

A Study of Demonstrative Determiners in Pashto Language

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Abstract

The existence of determiner phrase and its different manifestations in number, gender, and case have been studied and proved in the English language in many research studies. Many languages other than English need this investigation in order to establish a sound hypothesis about the universal language structure. This study was an attempt to find out the structure of the determiner phrase in the Pashto language. It also investigated the equivalents of the English determiner phrase in the Pashto language. It used the spoken corpus of Pashto as primary data. In addition, short stories and novels written by literary writers in the Pashto language have been used as secondary data. Moreover, intensive group discussion with native speakers of the Pashto language has also been utilized as another secondary data source. The minimalist program was used to guide and understand syntactic structure of languages. It was followed by determiner phrase hypothesis. The hypothesis states that a noun is headed by its determiner in a noun phrase. Data were analyzed within the framework of determiner phrase hypothesis. The study shows that noun in the determiner phrase is not determined by definite or indefinite article in the Pashto language. The determiner phrase is inflected for number, gender, and case in Pashto language. Furthermore, the Pashto determiner phrase is different from English in terms of medial demonstrative determiners. The study is significant as it provides an insight into the structure of the Pashto determiner phrase.

Introduction

Pashto is the national and official language of Afghanistan. It is also the regional language of Pakistan spoken in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Comrie2019). The Pashto language falls under the wings of New Iranian language group. The Iranian language family is the part of Indo-Iranian language group that is the major Eastern branch of the Indo-European languages. The Iranian language family has further three main branches: Old Iranian, Middle Iranian, and New Iranian languages. Old Iranian group includes Old Persian and Avestan languages. The first mentioned is the native and one of the official languages of Achaemenid empire. Middle Iranian languages are spoken from the borders of China to the heart of the Fertile Crescent from 3rd century BC to almost 10th century AD. It includes Parthian, Middle Persian, Sogdian, Khwarazmian, Bactrian, and Saka. New Iranian group included New Persian, Kurdish, Balauchi, Luri, and Pashto languages. These days, in terms of number of speakers Pashto is the second most important language of the Iranian family (Babakzai 1999; Coene&Stabler2016).

Recently, many aspects of the Pashto language syntax are the focus of research. Pertaining to the view that every language has the determiner phrase (DP), the present study explores the structure of determiner phrase in the Pashto language studying the determiner phrase hypothesis. So, the study has been developed on Abney's hypothesis (Abney 1987). He argues that the noun phrase is the complement of the determiner phrase. Determiner phrase hypothesis proposes that determiner phrase exists on the top of the noun phrase (Bernstein2008; Bresnan 1973; Carnie 2002; Horrocks1994). Determiner phrase hypothesis claims that the head of DP is determiner (Marina 2018). This paper studies it in the Pashto language. For the data collection purpose, the subjects of the study were the native speakers of the Pashto language. Moreover, several accounts of the presence of DP have been confirmed in many languages (Carnie 2013; Cinque 2018; Fehri1999; Jone1990; Lawless 2018). Yet, exploring the equivalents of the Pashto DP in English needs attention. So, it has been addressed in this study. The nature of the Pashto determiner phrase is different because noun in Pashto DP is not determined by definite and indefinite articles like other South Asian languages (Hamid 2018). This study focuses on the distributional features of the subcategories of the determiner phrase of the Pashto language.

Many researchers have done researches in the Pashto language but very rare research has been done on the Pashto syntax. Every language has its own word order, English has subject, verb, and object (SVO), but Pashto has Subject, object, and verb (SOV) word order (Babakzai 1999).

English: SVO

He kicked the ball.

S V O

Pashto: SOV

Da qalam da *hagho halaka nuda*.

This pen to *those boys belongs*.

S O V

The study considerably contributes to the arena of research in syntax. Moreover, the comparative analysis of DP in the Pashto and English languages can make the study helpful in learning English as a foreign or second language for the Pashto native speakers. More significantly, the role of number, gender and case on the determiner in the Pashto language add valuable knowledge in the existing literature on Determiners.

Literature Review

For this study, the data were recorded as the group discussion among six native speakers of the Pashto language aged from 35-45. Three of the participants were graduated in English linguistics and three in Pashto literature. All of them belonged to the profession of teaching at the University level. Sentences were also collected from the literary work (Rauf 1966) and academic work (Tegey 1996) of Pashto. Apart from these sources of data, one of the researchers utilized his personal observation and linguistic knowledge being the native speaker of Pashto. Keeping in focus the word limit rule for research paper, only 24 sentences were collected and explained in the study.

