SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT IN PUNJABI: A MORPHOSYNTACTIC ANALYSIS

*Abdul Hanan, **Zahid Ali, ***Firdos Atta

Abstract

The paper evaluates the of subject-verb agreement in Punjabi (one of the Indo-Aryan languages). The study focusses on transitive and intransitive verbs of past, present, future simple and continuous tenses to examine the verb agreement in Punjabi language. The unstructured interview (face to face and video call) has been selected as tool to collect data from Punjabi native speakers. As a theoretical framework, to draw three diagram the X bar theory (Haegeman, 1994) has been used and to examine the verb phrase especially on INFL. The descriptive and exploratory (Creswell, 2014) as research design has been used in the current paper. The results of the paper describe that the transitive and intransitive verbs agree in person. number, tense, gender in present, past and future tenses. And in the case of continuous tenses verbs also agree with subject in terms of number, tense, person and gender. These results indicate that the language is enrich with morphemes in the case of verbs inflection. This study also explores the word order (SOV) of the Punjabi as it is in Sindhi (Cole, 2001; Zahid, 2016) it shows that both languages are sister languages and having syntactically same features well-nigh.

Key words: Punjabi, English, Subject-Verb Agreement, Inflections, X' Theory

1. Introduction

Punjabi language is a member of Indo Aryan family. Punjabi is the mother tongue of more than 130 million people. They are settled in Pakistan and across the world. According to Pakistan census 2017, there are 83.21 million Punjabi speakers in Pakistan and Indian census 2011 claims that Punjabi speakers are 27.70 million and a great number of them is also found in Canada, Europe, and America. Punjabi is the 11th most spoken language in the world. Punjabi has two types of script; one is Shahmukhi (Western Punjabi) and the second is Gurumukhi (Eastern Punjabi). Gurumukhi derives its characteristics from the Sanskrit style i.e., right to left. Shamakhi is written right to left in western Punjab (Pakistan) and they are ninety-seven percent Muslims so that their written style is influenced by Perso-Arabic script i.e., right to left. Shahmukhi has more consonants than Gurumukhi (Malik, 2005; Malik et al., 2016). Phonology and grammar of Punjabi is very close to Indo Aryan language family; it got mixed up with Dardic at some time in history (Sidhi, 1992).

According to Nara, K. (2015), Majhi is the standard dialect of Punjabi. Habib, & Khan (2019) also explain Punjabi has four major dialects Majhi, Pothohari, Powadhi, and Malwa. Another researcher Jamshaid (2015) explains that Punjabi consists of many dialects such as Majhi, Dani, Jangli, Hinndko, Doabi and Potohari. Majhi is the standard dialect of Punjabi which means center or heartland and it is the area where most of the population resides.

---

*Lecturer, Department of English Language and Linguistics, Faculty of Languages and literature, LUAWWMS, Uthal, Balochistan, Pakistan

**Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Linguistics, Faculty of Languages and Literature, LUAWWMS, Uthal, Balochistan, Pakistan

***Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Linguistics, Faculty of Languages and Literature, LUAWWMS, Uthal, Balochistan, Pakistan

This dialect is spoken in Lahore, Sialkot, Narowal, Nanka Sahab, Wazirabad, Sheikhupura, Gurdaspur and Amritsar. Therefore, Majhi is the widely spoken dialect of Punjabi (spoken in Pakistan & India). Doabi is a combination of two words (Do Abi) which means *the land between two rivers (Sutlej & Beas).* It is spoken in East Punjabi (Nawanshahr, Hoshaipur, Kapurthala and Jalandar) and in West Punjabi (Faisalabad and Toba Tek Singh). Malwai/Malwa is spoken in south-eastern region of Majhi dialect. Malwi is spoken in central Punjab (India) and spoken in northern region of Haryana. The main regions are Monga, Mansa, Ludhiana, Ambala, Fatehgarh Sahib, Sangrur, Patiala, Faridkot, Bathinda, and Panchkula. Potohari is spoken in Rajpura, Samara, Morinda and Kharar in Pakistani Punjabi. This dialect also known as sweetest dialect (Bansal, 2021).

2. Background and Literature

2.1. Morphology

According to Radford (2004) and Rahman (2009), the study of rules of word formation of any language is known as morphology. Minimal smallest unit of words is called morpheme. Morphology is how morpheme is attached with lexeme. The variation within words is also known as Morphology. According to Dixon (2014), morphology is the study of word formation and formed words how they used in the sentence. And native speakers know that how to make new words because of intuitive knowledge. The reason behind the morphology is that we make new lexemes from old lexeme. This formation can perform one of the three things: firstly, word formation can change words category (Parts of speech); secondly, it can change meanings; and thirdly, it can change both category and meaning.

Verb	Noun:	State	Statement
Verb	Adjective:	Impress	Impressive
Noun	Adjective:	Monster	Monstruous

According to Dixon (2014), morpheme is the smallest unit that has own meaning. For examples, the words 'pen, come, is, of, go, etc.' are morphemes. Morphemes are divided into two types: free morphemes (go, eat, board, boy, etc.) and bound morpheme (pre, er, ism, ness etc.). Lexical and functional free morphemes are the branches of the Free Morpheme and into inflectional (s, er, ing, es etc.) and derivational (ness, ous, ism etc.) are the parts of bound morphemes. Inflectional morphemes do not create new words. However, they show aspect, number, person, and gender markers. Like case (subject, object, possessive), person (first, second, third), tense (present. past) and number (singular, Plural).

2.2. Agreement

Agreement word refers to a grammatical principle which means a speaker/writer uses words/morphemes to align with gender, person, and number of subject(s). When a singular subject of the sentence is used then verb must be singular because of our subject is singular. They should always agree with each another. We see the example "the man washed his car." Here noun is singular with masculine attributes; therefore, the word "his" agrees with subject "the man", and if we use noun "woman" then we take the pronoun "her" to use with the subject as the subject is singular feminine (Lashari, & Soomro., 2013).

According to Radford (2004) and Rahman (2009), the study of rules of word formation of any language is known as morphology. Minimal smallest unit of words is called morpheme. Morphology is how morpheme is attached with lexeme. The variation within words is also known as Morphology. According to Dixon (2014), morphology is the study of word formation and formed words how they used in the sentence. And native speakers know that how to make new words because of intuitive knowledge. The reason behind the morphology is that we make new lexemes from old lexeme. This formation can perform one of the three things: firstly, word formation can change words category (Parts of speech); secondly, it can change meanings; and thirdly, it can change both category and meaning.

