Title.
Cognitive iconicity: A corpus-based analysis of the positioning of adverbial clauses in Persian

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Previous research in cognitive linguistics has reported evidence that the ordering of main and adverbial clauses is determined by cognitive forces from syntactic parsing, semantics, and discourse pragmatics (Diessel 2005; 2008). Following this line of research, the present study investigates the effect of the iconicity principle on the positioning of Persian adverbial clauses. The principle of iconicity predicts that the linear ordering of the dependent/subordinate and independent/main clauses mirror the sequential conceptual ordering of events they refer to in real life (Ungerer & Schmid 2013). The present study is based on extracted data from the TalkBank Persian corpus (Rasooli, Kouhestani & Moloodi 2013) on Sketch Engine (Kilgarriff, Rychlý, Smrž & Tugwell 2014). The TalkBank Persian corpus consists of 474,773,547 words compiled from various Farsi blog posts1. The corpus is tagged using Persian Syntactic Dependency Treebank (Rasooli, Kouhestani & Moloodi 2013). I randomly selected 50 temporal ADV-clauses with baad az inke (after) and 50 with ghabl az inke (before), 50 causal ADV-clauses with chon ke)since/because), 50 ADV-clauses of manner with tori ke (so that), 50 conditional ADV- clauses with agar, 50 ADV-clauses of result with bana bar in (therefore), and 50 ADV-clauses of purpose with baraye inke (for/with the purpose of). The aforementioned subordinate conjunctions in Persian were chosen based on their high frequency and semantic relevance to the current research. All the total 350 tokens were manually annotated for two features: First, the linear order of the adverbial clause compared to the main clause (initial/final), and second, the conceptual order of the adverbial clause with regard to the main clause (prior/posterior). The results revealed that Persian ADV clauses are mostly iconic, and temporal clauses with baad az inke (=after), adverbial clauses of result, and conditional adverbial clauses are the most iconic ones in Persian. Additionally, ADV clauses of manner displayed a high level of iconicity. The least iconic ADV clauses; however, are temporal ADV clauses with ghabl az inke (before) and causal ADV clauses.

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