

# NEITHER DATIVE NOR INSTRUMENTAL AS DEFAULT IN URDU:

Dative/instrumental marked non-  
MR arguments as PSA

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## Dative as Default Case

Dative case is established as default case across languages because of its occurrence on oblique arguments with different thematic roles (Van Valin, 2018).

Icelandic = effector, experiencer, recipient, patient/ theme

Dyirbal = recipient

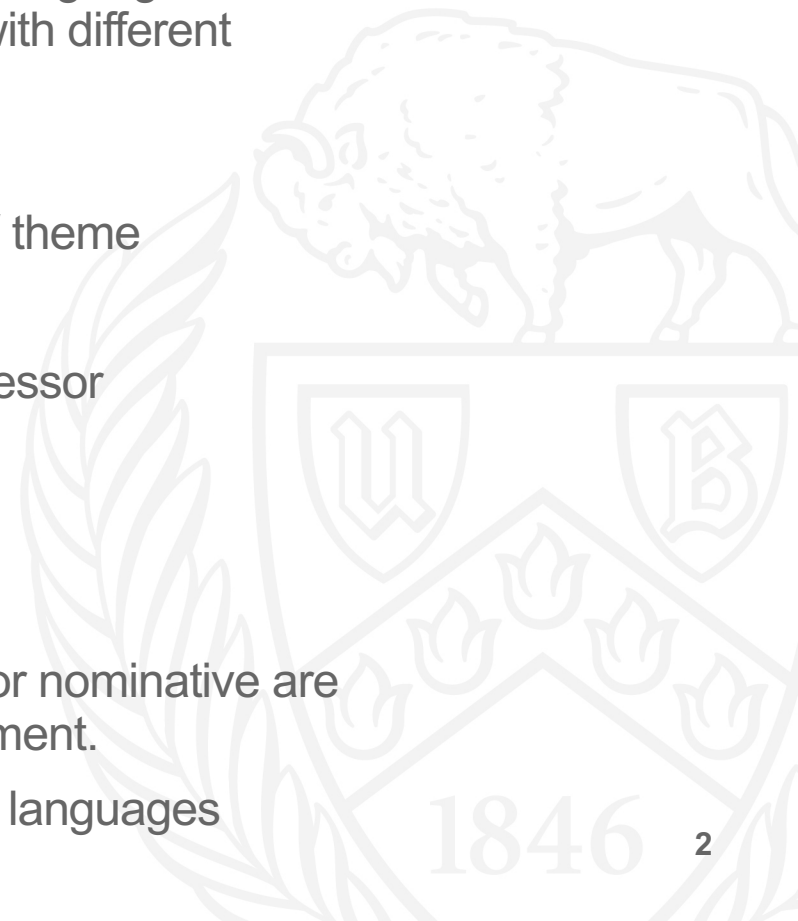
Spanish = effector, benefactive, malafactive, possessor

German = benefactive, malefactive

Japanese = effector

In the absence of evidence to agentivity, ergative or nominative are blocked and dative is marked on the oblique argument.

Dative has (not lexical but) syntactic status across languages



## Dative Default Examples

(1) a. Mer þotti Olaf-ur leiðinleg-ur.  
 Isg.dat thought Olaf-nom boring-nom  
 'I considered Olaf boring.'

Icelandic

b. Mer byður við setningafraeði.  
 Isg.dat is.nauseated by syntax  
 'I am nauseated by syntax.'

Icelandic

(2) Balam miraji-Ø baijgun  
 nm.abs beans-abs nm.erg

dyugumbi-ru wuga-n  
 woman-erg give-tns

bagul  
 nm.dat

yaça-gu.

man-dat

"The woman gave beans to the man."

dat = recipient **Dyirbal**

(Van Valin, 2018)

## Dative Default Examples Cont'd

(3) Honum madtist vel í kirkjunni.  
3sg.dat speak well in church.the

'He (happened to) speak well in church.'

