AL-AASAR Journal ***Vol. 2, No. 1 (2025)***
Quarterly *Research Journal*
www.al-aasar.com/
Online ISSN: 3006-693X
Print ISSN:3006-6921

A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NEGATION MARKERS IN URDU AND ENGLISH SERIAL VERB CONSTRUCTIONS

TayyabaIshtiaq *(tayba3470malik@gmail.com)*
Dr. Ali Hussain Bin Sadiq *(ali.hussain@skt.umt.edu.pk, alihussain.elt@gmail.com)*
Incharge, Department of Linguistics and Communications, UMT SKT, Punjab, Pakistan.

Abstract
Serial Verb Constructions (SVCs) are an integral syntactic phenomenon that involves the integration of multiple verbs in a single clause without conjunctions. These SVCs provide insights into the intricacies of verb usage and essential features of syntactic relationships. The negation process revealsand gives insight intovarious fundamentally crucial featuresof a language. This study gives a comparative analysis of SVC negation in Urdu and English, focusing on the syntactic mechanisms used in relevance to the position of negation markers in them incorporating a theoretical framework based on Chomsky's Minimalist Program. The study identifies the significant differences between Urdu and English by discriminating the key patterns and variations involved in negation in SVCs through qualitative analysis. The previous studies have highlighted the negation in SVCs but they have not described the varient negation particles for plural subject arguments i.e. nəhĩ (not) in Urdu.The findings of this study suggest the existence of differences with respect to the positioning of the negators. Urdu and English, both languages exhibit the existence of SVCs, just like many other languages of the worldbut with some distinct properties. Urdu negation precedes the projection of verb or the entire SVC while English negation uses auxiliary verbs in SVCs.This study contributes to the broader spectrum of understanding the negations in SVCs andprovides valuable insights into comparative linguistic studyforenhancingthe existingbody of knowledge pertaining tothe syntaxes of Urdu and English.

Keywords:*SVC, Negation, Urdu, English, Syntax, Comparative Linguistics*

1. Introduction

Negation at the surface level appears to be a normal phenomenon having a straightforward procedurebut itis a tool that gives so much about the truth values of the propositions, showing a symmetrical opposite of affirmative construction. Serial Verb Constructions (SVCs), according to Aikhenvald (2006), are successive and simultaneous arrangements of two or more verbs in acertain sequence, wherethe connection is established to the subjectsin a single clausebut without the interference of any conjunctions or subordination marker. Muysken and Veenstra(1995) consider this type of syntactic constructionto besignificantly important as theytell us about the arrangements of the verbs in a sentence andinterplay among the constituents of any specific language. It also gives us a clear and concise understanding of the valency of the verb, argument, and event structure of a natural language.

Negationis an integral syntactic toolinthe SVC context, which revealsthose strategies and constraints of a languagethat arefundamental for typological and comparative linguistic studies. Payne (1985) suggests the importance of negations in SVCs in revealingthe underlying principles of all the syntactic organization and morphological processes. Comprehending the functioning of negation in SVCsprovides insight into the structural variations,organizations, and morphological processesin a sentence as well as the cognitive functional aspects of a certain language. The present study focuses onthe comparative analysis of two different languages: 'Urdu' and 'English', which have differences based on their linguistic characteristics and historical background. The theoretical framework used here in this study is based onthe methodological naturalism of Generative Grammar's Minimalist Program proposed by Chomsky (1995).

AL-AASAR Journal
Quarterly *Research Journal*
www.al-aasar.com/

Vol. 2, No. 1 (2025)

Online ISSN: 3006-693X

Print ISSN:3006-6921

In Pakistan, there are several languages but Urdu according to Manan and David (2014) is considered national and English is the official language of Pakistan. Schmidt (1999) regardsUrduas an Indo-Aryan languagethat has a rich poetic tradition and ability for literary expressions of advanced level. Its richness delvesintoits complex verbal morphology and syntactic flexibility. English language, on the other hand, is a Germanic language and is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. Its importance is acknowledged globally because of its dynamic and evolving nature of communication with a significant global impact. Quirk et al. (1985) highlight that the English languagehas a well-documented system of negation with 'a relatively rigid syntactic structure'.The order of its syntactic features such as subject, object, and verb alsovary in both languages; in English, it is SVO-(subject-verb-object) while in Urdu it is SOV-(subject-object-verb) with a richer system of SVCs, where direct sequences of verbs without conjunctions are more visible than English.Both languages despite their differencesutilize SVCs, making them good candidates for comparative study.

2. Objectives of the Research

The objectives of this study areto:

1. Compare negation markers in Urdu and English serial verb constructions.
2. Trace the syntactic mechanisms involved in the projection of negative markers in Urdu and English SVCs.
3. Analyze different syntactic patterns and derivations of negation markers in Urdu and English SVCs.

3. Research Questions

The study addresses the following research questions:

1. How do negative markers work in Urdu and English serial verb constructions?
2. What is the syntactic mechanisminvolved in the projection of negative markers in Urdu and English SVCs?
3. How is negation structured and conveyed within the context of SVCs in English and Urdu?

