

## A Study of Demonstrative Determiners in Pashto

\* Imdad Ali, MPhil (Applied Linguistics)

\*\* Dr. Sikandr Ali, PhD (Linguistics)

\*\*\* Humera Sharif, PhD Scholar (English)

### Abstract



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

**Keywords:** The Pashto and English Determiners, the Determiner Phrase, Syntax, the Pashto, Determiner Phrase Hypothesis, Phrase Structure

### Introduction

Pashto is the national and official language of Afghanistan. It is also the regional language of Pakistan spoken in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Comrie, 2019). The Pashto falls under the wings of the 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 three main branches: Old Iranian, Middle Iranian, and New Iranian languages. The old Iranian group includes Old Persian and Avestan languages. The first mentioned is the native and one of the official languages of the Achaemenid empire. Middle Iranian languages are spoken from the borders of China to the heart of the Fertile Crescent from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC to almost the 10<sup>th</sup> century AD. It includes Parthian, Middle Persian, Sogdian, Khwarazmian, Bactrian, and Saka. New Iranian groups included New Persian, Kurdish, Balauchi, Luri, and Pashtos. These days, in terms of several speakers Pashto is the second most important language of the Iranian family (Babrakzai, 1999; Coene & Stabler, 2016).

Recently, many aspects of the Pashto syntax have been the focus of research. About the view that every language has a determiner phrase (DP), the present study explores the structure of the determiner phrase in the Pashto 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. The determiner phrase hypothesis proposes that a determiner phrase exists on top of the noun phrase (Bernstein, 2008; Bresnan, 1973; Carnie, 2002; Horrocks, 1994). The determiner phrase hypothesis claims that the head of DP is a determiner (Marina, 2018). This paper studies it in the Pashto. For the data collection purpose, the subjects of the study were the native speakers of the Pashto. Moreover, several accounts of the presence of DP have been confirmed in many languages (Carnie, 2013; Cinque, 2018; Fehri, 1999; Jone, 1990; 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

\* The University of Lahore, Lahore, Pakistan Email: [imdadali2060@gmail.com](mailto:imdadali2060@gmail.com)

\*\* The University of Lahore, Lahore, Pakistan Email: [sikandar.ali@ell.uol.edu.pk](mailto:sikandar.ali@ell.uol.edu.pk)

\*\*\* The University of Lahore, Lahore, Pakistan Email: [h\\_ravian@live.com](mailto:h_ravian@live.com)

determined by definite and indefinite articles like in other South Asian languages (Hamid, 2018). This study focuses on the distributional features of the subcategories of the determiner phrase of the Pashto.

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

English: SVO

He kicked the ball.

S        V        O

Pashto: SOV

Da qalam da *hagho halakano 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 Pashto and English can make the study helpful in learning English as a foreign or second language for Pashto native speakers. More significantly, the role of number, gender, and case on the determiner in the Pashto add valuable knowledge to the existing literature on Determiners.

### **Literature Review**

For this study, the data were recorded as a group discussion among six native speakers of the Pashto aged 35-45. Three of the participants 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 a native speaker of Pashto. Keeping in focus the word limit rule for research papers, only 24 sentences were collected and explained in the study.

The study was conducted to explore Abney's determiner phrase hypothesis in the Pashto. It was guided by the argument that language has universally the same deep structure. So, the determiner phrase hypothesis argued that every language has a functional projection on its NP which 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; Fehri1999; Jone1990). This study on the Pashto has been conducted to check this hypothesis's role in the Pashto.

### **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 the human mind. More precisely, the concept of Universal Grammar was designed to be tested in all languages including the Pashto.

According to the Minimalist program, the faculty of language consists 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 represents the sentence that 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 language enabling humans to speak and understand their first language. I- language is also responsible for the linguistic expression existing in the human mind. The meanings of the linguistic expressions existing in the mind are supplied by Universal Grammar. Under the Minimalist program, the grammar of the language is the combinational process of the lexicon, numeration, computational system, PF, and LF (Chomsky, 1993).

