concise Grammar and Dictionary of Brok-skad)

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