4. Literature Review

Extensive linguistic research has been done on Serial Verb Constructions (SVCs)revealing their unique syntactic and semantic properties. Aikhenvald and Dixon (2005) in their groundbreaking study provide a typological analysis of SVCs. They stress the existence and syntactic constraints of SVCs in a variety of languages. According to them, SVCs have multiple verbs working together in a single clause to convey a complex action or series of actions, often without involving conjunctions or subordinators.

The functional and formal aspects of SVCs were discussed by Muysken and Veenstra (1995), in their study they emphasized the role of SVCs in expressing and understanding the implications ofargument structure and complex predicates. They proposed that SVCs are commonly found in African, Asian, and Pacific languages though each language family demonstrates a unique pattern of verb serialization and described single tense-aspect specifications across the verbs.

The importance of negation in SVCslies in the fact that it is essential for understanding the interactional relationship between syntactic structures and negation processes. But still, there is not much research on negations in SVCsin the light of available literature. According to Payne (1985),negation behaves differently in different syntactic constructions and changes its strategy according to simple and complex verb forms, including SVCs. Miestamo (2005)

Online ISSN: 3006-693X
Print ISSN:3006-6921

gave a typological perspective on negation. He observed variations in SVC negation and examined how languagenegates clauses by employing different morphological and syntactic means.Aikhenvald (2018) extends this to include an analysis of negation within SVCs. She focuseson how different languages incorporate negation markersin complex verb phrases and identifies key patterns and their implications including pre-verbal and post-verbal types of negation.

Comparative studies on negation and SVCs reveal and identify both language-specific tactics and universal patterns in several languages. Ameka (2006) stateswhile comparing SVCs of two languages that despite usingsimilar structures for serialization, Ewe and Akan languages differ in their application of negation. He points out that although preverbal negation is employed by both languages still, they differ in placement and interaction according to serial verbs.

Lefebvre and Brousseau (2002) highlight the importance of these constructions in their comparative analysis of SVCs in Fongbe and Haitian Creole, by emphasizing the role of negation in them. They added that both languages exhibit similar strategies for employing negation into SVCs, such as the use of negative particles and affixes despite having genetic and areal differences.

Several studies on SVCs in Urdu brought into light this language's complex verbal morphology and adaptable syntactic frameworks. Butt (1995) discusses the complex predicates in Urdu, including SVCs, and their contributory part in enhancing the expressive capacity of the Urdu language. According to Butt (ibid), Urdu SVCs often use those verb sequences which imply manner, causality, and sequential events.

A negation phrase is a linguistic construct that exhibits the denial or opposite of a statement or a truth value condition of a sentence using words in English like '*no, not never, nothing*, etc.' and words like*/na/* and */nəhɪ/*'not' in Urdu. Negation has always been a contentious issue when it comes to serial verb constructions. According to Bisang (2009), serial verb construction (SVC) does not have negation markers; but later studies proved that itis wrong. Lord (1993) believesin having 'only one possible negator' in the serial verb constructions. Jayaseelan (2004) in his studyof Malayalam says that negation comes after the first verb, and it only negates the meaning of the second verb'. Bukhari (2009) notes the presence of negation markers in Gojri at two positions that either precede both verbs or follow the first one. This brief overview suggests the presence of negation with serial verbs in various languages.

Farrell (2005) in his study notes that Urdu negation typically involves the use of the negative particle */nəhi/*'not' positioned before the verb. But he has not described the other negation particle for plural subject arguments i.e. */nəhĩ/*'not'. According to his study, the application of negation depends on the intended meaning or context of SVCs, either this negation is implemented to the entire serial structure or it refers only to certain verbs within the sequence. García (2014) hasalso explained this phenomenon of negation in a serial verb construction and considers that negation 'can be marked once or more than once' in SVCs 'but it has to apply to the whole string' confirming the idea of a single event. Alamblak language 'exhibits only one negationmarker' in SVCs, according to Aikhenvald (2006) suggested thenegation marker in this language has 'scope over the complete unit or one of its components orany combination of adjacent components of the whole construction'. Ameka(2005) also finds the same case with Ewe, where a single negation marker is enough

AL-AASAR Journal **Vol. 2, No. 1 (2025)**
Quarterly *Research Journal*
www.al-aasar.com/
Online ISSN: 3006-693X
Print ISSN:3006-6921

to modify the whole construction agreeing to all its verbs in SVCs, including V, V1, or both consequentlymarked with the same single negator. According to Bruce (1988),'disambiguation of negation can be achieved with the help of context' considering the importance of the context in understanding the negation in serial verb construction.

English, when compared to Urdu shows a relatively 'rigid syntactic structure' exhibiting only some instances of SVCs. However, Baker (1989) points out their restricted usage and syntactic properties and says that English still employs SVCs in certain contexts.Quirk et al. (1985) not only give a comprehensive description of English grammar but also talk about negation strategies. Englishuses the auxiliary "do" and its related forms for negation in simple and complex verb phrases. Negation usually comes before the main verb in serial-like constructions, as in "*Don't go there*." Although a lot of research has been done on serial verb constructions and negation, there are only a few works addressing negation in Urdu and English SVCsas a comparative study which has found a research gap. This study aims to compare and contrast both languages through a comparative analysis of thenegations in serial verb constructions in Urdu and English to investigate how it works in both languages as well as their positions in both constructions.