The study was conducted to explore Abney's determiner phrase hypothesis in the Pashto language. It was guided by the argument that language has universally same deep structure. So, the determiner phrase hypothesis argued that every language has functional projection on its NP that is known as DP. It can either be overt in surface structure or covert in deep structure. It has been proved in many languages (Cinque 2018; Fehri 1999; Jone 1990). This study on the Pashto language has been conducted to check this hypothesis's role in the Pashto language.

Minimalist Program

Minimalist program was proposed by Chomsky (1995) under Transformational Generative Grammar initially to deal with the non-essential superfluous apparatus of language. The program was based on the claim that language exists in human mind. More precisely, with the concept of Universal Grammar, it was designed to be tested in all the languages including the Pashto language.

According to Minimalist program, the faculty of language is consisted of two systems, i.e. cognitive and performance systems. The former mentioned is used to store the knowledge whereas the second mentioned is used to utilize the stored information and knowledge (Radford 1997). The interaction of the two systems is seen in the Phonetic Form (PF) and Logical Form (LF) of grammar. PF representing the sentence tells about the pronunciation and LF describes the linguistic aspects of the language. Chomsky (1970) also mentions that the language we study is the cognitive system internalized in the human mind as I- language enabling humans to speak and understand their first language. I- language is also responsible for the linguistic expression existing in the human minds. The meanings of the linguistic expressions existing in the mind are supplied by Universal Grammar. Under the Minimalist program, grammar of the language is combinational process of the lexicon, numeration, computational system, PF, and LF (Chomsky 1993).

Determiner phrase hypothesis

Determiner Phrase hypothesis has been proposed by Abney (1987). He argues that the noun phrase is the complement of the determiner phrase. Determiner Phrase Hypothesis proposes that the determiner phrase can be analyzed as existing on the top of the noun phrase (Aboh 2018; Brame 1981; Cook & Newson 2017; Hellan 1986). The head of DP is determiner, hence called the DP hypothesis (Longobardi 1994).

In generative grammar, there are two different approaches about head of a noun phrase. In traditional approach, noun was considered as the head of the noun phrase and determiner was included in the internal structure of the noun phrase. Later on, research into this area proved that determiner is the functional category and it was established in DP Hypothesis. In this new approach, Determiner was considered as the functional category and head of nominal phrase containing noun phrase as complement.

Demonstratives are used in the determiner phrase. Determiners are positioned universally at nominal place with abstract features and must be studied with respect to its value (Brame 1981; Maclaughlin 1997; Tang 1990). Demonstratives are also used as specifiers (Marantz 1995; Rafael 2016).

Determiner as functional category

A determiner is classified as the functional category rather than lexical and semantic category. Determiner is functional because it has semantic parallelism between the noun phrases with possessor. It has also been confirmed that IP (Inflectional phrase) is a functional category, which describes the VP. Determiner is placed in the highest position and introduces the noun phrase in Determiner Phrase hypothesis. In this way, the determiner as functional category lacks descriptive property and has functional semantic interpretation (Abney 1987). The determiner Phrase has two positions in a sentence: The subject position and the object position. He claims that determiner heads its own phrase i.e. DP and determiner selects NP as its complement. The relation between determiner and its complement NP is functional. Unlike the lexical relation between head and its complement in

other phrases where the head theta marks the complement, in case of relation between determiner and its complement NP the head cannot theta mark the complement.

He further applied the functional structure to the determiner phrase after Chomsky. Various researches has shown so far that there are multiple functional phrases in the nominal phrase of different languages and attempted to give the word order and co-occurrences of the determiners in the nominal position (Babrazai 1999; Cinque 2018; Lawless 2018).

Articles in Pashto

The indefinite article in Pashto is *yaw* with the meaning one and its equivalent is *a* in English. In the Pashto language, there is no definite article (Tegey 1996). Definite article in English is *the*. In a study, it has been mentioned three times that there are no definite articles in the Pashto language. The author of the article gave the examples such as the Engineer, an Engineer and Engineer has the same meaning in the Pashto language.

Definite and indefinite articles are not the only types of the articles, which are considered determiners but the possessive articles and demonstratives also fall in the category of determiners. Pronouns are also considered determiners and this is the reason that there are more determiners in Pashto and English. The structure of the Pashto language determiners is different when compared with the structures of other languages' determiners.

Concisely, different languages have different Determiner Phrase (DP) structure at deep and surface level and have different internal movement. So far as the Pashto language is concerned there are two main issues in the area of syntax. Firstly, there is scarcity of research into the Pashto language syntax and DP in particular. Secondly, the little literature present on the Pashto language determiners contradicts on the types articles in the Pashto DP. This study may help in adding the knowledge in this gap.