Icelandic

dat = effector

(4) Se me rompió la taza.  
refl 1sg.dat broke the cup

'My cup broke,' 'The cup broke on me,' or 'I accidentally broke the cup.'

dat = possessor, malefactive, or effector

(5) Ich habe ihr geholfen.  
1sg.nom have 3sg.f.dat helped

'I helped her.'

Spanish

German

dat = benefactive?

(Van Valin, 2018)

## Dative Default Examples Cont'd 2

(6) Ich            habe ihr            ein    Buch gekauft.  
       Isg.nom    have 3sg.rdat   a.Acc   book bought

'I bought her a book.'

German

(7) a. Eg            skilaði            pening-un-um   til    hennar.  
       Isg.nom   returned    money-def-dat   to    3sg.f.gen

'I gave the money back to her.'

dat = benefactive

Icelandic

b. Eg            skilaði            henni            pening-un-um.  
       Isg.nom   returned    3sg.f.dat        money-def-dat

'I gave her back the money.'

dat = theme

Icelandic

(8) Henni        bauðst            starf    hja Islenskri erfðagreiningu.  
       3sg.f.dat    was.offered    job.nom at Icelandic Genetics

'She was offered a job at Icelandic Genetics.'

dat = theme, recipient

Icelandic

dat = recipient

(Van Valin, 2018)

## Dative Default Examples Cont'd 3

(9) a. þeir                      hvolfdi                      bat-n-um.  
           3pl.nom                      capsized                      boat-def-dat '

They capsized the boat.'

b.        Bat-n-um                      hvolfdi.  
           boat-def-dat                      capsized

'The boat capsized.'

(10) Taro              ga              Hanako                      ni              zibun no                      uti  
                                 nom    dat              self gen                      house

yom-(s)ase~ta.

read-cause-past

'Taro<sub>i</sub>. made Hanako<sub>j</sub>. read books in self i<sub>j</sub>'s house.'

Icelandic

dat = patient

Icelandic

dat = patient

de hon o

in book acc

Japanese

dat = effector

(Van Valin, 2018)

## RRG and Macrorole Transitivity

RRG - monostratal framework – semantic and syntactic representation with pragmatic underpinnings

Linking algorithm

Semantic representation = logical structure - aktionsart classes initially suggested by Vandler (1967) and Dowty (1991) and later revisited by Van Valin & LaPolla (1997).

Syntactic representation – layered structure of clause –nucleus, core, clause, sentence

Theory of operators and constituent projection

no NPs in RRG, either RPs or PPs, core arguments are either direct or oblique (Van Valin 2005)

--Macrorole transitivity and syntactic transitivity are different in RRG

two general semantic macroroles - 'actor' and 'undergoer' - central to the linking of semantic and syntactic representations.

The notion of M-transitivity is explicated in terms of these macroroles

## What about Urdu?

The explanation can be extended over to instrumental oblique argument.

- The ergative or nominative are blocked in the absence of agentive evidence.
- The instrumental marks the oblique argument which occurs as PSA = accidental agents.
- Instrumental marks different oblique arguments performing different thematic roles like instruments, human effectors, forces .
- Instrumental adds non macro-role oblique argument to the core in Urdu



## Privileged Syntactic Argument

“restricted neutralization of semantic roles and pragmatic function for syntactic purposes” (Van Valin, 2018)

The terms ‘subject’ and ‘object’ are not used in RRG.

Controller and pivot in RRG

In languages like Russian, Tamil, Finnish, Icelandic, Malayalam and Hindi, PSA can be assigned dative case, as well.

Urdu is a language that not just assigns the dative case but also the instrumental case to the PSAs.

Diagnostics for PSA - ‘conjunction reduction’ and ‘reflexive binding’ (Van Valin 2005)

“controller of pivot in participial clause in obligatory control sites’ and ‘subject obviation that comprised antecedent to prenominal and antecedent to a reflexive” (Narasimhan, 1998).