5. Theoretical Framework

This study has used the linguistic inquiryof Urdu and English language based on Chomsky's Minimalist program.Chomsky (1993) introduces this approach tostudying natural languages within Generative Grammar's framework by using naturalistic methodology. This is also known as one of the recurring themes in most of Chomsky's writings. Chomsky studies language as an important and distinguished feature of the human mind; and it is a recurring theme in almost, all his works. Language is considered a science and this study tries to investigate and probe it in the same manner which a science adopts. This study tries to investigate and reveal the underlying principles to explore new issues and concepts. This study adopts the tools and procedures of Generative Grammar Theory, specifically from the framework of the Minimalist Program proposed by Chomsky (1995). The study has used a qualitative approach and data is analyzed in the theoretical framework based on the Minimalist Program (MP) (Chomsky, 1957, 1995, 2005). Chomsky (1995) first introduced it as a program, not a theory. Minimalist Program (MP) is significantly different from Government Binding (GB) theory in several ways although the latest versions of GB theory havea direct impact and influence on MP. Chomsky (1993) describes MPas an effective tool for getting a better understanding of grammar and considers it as a syntactically flexible theory thatmatures with time and becomes complex in the light of his new research. Although it belongs to the theoretical linguistics paradigm it still helpsto bridge a link betweencognitive science and Chomsky's transformational and generative grammar concepts. Chomsky (1995) believes that grammar has the power to exhibit principles and parameters for all languages and is not limited to a single specific language thusgiving the concept of universalism.

Chomsky (1993) considers the Minimalist framework as having a direct impact onthe principles and parameters theory which is also called Government and Binding theory. This study is based on the Minimalist Program described by Radford (2004). It is widely acknowledged that all human beings 'mutually share' some specific features of language that help them in languageacquisition; paving the way for GG. These 'mutually shared features' are called 'Principles'. 'Locality Principle' is one of those 'Principles' whichaccording to Radford (2004), requires that all the grammatical operations be local. 'Grammatical

AL-AASAR Journal
Quarterly *Research Journal*
www.al-aasar.com/

Vol. 2, No. 1 (2025)

Online ISSN: 3006-693X

Print ISSN:3006-6921

operations including A-movement, case assignment, and auxiliary inversions thus entailing the most appropriate expressions' (ibid). However, it is asserted that the genetic composition of human beings is responsible for all the principles and parametric variations. According to Chomsky (1965), this innateness of humans is a characteristic feature of Universal Grammar (UG).UG gives a structured and systematized arrangement of the grammar of all the languages in the brain spoken by human beings each having separate compartments and constituents specific to it.According to Radford (2004),the lexicon is one of those constituents which function as a storage house for the language. This lexicon works in collaboration with the phonetic and semantic components as well as the syntactic components also called computational constituents to give rise to grammatically appropriate and acceptable expressions and is elaborated by Butt, Anwar, and Rasool (2022) given in *Radford (2004)*in the diagram below:

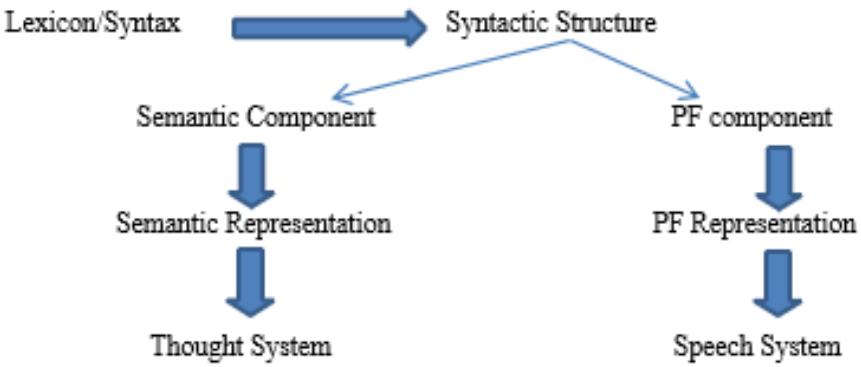


Fig. 1: Computational Constituents of Language

Chomsky (1993) describes grammar in the simplest possible way in Generative Grammar (GG). Radford (2004) says that this simplification has restricted the flare of the theoretical and descriptive apparatus to some specific features in describing language. However, this minimization of theoretical and descriptive grammatical apparatus is also called MP.

Chomsky (1993) differentiates MP from GB based on their differences in representation levels; where GB has four levels, MP has only two. MP has representation at Logical Form (LF) and Phonological Form (PF) levels. GB includes deep and surface levels of representations along with these LF and PF levels and are called interface levels describing features or role interpretability. Chomsky (1995) says that the lexicon encompasses three features; formal features, semantics, and phonetic properties. Formal features are responsible for the derivational operations (merge and move).MP considers and discusses three things in detail:

1. Phi-features (number, person, and gender)
2. Extended projection principle
3. Abstract features

Derivation does not involve semantic interpretation in the case of abstract features whereas 'phi-features' get their value in terms of nominals which makes abstract case features

AL-AASAR Journal
Quarterly *Research Journal*
www.al-aasar.com/

Vol. 2, No. 1 (2025)

Online ISSN: 3006-693X

Print ISSN:3006-6921

valuable in terms of heads of V and T. He further adds that the phi-features do not have semantic interpretations and are not given any value while entering derivation just like abstract case features have and remain unvalued while entering derivation (Chomsky, 1995). Chomsky (2005) states that Tense (T) does not have these features and gets these features from Complementizer (C) to give grammatically complete sentences and in this way interpretable features approach LF.