Analysis

Demonstratives are considered determiners as they indicate the presence of a particular noun. There are two sub-classes of the demonstrative determiners in English. The first one is considered close demonstrative determiner, i.e. *this* and *these* whereas the second sub-class is considered far demonstrative determiners such as *that* and *those*. Unlike English, there are three sub classes of the demonstrative determiners in Pashto. The first class is close demonstrative determiner (*da*), the second class is middle demonstrative determiner (*daqa/dagha*), and the third class is far demonstrative determiner (*hagha*). These determiners are named as proximal, medial and distal.

In the research, the author confuses the two sub-classes of demonstrative determiner (Tegey 1996). He defined the close demonstrative determiner and middle demonstrative determiner differently in his work. He used *da-ghaas* close demonstrative determiner, which is basically middle demonstrative determiner in Pashto. He also used *da* as middle demonstrative determiner, which is basically *afar* demonstrative pronoun.

Proximal demonstrative

In Pashto, *da* demonstrative determiner is used as proximal demonstrative.

- (1) *Da torakursai da plastic jolra da.*
Da tora kursai da jolra da plastic
This black chair is made of plastic.

In the example above (1) the underlined *dais* demonstrative determiner as '*this*' in English heading *tora kursai* (black chair) in the noun phrase. The demonstrative *da* points out a *single* noun *kursai*. Hence, *da tora kursai* just like *this black chair* in English makes a phrase. This phrase consists of determiner *da* (*this*), adjective *tora* (*black*), and noun *kursai* (*chair*). Determiner is the head and makes the projection of noun phrase and *torakursai* is the complement of determiner. So, the phrase *da torakursai* is called DP and confirms the framework of DP hypothesis.

- (2) *Da tory kursiany da plastic jolri d.*
Da tory kusiany da jolry da plastic
These black chairs are made of plastic.

In underlined proximal demonstrative *da* (2) is used with plural noun *tory kursiany*. It has the same structure as the determiner in (1). It also confirms the framework of DP hypothesis. The example reflects clearly that demonstrative *da* is not inflected for plural noun *kursiany* as the English determiner *this* is inflected into *these* for plural noun. Moreover, the adjective *tory* is also changed from *tora* for plural noun *kursiany* in Pashto but in English, the adjective *black* is not changed for plural noun *chairs*.

The following examples indicate the use of demonstrative determiner with singular and plural gender.

- (3) *Da waro ki Jinay khkuly da*
Da waro ki Jinay da khkoly
This young girl is beautiful.

In the example above (3), the proximal demonstrative *da* (*this*) is used with singular noun *Jinay* (girl). Here, *da* (determiner) *waroki* (adjective) *Jinay* (noun) make noun phrase. The determiner *da* is the head of the noun phrase whereas *waroki Jinay* is the complement of determiner as *this* is determiner of the noun phrase *young girl* in English. So, this phrase *da waroki Jinay* (*this young girls*) is DP.

- (4) *Da waroki Jina kay khkoly d.*

Da waro ki Jina kay d khkoly
These young girls are beautiful.

In (4), the proximal demonstrative *da* is used with plural noun *Jinakay* (girls). It has the same structure as the examples mentioned above. It is clear from the example that proximal demonstrative *da* is not inflected for plural gender noun *Jinakay* (girls) as the determiner *this* is inflected into *these* for plural noun (girls) in English.

The following example illustrates the use of proximal demonstrative *da* as a determiner with masculine noun:

(5) *Da lowar halak kor ta ze.*
Da lowar halak ze ta kor
This tall boy is going home.

In this sentence (5), the proximal demonstrative *da* (this) is used with singular masculine noun *halak* (boy). The underlined words in the given sentence are *da*, *lowar*, and *halak*, which are demonstrative, adjective, and noun respectively. So, *da lowar halak* make a phrase just like phrase *this tall boy* in English. The determiner *da* (this) is the head of the phrase and the phrase *lowar halak* (tall boy) is the complement of determiner. It, thus, confirms the framework of DP hypothesis.

The following sentence exemplifies the use of proximal demonstrative *da* as a determiner with feminine noun:

(6) *Da khkole khaza kor ta ze.*
Da khkole khaza ze ta kor
This beautiful woman is going home.

