

## How to agree with a cow: long-distance agreement in Khwarshi

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This paper focuses on the long-distance agreement (LDA) phenomenon in Khwarshi, a Nakh-Dagestanian language. Khwarshi is an absolutive/ergative language with a rich agglutinative morphology. The current work is based on previous investigation of long-distance agreement in related and un-related languages (Polinsky on Tsez; Haspelmath on Godoberi; Butt on Hindi-Urdu). The analysis of long-distance agreement is presented in the framework of information structure. LDA occurs only with the verb 'to know' taking a sentential complement. In such sentences there are two possibilities of verb agreement: local agreement (LA) and long-distance. Local agreement is where the matrix verb agrees with the whole embedded clause treating it as a noun phrase of gender 4. Long-distance agreement is where the matrix verb agrees with the embedded object in number and gender (see example 1 for local and long-distance agreement).

- (1) Uža-l                    l/b-iq'-še                    zihe                    b-ot'uq'q'-u  
boy/OBL-LAT   G4/G3-know-PRS   cow(G3)   G3-come-PST:PTCP  
'The boy knows that a cow has come.' **LA/LDA**

In this study I claim that fronted topics and foci trigger long-distance agreement and I also try to show that the clause union analysis of long-distance agreement in Khwarshi fails to hold. LDA is obligatory when the following condition is met: the object of the embedded clause is fronted, in which case it is always a topic or a focus of the sentence. Haspelmath's (1999) analysis of long-distance agreement for Godoberi is based on clause union. He suggests the clause union analysis for other related languages. But Khwarshi does not support this analysis for several reasons: 1) reflexive pronouns in the long-distance agreement structure do not show those properties of a monoclausal structure; 2) word order is not restricted, though absolutive objects are preferably sentence initial; 3) as for adverbial scope, it shows biclausal status. The presented analysis of LDA is another attempt to study an unusual agreement phenomenon in less well-studied languages of Dagestan.

### References

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