### **Determiner phrase hypothesis**

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

In generative grammar, there are two different approaches to the head of a noun phrase. In the traditional approach, a 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 the determiner is the functional category and it was established in the DP Hypothesis. In this new approach, the Determiner was considered as the functional category and head of nominal phrase containing noun phrase as a complement.

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

### ***Determiner as a functional category***

A determiner is classified as a functional category rather than a lexical and semantic category. Determiner is functional because it has semantic parallelism between the noun phrases and with possessor. It has also been confirmed that IP (Inflectional phrase) is a functional category, which describes the VP. The determiner is placed in the highest position and introduces the noun phrase in the Determiner Phrase hypothesis. In this way, the determiner as a 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 the determiner heads its phrase i.e. DP and the determiner selects NP as its complement. The relation between the determiner and its complement NP is functional. Unlike the lexical relation between the head and its complement in other phrases where the head theta marks the complement, in the case of the relation between the 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 research 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 (Babrakzai, 1999; Cinque, 2018; Lawless, 2018).

### ***Articles in Pashto***

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

Definite and indefinite articles are not the only types of 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 determiners is different when compared with the structures of other languages' determiners.

Concisely, different languages have different Determiner Phrase (DP) structures at deep and surface levels and have different internal movements. So far as the Pashto is concerned there are two main issues in the area of syntax. Firstly, research is scarce into the Pashto syntax and DP in particular. Secondly, the little literature present on the Pashto determiners conducts on the types of articles in the Pashto DP. This study may help find the knowledge in this gap.

### **Methodology**

Qualitative methods were adopted for this study. The data were collected through a discussion group of six native speakers of the Pashto aged 35-45.

### **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 a 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 a close demonstrative determiner (*da*), the second class is a middle demonstrative determiner (*daqa/dagha*), and the third class is a far demonstrative determiner (*hagha*). These determiners are named proximal, medial, and distal.

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

**Proximal demonstrative**

In Pashto, *da* demonstrative determiner is used as the 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 is '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 the determiner *da* (*this*), the adjective *tora* (*black*), and the noun *kursai* (*chair*). The determiner is the head and makes the projection of noun phrases and *torakursai* is the complement of the determiner. So, the phrase *da torakursai* is called DP and confirms the framework of the 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 the underlined proximal demonstrative *da* (2) is used with the plural noun *tory Tuscanly*. It has the same structure as the determiner in (1). It also confirms the framework of the 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 nouns. 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 determiners 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 the singular noun *Jinay* (girl). Here, *da* (determiner) *waroki* (adjective) *Jinay* (noun) makes noun phrases. The determiner *da* is the head of the noun phrase whereas *waroki Jinay* is the complement of the determiner as *this* is the determiner of the noun phrase *young girl* in English. So, this phrase *da waroki Jinay* (*this young girl*) 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 the plural noun *Jinakay* (girls). It has the same structure as the examples mentioned above. It is clear from the example that the proximal demonstrative *da* is not inflected for the plural gender noun *Jinakay* (girls) as the determiner *this* is inflected into *these* for the plural noun (girls) in English.

The following example illustrates the use of the proximal demonstrative *da* as a determiner with a 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 the singular masculine noun *Halak* (boy). The underlined words in the given sentence are *da*, *lower*, and *Halak*, which are demonstrative, adjective, and noun respectively. So, *da lower halak* makes a phrase just like the phrase *this tall boy* in English. The determiner *da* (*this*) is the head of the phrase and the phrase *lower halak* (tall boy) is the complement of the determiner. It, thus, confirms the framework of the DP hypothesis.

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

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

In example (6), the proximal demonstrative *da* is used with the 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 the 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 the DP hypothesis.

