

Pashto interview generalizations:

Causative:

The closest thing to causative we could get from the speaker was a sentence in which the normal verb is used but apparently bears a causative meaning in the context.

Compare 1 and 2 below:

- (1) Ze dōđi xərəm.
I eat bread.
- (2) Ze pə haleg dōđi xərəm.
I make the child eat bread.

Separation

Putting the subject in between is apparently fine, but with some hesitation.

- (3) **Maza ze gərəm**
I taste. (“taste I see”)

Putting a PP in between is totally fine:

- (4) ze **lowbe** de aya sara **kəwəm**.
I play with him. (“I game with him do”)

Passives

We couldn't figure out whether there is a passive form in Pashto or not. Forms like “paak sho” (equivalent of Persian “Paak shod” (was cleaned)) definitely do exist, though.

He gives the following sentence for “It is now memorized” that I can't decompose:

- (5) Maa haafeze ta espaare li di

Resultatives

Forms that are roughly equivalent to “paint blue” definitely do exist (e.g. “nili rangəwəm”). For this particular example we are not sure whether the verb is simple or complex. Apparently, it can act both ways, and putting “nili” (blue) before it is fine in both cases.

The “I raised my son polite” example is also acceptable in Pashto:

- (6) Maa xpel xoy xe baatarbia rowzalei dei.

Ellipsis

All of the following examples are with the verb “zda kere” (learned):

Deleting the **Object** is fine.

Deleting **Object+NVE** is also fine, although he first hesitated but then he said it was ok for the same sentence and another example with a more clearly specific object and he seemed confident.

Deleting **NVE** (keeping the object) is bad. No specificity effect detected. (There is no "raa" equivalent in Pashto anyway). He also rejected it for an example with another verb: "paak kəɭ" (cleaned).

Full VP ellipsis is ok.