## About Urdu

- Pakistan's national language and one of India's 18 official languages (Rahman, 2002).
- Similar to Hindi in syntactic structure but a distinct difference between phonology, morphology and lexicon (Bashir, 2011).
- Hindi borrowed vocabulary from Sanskrit whereas
- Urdu borrowed vocabulary from Persian and Arabic
- SOV language with bare and clitic-marked nominals
- Ergative and nominative nominals in perfective
- Nominative and accusative nominals elsewhere
- Differential object marking on the basis of specificity and animacy
- Verbs inflect for number, gender and aspect
- Agreement trigger on the verbs is nominative

## PSA Urdu

### Dative PSA

- (1)
- |                                   |                                   |                                    |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>bache=ko</b><br>Child.SG.M=DAT | <b>sote</b><br>sleep-PL.M.HAB     | <b>hov-a</b><br>happen.HAB-PL.M    | <b>khofnak</b><br>scary.ADJ |
| <b>khab</b><br>dream.SG.M(NOM)    | <b>aay-a</b><br>come-SG.M.PERF    | <b>or</b> ...<br>and.ADDIT         | <b>uth</b><br>get.up.INTRNS |
| <b>kar</b><br>do.CONV             | <b>ron-e</b><br>cry.INST-INFTV.PL | <b>lag-a</b><br>hit.TRNS-PERF.SG.M |                             |

“While sleeping, a child had (a scary dream) a nightmare and started crying after waking up.”

Diagnostic: controller interpreting pivot in conjoined clause

## Urdu PSA Cont'd

### Instrumental PSA

(2).	Bache=se	khal-te	hov-e		
	Child.SG.M=INST	play.INSTR-HAB.PL.M	happen-PL.M		
	ghubara	phat	ga-ya	or	dar
	balloon.SG.M=NOM	pop.INSTR	go-PERF.SG.M	and	scare
	kar	ro--ne	lag-a		
	do.CONV	cry.INTRN-INFTV.PL.M	hit.INSTR-PERF.SG.M		

“While playing, the boy accidentally popped the balloon, and started crying being scared.”

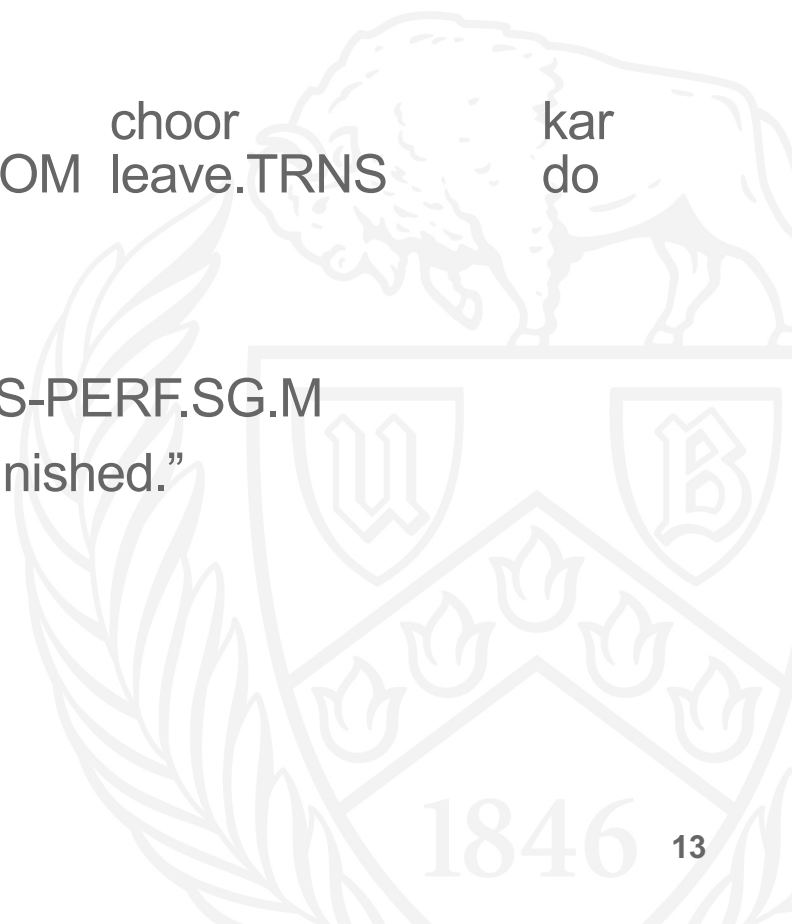
## Diagnostic: Antecedent of Reflexive

(3)

