

Thematic Relations in Phrasal Possessives of English and Kurdish

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Abstract: *This paper deals with possessive phrases in the framework of Government-Binding (GB) theory. GB theory itself is part of a series of modifications of Chomsky's Universal Grammar. The GB theory consists of seven modules; one of them is theta theory (θ -theory). Hence, our paper tries to indicate how θ -theory is applied to phrasal possessives in English and Kurdish. This paper provides a solution to the hypothesis that θ -theory, as a universal principle, is applied to Kurdish possessives with reference to English. Also, the application of the principle to the possessives of both languages is indicated in a comparative method. The focus of the paper is on phrasal constructions in both languages. As for Kurdish, the data of Central Kurdish (CK) is adopted. The paper consists of four sections. In the introduction part, we shed some light on the title. Section two is devoted to thematic relations in English possessives in which various types of possessive phrases are discussed with respect to the θ -roles assigned to their arguments. In section three, we pay attention to CK possessives with some reference to their English counterparts by elaborating the types of CK possessive phrases on the basis of their nominals.*

Keywords: *possessive; θ -role; nominal; transitivity*

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I. INTRODUCTION

The θ -theory of GB deals with the occurrence of certain thematic roles given to the arguments by their predicates in sentences, and by nominals in phrases. On this basis, there exists some sort of relationship between the predicate or the nominal and its argument(s). The scope of our paper is devoted to the phrasal level; therefore, we are concerned with nominals. The common θ -roles in possessive phrases include Agent, Patient, Experiencer, and Neutral (cf. Rozwadowska, 1988). The existence of each θ -role totally depends on the nominal which is available in the possessive phrase. There is a broad consensus in the literature that θ -roles which appear in clausal constructions are also seen in phrasal possessive constructions (see Barker, 2008; Booij, 2005; Safir, 1987).

The major focus, in relation to θ -theory, is on the prenominal possessives in English, and on the possessives with nominal lexical heads in both languages. On the assumption that the thematic structure of verbs in clausal constructions mirrors the thematic structure of the lexical head in the phrasal possessive construction, possessives with a derived nominal head are of great interest. The purpose of this paper is to indicate that the claim of the universality of the θ -relations, which are part of GB theory, is thoroughly defensible. The contribution of the paper to the field is that it can provide researchers and linguists, especially those who are interested in comparative as well as contrastive analyses of languages, with sufficient data concerning the possessive phrases of both languages. To be more precise, it can be regarded as the cornerstone of any research on the possessive DPs in CK.

The observation of thematic relations in CK possessives resembles that of English possessives since we have both action and psych nominals. CK possessives differ from English possessives, with respect to parameters, in that a class of CK nominals have two forms with almost the same semantic content. However, the two forms vary syntactically as one implies an active reading whereas the other posits a passive reading. Furthermore, there are certain nominals which have only one form or one reading. The reason for the existence of such varieties of action nominals is the principle of transitivity. It is noteworthy that such variability is not seen in CK psych nominals because they are not derived from verbs, meaning that they are inherently nouns. Accordingly, they are grouped with CK abstract nouns.

Taking X-bar theory into account, there are two types of phrase analyses: Noun Phrase analysis (NPA) and Determiner Phrase Analysis (DPA). The former, according to which the lexical noun is the head of the phrase, is more suitable to be adopted in dealing with English possessive nominals. However, the latter, in which a functional element becomes the head of the phrase, must be adopted in relation to CK possessive phrases (see Abney, 1987). On such grounds, we use the term 'NP' to label English possessives, and the term 'DP' to label those of CK. Furthermore, concerning phrasal possessive types, we cannot find exactly the same

structural types in both languages. Each language is treated according to its parameters. In what follows, we elaborate the θ -roles in phrasal possessive constructions of both languages at length.