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

#### **Oblique case**

The proximal demonstrative determiner (*da*) has the inflections in the 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 the singular masculine noun *Halak* (boy) in an oblique case. *Dais* inflected into *de* in oblique case with singular masculine. Here, *de halak* makes a phrase. This phrase consists of the determiner *de*, and the 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 the determiner. In English, the determiner (the) heads the noun (boy). So, this phrase confirms the framework of the 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 example (8), the proximal demonstrative *dais* is inflected into *de* with the singular feminine noun *jinay* (girl) in an 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* makes 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 the determiner. This phrase *de khkole jinay* is called DP confirming the framework of the 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 the 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 the 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 the DP hypothesis. Therefore, it is called DP.

**Medial demonstrative**

The demonstrative *da-gha* is used as a medial in Pashto. 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 an inflection for the 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 a real physical situation. Here, *da-gha*, *sor*, and *gare* are medial demonstrative, adjective, and singular nouns 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 the DP hypothesis. Hence, it is called DP.

In the below-given sentence the use of the medial demonstrative *da-gha* with the 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 the 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 a real physical situation. There is no equivalent of *da-gha* in English determiners as a 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 the determiner. This phrase *da-gha khkole jinay* is called DP. This phrase confirms the framework of the DP hypothesis and is therefore called DP.

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

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

**Oblique case**

The medial demonstrative determiners *da-gha* have the inflections in the oblique case in Pashto. For singular feminine nouns, the medial demonstrative determiner is *da-ghy*; for plural masculine nouns,

the medial demonstrative determiner is *da-gho*. However, the medial demonstrative determiner is *da-gha* for singular masculine/feminine nouns having no inflection.

The below-given sentence elucidates the use of the medial demonstrative *da-gha* with the 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 the 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* makes a phrase. This phrase consists of the 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 the masculine noun *lowar halak* is the complement of the determiner. This phrase confirms the framework of the DP hypothesis and thus it may be termed as DP.

The following sentence explains the use of medial demonstrative *da-ghy* with the 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 the singular feminine noun *jinay* in an oblique case. Again, it means either *this* or *that* in English even though it has inflections in its oblique form in Pashto. 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 the DP hypothesis. Hence, it is called DP.

The sentence illustrates the use of medial demonstrative *da-gho* with the 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 the 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 the determiner. This phrase *da-gho lowar halakanu* is called DP. This phrase confirms the framework of the DP hypothesis. Therefore, it is called DP.

Thus, the analysis confirms that the 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 do not indicate any medial distance.

### **Far demonstrative**

The third type of demonstrative in Pashto is far demonstrative. It is a *hagha* and is used according to the position/distance of the object. In English, there are two far demonstratives: the first one is used with singular nouns and is placed far from the speaker; the second one is 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, there is no inflection in far demonstrative for gender, singular and plural masculine, and singular and plural feminine nouns in the direct case in Pashto but it has the inflection in an 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 nouns.

In the following sentence, the far demonstrative determiner *hagha* is used with a 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 the singular noun *laptop*. The far demonstrative *hagha* points out a singular noun *laptop*. So, *hagha Dell laptop* makes 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 noun phrase *Dell laptop*. This phrase *hagha Dell laptop* is called DP. This phrase confirms the framework of the DP hypothesis. Hence, it is called DP.

In the following sentence, far demonstrative *hagha* is used with a 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 the plural noun *baghona* (gardens). The highlighted words in the example are *hagha* and *shna baghona*, which are far demonstrative and plural noun phrases. 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 the 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 the DP hypothesis and, therefore, is called DP. Moreover, the demonstrative *hagha* is not inflected for the plural noun *baghona* as the determiner *that* is inflected into *those* for plural nouns in English.

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 the 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 the determiner. Similarly, in English, the determiner 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 the DP hypothesis. Hence, it is called DP.

The below-given sentence exemplifies the use of far demonstrative *hagha* as a determiner with the 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 the 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 the DP hypothesis. It also confirms that the determiner in the nominative case in the Pashto whether used with singular or plural nouns does not inflect that is in contrast with the English as *that* (used with singular nouns) inflects into *those* (with plural nouns).

In the following sentence, far demonstrative *hagha* is used with the 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 the determiner phrase hypothesis. In this phrase, the far demonstrative determiner *hagha* is the 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 is inflected for plural nouns.