Another important principle of MP discussed by Chomsky is 'Economy' which has two aspects:the economy of representation and the economy of derivation. The economy of representation's principle states that every grammatical structure must have a clear reason or purpose and should avoid complexities. Whereas, the economy of derivation governs the movement within the sentences for the alignment of interpretable features (such as meaning) with uninterpretable features (such as grammar). For example, in English, the plural inflectional form"dogs" is an interpretable feature and indicates reference to more than one dog. The verb must also match the subject in number to achieve grammaticality and interpretability by developing a subject-verb relationship and this requires movement to align these features, such as in the case of "A dogruns" vs. "Dogs run". Butt, Anwar, and Rasool (2022) have shown the minimalist model of representation in the following figure:

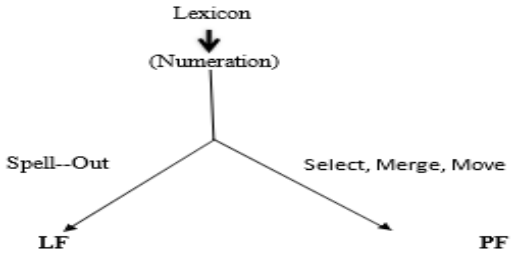


Fig. 2: Representation of Minimalist Program

Clause derivation in MP starts with a process called 'numeration' which involves the selection of a set of lexical items from the lexicon or mental dictionary to build a sentence.

Numeration involves two key derivational operations; such as 'Move' and 'Merge. Merge operation involves a combination of two syntactic objects in which one is head and one non-head but with a particular label for the larger syntactic unit. For example, a combination of syntactic units "the" and "cat" form the noun phrase (NP) "the cat." Move operation involves the adjustment of the position of elements after identifying them and moving them according to their need to satisfy syntactic requirements within the structure. Chomsky (1995) clarifies the difference in the interpretation of phrases; i.e., the meaning of a phrase can fluctuate according to the situation, depending on where it is used,seen, orheardin a sentence. Chomsky's (1993) displacement highlights the construction and interpretation of these phrases under specific natural constraints of locality and computational systems considering them analogous expressions.

Agree Operations involve checking and matching the compatibility between the features of syntactic elements to ensure their compatibility with each other; i.e., their agreement according to their phonological, formal, and abstract case features. This derivational

AL-AASAR Journal
Quarterly *Research Journal*
www.al-aasar.com/

Vol. 2, No. 1 (2025)

Online ISSN: 3006-693X

Print ISSN:3006-6921

processregarding Agree-Based theory is explained in Figure 3, which describes themerging of the syntactic elements by giving values to their interpretable features but keeping uninterpretable features unvalued as described by Chomsky (2014). Figure 3 also explains the deletion process of these uninterpretable in Agree-based theory. Theinterpretable features of syntactic elements are calledgoals while uninterpretable features are called probes in a derivation process. The uninterpretable featuresgettheir value from the relationshipthat develops between the probe and the goal.Little**'v'** of Figure 3 is shown as a probe with uninterpretable features and getting their value from the interpretable features or goal of the 'DP2'. It is also noted that DP2 itself has an uninterpretable feature (case feature). This case feature also needs valuation, whichsuggests a mutual valuation benefiting relationship between probe and goal; where the probe (little v) gets value for its uninterpretable features, and the goal (DP2) for its case feature. The Agree-based relationship involves these processes of establishing the relationship and valuing features is afundamental aspect of syntactic theory because it is responsible for the matching and valuation of features in a sentence. The derivation process involves the deletion of uninterpretable features after getting valued to ensure the interpretability and completeness of the syntactic structures at the interfaces (phonological and logical forms). Recursion of this same process is observed among other elements, for example between T (tense) and DP1 (Determiner Phrase 1), where T is a probe and DP1 acts as a goal.

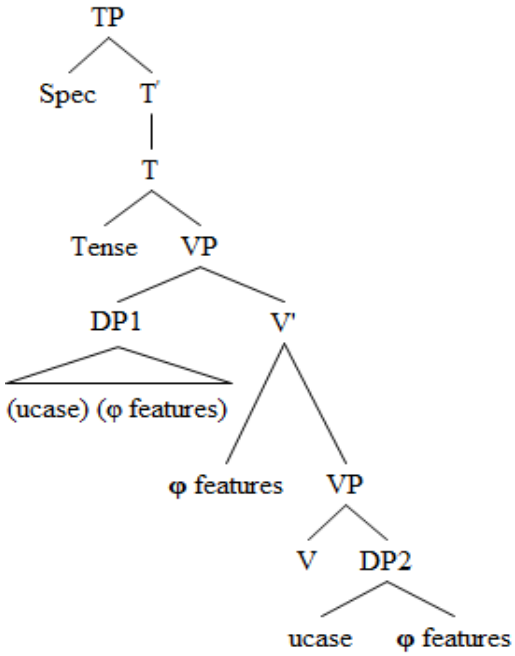


Fig. 3: Representation of Minimalist Program

5. Research Methodology

This study involves a comparative analysis of Urdu and English linguistic features exhibiting negation in SVCs. The study has used the principles of Minimalist Syntax proposed by Noam Chomsky. Analysis of the syntactic structure of each SVC is used to determine, how negation