Larke=ko                  apn-a                  kam                  choor                  kar  
Boy.SG.M=DAT          self-SG.M            work=NOM          leave.TRNS           do

ghar                                  ja-na                  par-a  
house.SG.M=NOM                  go-INFTV            lie.TRNS-PERF.SG.M

“The boy had to go home leaving his work unfinished.”



## Antecedent of Reflexive Cont'd

(4)

Larke=se                      apn-a  
Boy.SG.M=INST    lesson.SG.M=NOM

sabak                      yad na  
learn.TRNS              no.NEG

ho                      saka.  
happen              can-PERF.SG.M

“The boy could not learn his lesson.”



## Diagnostic: Antecedent of Prenominal Pronouns

From Hindi, but does not work in Urdu.

(5)

Ram=ne	us=ki	ma=se	bahat
Ram.SG.M=ERG	he.3SG=GEN	mother.SG.F=INST	many.Quant

din	baad	baat	ki
day.PL.M	after	converse	do-PERF.SG.F

Ram talked to his mother after so many days. (Hindi)

/us=ki/ is taken as somebody 'else's' (other than Ram's) in Urdu interpretation for Example (5: 'Ram talked to his (someone else) Mother after so many days.')

## Dative Antecedent of Prenominal Pronouns

(6)

Aik	larki=ko	us=ki	bahan=ka	xat
One	girl.SG.M=DAT	her	sister.SG.F=GEN	letter.SG.M=NOM
mil-na		par	khoshi	ho-i
meet.TRNS=INFTV		on	happy.SG.F=NOM	happen-SG.F.PERF

“The girl became happy to receive her sister’s letter.”



## Instrumental Oblique Core Argument

(7)

Aik larki=se us=ki bahen=ki  
One girl.SG.F=INSTR her.3SG.DIST=GEN sister.SG.F=GEN

kitab gum ho gai  
book.SG.F=NOM lose.TRNS happen go.TRNS-PERF.SG.F

“The girl lost her sister’s book”

This cannot be used on ergative and nominative; not reliable diagnostic in Urdu

## Neither Dative nor Instrumental as Default

(8a) Consumption predicate (causee is a consumer)

Larki=ne                      larke=ko                      khana  
Girl.SG.F=ERG      boy.SG.M=DAT      food.SG.M=NOM

khil-aa-ya.