**Oblique case**

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

The following sentence explains the use of far demonstrative *hagha* with the 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 the singular masculine noun *halak* in an oblique case. Significantly, this phrase has the same structure as in its nominative case and uses the same determiner as in the 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 the determiner. This phrase *hagha qabil halak* is called DP. This phrase confirms the framework of the DP hypothesis. Hence, it is called DP.

The below-given sentence illustrates the use of far demonstrative *haghy* with the 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 a 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 the 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 the plural masculine noun *halakanu* in the oblique case. The far demonstrative *hagho* points out a plural masculine noun *halakanu* (boys). Regarding numbers, it is by 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 the 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 the determiner. This phrase *hagho qabil halakanu* is called DP. This phrase confirms the framework of the DP hypothesis.

The data confirm that in Pashto the far demonstrative determiner has the inflections for singular feminine nouns and plural masculine nouns but no inflection for singular masculine nouns in oblique case. Contrary, in English far determiner is inflected into *that* and *those* both in nominative and oblique cases, and also that is for numbers 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. The analysis illustrated that there is no definite article in Pashto. The word *da* is not a definite article but a demonstrative determiner in Pashto. The phrase consisted of a demonstrative determiner and the 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 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 three forms. The first one (proximal demonstrative) *da* is not inflected for number and gender but is inflected for case. The demonstrative *dais* is not inflected for the plural noun *kursiany* in Pashto as the determiner *this* is inflected into *these* for plural nouns in English. So, the demonstrative is not inflected for numbers in Pashto but inflected in English. Furthermore, in both languages, the proximal determiner is not inflected for gender (in the nominative case in Pashto). In Pashto, it has the inflection for gender in the 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 situations 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 an inflection for case. The medial demonstrative determiners *da-gha* have the inflections in the oblique case in Pashto. For singular feminine nouns, the medial demonstrative determiner is *da-ghy* whereas for plural nouns 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 nouns 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 the nominative case in Pashto but it is inflected in oblique case just like the proximal demonstratives. In oblique cases, 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 nouns.

### **Conclusions**

The findings conclude that the Minimalist Program is adequate to analyze the determiner phrase structure of Pashto. It has the same determiner phrase structure as presented by the minimalist program. The study shows that in Pashto determiner phrase consists of a determiner and a noun. The determiner heads the phrase, therefore, the phrase is called the determiner phrase. Moreover, the analysis illustrates that there is no definite article in Pashto. The word *dais* is argued as the demonstrative determiner in Pashto instead of having the property of definiteness. The study also exhibits that Pashto has a different structure of the demonstrative determiners and has three categories as compared to English which has two categories. There are two sub-classes of demonstrative determiners in English. The first one is considered a close demonstrative determiner, i.e. this, these; the second sub-class is considered far demonstrative determiners, i.e. that, those). In Pashto, 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 (proximal demonstrative) *dais* is 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 nouns into (*these*). A proximal demonstrative determiner is inflected into *de* for gender in the 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/ dagma* 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 are 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

#### **References**

Abney, P. (1987). *Comp*. Cambridge: MIT.

Aboh, O. (2018). Topic and Focus within D. In *Linguistics in the Netherlands*, (21), p. 1-12.

Babrakzai, F. (1999). Topics in Pashto syntax. In *Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts*, (15), p. 21-35.

Bernstein, J. (2008). The DP hypothesis: Identifying clausal properties in the nominal domain. In *The Handbook of the Contemporary Syntactic Theory*. Baltin, M. & Collins, C. (eds.). Hoboken: Blackwell Publishers, p.536-561.

Brame, M. (1981). The General Theory of Binding and Fusion. In *Linguistic Analysis*, (7), p. 277-325.

Bresnan, W. (1973). Syntax of the Comparative Clausal Construction in English. In *Linguistics Inquiry*, (4), p. 275-343.