AL-AASAR Journal **Vol. 2, No. 1 (2025)**
Quarterly *Research Journal*
www.al-aasar.com/
Online ISSN: 3006-693X
Print ISSN:3006-6921

is appliedthe placement of negation markers relative to the verbs, and to get an understanding of the hierarchical structure of the clauses.Data is collectedfrom various sources, including Textbooks of Matric and Intermediate Level Pakistani studentsas well as from spoken discourse of Pakistani speakers. The data is analyzed qualitatively focusing on syntactic structures in the contextual usage of sentences.

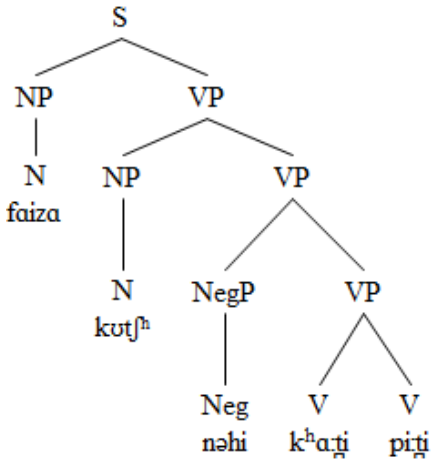
6. Data Analysis

The SVC phenomenon gives information about the sequences of verbs in a serial order,which works together in a single predicate but in theabsence of coordination and subordination markers. Negation markersareconsidered one of the most distinctive features of SVCs. The analysis of negation in SVCs of examples from Urdu and English language is as follows where *SVI* stands for 'singular verb first form' and serial verb constructions are represented by SVC:

6.1.*faiza kʊtʃʰ nəhi kʰaːʈi piːʈi.(Fiza does not eat or drink anything.)*

faiza F. SG-NOM, kʊtʃʰ Pron.(something), nəhi- NEG, kʰaːʈi- V(eat), piːʈi- V (dink)

This is an example of SVC as both verbs *kʰaːʈi* (eat) and *piːʈi* (drink) share the same subject *faiza*. This sentence belongs to simple present tense. As Urdu follows SOV, the object argument *kʊtʃʰ*Pron.(something)precedes the SVC. The negation *nəhi* projects negation in the meaning of the verbs *kʰaːʈi* (eat) and *piːʈi* (drink). If it is used before *piːʈi* (dink), it will change the meaning of the sentence. Thus, the negation marker preceeds the SVC in the given example contra English. The pivtorial representation of the above sentence is given below:



Besides the hierrchical representation of the given sentence, it may be analysed in the bracketed diagram. The constituent analysis unpacks the embedded features of the phrases. The bracketed diagram is given below for further analysis:

[S [NP [N faizɑ]][VP [NP [N kʊtʃʰ]][VP [NegP [Neg nəhi]][VP [V kʰɑːʈi][V piːʈi]]]]]

6.2.*lɔːg tiːviːpər kʊʃʈi kɔː nəhi ɖeːkʰ rəheː hẽ. (People are not watching the wrestling onTV.)*

lɔːgPlur.-NOM (people), tiːvi: SG-NOM (TV), pər PP (on), kʊʃʈi SG-NOM (wrestling), kɔː Objᵐ, nəhi – NEG (not), ɖeːkʰ V (watch), rəheː Vᵃᵘˣ(shows continuity), hẽ Vᵃᵘˣ(shows the state of being)

The given sentence belongs to the present progressive aspect. The glossary of the above sentence highlights the syntax and semantics of the sentence. The negator*nəhi* (not) precedes

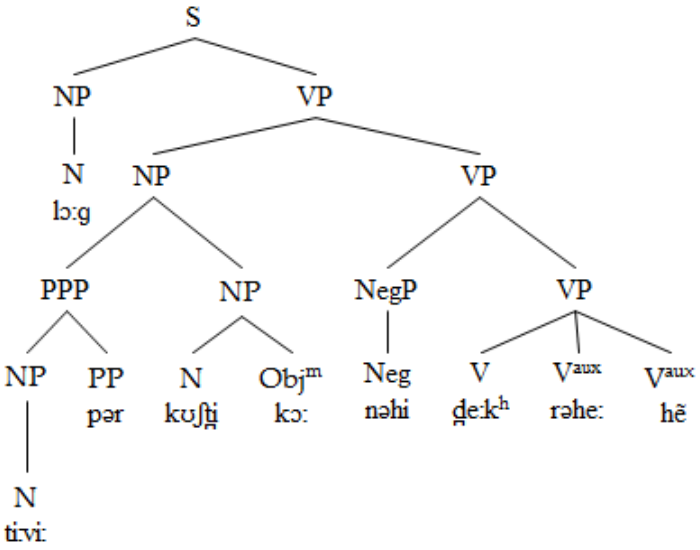
AL-AASAR Journal
Quarterly *Research Journal*
www.al-aasar.com/

