

On the ordering distribution of central adverbial clauses in Qashqai Turkic

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Third International Conference on Adverbial Clauses:

<http://www.lukasz-jedrzejowski.eu/adverbial-clauses-2/>

Introduction

A **finite adverbial clause** employs the finite form of a verb, and a **central** adverbial clause modifies the information given in the proposition with which it is associated and thus, structures the event (Haegeman, 2004).

The central type of adverbial clauses includes **conditional, temporal, causal, and purpose** (Valmala, 2001).

This research tries to shed light on the ordering distribution of central finite adverbial clauses in the **Qashqai Turkic language** based on Diessel's (2001, 2005) typological approach to the order of adverbial clauses. Also, it has been tried to investigate the processing, discourse-pragmatic, and semantic forces influencing the order of these clauses.

Details on Qashqai Turkic:

Johanson (1998) accounts six main branches for Turkic languages: Kipchak, Uyghur, Siberian, Chuvash, Khalaj, and Oghuz which is the southwest branch. Each of these branches has various sub-branches and the following ones are included in the category of Oghuz:

western Oghuz: Gagauz, Azeri

eastern Oghuz: Turkmen, Khorasani Turkic

southern Oghuz: Qashqai, Songhori, Inanlu, Afshar

Qashqai Turkic is an Altaic language mostly spoken in the southwestern part of Iran. According to Csató (2006), this less-known language does not have a specific writing system, and even, there are no divisions of standard and spoken for it. Based on Ethnologue, Qashqai had approximately 950,000 speakers in 2016; however, unofficial estimations suggest this number to be about 400,000 in the same year.















A corpus of 810 Qashqai complex sentences was extracted from the interviews with 11 native speakers of this language who were aged between 45 to 85 including 6 female and 5 male participants.

The results:

Since the behavior of Qashqai Turkic is similar to the behavior of **verb-ending** languages and indicates a **flexible constituent order**, the adverbial clause in Qashqai has the **ability** to stand at both **initial** and **final** positions. The findings are in line with Diessel's (2001) typological classification stating that in languages with flexible word order, **conditional** clauses are usually preposed to the main clause but occasionally occur sentence-finally, and to a lesser degree, **causal** clauses are preposed to the main clause as well. In contrast, adverbial clauses of **purpose** mostly tend to occur in the final position, and **temporal** clauses show a mixed pattern: either the initial or final position.