II. THEMATIC RELATIONS IN ENGLISH POSSESSIVES

2.1. Thematic relations in prenominal possessives

In the sense of NPA, the head of a prenominal possessive can be a pure noun as in *John's car* or a derived nominal as in *John's investigation of the case*. The existence of θ -roles in the possessive construction hinges upon the type of the head noun. Taylor (1989) classifies possessives, with respect to θ -theory, into free possessives and deverbal possessives. The former are those which resemble primary compounds in having a non-derived nominal as their head, whereas the latter is similar to the structure of synthetic compounds in having a derived nominal as their head. He also claims that the deverbalnominals can be regarded as predicates, which is an unusual characteristic for nouns, since they have a thematic structure that is inherited from the thematic structure of the verb in the clausal counterpart of the phrasal possessive construction (see also Barker, 2008; Booij, 2005).

As for Taylor's (1989) dichotomy of prenominal possessives, we prefer to use the dichotomy of free vs bound because in free possessives the lexical head of the whole phrase, i.e. the possessee, and the complement of the possessive morpheme (POSS), namely the possessor, can establish any kind of relationship. For instance, in (1a), the relationship between *Mary* and *house* can be conceived of as the house that Mary has, she rents, she talks about, etc. On the other hand, bound possessives can have only one relationship between the possessor and the possessee because it is totally dependent on the thematic structure of the nominal head as in (1b) in which

Mary is Agent and *the event* is Patient.

- (1) a. Mary's house
- b. Mary's observation of the event

Concerning terminology, Rozwadowska (1988) criticizes using the notion *Theme* as it "becomes vague and too broad to reflect finer distinctions" (p. 151). To her, adopting the terms *Patient* and *Experienced* is more plausible. She also proposes the term *Neutral*, which is contrasted with Patient, to refer to an argument which is not affected by any action and does not have any conscious control over the action. In this sense, an argument with Neutral role cannot appear in the Spec position of nominals. It follows that the subject of a possessive NP has the role of Neutral if the lexical head of the entire possessive phrase is a pure noun, since the nominal heads assign one of the θ -roles of Agent, Patient, or Experiencer to the element in the Spec position. Consider the examples below:

- (2) a. Mary_[Experiencer]'s terror/horror at the news_[Neutral]
- b. Juan_[Experiencer]'s disappointment at his students_[Neutral]
- (3) Baghdad_[Patient]'s destruction by the Mongols_[Agent]

In the above examples, the head noun is postmodified by a prepositional phrase (PP) to complete the meaning of the structure. But Rozwadowska (1988) indicates that certain nominals, for example experiential nominals, can assign Experiencer θ -role to the Spec position of the possessive, even if the object is absent as shown in (4), whose nominals are derived from psych verbs. Here the given θ -role corresponds to either the subject or the object of the clausal counterpart.

- (4) a. Jack's love
- b. Kate's hatred
- c. Kate's fear/pleasure/amusement

Taylor (1996) points out that there exist two types of nominals: action nominals which are derived from verbs indicating acts, which behave similarly, such as *destruction*, *invasion*, *assassination*, *dismissal*, etc.; and psych nominals which are derived from cognitive verbs which show a cognizing entity or emotions, for example, *love*, *admire*, *know*, etc. The main difference between the two groups is related to movement in that the complement of the *of*-phrase can be moved to the Spec position of the whole phrase in action nominal, but that of psych nominals cannot.

- (5) a. America's invasion of Iraq
- b. Iraq's invasion by America
- (6) a. Pete's knowledge of the plan
- b. *the plan's knowledge by Pete

The reason for the ungrammaticality of (6b) is that cognitive verbs cannot be passivized. Sometimes, a given possessive construction is permitted with only a specific reading, but not another. For instance, the possessive NP of (7a) is grammatical with Patient reading, while it is not with Agent reading because the thematic structure of *destruction* needs a complement when its Spec position is filled with an element with Agent θ -role. This is not the case with the Patient role as we can assume a passive reading for it (cf. Rozwadowska, 2005).

- (7) a. the Americans' destruction (Patient)
 b. The Americans were destroyed.

- (8) a. *the Americans' destruction (Agent)
 b. *The Americans destroyed.