In the example (6), the proximal demonstrative *da* is used with singular feminine phrase *khkole khaza* (beautiful woman). It confirms the structure mentioned in all the above given examples. The determiner *da* is the head of the phrase and the phrase *khkole khaza* is the complement of determiner. In English *this beautiful woman* is the determiner phrase where *this* is the head of the noun phrase (beautiful women). Hence, this phrase *da khkole khaza* is called DP. This phrase confirms the framework of DP hypothesis.

All in all, in Pashto the proximal demonstrative determiner (*da*) in nominal case is not inflected for gender and number. Whereas in English, the close demonstrative determiner *this* is inflected into *these* for plural noun.

Oblique case

The proximal demonstrative determiner (*da*) has the inflections in oblique case. It is inflected into *de* in its oblique case.

The following sentence illustrates the use of proximal demonstrative *de* with singular masculine noun *halak* in oblique case:

(7) *Da chapaly da de halak d.*
Da chapaly da d de halak.
This shoe belongs to this boy.

In the example above (7), the proximal demonstrative *de* (this) is used with singular masculine noun *halak* (boy) in oblique case. It is obvious that *dais* inflected into *de* in oblique case with singular masculine. Here, *de halak* make a phrase. This phrase consists of determiner *de*, and singular masculine noun *halak* (boy). The determiner *de* is the head of the phrase and makes the projection and the phrase *tor halak* is the complement of determiner. In English the determiner (the) heads the noun (boy). So, this phrase confirms the framework of DP hypothesis thus it is called DP.

The following sentence illustrates the use of proximal demonstrative *de* with singular feminine noun *jinay* in oblique case:

(8) *Daqalam da de khkolejinaydai.*
Da qalam dai da d ekhkole jinay
This pen belongs to this beautiful girl.

In the example (8), the proximal demonstrative *dais* inflected into *de* with singular feminine noun *jinay* (girl) in oblique case. It confirms the inflection of *da* into *de* in its oblique case with singular gender but in English it remains *this* with singular nouns either in nominative case or oblique case. Here again *de khkole jinay* make a phrase and in English *this beautiful girl* makes a phrase. The determiner *de* is the head of the phrase and makes the projection and the phrase *khkole jinay* is the complement of determiner. This phrase *de khkole jinay* is called DP confirming the framework of DP hypothesis.

The following is the example of inflected proximal demonstrative *de* with plural masculine noun *halakanu* (boys) in oblique case:

(9) *Da qalam da de halaka nu dai.*
Da qalam dai da de halaka nu
This pen belongs to these boys.

In the example above (9), the proximal demonstrative *de* is used with plural masculine noun phrase *halakanu* in oblique case. The DP has the same structure as all the above examples. It indicates an important point that even in its oblique case the proximal determiner is same for both singular and masculine, i.e. *de* whereas in English, there are two forms, i.e. *this* and *these* used with singular and plural, respectively, just like its nominative case. Hence, we can conclude that the proximal determiner in Pashto is inflected for case whereas in English it is inflected for the number. Moreover, this phrase structure also confirms the framework of DP hypothesis. Therefore, it is called DP.

Medial demonstrative

The demonstrative *da-gha* is used as medial in Pashto language. It is used as a determiner. Tegey (1996) termed it as middle demonstrative. In English, there is no middle demonstrative. The medial or middle demonstrative in Pashto is *da-gha / dagha* but its alternative does not exist in English. There is no specific demonstrative in English for the medial position. Moreover, the medial or middle demonstrative *da-gha* has no inflection for number and gender in Pashto but it has inflection for case.

The following sentence is an example of medial demonstrative in Pashto:

- (10) *Da-gha sor gare khkole dai.*
da-gha sor gare khkole dai
This/that red car is beautiful.

In the example above (10), the medial demonstrative *da-gha* (this/that) is used with *sorgare*(red car). If we translate this sentence into English then it can either be *this* or *that* (*da-gha*). It depends on the distance in real physical situation. Here, *da-gha*, *sor*, and *gare* are medial demonstrative, adjective, and singular noun respectively as *this/that red car* in English. Moreover, *da-gha sor gare* make a phrase. The medial determiner *da-gha* is the head of the phrase and makes the projection and *sorgare* is the complement of determiner. This phrase *da-gha sor gare* is called DP. This phrase confirms the framework of DP hypothesis. Hence, it is called DP.

In the below given sentence the use of medial demonstrative *da-gha* with feminine singular noun *Jinay* (girl) is illustrated:

- (11) *Da-gha khkole Jinay market ta ze.*
da-gha khkole Jinay ze ta market
This/that beautiful girl is going to market.