2.3. Agreement in English

According to Nordquist, R. (2020) in English language it is limited. It happens between subject of the clause and verb of present tense. Such as in the respect of 3rd person singular subject (e.g., Hassan) the verb has suffix -s at the end (Hassan eats food). As we see the verb has agreement with subject by having appropriate ending. Thus, '*Hassan eat* food' is grammatically incorrect, the verb don't have agreement with subject. But Hassan eats food in correct sentence. Agreement also happens in demonstratives and nouns in English language. Such as those/these books are old. With plural noun we must use those or these but with singular noun those and these do not agree with noun the sentence will be incorrect. In that case we will use this or that (This/that book is old).

2.4. Research Concern

Lashri and Soomro (2013) described that Sindhi language has agreement with subject in tense, aspect, gender, number, and mood in all tense. Sindhi is Indo Aryan language and Punjabi as well. Therefore, to evaluate the subject-verbs agreement in the Punjabi this research will be very interesting. Whether Punjabi language also follows Sindhi, or it has separate phenomenon. This study will focus on agreement of subject verb in past, present, future simple and continuous tense as well. The following examples differentiate the following languages.

S. No	English	Sindhi	Punjabi
1	The boy reads the letter.	Chhokry chithi parhyo.	Monde ne chithi pari a.
2	She reads the book	Hoowa kitab parhe thi.	O kitab pardi a.
3	They read the book.	Uhy kitab parhen tha	O kitab parde ne.
4	We read the book.	Assan parhen tha	Assin kitab parde ia.

Aforementioned examples describe that verbs are very differently inflected in terms of number person, gender in Sindhi and Punjabi languages. Punjabi is also rich in case of bound morphemes (suffixes) attached with verbs as Sindhi (Devi, 2012) because they belong to Indo Aryan family. Therefore, this study is very interesting for the Indo Aryan's scholar/ researcher to know about morphemes of Punjabi specially in terms of suffixes. Moreover, English language is also inflected with morphemes 's' and 'es' with verb for 3rd person subject. However, plain form of verb is used with other subjects. In English language inflection in verbs does not show the gender of subject.

2.5. Research Objectives

The aims of the study to evaluate the different word ordering of position of subject-verb agreement of Punjabi sentences, and it also explores that the verbs which do not agree with their subjects. The study is going to look for the To find out the answers of the research questions this study will be very helpful for scholars. Research Questions like: what is nature of subject-verb agreement in simple and continuous tenses of the Punjabi? and what are the inflections used with transitive verbs in simple and continuous tenses in Punjabi?

3. Research Methodology

The section presents research design, and data collection techniques used in the study. X bar theory (Haegeman, 1994) will be analyzed the data to understand the verb subject agreement. This theory will help to draw tree diagram for the representation of Punjabi sentences focusing on verb phrases regarding INFL and word order of sentences for the subject verb agreement.

3.1. Research Design

The study uses qualitative method (Creswell, 2014). For understanding the nature of Punjabi verb agreement, the research designs Exploratory and descriptive and have been applied in the current research paper. The research explains the Punjabi verbs in the perspective of morphosyntax at first and also describes its function and form as well.

3.2. Data Collection

For the data collection the unstructured interview as research tool have been used. The type of interview was face-to-face and through video calls. Total ten participants participated in the study. The selected participant were Punjabi native speakers from Narowal (Punjab) and Lasbela (Balochistan). Later, the interview was transcribed and codified into non-verbal form. The unstructured interview technique has been used so that we may get pure form of the language.

3.3. Theoretical/Analytical Framework

With the help of X bar theory (Haegeman, 1994), the tree diagram will be made to explain the Punjabi sentences to focus on verb phrase especially INFL in Punjabi sentences. The data have also been analyzed with the tree diagram represent the verb phase of Punjabi. This theory also explained, what is common structure of the phrase. The theory says that all phrases have head which are headed by one phrase. The Zero Projection (XO) is considered as head of projection and heads have terminal nodes which are donate words. Complements are associated with X for X`- projection; for the forming of the projection adjuncts combine with X`. The specifier combines with the topmost X` to form the maximal projection XP. The X-bar Theory is very helpful to see/analyse agreement patterns and markers at phrasal and sentence level. This theory has been applied to see how agreement is used in Punjabi.

4. Data Analysis and Discussion

This section presents analysis of subject verb agreement in Punjabi and the different verbal inflections in the context of number, person, gender, and tense. Subject verb agreement is a linguistic feature; it explains how subjects agree with their verbs and vice versa. This section also discusses the inflections in transitive, these verbs show moods with simple tenses and continuous tenses. It also explains the word order (structure of sentences) to observe whether verbs describe

the agreement of subject-verb in different word orders. X-Bar theory supports to the scholar to draw the tree diagram and to understand the agreement of subject verb and also helps to comprehend the sequential words order Punjabi sentences.

4.1. Subject-Transitive Verb Agreement

According to Haegement, (1994) in a typical clause subject is a doer of an action. Baig (2006) explains that without object transitive verbs give incomplete meaning. The inflections in transitive verbs in Punjabi to observe the agreement of subject and verb in the perspective of future, past and present indefinite/simple tenses and other languages of the sub-continent (Ali, Z., Khan, S. & Gulkhanda, 2021; Azam, Ali, & Shahida, 2022; Jamshaid, 2016).