Vol. 2, No. 1 (2025)

Online ISSN: 3006-693X

Print ISSN:3006-6921

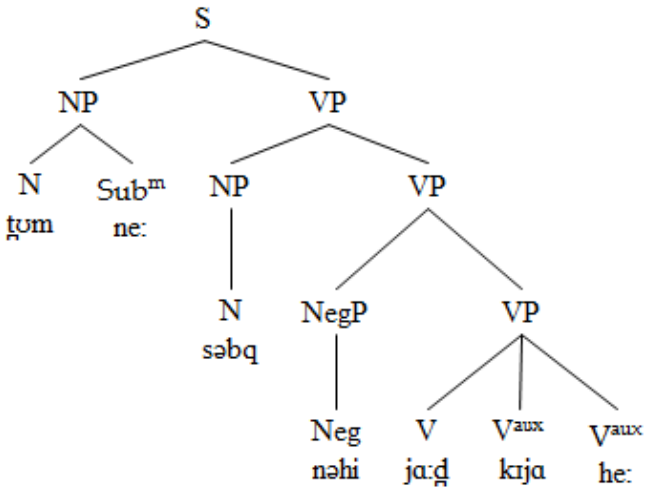
the SVCcontainig *ɖe:k*^{h}V (watch), *rəhe:* V^{aux}(shows continuity),and*hẽ* Plur. V^{aux} (shows the state of being)to modify the meaning.The hierarchical construction of the sentence given above is as follows:



Urdu projects the postpositional phrase contra prepositional phrase. Unlike prepositions, which are placed before the complement or object, postpositions are placed after the noun or pronoun they modify. Together, prepositions and postpositions form a group called adpositions. The subject markers and object markers are also the distinct aspect of Urdu. For further elaboration, the bracketed diagram of the given sentence is given below:
[S [NP [N lɔ:g]][VP [NP [PPP [NP [N ti:vi:]][PP pər]][NP [N kʊʃʈi][Obj^{m} kɔ:]]][VP [NegP [Neg nəhi]][VP [V ɖe:kh][V^{aux} rəhe:][V^{aux} hẽ]]]]]

6.3.*ʈʊmne: səbq nəhi ja:ɖ kɪja he:. (You have not learnt the lesson.)*

ʈʊmPron. (you), ne:Sub^{m}, səbq SG-NOM (lesson), nəhi NEG, ja:ɖ V (learn), kɪja V^{aux} (shows completion of action), he: V^{aux}(shows the state of being)



The above sentence comprises of the present perfect aspect. In this sentence, the negator *nəhi* (not) precedes the SVC, *ja:ɖ V (learn), kɪja V^{aux}*(shows completion of action), *he:* SG. V^{aux}

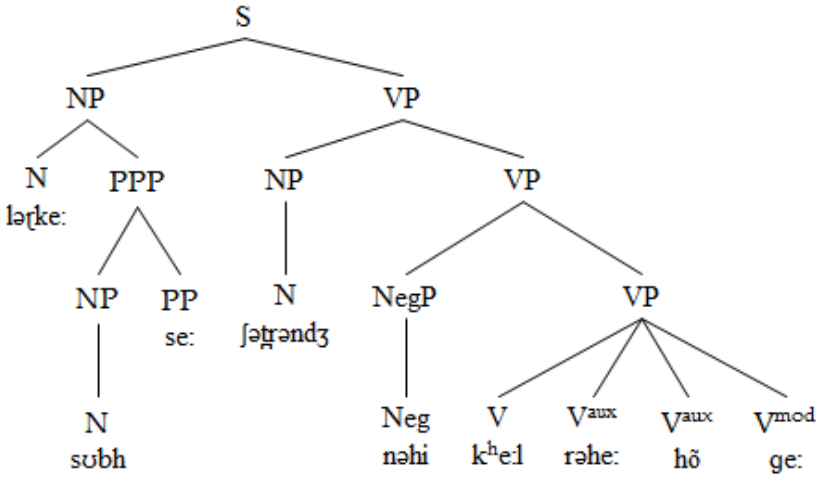
AL-AASAR Journal
Quarterly *Research Journal*
www.al-aasar.com/
Vol. 2, No. 1 (2025)
Online ISSN: 3006-693X
Print ISSN:3006-6921

(shows the state of being). In some cases of colloquial and everyday language, the object marker is dropped. The constituents of the above sentence is given below to facilitate the readership:

[S [NP [N ʈʊm][Sub^{m} ne:]][VP [NP [N səbq]][VP [NegP [Neg nəhi]][VP [V jɑ:ɖ][V^{aux} kɪjɑ][V^{aux} he:]]]]]