In the example above (11), the medial demonstrative *da-gha* is used with singular feminine noun phrase *khkole Jinay*. Here again the translated meaning of *da-gha* can either be *this* or *that* depending upon the distance in real physical situation. There is no equivalent of *da-gha* in English determiners as medial determiner. It has the same structure as the above given examples. The determiner *da-gha* is the head of the phrase and makes the projection and the phrase *khkole jinay* is the complement of determiner. This phrase *da-gha khkole jinay* is called DP. This phrase confirms the framework of DP hypothesis and therefore called DP.

The following sentence illustrates the use of medial demonstrative *Da-gha* with singular masculine noun phrase *halak* (boy):

- (12) *Da-ghahalakkortaze.*
da-ghahalakzetakor
This boy is going home.

In the example above (12), the medial demonstrative *da-gha* is used with singular masculine noun *halak* (boy). The underlined words in sentence *da-gha*, and *halak* are medial demonstrative, and singular masculine noun respectively. The medial demonstrative *da-gha* points out a singular masculine noun *halak just like singular feminine*. So, *da-gha halak* make a phrase. The determiner *da-gha* is the head of the phrase and makes the projection and the phrase *halak* is the complement of determiner. This phrase *da-gha tor halak* is called DP. This phrase confirms the framework of DP hypothesis. Therefore, it is called DP.

The below given sentence explains the use of medial demonstrative *da-gha* with plural masculine noun phrase *halakan* (boys):

- (13) *Da-ghahalakankortaze.*
da-ghahalakanzetakor
These/those boys are going home.

In the example above (13), the medial demonstrative *da-gha* is used with plural masculine noun *halakan* (boys). The underlined words in the example are *da-gha*, and *halakan*, which are medial demonstrative and plural masculine noun respectively. It follows the structure of DP just like all other examples confirming the framework of DP hypothesis. Therefore, it is called DP.

Oblique case

The medial demonstrative determiners *da-gha* has the inflections in oblique case in Pashto. For singular feminine noun, the medial demonstrative determiner is *da-ghy*; for plural masculine noun, the medial demonstrative determiner is *da-gho*. However, the medial demonstrative determiner is *da-gha* for singular masculine/feminine noun having no inflection.

The below given sentence elucidates the use of medial demonstrative *da-gha* with singular masculine noun *halak* in oblique case:

- (14) *Da chapaly da da-gha lowar halak d.*
Da chapaly da d da-gha lowar halak.
This shoe belongs to this/that tall boy.

In the example above (14), the medial demonstrative *da-gha* is used with singular masculine noun *halak* in oblique case. Here again *da-gha* indicates the medial position of the determiner that does not have any equivalent in English. It would be either translated as this or that according to the distance. Here, *da-ghalo war halak* make a phrase. This phrase consists of determiner *da-gha*, *lowar* (adjective), and singular masculine noun *halak* just like the phrase in English *this tall boy*. The determiner *da-gha* is the head of the phrase and makes the projection and masculine noun *lowar halak* is the complement of determiner. This phrase confirms the framework of DP hypothesis and thus it may be termed as DP.

The following sentence explains the use of medial demonstrative *da-ghy* with singular feminine noun phrase *khkole jinay* in oblique case:

- (15) *Da qalam da da-ghy khkole jinay dai.*
Da qalam da dai da-ghy khkole jinay
This pen belongs to this/that beautiful girl.

In the example above (15), the medial demonstrative *da-ghy* is used with singular feminine noun *jinay* in oblique case. Again, it means either this or that in English in spite of the fact that it has inflections in its oblique form in Pashto language. It has the same meaning in English (this/that) as the above given examples but the determiner *da-gha* has been inflected into *da-ghy*. This phrase *da-ghy khkole jinay* is called DP. This phrase confirms the framework of DP hypothesis. Hence, it is called DP.

The below given sentence illustrates the use of medial demonstrative *da-gho* with plural masculine noun phrase *lowar halakanu* (tall boys) in oblique case:

- (16) *Da qalam da da-gho lowar halakanu dai.*
Da qalam da da da-gho lowar halakanu
This pen belongs to these tall boys.

In the example above (16), the medial demonstrative *da-gha* inflects into *da-gho* when used with plural masculine noun *halakanu* (boys) in oblique case. The medial demonstrative *da-gho* points out a plural masculine noun *halakanu*. The underlined words in the sentence *da-gho lowar halakanu* make a phrase. The determiner *da-gho* is the head of the phrase and makes the projection and the phrase *lowar halakanu* is the complement of determiner. This phrase *da-gho lowar halakanu* is called DP. This phrase confirms the framework of DP hypothesis. Therefore, it is called DP.