4.1.1. Present Simple Tense

Example: 1   Present Simple Tense
            Maj Kaa khandi a.   (Buffalo eats grass.)
            Maj   Kaa   khandi a
            Buffalo   grass   eats
   (SUB) N, Sg, F   (OBJ) N   (V) Sg, F
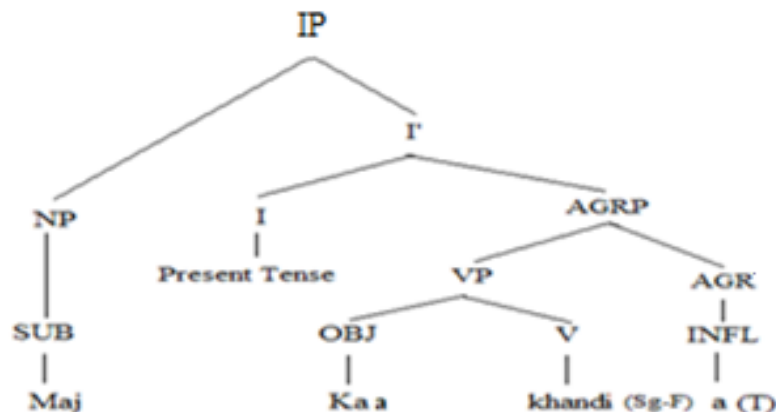
The above tree diagram describes that an agreement between the head AGR (agreement)and subject. They agree in respect of number, gender, person, and tense. SOV is the word order of the above sentence structure, and it is a present simple tense. It has nominative case, the subject *"maj"* (Buffalo) is feminine in gender and singular in in the terms of number. In nominative case the noun remains in its original form and it is not inflected with any case marker (Rehman, 2009).

To make clear and complete sense the subject and an object are needed in the case of transitive verbs (Allana, 2010 & Alshammiry, 2016). In above diagram the verb *"khandi"* (eats) is a transitive verb two agreements *"maj=buffalo"* and *"Kaa=grass"*. The verb has been inflected with the inflection *"i"* (agreement). This morpheme *"i"* indicates that our subject in the context of gender feminine, in member is singular and 1st person. This sentence describes that action has occurred in present. On the other hand, if we change inflection "i" singular feminine with plural feminine then *"ian"* inflection will be used and in the context of singular masculine then *"a"*

(agreement) inflection will be used. If we change inflection with plural in the context of masculine then inflection/morpheme will be *"ee"* (agreement) used.

4.1.2   Past Simple Tense

Example: 2   Bakri daane khandi si.   (Goat ate grain.)
                      Bakri   daane   khandi si.
                      Goat   grain   ate
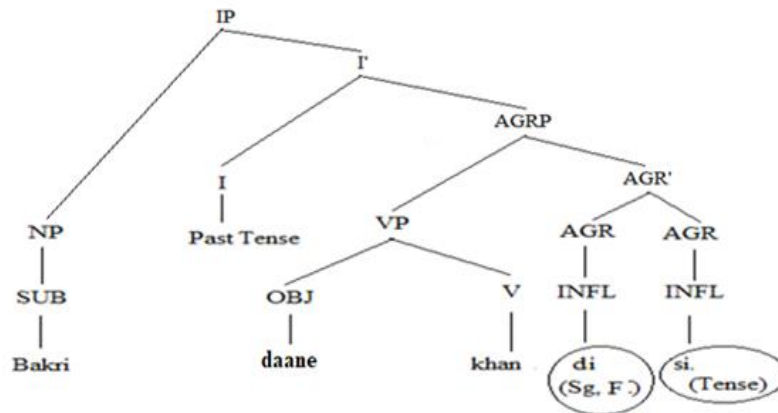
The Sentence is in past simple tense and word order of the sentence is SVO. The verb "khandi" is transitive verb in Punjabi. The inflection "i" (agreement) which is attached with verb is indicates that the subject is feminine in the term of gender and singular in in the term of number. The inflection "i" (agreement) replaces with inflection "a" (agreement) then it shows that the subject is singular in the context of number and masculine in in context of gender. Moreover, the inflection "i" (agreement) replaces with "ian" (agreement) then it indicates that our subject is feminine in the context of gender and plural in in the context of number and it replaced by "e" then the subject is masculine in the context of gender and plural the term of number. And the inflection "si" (agreement) indicates that the statement is in the past simple/indefinite tense in all above cases.

4.1.3   Future Simple Tense

Example: 3   O kam mukaawe ga.   (He will finish the work.)
                                      O   kam   mukaawe   ga.
                                      He   work   finish   will
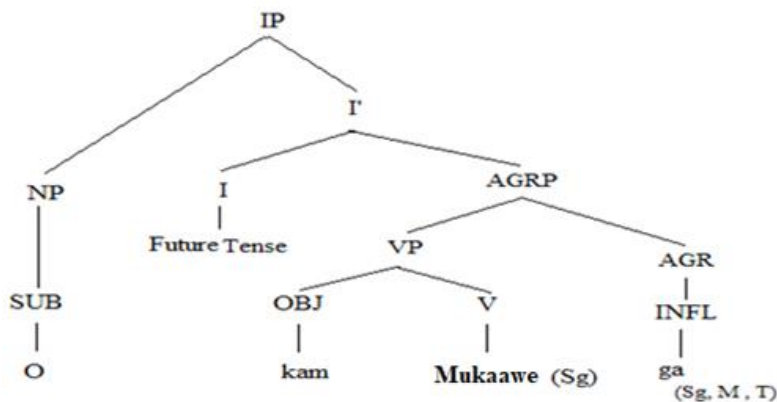
The above tree diagram is future simple tense, and the word order is SOV. The verb "mukaawe" is transitive verb. The first inflection "we" (agreement) which has been attached with verb, indicates that our subject in the sentence is singular in respect of number and second inflection "ga" (agreement) indicates that the subject is masculine in the respect of gender, singular in the respect of number and tense is future indefinite. In the context of plural, the inflection "we" will replace with inflection "wen" (agreement) which indicates that the subject is plural in number.

4.1.4   Present Continuous Tense

Example: 4
|				
O	lire	tondi pai	a.	(She is washing the clothes.)
O	clothes	washing	pai a.	
She	clothes	writing	Present continuous tense
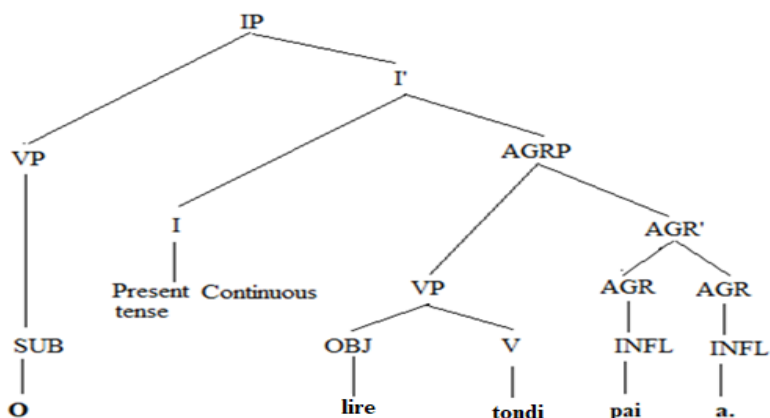
The above diagram indicates that an agreement between head AGR (agreement) and subject. The above sentence structure (word order) is SOV, and it is a present continuous tense. They agree in respect of number, gender, person, and tense. The subject *"O"* (pronoun). In above diagram the verb *"tondi"* (write) is a transitive verb. The verb has been inflected with the inflection *"i"* (agreement). This inflection shows that our subject in this sentence is singular in the respect of number, 1st person and feminine in in the respect of gender. And second inflection "pai" shows that the action is in present continuous tense, it means action is happening (didn't complete). However, the third inflection "a" shows that our subject is singular in the respect of number and masculine in the respect of gender. On the other hand, if we change the inflection singular masculine with plural masculine then the inflection will be *"e"* (agreement), the inflection will