6.4.*ləɽke: sʊbh se: ʃəʈrəndʒ nəhi k^{h}e:l rəhe: hõ ge:.(Boys will not have been playing chess since moning.)*

ləɽke: Plur.-NOM (boys), sʊbh SG-NOM (morning), se: P (since), ʃəʈrəndʒ SG-NOM (chess), nəhi NEG (not),k^{h}e:l V (play), rəhe: V^{aux} (shows continuity), hõ Plur. V^{aux} (shows the state of being),ge: V^{mod} (madal verb highlighting future)



The sentence given in 6.4 belongs to future perfect continuous aspect. In this construction, the negator *nəhi* (not) precedes the SVC *k^{h}e:l*V (play), *rəhe:* V^{aux} (shows continuity), *hõ* Plur. V^{aux} (shows the state of being),*ge:* V^{mod} (madal verb highlighting future).In this sentence, the postposition phrase *sʊbh*SG-NOM (morning), *se:* PP (since)contains *se:*,which means since as it is used with the word *sʊbh*SG-NOM *(morning),* highlighting time. Thebracketed diagram is given below for further elaboration:

[S [NP [N ləɽke:][PPP [NP [N sʊbh]][PP se:]]][VP [NP [N ʃəʈrəndʒ]][VP [NegP [Neg nəhi]][VP [V khe:l][V^{aux} rəhe:][V^{aux} hõ][V^{mod} ge:]]]]]

6.5.gʊnɑnɑ: ɖe:k^{h}ɑkrɔ:dʒɔ: wɔ: krʈe: hẽ. *(Do not sight sin, which theycommit.)*

*gʊna SG-NOM (sin), na:NEG (not),ɖe:k^{h}aV (sight),*krɔ: V^{aux} (do; here it implies a habitual occurrence),*dʒɔ: C (which), wɔ: Pron. (they),* krʈe:*V (commit, do), hẽV^{aux} (shows the state of being)*

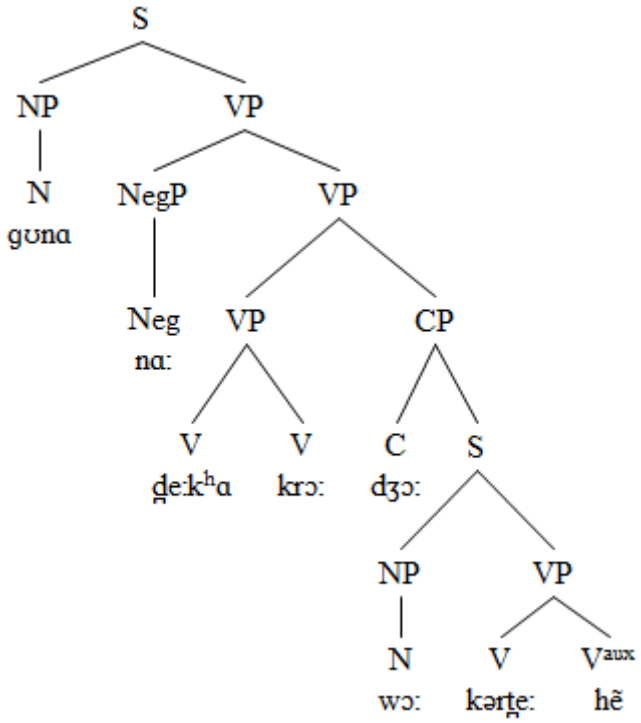
The above sentence highlights a syntactic operation of locality condition which affirms that syntactic operations are local. Here the word local means the certain clause in question.In the main clause *gʊna SG-NOM (sin), na:NEG ɖe:k^{h}aV (sight),* kərɔ: V^{aux} (do), the negator *na:NEG* (not)precedes SVC *ɖe:k^{h}aV (sight),* kərɔ: V^{aux} (do). This negation is notpervassive in the embedded clause *dʒɔ: C (which), wɔ: Pron. (they),* krʈe:*V (commit, do), hẽV^{aux} (shows the state of being)*because syntactic operations are local. The tree diagram of the sentence under discussion is given below to elaborate its constituency.

AL-AASAR Journal
Quarterly *Research Journal*
www.al-aasar.com/

Vol. 2, No. 1 (2025)

Online ISSN: 3006-693X

Print ISSN:3006-6921



The tree diagram of the given sentence unpacks the negator *na:* (not) precedingSVC *ɖe:kʰaV (sight),* krɔ: V^{aux} (do; here it implies a habitual occurrence).Although Urdu is head-last language, yet it is its dintinct feature to demonstrate negators placed before SVCs. The bracketed diagram may be faclitating for the comparative linguistic analysis.

[S [NP [N gʊnɑ]][VP [NegP [Neg nɑ:]][VP [VP [V ɖe:khɑ][V krɔ:]][CP [C dʒɔ:][S [NP [N wɔ:]][VP [V kərʈe:][V^{aux} hẽ]]]]]]].

7. Findings and Conclusion

It is evident from the above examples that negations in Urdu and English Serial Verb constructions reveal the differences relating to their positioning. English negation marker comes after the auxiliary verbwhereas the Urdu negationmarker can stand alone without the support of any auxiliary verb. On the other hand, the English negation marker is fixed with the auxiliary. In Urdu, anegation marker can be seen preceding both serial verbs for example in*Yeh na likh bhejo*verbs*likh* and *bhejo* are in a sequential action of SVC where *na* negates both the verbs *likh* and *bhaijo*.