The same principle can be generalized to apply to proper names of people or places in the Spec position. For instance, *Pat* is Patient in (9). As for places, they are unambiguously assigned Patient role as in

- (10) because they can never be Agent (see also Booij, 2005; Rozwadowska, 2005).

- (9) *Pat*'s destruction (by his opponents)

- (10) Aleppo's destruction (by the Barbarians)

The preposition plays a vital role in determining the correct θ -role to the argument. When the preposition is '*of*', the argument in the Spec position becomes Agent and the PP becomes the complement of the derived nominal. Inversely, the preposition '*by*' posits that the Spec slot is filled by Patient and the whole structure has a passive meaning. Hence, the absence of the preposition leads to ambiguity as seen in (12a), though not in all cases. However, in an example like (12b), the subject of the possessive NP is Patient by default due to its semantic content (for instance someone who is examined).

- (11) a. *Pat*'s destruction of the evidence (Agent)
 b. *Pat*'s destruction by his rival (Patient)

- (12) a. *John*'s treatment (Agent OR Patient)
 b. the patient's examination (Patient by default)

Furthermore, Barker (2005) affirms that the passive interpretation results from the movement of the GP from the postnominal to the prenominal position. For example, in (13a), *the destruction of Aleppo by Russia* becomes *Aleppo's destruction by Russia*. On the assumption that *Aleppo* receives the Patient role in D-structure before movement, it carries its Patient role during the transformation process to the spec, NP. Baker (2004) argues that only possessive NPs can undergo this movement and produce a passive-like structure, meaning that the use of adjective phrases instead of GPs cannot give this passive interpretation as in (13b).

- (13) a. We all deplore Aleppo_i's destruction t_i by Russia.
 b. *We all deplore the Syrian destruction by Russia.

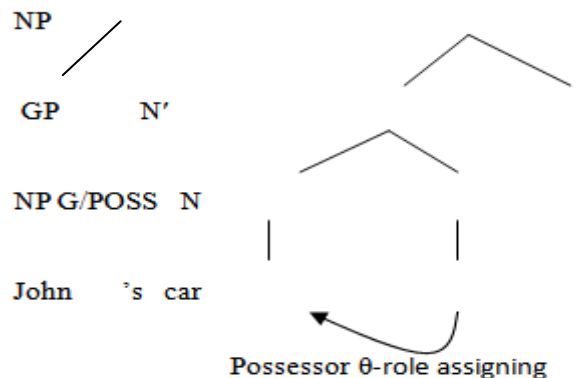
Moreover, Safir (1987) indicates that the existence of an Agent in Spec position and a *by*-phrase together in the same phrase is mutually exclusive. The reason for this is that the θ -Criterion does not permit two arguments with the same θ -role because both are considered as external arguments with projected lexical structure. As a result, the appearance of the *by*-phrase dethematize the prenominal possessive position. The absence of the *by*-phrase implies that there is no dethematization, however. We should bear in mind that *with*-NP is possible because both the Agent in the Spec position and the NP complement of *with* are deemed as one argument.

- (14) a. *Pat*'s destruction of the evidence (with Joe)
 b. **Pat*'s destruction of the evidence by Joe
 c. the destruction of the evidence by Joe

At the beginning of this section we mentioned, but left unexplained, prenominal possessives with a pure (non-derived) head. All we said was that the relationship between the possessor and the lexical head is that of free. Concerning the θ -role assigned to the subject of the prenominal possessive headed by pure nouns, Chomsky (1986) believes that the θ -role of 'Possessor' is assigned to the subject regardless of the interpretation the subject has. Also, Chomsky confirms that the subject, if present, must be θ -marked unless it is an expletive. To him, the Possessor role is assigned due to the structural configuration of the prenominal possessive: [_{NP} — N']. This θ -role has been assigned in its original position, which is the subject of a *have*-clause. For example, *John's car* is originally *John has a car*.

Taylor (1996) claims that POSS assigns the Possessor θ -role to its complement when the lexical head of the prenominal possessive is a concrete pure noun as shown in (15).