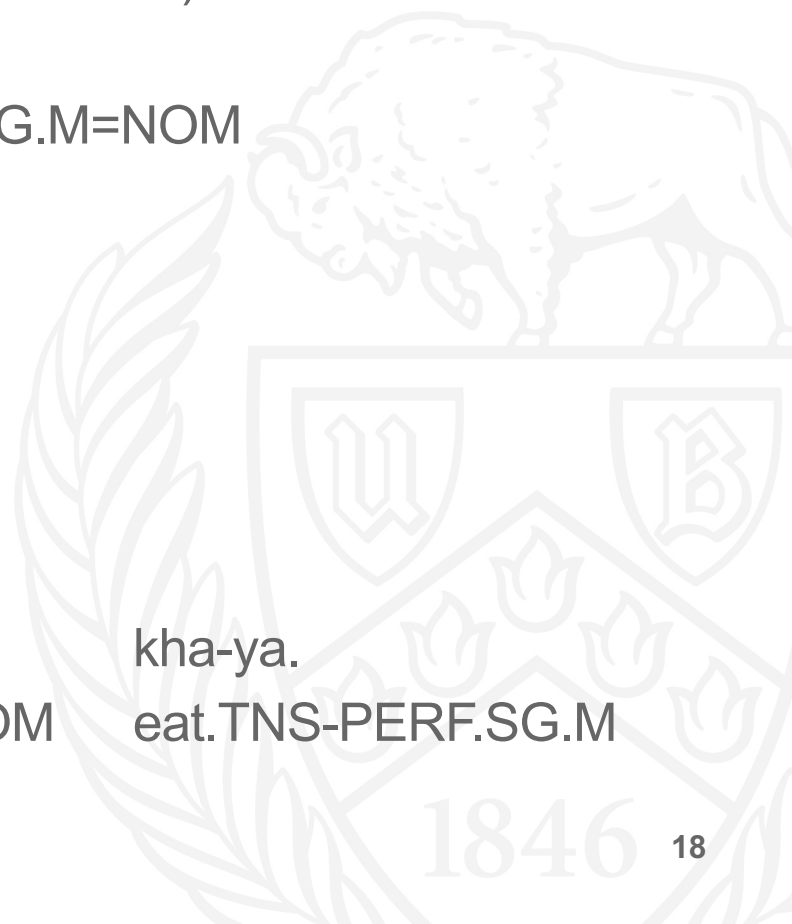
eat.TRNS-CAUS-PERF.SG.M

“The girl made the boy eat food.”

(8b) Effector is a consumer/source

Larki=ne                      larke=se                      khane                      kha-ya.  
Girl.SG.F=ERG      boy.SG.M=INST      food=NOM      eat.TNS-PERF.SG.M

“The girl ate food from the boy.”



## Transfer Predicates and Suppletives

(9a) Non-macrorole oblique core argument ‘man’ (dative) is the recipient and flower is direct macrorole core argument (i.e. theme in nominative)

Larki=ne      larke=ko      phool      di-ya.  
Girl.SG.F=ERG boy.SG.M=DAT      flower.SG.M=NOM      give.TRNS-  
PERF.SG.M

“The girl gave a flower to the boy.”

(9b) (direct macrorole core argument (flower is theme and undergoer in nominative) ‘boy’ is non-macrorole oblique core argument (source in instrumental)

Larki=ne      larke=se      phool li-ya.  
Girl.SG.F=ERG      boy.SG.M=INST      flower take.DTRNS-PERF.SG.M

“The girl took a flower from the boy.”

## Transfer Predicates and Suppletives Cont'd

(9c) 'boy' is the recipient in accusative and flower is theme in instrumental

Larki=ne	larke=ko	phool=se
Girl.SG.F=ERG	boy.SG.M=ACC	flower.SG.M=INST

nawaza

present.DTRNS-PERF.SG.M

"The girl presented the boy with a flower."

(9d) 'boy' is the deprived (i.e. source) argument

Larki=ne	larke=ko	phool=se	mehroom ki-a
Girl.SG.F=ERG	boy.SG.M=ACC	flower.SG.M=INST	deprive do- PERF.SG.M

"The girl deprived the boy of a flower."