Thus, the analysis confirms that medial demonstrative determiner *da-gha* is inflected into *da-ghy* for singular feminine noun and into *da-gho* for plural masculine noun in oblique case. Contrary to Pashto, the determiners in English language do not indicate any medial distance.

Far demonstrative

The third type of demonstratives in Pashto is far demonstrative. It is *hagha* and is used according to the position/distance of the object. In English, there are two far demonstratives: the first one is *that* used with singular noun and is placed far from the speaker; the second one is *those* used with plural nouns placed far from the speaker. Far demonstrative is used with object, quality, and nouns to specify it. Unlike the English far determiners *those* and *that* there is no inflection in far demonstrative for gender, singular and plural masculine, and singular and plural feminine nouns in direct case in Pashto but it has the inflection in oblique case. In oblique case, the far demonstrative *hagha* is inflected into *haghy* for singular feminine noun, for plural it is inflected into *hagho*. However, it has no inflection for singular masculine noun.

In the following sentence, far demonstrative determiner *hagha* is used with singular noun in direct case:

- (17) *Hagah Dell laptop zama de.*
Hagha Dell laptop de zama
That Dell laptop is mine.

In the example above (17), the far demonstrative *hagha* is used with singular noun *laptop*. The far demonstrative *hagha* points out a singular noun *laptop*. So, *hagha Dell laptop* make a phrase just like *that Dell laptop* in English. This phrase consists of determiner *hagha* and the phrase *Dell laptop*. The determiner *hagha* is the head of the phrase and makes the projection and the phrase *Dell laptop* is the complement of the determiner. Similarly, in English *That* is the determiner and heads the nouns phrase *Dell laptop*. This phrase *hagha Dell laptop* is called DP. This phrase confirms the framework of DP hypothesis. Hence, it is called DP.

In the following sentence, far demonstrative *hagha* is used with plural noun in direct case:

- (18) *Hagha shna bagho naghat d.*
Hagha shna baghona ghatd
Those green gardens are big.

In the example above (18), the far demonstrative *hagha* is used with plural noun *baghona* (gardens). The highlighted words in example are *hagha* and *shna baghona*, which are far demonstrative and a plural noun phrase. The far demonstrative *hagha* points out the plural noun *baghona* just like it indicates singular noun in Pashto and it does not inflect contrary to the English determiner (those). It also has the same structure as all the DPs. This phrase consists of determiner *hagha*, adjective *shna* and plural noun *baghona*. The determiner *hagha* is the head of the phrase and makes the projection and the phrase *shna baghona* is the complement of the determiner. This phrase confirms the rules of DP hypothesis and, therefore, is called DP. Moreover, the demonstrative *hagha* is not inflected for plural noun *baghona* as the determiner *that* is inflected into *those* for plural noun in English language.

The following sentence illustrates the use of demonstrative *hagha* as a determiner with a singular feminine noun *jinay* (girl):

- (19) *Hagha qabila Jinay yaw khat liky.*
Hagha qabila Jinay liky yaw khat
That intelligent girl is writing a letter.

In the example above (19), the far demonstrative *hagha* is used with singular feminine noun *Jinay*. The underlined words in the sentence *hagha qabila Jinay* make a phrase. This phrase has the structure of DP as identified in other examples. The determiner *hagha* is the head of the phrase and makes the projection and the phrase *qabila Jinay* is the complement of determiner. Similarly, in English the determiner *that* is the head of the noun phrase *intelligent girl* and the noun phrase is the complement of the determiner. This phrase confirms the framework of DP hypothesis. Hence, it is called DP.

The below given sentence exemplifies the use of far demonstrative *hagha* as a determiner with singular masculine noun phrase *lowar halak* (tall boy):

- (20) *Hagha lowar halak driving kay.*
Hagha lowar halak kay driving
That tall boy is driving.

In the example above (20), the far demonstrative *hagha* is used with a singular masculine noun *halak*. This phrase consists of determiner *hagha* and a singular masculine noun phrase *lowar halak*. The determiner *hagha* is the head of the phrase and makes the projection and the phrase *lowar halak* is the complement of the determiner. Thus, the phrase *hagha lowar halak* confirms the framework of DP hypothesis. It also confirms that the determiner in nominative case in the Pashto language whether used with singular or plural noun does not inflect that is in contrast with the English language as *that* (used with singular noun) inflects into *those* (with plural nouns).

In the following sentence, far demonstrative *hagha* is used with plural noun *Jinakay* (girls) in direct case:

- (21) *Hagha khkole Jina kay gare chala ye.*
Hagha khkole Jina kay gare chalaye
Those beautiful girls are driving.