15) John's car



If Taylor's (1996) claim was true, it would be generalized to include abstract pure nouns as well because they cannot assign any θ -role either. However, this claim is not true whatsoever. Massam (1993) states that POSS cannot assign any θ -role to the possessor because it is itself a functional category, not a lexical one. Thus, functional categories cannot assign θ -roles. On this account, the Possessional relation is not a thematic one; it should be observed as modification. This leads us to expect that the possessor is not an argument since the head noun lacks argument structure. Rather, it is a modifier in examples like (15) above (see also Abney, 1987).

This argument of Massam's (1993) refutes many other linguists', including Chomsky's. Furthermore, Massam (1993) maintains that a thematic element is one which is implied by the nature of a state or event posited by the predicate. Having said that, *Samuelis* not implied by *park* in (16a), as it is possible with any noun. Hence, there is no selection restriction to determine a certain θ -role such as Agent, Patient, or Experiencer. In contrast, (16b) is treated in a different way since the derived nominal selects an Agent argument to appear in the Spec position, meaning that an Agent θ -role is implied by the lexical head of the possessive phrase.

- (16) a. Samuel's park
- b. Samuel's observation of the case

In relation to the inheritance principle, Safir (1987) points out that it is not necessary for a derived nominal to express all the θ -roles possessed by its corresponding verb. For instance in (17a), the verb *discuss* requires an obligatory complement with Patient role, while this role is optional in the possessive phrase of (17c).

- (17) a. Mary discussed the problem for half an hour.
- b. *Mary discussed for half an hour.
- c. Mary's discussion (of the problem) lasted half an hour.

2.2. Relational nouns

Relational nouns are those that refer to a relationship established between the possessor and the possessee. The relation may be between one person and another or one person and an institution. Examples of relational nouns are *sister, brother, father, friend, enemy, chairman, etc.* This group of nouns is different from both types of head nouns (pure nouns and derived nominals) elaborated in the previous section. A prenominal possessive with a pure head noun (*John's car*) can produce a double genitive possessive such as *a car of John's*, and a predicative possessive such as *This car is John's* (18 a-c). Prenominal possessives with a derived nominal head cannot perform such a productivity because of violating selection restriction, as shown in (19 a-c). Relational nouns in the form of prenominal possessives can have a double genitive possessive counterpart; hence they pattern like possessives with a pure head noun (20b). They cannot have a predicative correspondence, however (20c). In this latter characteristic, they pattern like action derived nominals (Taylor, 1996).

- (18) a. John's car
- b. a car of John's
- c. This car is John's.

- (19) a. Mosul's destruction(Patient)
- b. *a destruction of Mosul's
- c. *This destruction is Mosul's.

- (20) a. John's sister
 b. a sister of John's (like a pure head)
 c. *This sister is John's. (like an action derived nominal)

The problem is not only seen in the structure; the greater problem, which is compelling, is related to the matter of θ -role assignment. We know that only derived nominals can assign θ -roles, not the pure nouns as they are inherently nouns and not derived from verbs. Now a question arises as to whether or not the relational nouns are θ -role assigners. We argue that they cannot assign any role, albeit they appear as action derived nominals in disallowing predicative possessives derived from them. We can simply defend the argument by suggesting that they are not derived from verbs. Furthermore, Massam (1993) affirms that relational nouns, being head of a prenominal possessive, neither take the possessor as modifier, as it is the case with pure nouns, nor as argument as it is the case with derived nominals. Rather, the possessor is considered as a type of adjunct-argument.

2.3. Postnominal possessives

The most outstanding examples of postnominal possessives are derived from intransitive verbs. As is well known, intransitive verbs have only one argument which can be Agent or Patient (Affected). The default position of Patient arguments is the object position, in other words, the complement of verbal category. On such grounds, Payne (2011) presents several examples of postnominal possessives with their corresponding clausal constructions.