352

be *"i"* (agreement) if our subject is singular feminine and the inflection *"ian"* (agreement) will be used with plural feminine. The second inflection "pai" will be replaced with inflection "pe" when subject is plural masculine and the third inflection "ne" is used which indicates that the subject is plural in number (either subject is feminine or masculine). The inflection "pian" will be used with subject is plural feminine. However, the inflection "a" will be used with subject is singular masculine or singular feminine.

4.1.5   Past Continuous Tense

Example: 5   O mortaan dekhdi pai si.   (She was watching pictures.)
                O   mortaan   dekhdi   pai   si.
                She   pictures   watching   was
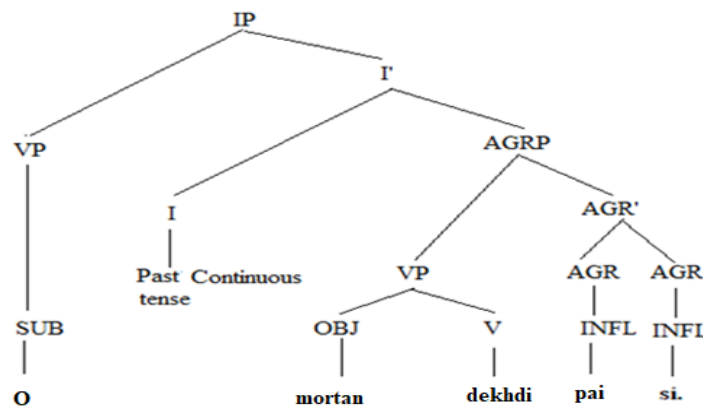
The SOV is the word order (sentence structure) of above example. The structure of this sentences (word order) is Subject Object Verb. The verb "dekhdi" is transitive verb in Punjabi language and it has an object "picture". The inflection "a" indicates that the subject is in the respect of singular in respect of number, masculine in gender and second inflection "pia" shows continuous tense subject is singular masculine as well. And third inflection "si" (agreement) indicates about tense that the tense is past tense. The second inflection "si" has agreement with all kinds of subjects (either subject is 1st, 2nd, 3rd, masculine or feminine) in past simple tense. The inflection "a" (agreement) replaces with "i" (agreement). It means the subject of the sentence is singular in respect of number and with respect of gender is feminine and if we replace inflection with "e" (agreement) then it indicates that the subject is plural in number and masculine in gender. The second inflection "pia" also changes according to first inflection "i", and "e" into "pai" "pe" respectively. If the subject is plural in in respect of number and feminine in in respect of gender, then inflection "ian" will be used and subject is plural masculine then the inflection will be pe.

4.1.6   Future Continuous Tense

Example: 6   O khat likhdi hovey gi.   (She will be writing a letter.)
                      O   khat   likhdi   hovey gi.
   She   letter   writing (conti.)   will be
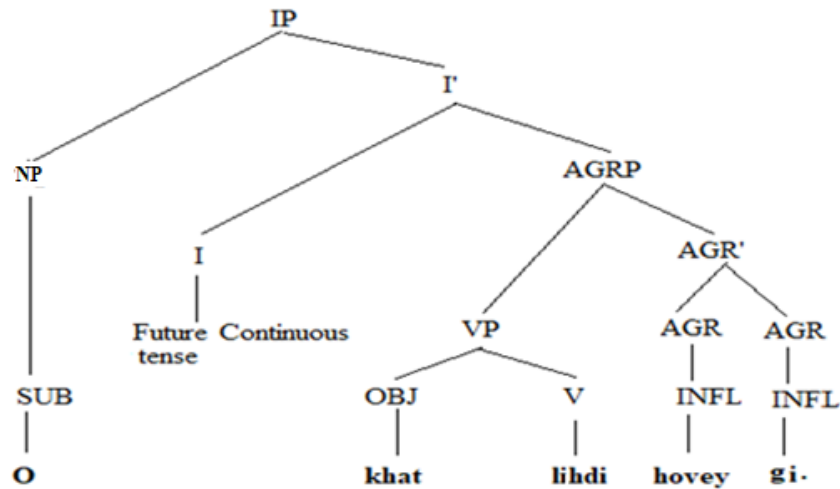
The above sentence is future continuous tense and SOV is word order of the sentence in the Punjabi language. The verb "lihdi" indicates that the subject of the above sentences is singular in respect of number and in gender is feminine. The second "hovey" shows that the tense is future continuous tense. And the third inflection "gi" (agreement) indicates that the subject is feminine in the respect of gender, singular in number. If the inflection "ga" (agreement) will be used then it means the subject is masculine in the respect of gender, singular in the respect of number. If the subject is plural in the respect of number and masculine in the respect of gender, the first inflection "i" changes into "e", the third inflection "gi" changes into "ge". If our subject is feminine in the context of gender and plural in number then first inflection "i" converts into "ian", the second inflection "hoven" and the third inflection "gian" will be used.