In conclusion, this study has investigated the variation of the position of negation markers in Urdu and English languages in the presence of serial verb constructions. Although, English has a limited occurrence of SVCs, but still reveals important syntacticpatterns and has differences from other languages such as Urdu. The Urdunegation in SVCs is usually observed coming before verbs or the entire sequence of verbs. But inthe English language negation uses auxiliary verbs before the main verbs like *be, do*, and *have* andindicates the negation aspect for the entire construction. Theparticularities of English syntax are highlighted by the consistent use of auxiliaries and the syntactic structure of negation. This studydemonstrates the linguistic preferences ofthe complex constructions of both languagesand paves the way for further studies by highlighting the differences.The future

Online ISSN: 3006-693X
Print ISSN:3006-6921

reserachers may take advntagefrom this study for setting some parameters for the comparative linguistic analysis with refernce to negation markers.

References

Research Portal.(n.d.).*Lao serial verb constructions and their* [Doctoral dissertation].IRO. https://iro.uiowa.edu/esploro/outputs/doctoral/Lao-serial-verb-constructions-and-their/9983777225302771

Bos, H. F. (2016). Serial verb constructions in Sign Language of the Netherlands.*Sign Language and Linguistics, 19*(2), 238–251. https://doi.org/10.1075/sll.19.2.04bos

Aikhenvald, A. I. E. (2006). *Serial verb constructions: A cross-linguistic typology.*Oxford University Press.

Aikhenvald, A. Y. (2006). Serial verb constructions in typological perspective.*Oxford University Press.*

Andrason, A. (2018). The *wziąć* gram in Polish: A serial verb construction, or not? *STUF - Language Typology and Universals, 71*(4), 577–629.

Ameka, F. (2005). Forms of secondary predication in serializing languages: On depictives in Ewe. In *Secondary predication and adverbial modification: The typology of depictives* (pp. 355–378). Oxford University Press.

Bisang, W. (2009).Serial verb constructions.*Language and Linguistics Compass, 3*(3), 792–814.

Butt, B., Anwar, B., & Rasool, S. (2022). The syntax of negation of serial verbs in Urdu.*NUST Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities, 8*(1), 119–138.

Bruce, L. (1988). Serialization: From syntax to lexicon. *Studies in Language, 12*(1), 19–49.

Choi, S. (2003).Serial verbs and the empty category.In *Proceedings of the workshop on Multi-Verb constructions.*

Chomsky, N. (1957). Logical structures in language.*American Documentation, 8*(4), 284–291.

Chomsky, N. (1993). *Lectures on government and binding: The Pisa lectures.* Walter de Gruyter.

Chomsky, N. (1986). *Knowledge of language: Its nature, origin, and use.* Greenwood Publishing Group.

Chomsky, N. (1995). *The Minimalist Program.*MIT Press.

Chomsky, N. (2005). Three factors in language design. *Linguistic Inquiry, 36*, 1–22.

Chomsky, N. (2014). *The minimalist program.*MIT Press.

Foley, W. A. (2010). Events and serial verb constructions.*Cambridge University Press.*

García Salido, G. (2014). *Clause linkage in southeastern Tepehuan: A Uto-Aztecan language of northern Mexico* [Doctoral dissertation].

Haspelmath, M. (2016). The serial verb construction: Comparative concept and cross-linguistic generalizations. *Language and Linguistics, 17*(3), 291–319.

Kumar, R. (2004). Negation in the clause structure of Hindi.In *Proceedings from the Annual Meeting of the Chicago Linguistic Society, 40*(1), 171–188.

Lord, C. (1993). *Historical change in serial verb constructions.* J. Benjamins.

Online ISSN: 3006-693X
Print ISSN:3006-6921

Manan, S. A., & David, M. K. (2014).Mapping ecology of literacies in educational setting: The case of local mother tongues vis-à-vis Urdu and English languages in Pakistan.*Language and Education, 28*(3), 203–222.

Miestamo, M. (2005).*Standard negation: The negation of declarative verbal main clauses in a typological perspective.*Mouton de Gruyter.

Muysken, P., & Veenstra, T. (1995).Serial verbs.In *The World Atlas of Language Structures.*Oxford University Press.

Paul, W. (2008). The serial verb construction in Chinese: A tenacious myth and a Gordian knot. *25*(3–4), 367–411.

Payne, D. (1985). Negation. In *Language Typology and Syntactic Description, Volume 1: Clause Structure.*Cambridge University Press.

Radford, A. (2004). *Minimalist syntax: Exploring the structure of English.*Cambridge University Press.

Schmidt, R. (1999). *Urdu: An essential grammar.*Routledge.

Serial Verb Constructions: A Cross-Linguistic Typology. (n.d.).*Oxford Academic.* https://academic.oup.com/book/52499

Serial Verbs.(n.d.).*Oxford Academic.* https://academic.oup.com/book/36335

Steever, S. B. (1988).The serial verb formation in the Dravidian languages.*Motilal Banarsidass Publisher.*

Quirk, R., Greenbaum, S., Leech, G., & Svartvik, J. (1985).*A comprehensive grammar of the English language.*Longman.