- (21) a. The economy collapsed.
 b. the collapse of economy

- (22) a. Our plans changed.
 b. the change of our plans

- (23) a. The flight departed.
 b. the departure of the flight

As seen, the Patient arguments take their original position in the phrasal possessive constructions. The compelling point here is that we cannot add any external argument in the possessive constructions, regardless of θ -roles, because in the clausal construction only one argument exists. Having inherited the thematic structure from the clause, the possessive phrase can contain only one argument, which is internal.

Once more, non-derived relational nouns are of interest. In this respect, Barker (2008) claims that they are appropriate for describing entities rather than events. This implies that they categorize participants with respect to the whole-part (inclusion) interpretation, instead of assigning θ -roles (see also Bjorkman & Cowper, 2016).

- (24) a. the redness of the apple
 b. the leg of the table
 c. the coastline of the country
 d. the beginning of the film

We see in the examples above that the possessee is a part of the possessor (whole).

III. THEMATIC RELATIONS IN CK POSSESSIVE CONSTRUCTIONS

3.1. Possessive nominalization from transitive and intransitive verbs

There are some pairs of action nominals with slightly different morphological forms, but the same semantic content. When these nominals occur in possessive phrases, which are semantically equivalent to each other, the one which is derived from a transitive verb implies a passive reading whilst the one derived from an intransitive verb implies an active reading. Examples of such kind of action nominals are *wérankirdn* (destruction) vs *wéranbûn* (destruction), *řwxandn* (collapsing) vs *řwxan* (collapse), *hetweřandnewe* (cancellation) vs *řhetweřanewe* (cancellation), *řksthénan* (defeat) vs *řkstpéhénan* (defeat), *řwtandn* (burning) vs *řswtan* (burning), etc. In each pair, both forms are termed 'Çawg' which is roughly similar to the present participle form of English; but their occurrences in the possessive DP give them a nominal status. Now exemplifying the equivalent pairs in possessive phrases below, we observe the θ -role of each of *řareke* (the city), *dywareke* (the wall), and *andgeřteke* (the journey) regardless of whether the nominal is derived from a transitive or an intransitive verb. All the italicized nouns below have the same θ -role, which is Patient.

- (25) a. *wérankirdn-î řar-eke*
 destruction-POSS city-DEF
 'the city's destruction'

b. *wéranbûn-î şar-eke*
 destruction-POSS city-DEF
 ‘the destruction of the city’

(26) a. *rxandn-î xanw-eke*
 collapsing-POSS house-DEF
 ‘the house’s collapsing’
 b. *rxan-î xanw-eke*
 collapse-POSS house-DEF
 ‘the collapse of the house’

(27) a. *heşandnewe-î geşt-eke*
 cancellation-POSS journey-DEF
 ‘the journey’s cancellation’
 b. *heşanewe-î geşt-eke*
 cancellation-POSS journey-DEF
 ‘the cancellation of the journey’

The passive marker in CK sentences, namely *-ra* or *-ré*, attaches to the verb at the sentential level. It appears with the nominal in possessive phrases, but it is not in the form of the passive markers of the sentence.

A crucial point to be made in relation to the above examples is that they are S-structures. The D-structure of each one is the original sentence from which the possessive phrase is constructed via T-rules. For instance, the D-structure of (25 a) can be one of these possibilities: *şarekewêrankira/dekrêt/deken, etc* (the city was/will be destroyed, they will destroy the city, etc.). Alternatively, the D-structure of (25b) can be either *şarekewêranbû/the city got ruined* (past) or *şarekewêrandebêt/the city will get ruined* (present). Furthermore, the possessor in English can have two positions through movement, whereas it has only one position in CK. In both languages, the possessor is θ -marked identically (i.e. the Patient role is assigned).

Although the possessor in all the above CK cases is Patient, the source of the action differs. In (b) examples, those that are derived from intransitive verbs, the reason may be an external causer, while in (a) examples the action happens intentionally by an implied logical subject.