4.2   Subject-Intransitive Verb Agreement

4.2.1   Present Simple Tense

Example: 7   O Bazar janda a. (He goes to Bazar.)

| O	Bazar	janda	a.
He	Bazar	goes	
(SUB) 3rd P, Sg, M	(Obj Comp) N	(V) M Sg	(INFL)
(Tense)			
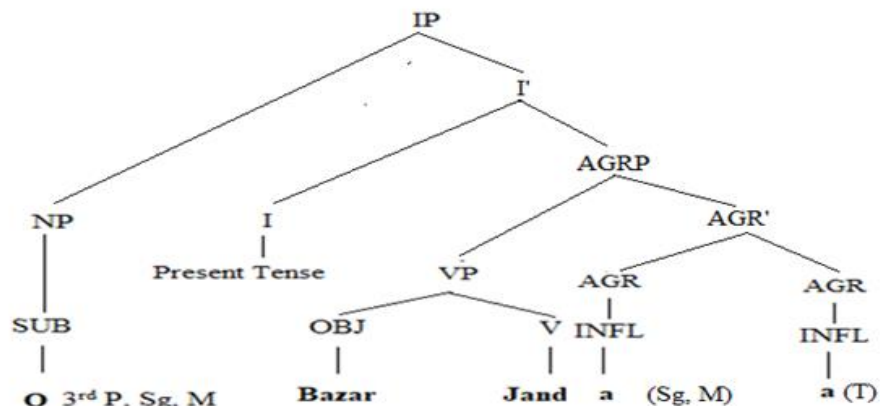
The example shows the present simple tense and structure of the sentences (word order) is Subject Object Verb. The subject *"O"* (he) is a third person pronoun which having singular in respect of number and masculine in the respect of gender with a subject /nominative case.

The sentences has a subject and an intransitive verb "janda" (goes). This verb has two inflections; the first *"a"* (agreement) which is attached with verb, that indicates in respect of gender and number subject is masculine and singular respectively and third person pronoun. The second inflection "aa" (agreement) indicates that the subject is 3rd person, singular in the respect of number and tense. If the 3rd person subject replaces with 1st person, then the verb "janda" is replaced with "jana" second inflection "aa" is replaced with *"ian"* (agreement) which indicates that this example has 1st person subject. The first inflection *"aa"* (agreement) which is attached with verb replaces with inflection *"i"*. It indicates that the subject is feminine in gender and singular in number.

4.2.2 Past Simple Tense

Example: 8   Akram nasda si.   (Akram run.)
             Akram   nasda   si.
             Akram   run   Past tense.
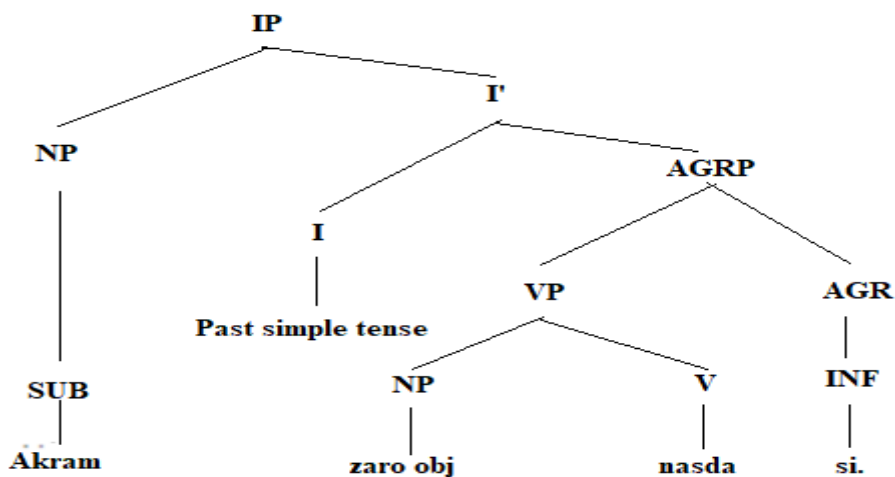
This example indicates that SOV is sentence structure (word order). The verb "nasda" is intransitive verb in Punjabi, and therefore, it does not carry any object. The inflection "da" (agreement) indicates that the subject is singular in number, masculine in gender and second inflection "si" (agreement) indicates about tense that the tense is past simple tense, the second inflection "si" has agreement with all kinds of subjects (either subject is 1st, 2nd, 3rd, masculine or feminine) in past simple tense. The inflection "daa" (agreement) replaces with "di" (agreement). It means the subject is singular in the respect of number and feminine in in the respect of gender and replaces with inflection "de" (agreement) then it indicates that the subject is plural in number and masculine in gender. If the subject is plural in number and feminine in gender, then inflection "ian" will be used.

4.2.3 Future Simple Tense

Example: 9   Hassan bazaar janda hovey ga.   Hassan will be going to bazaar.
              Hassan   bazaar   jaanda   hovey ga.
              Hassan   bazaar   going (conti.) will be
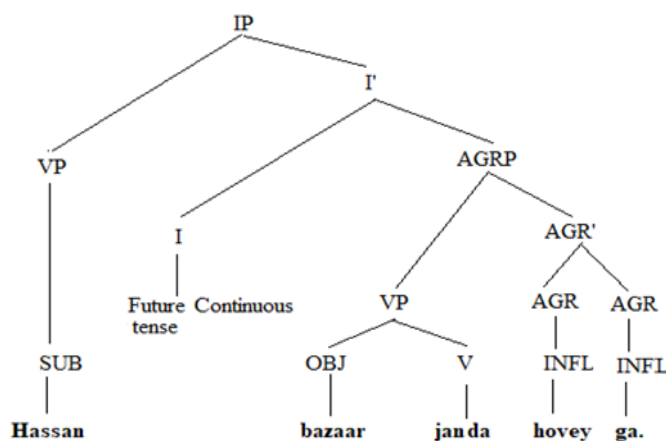
The above sentence is future continuous tense and SOV is word order of above sentence. The word "janda" is verb which indicates the subject is singular in number and second inflection "hovey" shows that the tense is future continuous tense. The third inflection "gi" (agreement) indicates that the subject is masculine in gender, singular in number. If the inflection "i" (agreement) will be used with verb then it means the subject is feminine in gender, singular in number. The inflection "e" will be used with verb instead of first inflection "a" and the second inflection will automatically change into "hovey" the indicates our subject is plural and masculine, the third inflection "ga" will convert into inflection "ge" it also indicates that the subject is plural and masculine. In the case of subject is plural and masculine then the first inflection "ian", the second inflection "hoven" and the third inflection "ian" will be used.