## Causative Constructions

### Unmediated Causality Chains

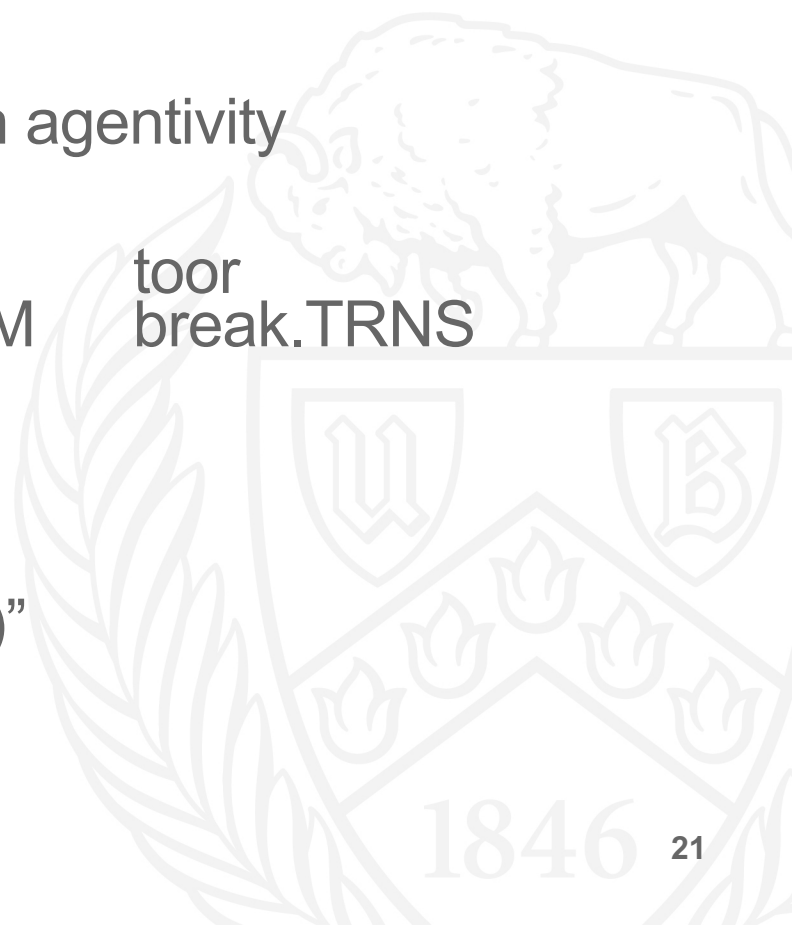
(10) High M-transitivity indicating high agentivity

Razza=ne                      plate                      toor  
Razza.SG.M=ERG    plate.SG.F=NOM    break.TRNS

d-i

give.TRNS-PERF.SG.F

“Razza broke the plate. (Intentionally)”