In the example above the far demonstrative *hagha* is used with plural feminine noun *Jinakay*. The phrase follows the same structure as identified in determiner phrase hypothesis. In this phrase, the far demonstrative determiner *hagha* is head of the phrase and makes the projection, and the phrase *khkole Jina kay* is the complement of the determiner. So, it is called DP.

In Pashto, the far demonstrative determiner *hagha* is not inflected either for number or gender in nominative case but in English the distal demonstrative determiner *that* is inflected for plural noun into *those*.

Oblique case

The far demonstrative determiners *hagha* has the inflections in oblique case in Pashto. For singular and plural feminine noun the far demonstrative determiner is *haghe* and *hagho* respectively whereas for singular masculine noun the far demonstrative determiner is not inflected.

The following sentence explains the use of far demonstrative *hagha* with singular masculine noun *halak* in oblique case:

- (22) *Da laptop da hagha qabil halak dai.*
Da laptop dai da hagha qabil halak.
This laptop belongs to that intelligent boy.

In the example above (22), the far demonstrative *hagha* is used with singular masculine noun *halak* in oblique case. Significantly, this phrase has the same structure as in its nominative case and uses the same determiner as in nominative case and it is in line with the English determiners having the same form no matter what is the case. The determiner *hagha* is the head of the phrase and makes the projection and the phrase *qabil halak* is the complement of determiner. This phrase *hagha qabil halak* is called DP. This phrase confirms the framework of DP hypothesis. Hence, it is called DP.

The below given sentence illustrates the use of far demonstrative *haghy* with singular feminine noun *jinay* in oblique case:

- (23) *Da qalam da haghy speny jinay dai.*
Da qalam da dahaghy speny jinay
This pen belongs to that white girl.

In the example above the far demonstrative *haghy* is used with a singular feminine noun *jinay* in oblique case. So, *hagha* is inflected into *haghy* for singular feminine in oblique case. It is very much in contrast with the English determiners because in English the determiner remains the same with gender and case but in Pashto in oblique case it inflects with feminine noun. Moreover, *hagha speny jinay* make a phrase. The determiner *haghy* is the head of the phrase and makes the projection and the phrase *speny jinay* is the complement of the far demonstrative determiner. This phrase *haghy speny jinay* is called DP. This phrase confirms the framework of DP hypothesis. Therefore, it is called DP.

The below given sentence expatiates the use of far demonstrative *hagho* with plural masculine noun *halakanu* in oblique case:

- (24) *Daqalam da haghoqabilhalakanu da.*
Da qalam da da hagho qabil halakanu
This pen belongs to those intelligent boys.

In the example above (24) it is evident in the example that the far demonstrative *hagha* inflects into *hagho* for plural masculine noun *halakanu* in oblique case. The far demonstrative *hagho* points out a plural masculine noun *halakanu* (boys). Regarding number it is in accordance with the English determiner as in English *that* inflects into *those* with plural but in Pashto it is specified with the oblique case. The underlined words in the sentence *hagho qabil halakanu* make a phrase. This phrase consists of determiner *hagho*, adjective *qabil* and plural masculine noun *halakanu*. The determiner *hagho* is the head of the phrase and makes the projection and the phrase *qabil halakanu* is the complement of determiner. This phrase *hagho qabil halakanu* is called DP. This phrase confirms the framework of DP hypothesis.

The data confirm that in Pashto the far demonstrative determiner has the inflections for singular feminine noun and plural masculine noun but no inflection for singular masculine noun in oblique case. Contrary to it, in English far determiner is inflected into *that* and *those* both in nominative and oblique cases and also that is for number but for gender the far determiner in English is not inflected (Master 2013).

Discussion

The study was aimed at exploring the demonstrative determiners in the Pashto language. The analysis illustrated that there is no definite article in Pashto. The word *da* is not definite article but a demonstrative determiner in Pashto. The phrase consisted of demonstrative determiner and noun is termed as DP. Moreover, definiteness is not only confined to articles and possessive determiners, but the demonstratives also have the property of definiteness such as in English determiners are further divided into definite and indefinite articles i.e. the, that, this, those, these and a, an respectively.

As the data in the analysis reveals there are two classes of determiners in English i.e. proximal and far demonstratives. Unlike English, there are three sub classes of the demonstrative determiners in Pashto. The first class is close demonstrative determiner (*da*), the second class is considered middle demonstrative determiner (*daqa /dagha*), and the third class is considered as far demonstrative determiner (*hagha*). So, the Pashto determiners are used for three different levels categorized on distance: proximal, medial, and distal.