4.2.4   Present Continuous Tense

Example: 10   O hasdi pia a.   She is smiling.
              O   hasdi   pia   a.
   She   smile   continuous   present tense
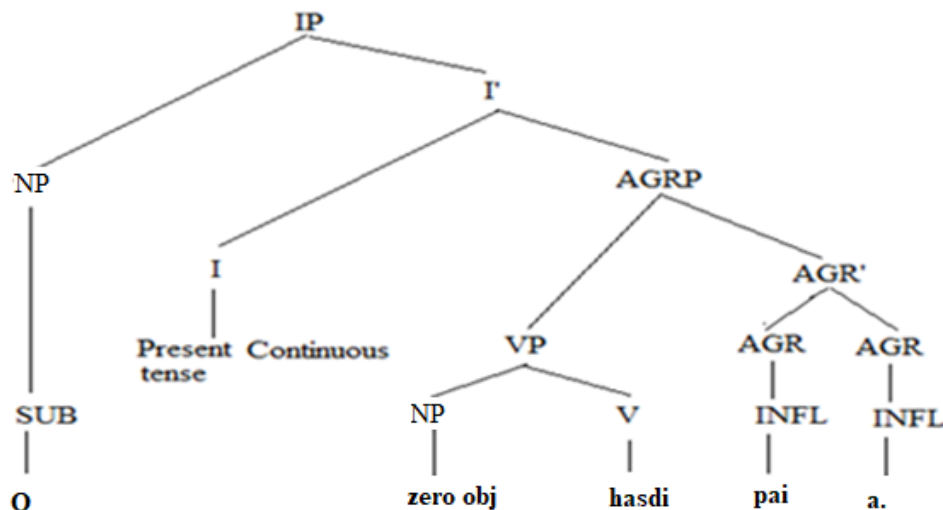
The above diagram describes that an agreement between the head AGR (agreement) and subject. They agree in respect of number, gender, person, and tense. The above sentence describes SOV word order (sentences structure), and it is a present continuous tense. The subject *"O"* (refers to 'she') is a singular and feminine in number and gender respectively. This statement shows nominative case, noun remains its original form, it does not inflect with any case marker. (Ranjan, 2016; Rehman, 2009).

According to Allana (2010) and Alshammiry (2016), the intransitive verb needs a subject but does not need an object to make clear and complete sense. In above diagram the verb *"hasdi"* (smile) is an intransitive verb two agreements *"O=has been used for she"*. The verb has been inflected with the inflection *"i"* (agreement). This inflection shows that the subject is a singular and feminine in number and gender respectively. And second inflection "pia" shows that the action is in present continuous tense means the action is happening (didn't complete). However, the third inflection "a" shows that the subject is singular and masculine in number and gender respectively. On the other hand, if we change the inflection singular masculine with plural masculine then the inflection will be *"e"* (agreement), with singular masculine then the inflection will be *"a"* (agreement) and with plural feminine then inflection will be *ian"* (agreement) used. The second inflection "pe" will be used with when subject is plural masculine and the inflection "pian" will be used with subject is plural feminine. Interesting, when subject is plural masculine or plural feminine then the third inflection "ne" will be used, however the inflection "a" will be used with subject is singular masculine or singular feminine.

4.2.5   Past continuous Tense
Example: 11   O sondi pai si.   (She was sleeping.)
                     O   sondi   pai   si.
   She   sleep   Past continuous tense
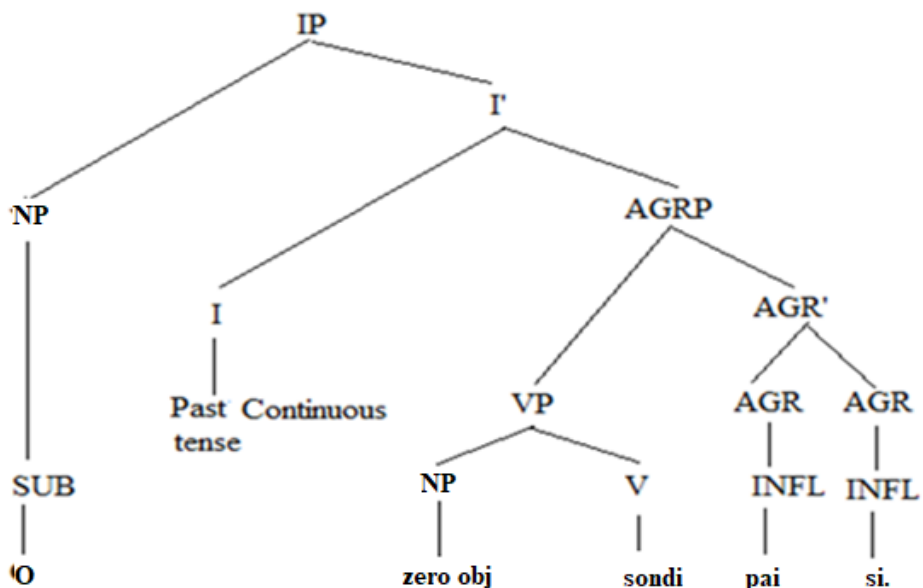
Above example describes the SOV word order (sentence structure). The verb "sondi" is an intransitive verb in Punjabi language therefore, it does not have an object. The inflection "i" (agreement) shows that the subject is singular in number, feminine in gender, the second inflection "pi" indicates the statement is continuous tense however the third inflection "si" (agreement) indicates about tense that the tense is past tense, the second inflection "si" has agreement with all kinds of subjects (either subject is 1ˢᵗ, 2ⁿᵈ, 3ʳᵈ, masculine or feminine) in past simple tense. The inflection "i" (agreement) replaces with "a" (agreement). It means the subject is singular feminine in number and gender respectively. And replaces with inflection "e" (agreement) then it indicates that the subject is plural in number and masculine in gender. Second inflection "e' automatically replaces with inflection "i". If the subject is plural and feminine in number and gender, then inflection "ian" will be used and second inflection "pian" will be used.

4.2.6 Future Continuous Tense

Example: 12   Naaz Karachi jandi hovey gi.