Chomsky, N. (1993). A Minimalist Program for Linguistics Theory. In *The View from Building 20: Essays in Linguistics in Honor of Sylvain Bromberger*. Hale, K. & Jay, S. (Eds.). Cambridge: MIT Press, p. 1-52.

Chomsky, N. (1970). Remarks on Nominalization. In *Readings in English Transformation Grammar*. Jacobs, R. & Rosenbaum, P. (eds.). Waltham: Ginn, p. 184-221.

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

Carnie, A. (2002). *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons.

Carnie, A. (2013). *Syntax: A Generative Introduction*. 3<sup>rd</sup>ed. Hoboken: Wiley-Blackwill.

Cinque, G. (2018). *Adverbs and Functional Heads: A cross-linguistics perspective*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Coene, M. & Stabler, E. (2016). A Formalization of Minimalist Syntax. In *Syntax*, 19 (1), p. 43-78.

Comrie, B. (2019). *Language Universals and Linguistics Typology: Syntax and Morphology*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Cook, V. & Newson, M. (2017). *Chomsky's Universal Grammar*. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons.

Fehri, A. (1999). Arabic Modifying Adjectives and DP Structures. In *Studia Linguistica*, 53 (2), p. 105-154.

Hamid, A. (2018). *The Syntax of Argument Structure in Pashto*. A Thesis for the Degree of Philosophiae Doctor. Muzaffarabad: University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Hellan, L. (1986). The Headedness of NPs in Norwegian. In *Features and Projections*, 42, p. 89-122.

Horrocks, G. (1994). Subjects and Configurationality: Modern Greek clause structure. In *Journal of Linguistics*, 30 (1), p. 81-109.

Jone, J. (1990). *U.S Army Special Forces Language Visual Training Materials – Dari, Pashto & Sorani Kurdish Defense Language Institute Bonus Materials*. Lewis: I Corps Foreign Language Training Center Fort.

Lawless, H. (2018). *Sensory Evaluation of Food: Principles and Practices*. Berlin: Springer Science & Business Media.

Longobardi, G. (1994). References and Proper Names: A theory of N-movement in Syntax and Logical form. In *Linguistics Inquiry*, (21), p. 609-665.

- Maclaughlin, D. (1997). *The Structure of Determiner Phrase: Evidence from American Sign Language*. Cambridge: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Manzel, K. & Degaetano-Ortlieb, S. (2017). The Diachronic Development of Combining Forms in Scientific Writing. In *Legeartis. Language yesterday, today, and tomorrow. The journal of the University of SS Cyril and Methodius in Trnava*. Warsaw: De Gruyter Open, III (1), December 2017, p. 185-249. DOI: 10.1515/lart-2017-0016
- Marantz, A. (1995). The Minimalist Program. In *The Principle and Parameters Approach to Linguistics Theory*. Webelhuth, G. (ed.). Hoboken: Blackwell, p. 351-382.
- Marina, O. (2018). Cognitive and Semiotic Dimensions of Paradoxicality in Contemporary American Poetic Discourse. In *Legeartis. Language yesterday, today, and tomorrow. The Journal of the University of SS Cyril and Methodius in Trnava*. Warsaw: De Gruyter Open, III (1), June 2018, p. 179-222. DOI: 10.2478/lart-2018-0006
- Master, P. (2013). A Contrastive Study of Determiner Usage in EST Research Article. In *International Journal of Language Studies*, 7 (1), 33-50.
- Radford, A. (1997). *Syntactic Theory and the Structure of English: A Minimalist Approach*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Rafael, V. (2016). Targeting Translation Counterinsurgency and the Weaponization of Language. In *Social text*, 30 (4), p. 55-80.
- Rauf, A. (1966). *Da zrre chwala* (Mystry of the heart). Lahore: Dogar Publishers.
- Tang, J. (1990). A Note on the DP Analysis of the Chinese Noun Phrase. In *Linguistics*, 28 (2), p. 337-354.
- Tegey, H. (1996). *A Reference Grammar of Pashto*. Washington: Department of Education.