

Pashto interview transcription

Verbs

To catch fire: oor waa xistan

Shed skin: poostake newal beida

Borrow: gharz wokol

To dream: xob wolid

To speak: xaberi kawəl

I cry, she cries: zə zhaaḷəm, hagma zhaaḷi,...

To fall: Wel beidel (beidel itself mean “fall”)

I fall: ze wel beidəm

I like you: zmaa xwahigi

You like this: staa xwahigi (de taa xwahigi?)

T: lexicon in database up to here

To open: xlaas ka (This probably isn't an infinitive but I don't know which person/number it belongs to)

I close: ze klaak kawəm

To bring up: 1- rowzəl, 2- tarbia kawəl

Taa awlaad xə rowzelei dei (you brought up children well)

I bring up: rowzəm

I lie down: yəzeigəm

I returned (Persian bar gashtam): ze raayləm

I help: kumak kəwəm (but a purely Pashto simple verb is preferred by our speaker)

I invite: raabələm

I return, give (Persian “pas daadan”): ze raa kəm, (but for 2sg you use “wər ki”. This wər/dar/raa alternation is referred to in Brugman's grammar as *directoids*.)

I play: Lowbe kəwəm

I dance: ze baazi kəwəm

I learn: Zda kəwəm

I cry: Suri wəhəm

Takes time: Vaght nişi (the light verb means “to catch”)

I drink: skəm

I taste: maza gurəm (lit. “I see taste”)

It stuck (Persian “chasbidan”): Seresh dei

I understand: ze puhigəm. (Is it simple or complex?)

I jump: aluzəm

I jump: xez achəwəm (the simple verb means “I throw”(?))

I sleep: Wəde keigəm (This is the “to be” verb, it is not “kəwəl” which means “to do”).

I slept: ze wide [shewei (optional)] wəm

Causative

The consultant is asked to translate “I make him eat” into Pashto, what he gives means “I give him food” (as his daughter points out and he seems to agree).

When asked again, he gives the Pashto equivalent of “I forced him to eat” (with the word “majbur”).

On the third try, we give him the Persian sentence (“man be bachche ghazaa ro mixoraanam” -> “I make the child eat the food” (with causative)). He gives us this:
Ze pə haleg ɖoɖi xərəm.

Separation

I taste: ze maza gərəm.

*Maza ze gərəm (He corrected us first, but then he says “c’est la même chose”. His children (who are not fluent speakers of Pashto, by the way) do not agree, and he seems to hesitate, but he finally says yes you can do it. He also says it’s ok to say “lowbe ze kəm” instead of “ze lowbe kəm” (I play).

Ze miz paakəwəm (paak kəwəm?)

*Ze paak miz kəwəm

maa daɣa ketaab waayist. (I bought/got this book)

ze daɣa miz paakəwəm

ze lowbe kəwəm. (I play)

ze de aɣa sara lowbe kəwəm. (I play with him)

ze **lowbe** de aɣa sara kəwəm. (OK)

Passives

Maa u ɣulawem (I deceive him) (It appears he gave it as the translation of “I deceived him” but I believe it was a misunderstanding)

Miz paak sho (The table was cleaned)

Miz mi paak kird (I cleaned the table)

For “The food was eaten”, he gives: ɖoɖi mu uxura. His daughter mentions again that this doesn’t mean the same thing, and asks him again to give the translation for “la nourriture se fait manger”. Then he gives “ɖoɖi xoroshewi da”. For “it was taken” he says “ɖoɖi e iyeo da(?)”. But then “e” means “he” (as his daughter points out) so it doesn’t seem to be a passive sentence really.

Maa staa xabare xpele haafeze ta wospaarele. (I memorized you)

Dagha loghat mi haafeze ta wospaare (This word was memorized) [“mi” means “my” and if I heard him correctly “ta” is a postposition] He says “wospaara” means Persian “taslim kardam” (I gave).

Zemaa xabere di haafeze ta wospaareli. (I don’t know the meaning).

Owsi haafeze ta espaarəm. (I memorize now)

He says is equivalent to: haafeze ta mo ospaaro le.

Maa haafeze ta espaare li di

(It is memorized now)

Resultatives

Ze gowta nili rangəwəm. (I paint the room blue)
gowtane parun nili rang kra. (I painted the room blue yesterday)

Simin asks “if you wanted to say I painted the whole room”, and they respond “towl a kowtane nili rang kra” (“towl” meaning “all”).

Nili rang ne war kəwəm. (I don’t paint [it] blue)
But then as if he is correcting himself, he says “nili nekəwəm” (I don’t make it blue).

Then the son gives us “narangəm” too.

Then I ask again, the father says “Nili rang ne war kəwəm”. But then again he immediately says “nili rang nakəwəm”. I ask him what about “nili nerangəwəm”. He says it’s ok.

Maa xpel xoy xe baatarbia rowzalei dei I raised my son polite

Ellipsis

Mohsen zhebi zda kre. Mohsen learned the language.
(We know it’s a complex predicate because he says the negative form is “zhebi zda nekere”)

Mohsen zhebi zda kre reza zda nakere. (totally fine.)

Mohsen zhebi zda kre reza nakere. (He says it’s possible, but then he says it’s “a little suspicious”.)

Mohsen zhebi zda kre reza alefbe zda kere.

Now omitting “zda”:

Mohsen zhebi zda kre reza alefbe zda kere.

He says it’s not possible. He then suggests a full VP ellipsis.

Mohsen daya zhebe zda kere. (Mohsen learned this language)

Mohsen daya zhebe zda kere, rezaa nakere. (Totally fine)

Repeating the first question:

Mohsen zhebi zda kre reza nakere (This time he says it’s totally fine. He even thinks the sentence he’d not liked last time was something else.)

Mohsen daya zhebe zda kere, rezaa daya alefbe nakere. (Doesn’t like it)

Mohsen miz paak kəɬ, (Mohsen cleaned the table)

Mohsen miz paak kəɬ rezaa kirkine paake kre

Mohsen miz paak kəɬ rezaa kirkine kre. (No. He doesn’t like it.)