Surprisingly, the nominals of (28) do not behave like those discussed above since the nominal in (28a) is not derived from a verb; it is originally a noun. Therefore, the possessor in (28a) has an Agent role while that of (28b) has a Patient role. Additionally, the CK possessive phrases below do not need any PP complement to obtain the two distinct θ -roles. Inversely, the equivalent of (28a) in English does need a PP complement (*of*-structure) to give the possessor an Agent θ -role. The possessor in the English possessive DP with or without *by*-phrase is Patient because the D-structure of the possessive DP is an IP whose predicate is ‘invade’ (see Taylor, 1996). Subcategorization of the predicate obliges us to give it an internal argument with a Patient role in the D-structure. The argument carries this θ -role when it moves to the Spec position. As such, when the predicate ‘invade’ has only one argument, it must be Patient; when there are two, the other one becomes Agent. It follows that the D-structure determines the θ -roles of the arguments in the S-structure. It is worthwhile that both CK nominals have the same counterpart in English, which is ‘invasion’. We notice that the best equivalent of (28a) is *America’s invasion*, whose possessor in English is Patient, while it is Agent in the CK example. The reason behind this contradiction is that the possessor in (28a) is not derived from a verb, but the English word ‘invasion’ is a derived nominal and its argument(s) depend(s) on the assigned θ -roles in the D-structure.

(28) a. *dagyrkar-î emeryka* (Agent only)
 invasion-POSS America
 ‘America’s invasion’
 b. *dagyirkirdn-î emeryka* (Patient only)
 invasion-POSS America
 ‘the invasion of America’

(29) a. *America’s invasion* (Patient: possessor movement)
 b. *America’s invasion by Russia* (Patient: possessor movement)
 c. *America’s invasion of Iraq* (Agent: no movement)

In such kinds of examples, the possessive phrase always contains two nouns linked by *îzafê’î* (henceforth *poss*). An important distinction exists between *destruction* (in 25) and *invasion* (in 28 and 29) in that the possessor in the former is always Patient because it is acted upon and it is only a place; but the possessor of the latter can be either the military force of the country (Agent in this case) or the land itself (Patient in this case).

3.2. Possessive nominalization from intransitive verbs

Nominals of this group do not have any other semantic counterpart. The θ -role which is assigned to the possessor, like English, depends on the meaning of the original intransitive verb. The nominals *geyştin* (arrival), *serkewtn* (victory), *mirdn* (death), *helatn* (escape), etc. are examples of this group which can occur with all possessive phrases excluding reflexives. These nominals have only one θ -role because their D-structure is SV, meaning that they have only one argument.

- (30) a. *geyştin-î Karwan/min* (Agent)
 arrival-POSSKarwan/I
 ‘Karwan’s/my arrival’
 b. *mirdn-î Şyryn/ewan* (Patient)
 death-POSSShireen/they
 ‘Shireen’s/their death’

- (31) a. *geyştin-t / geyştin-man*
 arrival-your / arrival-our
 ‘your arrival / our arrival’
 b. *mirdn-î / mirdn-yan*
 death-his/her / death-their
 ‘his/her death / their death’

We see that the *îzafe* is absolutely necessary in examples like (30), whereas it must not be used in examples such as (31) because the possessive clitic does not occur with *îzafe*. Moreover, the possessive DPs in (31) appear as one word. Once again, the examples of this type are S-structures, and they are the product of T-rules. Their D-structures are originally the sentences *Karwangeyşt* (Karwan arrived), *min geyştim* (I arrived), *Şyryn mird* (Shireen died), *ew mird* (He/She died), etc.

3.3. Possessive nominalization from transitive verbs

Nominals of this class resemble those of 3.2 in that they have no semantic equivalent as is the case in 3.1; but they are different from them in having the ability to assign more than one θ -role depending on the pragmatic context. We think that this does not violate θ -criterion since having multiple θ -roles is a pragmatic matter, not a syntactic one (see Nguyen, n.d.). Examples of this class include *helweşandn* (destroying), *bnyatnan* (constriction), *darştin* (paving), *handan* (encouragement), *helsengandn* (evaluation), etc.