The analysis also explains that in English the demonstratives are inflected according to the number of nouns no matter what is the case or gender. Whereas in Pashto, demonstratives are inflected for gender, number and case but the inflections vary in all the three forms. The first one (proximal demonstrative) *da* is not inflected for number and gender but is inflected for case. The demonstrative *dais* not inflected for plural noun *kursiany* in Pashto as the determiner *this* is inflected into *these* for plural noun in English. So, the demonstrative is not inflected for number in Pashto but inflected in English. Furthermore, in both the languages the proximal determiner is not inflected for gender (at nominative case in Pashto). In Pashto, it has the inflection for gender in oblique case. Proximal demonstrative determiner *da* is inflected into *de*.

The second level of demonstrative in Pashto is *da-gha* as *medial*. In English, there is no middle demonstrative. The medial or middle demonstrative in Pashto is *da-gha / dagha* but its equivalent does not exist in English. This is because there is no concept of medial distance in English. In Pashto this concept is used in real physical situation so the Pashto speakers do have the signifier to represent the signified. To translate it into English, there is no specific equivalent so *this* and *that* both can be used but the speakers decide according to the distance which one is most appropriate to use. Moreover, the medial or middle demonstrative *da-gha* does not have any inflection for number and gender in Pashto but it has inflection for case. The medial demonstrative determiners *da-gha* has the inflections in oblique case in Pashto. For singular feminine noun, the medial demonstrative determiner is *da-ghy* whereas for plural noun the medial demonstrative determiner is *da-gho*.

The third level of demonstrative in Pashto is *far* demonstrative. It is *hagha*. In English, there are two far demonstratives: the first one is *that* which is used with singular noun and is placed far from the speaker; the second one is *those* used with plural nouns placed far from the speaker. Far demonstrative is not inflected for gender in nominative case in Pashto but it is inflected in oblique case just like the proximal demonstratives. In

oblique case, the far demonstrative *hagha* is inflected into *haghe* for singular feminine noun, for plural (masculine and feminine) it is inflected into *hagho*. However, it has no inflection for singular masculine noun.

Conclusions

The findings draw the conclusions that Minimalist Program is adequate to analyze the determiner phrase structure of Pashto. It has the same determiner phrase structure as presented by minimalist program. The study shows that in Pashto language determiner phrase is consisted of determiner and noun. Determiner heads the phrase, therefore, the phrase is called determiner phrase. Moreover, the analysis illustrates that there is no definite article in Pashto. The word *dais* argued as the demonstrative determiner in Pashto instead of having the property of definiteness. The study also exhibits that Pashto has different structure of the demonstrative determiners and has three categories as compared to English having two categories. There are two sub-classes of demonstrative determiners in English. The first one is considered close demonstrative determiner, i.e. this, these; the second sub-class is considered far demonstrative determiners, i.e. that, those). In the Pashto language, demonstratives are used for three different levels based on distance: proximal, medial and distal. The first class is close demonstrative determiner (*da*), the second class is considered middle demonstrative determiner (*daqa/dagha*), and the third class is considered as far demonstrative determiner (*hagha*). In Pashto, demonstratives are inflected for gender, number and case. The first one (proximal demonstrative) *dais* not inflected for gender but is inflected for case. The demonstrative is also not inflected for plural in Pashto but inflected in English. In Pashto, the proximal demonstrative determiner *dais* also not inflected for singular masculine, plural masculine, and singular feminine and plural feminine nouns. But in English, the close demonstrative determiner (*this*) is not inflected for masculine and feminine nouns; it is inflected for plural noun into (*these*). Proximal demonstrative determiner is inflected into *de* for gender in oblique case. The second level of demonstrative in Pashto is *da-gha* used as medial. In English there is no middle demonstrative. The medial or middle demonstrative in Pashto is *da-gha/ dagha* but its equivalent does not exist in English. The proximal demonstrative (*da*) and medial demonstrative (*da-gha*) have the same equivalent demonstratives in English (*this* and *these*). Moreover, the medial or middle demonstrative has no inflection for number and gender in Pashto but it is inflected into *da-ghy* in oblique case. Furthermore, in English we have definite (*the*) and indefinite (*a/an*) articles but in Pashto there is no definite and indefinite articles. Significantly, the findings of this study confirm the determiner phrase hypothesis and will contribute to Pashto syntax.

List of abbreviations

DP – Determiner phrase
 LF – Lexical form
 NP – Noun phrase
 PF – Phonetic form
 IP – Inflectional phrase
 VP – Verb phrase

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