Naaz	karachi	jandi	hovey	gi.
Sub	OBJ (comp) N	V	Continuous	Future tense
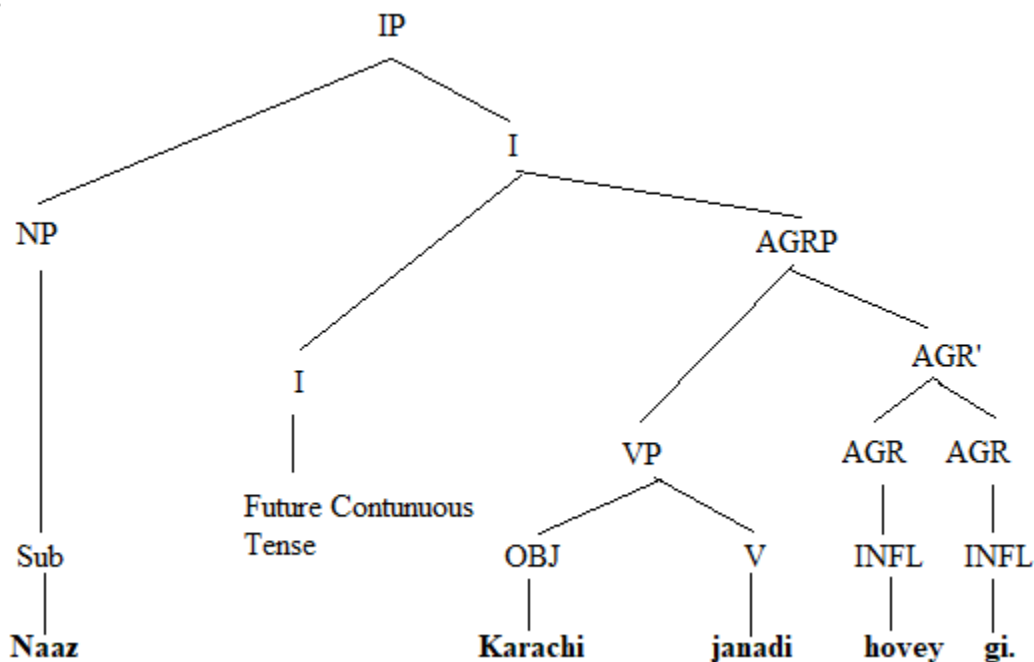
The above sentence is future continuous tense and SOV is word order of above sentence. The word "jandi" is verb which indicates that our subject is singular in number and inflection "gi" (agreement) indicates that the tense is future tense and this inflection also gives information about subject that the subject is feminine in gender, singular in number and the inflection "hovey" shows that tense is future continuous tense. If the inflection "ga" (agreement) will be used then it means the subject is masculine in gender, singular in number. The inflection "i" which has been attached with verb is also explains same information about subject. If we change inflection "i" into "e" then it means our subject will be plural and masculine in number and gender respectively. Moreover, last inflection "gi" automatically will change into "ge". If our subject will be feminine and plural in gender and number respectively, then inflection "i" which has been attached with verb will change into "ian" however last inflection "gi" will not change.

5.   Findings

For analysis of subject-verb agreement in Punjabi language in respect of verb phrase the X bar theory (Haegeman, 1994) has been used to draw the tree diagram to represent the Punjabi sentences.

5.1   Number Agreement

The analysis describes that in present simple tenses the subject of intransitive and transitive verbs occur in nominative case which show the sub-verb agreement. The inflections of transitive and intransitive verbs in indicative mood change the number of the subject accordingly. When the subject is singular the inflection will be used "a" and in plural the inflection will be agree "e". According to (Aarts, 2011) "s" and "es" to show plural subject in English language. In present continuous tenses inflection "pia", shows singular, "pe" and "pian" show that the subject is plural.

In the past simple tense when our subject is singular masculine the inflection/suffix "a" has agreement with subject and second inflection "si" is used in past tense whatever the subject is singular or plural and feminine or masculine, this inflection "si" indicates the tense is past simple. When subject is singular feminine the first inflection "i" has agreement with subject. When the subject is plural and then first inflection "ian" agrees with subject. And in past continuous tenses inflection "pia", shows singular, "pe" and "pian" show that the subject is plural. In past continuous tenses inflection "pia", shows singular, "pe" and "pian" show that the subject is plural. This result aligns with Ali, Z. et al. (2014) and Zahid, A. (2016).

In future simple tense, when our subject is singular then the inflection/suffix "ga" has agreement with subject. When subject is plural, the inflection" ge" is used. It aligns with Ali, Z., Khan, S. & Gulkhanda (2021); and Azam, M., & Ali, Z. Shahida (2022).

5.2 Gender Agreement

The inflections that indicate the number of subjects also indicate the gender of subjects. Such as masculine the inflection will be used "a", when subject feminine the inflection will be used "i" and in Plural feminine the inflection will be used "ian" masculine the inflection "e" will agree with subject. in present continuous tenses inflection "pia", and "pe" shows that the subject is masculine and inflections "pi" and "pian" show that the subject is feminine.

In the past simple tense when subject is masculine the inflection "a" has agreement with subject and when the subject is feminine the inflection "i" has agreement with subject. If the subject is feminine then inflection "ian" agrees with subject.

In future tense when the subject is feminine inflections "i" for singular and "gen" for plural will be used.

5.3 Tense Agreement

According to (Ali, Bagddu & Maimota, (2014) time and action has been performed by tense maker. In present tense the tense marker "a" is used with singular masculine, singular feminine subject, and the inflection "ne" is used for plural masculine and plural feminine subject respectively. In past simple tense the tense maker "si" with subject and in future simple tense "ga, gi, ge & gen" are used with singular masculine, singular feminine, plural masculine, and plural feminine subject respectively. The inflection "hovey" shows that the tense is future continuous tenses with all subjects. Punjabi agreement patter is very much related to the one in Sindhi (Stack, 2011; Zahid, 2016).