- (32) *handan-î mamosta-yan* (Ambiguous: Agent vs Patient)
 encouragement-POSS teacher-PL
 ‘the encouragement of teachers / teachers’ encouragement’

- (33) *helsengandn-î mamosta-yan* (Ambiguous: Agent vs Patient)
 evaluation-POSS teacher-PL
 ‘the evaluation of teachers / teachers’ evaluation’

- (34) a. *çakkirdn-î xanw-eke* (Patient)
 repair-POSS house-DEF
 ‘the repair of the house / the house’s repair’
 b. * *çakkiran-î xanweke*

- (35) a. *darştin-î şeqam-eke* (Patient)
 paving-POSS street-DEF
 ‘the paving of the street’
 b. * *darjan-î şeqam-eke*

- (36) a. *bnyatnan-î slémanî* (Patient)
 construction-POSSSlemanî
 ‘the construction of Slemani / Selmani’s construction’
 b. * *bnyatnran-î slémanî*

We notice that, in contrast to examples of (25, 26, 27) where both forms were correct, examples of (34b, 35b, 36b) are ungrammatical. As for the examples of (32, 33), we can disambiguate them by adding a PP complement to them.

(37) a. *handan-î mamosta-yanboxwêndkar-an* (Agent)

encouragement-POSS teacher-PL to student-PL

'teachers' encouragement to students'

b. *handan-î mamosta-yan le layenserperştyar-an* (Patient)

encouragement-POSS teacher-PL by supervisor-PL

'the encouragement of teachers by supervisors'

(38) a. *heşengandn-î mamosta-yanboxwêndkar-an* (Agent)

evaluation-POSS teacher-PL of student-PL

'teachers' evaluation of students'

b. *heşengandn-î mamosta-yan le layenserperştyar-an* (Patient)

evaluation-POSS teacher-PL by supervisor-PL

'the evaluation of teachers by supervisors'

Finally, we need to acknowledge that possessive clitics and reflexives are not used in such environments. If they are used periodically, they are awkward and not commonly accepted.

3.4. Psych nominals

As mentioned earlier, these nouns are not the result of derivation from verbs, meaning that they are inherently nouns and are base-generated. Like English psych nominals, the possessor in the possessive phrase is assigned Experiencer θ -role. Examples of such nominals are *erîq* (*hatred*), *xoşewîstî* (*love*), *bêhîwayî* (*disappointment*), *nîgeranî* (*worry*), etc.

(39) a. *tirs-î Zana le agr-êke*

fear-POSS Zana of fire-DEF

'Zana's fear of the fire'

b. *bêhyway-î ême le syasyedrozn-ek-an*

disappointment-POSS we at politician dishonest-DEF-PL

'our disappointment at the dishonest politicians'

c. *xoşewîstî-m bodayk-m*

love-my for mother-my

'my love for my mother'

d. *riq-îxoy le proje-ke*

hatred-POSS himself/herself of project-DEF

'his/her own hatred of the project'

The above examples indicate that all types of possessive phrases are used with CK psych nominal; but possessives with reflexives occur to a lesser degree and they are somewhat uncommon.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we have investigated the application of θ -roles to the phrasal possessives of English and CK. Throughout the study, we have come to several principal conclusions. In English possessive nominals whose lexical head is an action nominal, the possessor can move to the Spec position. However, it cannot move when the lexical head is a psych nominal. As for CK possessive nominals, the possessor has only one position and undergoes no movement irrespective of the lexical head, whether it is an action nominal or a psych nominal.

In CK, structurally speaking, only the possessive constructions whose possessive marker is phonetically expressed is identical to those found in English. Accordingly, the English postnominal possessive has a structural counterpart in CK. The principle of transitivity in both languages plays a vital role because it determines the number of arguments in the possessive phrase. The type of the assigned θ -role is determined by the nature and the selection restrictions of the nominal.

In CK, there are pairs of action nominals with slightly different morphological forms and the same semantic content, though not in English. Lastly, CK psych nominals are inherently nouns, meaning that they are not derived from verbs as is the case in English.

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