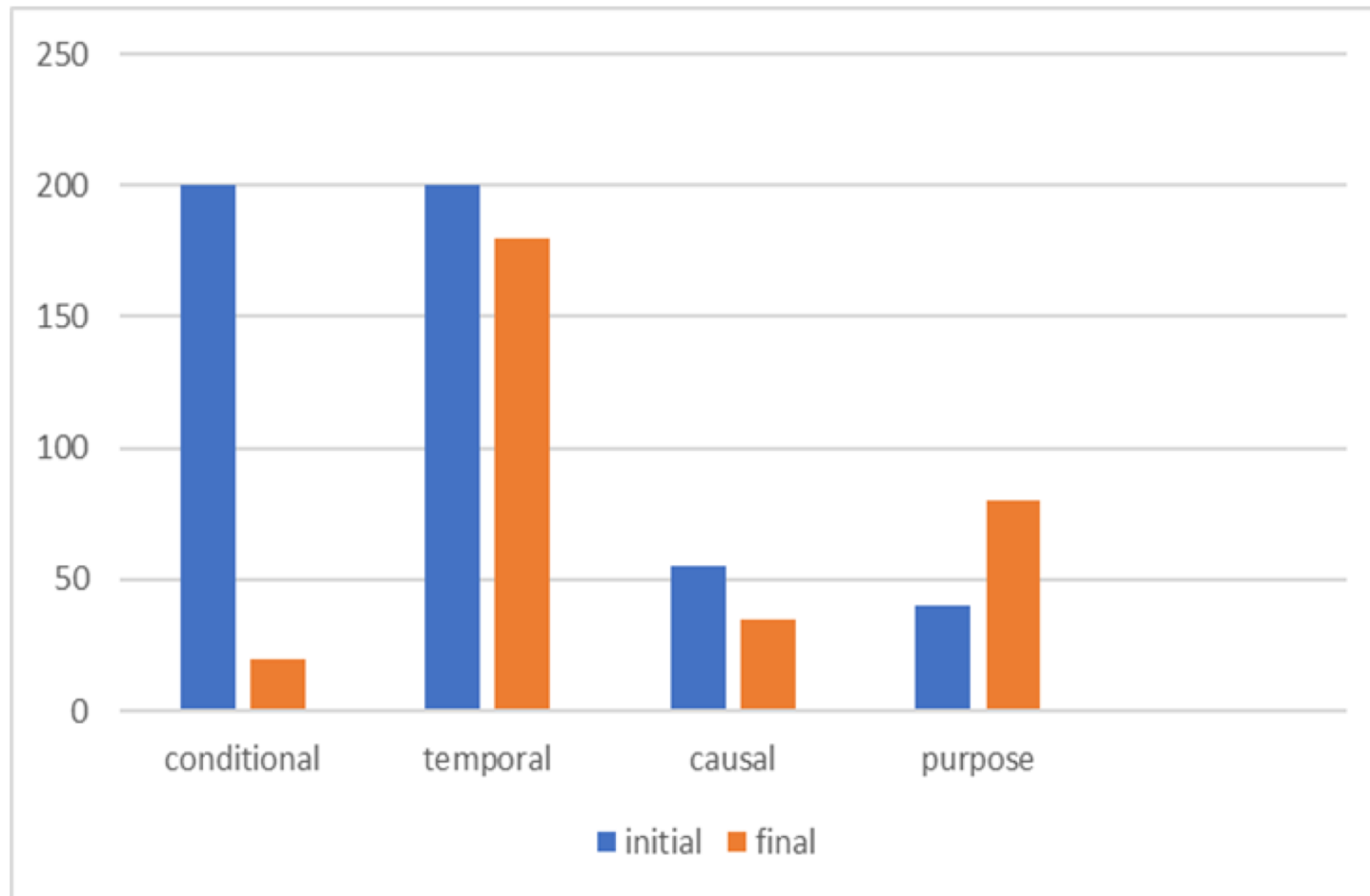


Figure 1. Proportions of initial and final adverbial clauses in Qashqai Turkic complex sentences

Also, the flexible order of adverbial clauses in Qashqai is rooted in the interaction among the **processing**, **discourse-pragmatic**, and **semantic** forces.

The following Qashqai example clarifies this point:

dineyn	šām	onnāke	vār-ir-d-em	bikil-ir-d-em	av-a	ānā-m	zang	vur-d-e
last	night	when	be-PRS-PST-1sg	return-PRS-PST-1sg	home-to	mother-GEN	call	make-PST-3sg

Last night, **when I was returning home**, my mother called.

According to Diessel (2001, 2005), adverbial clauses of time have the ability to occur in both the initial and final positions of a complex sentence. He argues that the positional patterns of adverbial clauses are motivated by competing functional and cognitive forces.

Since Qashqai Turkic shows a **flexible constituent order**, the order of main and adverbial clauses in the previous sentence can change:

ānā-m	zang	vur-d-e	dineyn	šām	onnāke	vār-ir-d-em	bikil-ir-d-em	av-a
mother-GEN	call	make-PST-3sg	last	night	when	be-PRS-PST-1sg	return-PRS-PST-1sg	home-to

My mother called, last night **when I was returning home**.

Topicalization is one of the **discourse-pragmatic** determiners of the main and adverbial clause's position in the Qashqai Turkic language; if it is needed for the semantic content of the adverbial clause to be focused, it can occur before the main clause and vice versa; if the main clause should be stressed, it can come first.

Adverbial clause of purpose:

gal-d-em burā (tā) gap čāl-ā-m beleya
come-PST-1sg here to word make-SUB-1sg with you

I came here **to talk to you.**

seyr-d-em gap čāl-ā-m beleya ke gal-d-em burā
want-PST-1sg word make-SUB-1sg with you so come-PST-1sg here

Because I wanted to talk to you, I came here.

Adverbial clause of reason:

tez yol-ā diš-a-g (čon) seyr-φ yāquš yāq-ā-φ
soon way-to fall-SUB-1pl because want-3sg rain pour-SUB-3sg

We ought to go soon **because it is going to rain.**

seyr-φ yāquš yāq-ā-φ tez yol-ā diš-a-g
want-3sg rain pour-SUB-3sg soon way-to fall-SUB-1pl

It is going to rain, we ought to go soon.

Conclusion:

Overall, it is the interaction among the three competing forces: processing, discourse-pragmatic, and semantic that determines the ordering distribution of central finite adverbial clauses in Qashqai Turkic complex sentences.

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