6. Conclusion

To see the nature of subject-verb agreement and word order of sentence structure of Punjabi language the X bar theory (Haegeman, 1994) has been used. In present simple and continuous tense, the transitive verbs indicate agreement completely with their subjects as well as in past simple and continuous tenses and in future simple and continuous tense. Data were collected via interview and for the analysis of the sentences the X bar theory (Haegeman, 1994) was applied. This theory also helps to focus on INFL of verb phrase in the Punjabi language. Ten participants (native speakers) were enough for the data collection. In Punjabi language transitive verds are inflected with many inflections (agreement markers). These inflections show the gender, person,

number, and tense of the sentence. The verb contains two inflections in simple tenses first one shows the number, gender, and second one shows the tense. In case of continuous tenses there are three inflection morphemes first agrees with number and gender and second one shows the tense, gender, and number such as in present and past tenses the inflection "'pia" singular in number and masculine in gender "pi" is used for singular feminine and "pe" is used for plural masculine and "pian" is used for plural feminine. On the other hand, inflection "hovey" indicates the tense is continuous tense. And third one Inflection indicates that the tense is past, present, or future. For instance, in present tense the inflection "a" is used for singular and "ne" is used when subject is plural. In past tense the inflection "si" is used for all kinds of subject and in the future tense inflection "ga" for masculine singular "gi" feminine singular, the inflection "ge" for when subject is plural masculine, and the inflection "gen" is used for feminine plural. In a nutshell, X bar theory (Haegeman, 1994) explained that in Punjabi language the subject verb agreement is exist in all mentioned sentences Present simple and continuous tenses, past simple and continuous tenses, and future simple and continuous tenses in terms of number, gender, person, tense, and aspect. Punjabi is also enriching with inflection morphemes and change according to tenses and number, gender, person, tense, and aspect. Agreement patterns in Punjabi relate with the ones in other languages of the sub-continent. I can be seen in the studies of (Veesar et al., 2015; Zahid, 2016; Veesar, Z. A., & Mustafa, G., 2021; Azam, M., Ali, Z. & Shahida, 2022).

References

Aarts, B. (2011). *Oxford modern English grammar*. Oxford University Press.

Ali, Z., Muhammad, A. U., Baguddu, R., & Shehu Maimota, M. (2014). Tense and aspect in Hausa Language. *Balochistan Journal of Linguistics: (2)*, 2312-5454.

Ali, Z., Khan, S. & Gulkhanda (2021). Article A Comparative Study of Locative, Source, Goal and Instrumentive Thematic Relations in English and Sindhi. *University of Chitral Journal of Linguistics & Literature*, *5*(II), 237-255.

Allana, G. A. (2010). *Sindhi Boli jo tashreehi grammar (A detailed grammar of the Sindhi language)* (First ed. Vol. 1). Sindhi Language Authority (SLA), Sindh, 71000, Pakistan.

Alshammiry, K. (2016). Subject Verb Agreement in Modern Standard Arabic and Saudi Dialect of Arabic: A New Minimalist Account. *International Journal of Language and Literature, 4*(2).

Amin, M., & Ali, Z. (2021). Phonological and Morphological Variations between Lasi and Standard Sindhi. *Hor J. Hum. & Soc. Sci. Res*, *3*(2), 181-194.

Azam, M., Ali, Z. & Shahida (2022). Subject-Verb Agreement in Lasi and English: A Morphosyntactic Analysis. *Global Language Review, VII*, 37-54.

Baig, M. Q. (2006). *Sindhi Grammar* (Third ed. Vol. 1). Jamshoro, Sindh, Pakistan: Sindhi Adabi Board Kitaab Ghar, Tilk Charhi, Hyderabad, Sindh, Pakistan.

Bansal, M. (2021) Know the different dialects of Punjabi Language. *Y Dnews.*

Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches.* (4th edition (March 14, 2013) ed. Vol. 1). USA

Cole, J. S. (2001). Sindhi. Unpublished Manuscript: *An Encyclopedia of the World's Major Lanuages*. New York, NY: The H.W. Wilson Company.

Dixon, R. M. (2014). *Making new words: Morphological derivation in English*. Oxford University Press, USA.

Devi, J. (2012). *Implementing GF Resource Grammar for Sindhi-A subtitle that can be quite long if necessary* (Master's thesis).

Habib, M. A., & Khan, A. A. (2019). Vowel Epenthesis in Loanword Integration: A study of English Consonant Cluster at onset. *International Journal of English Linguistics*. Vol. 9,

Haegeman, L. (1994). *Introduction to Government & Binding Theory* (Second ed.). UK & USA: Blackwell Oxford UK & Cambridge USA.

Jamshaid, R. (2016) Lexical Variation among Punjabi Dialects as a Marker oof Linguistics Boundaries in Paksitan Punajbi. *Linguistics & Literature review.* Vol. III, Issue II,

Lashari, M. A., & Soomro. A. A. (2013). Subject Verb Agreement in Sindhi and English; A comparative study; *language in India, www.languagein india.com,*issn1930-2940,13;6.

Malik, A. (2005, April). Towards a Unicode Compatible Punjabi Character Set. In *27th Internationalization and Unicode Conference* (p. 9).

Malik, N. A., R, Mustafa & Ali, M. M. (2016). Phonological Variant of /r/ as a Marker Group Identity: A Sociolinguistic Study of the Residents of Walled Area of Lahore City. Sci. Int. (Lahore), Vol. 28, pp. 2611-2615

Nara, K. (2015). Acoutics analysis of Punajbi Stress and Tone (Doabi Dialect). *The journal of the Acoutics Society of America.* DOI:10.1121/1.4950628

Nordquist, R. (2020). Agreement in englsih gramamr. Thought Co. https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-agreement-grammar-1689075

Radford, A. (2004). *Minimalist Syntax: Exploring the Structure of English* (First Edition). University of Express.

Rahman, M. U., & Bhatti. (2009). *Finite State Morphology and Sindhi Noun Inflections.* Paper presented at the Conference on Language and Technology CLT09, Crulp, Lahore, Pakistan.

Ranjan, R. (2016). *Acquisition of ergative case in L2 Hindi-Urdu.* The University of Iowa.

Sidhi, A. M. (1992). *Lisaniat-i-Pakistan.* Islamabad: National Language Authority.

Stack, G. C. (2011). *A Grammar of the Sindhi Language* (F. Hussain Ed. First ed.). Sindhi Language Authority (SLA), Sindh, Pakistan.

Veesar, Z. A., Sriniwass, S., & Kadhim, K. A. (2015b). A Comparison of Theme Theta Roles in English and Sindhi. *Language & Communication*, 2(1), 77-89.

Veesar, Z. A., & Mustafa, G. (2021). A Comparative Analysis of Retroflexion in Romani and Lasi: NA. *Journal of Education & Humanities Research, University of Balochistan, Quetta-Pakistan*, *11*(1), 78-95.

Zahid, A. (2016). *Morphosemantic and syntactic analysis of verbs in Sindhi/Zahid Ali* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Malaya).

Sub-v-AGR (TRANS)

6 (3S+3C)

SUB-V-AGR (INTRANS)