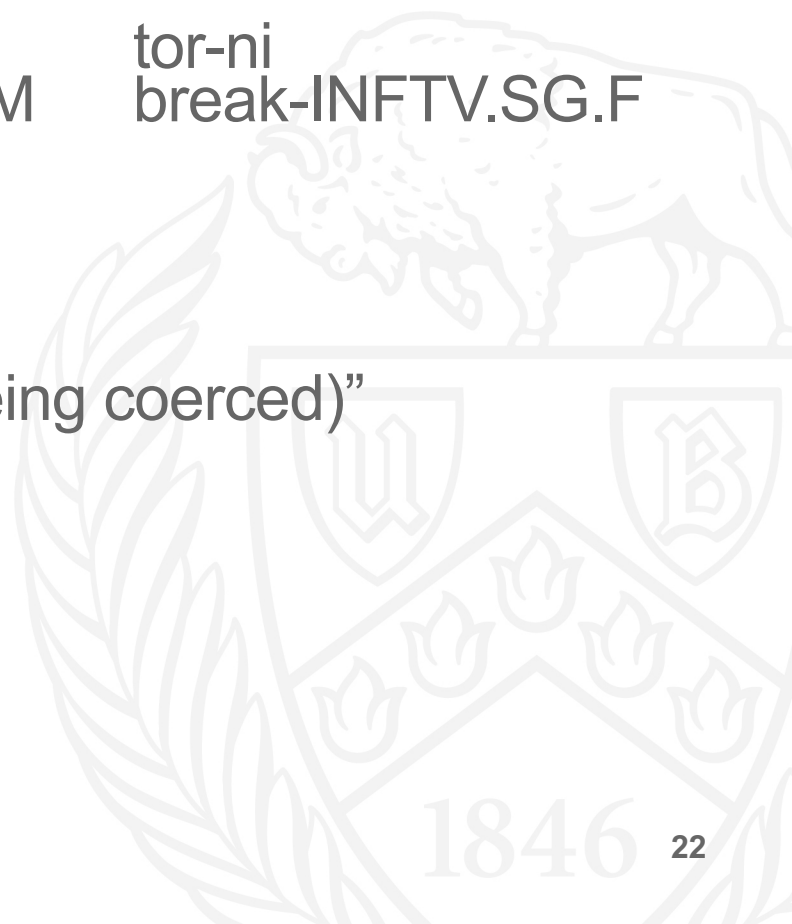
## Unmediated Causality Chain

(11) Induced Potentiality

Razza=ko                      plate                      tor-ni  
Razza.SG.M=DAT      plate.SG.F=NOM      break-INFTV.SG.F

par-i  
lie-PERF.SG.F

“Razza had to break the plate. (By being coerced)”



## Unmediated Causality Chain

(12) Non-agentive human effectors, instrumentally marked non-macrorole core argument

Razza=se                      plate  
Razza.SG.M=INST        plate.SG.F=NOM

toot                      ga-i  
break.INTRNS        go.TRNS-PERF.SG.F

“Razza accidentally broke the plate.”

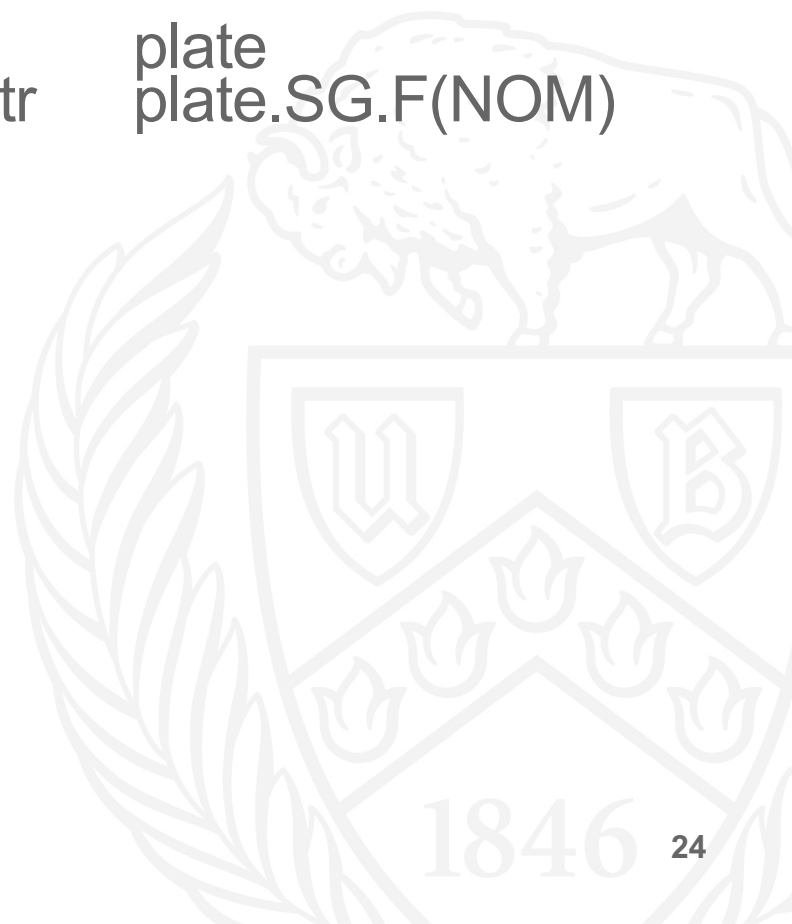
## Post connective /wajan/ ‘because.of’ core peripheral oblique argument

(13)

Razza=ki                      wajah=se                      plate  
Razza.SG.M=GEN      because.of=INStr      plate.SG.F(NOM)

toot ga-i  
break.INTRNS go.TRNS-PERF.SG.F

“Because of Razza, the plate broke.”





## Mediated Causality Chains

(14)

Haris=ne

Huma=se

cup

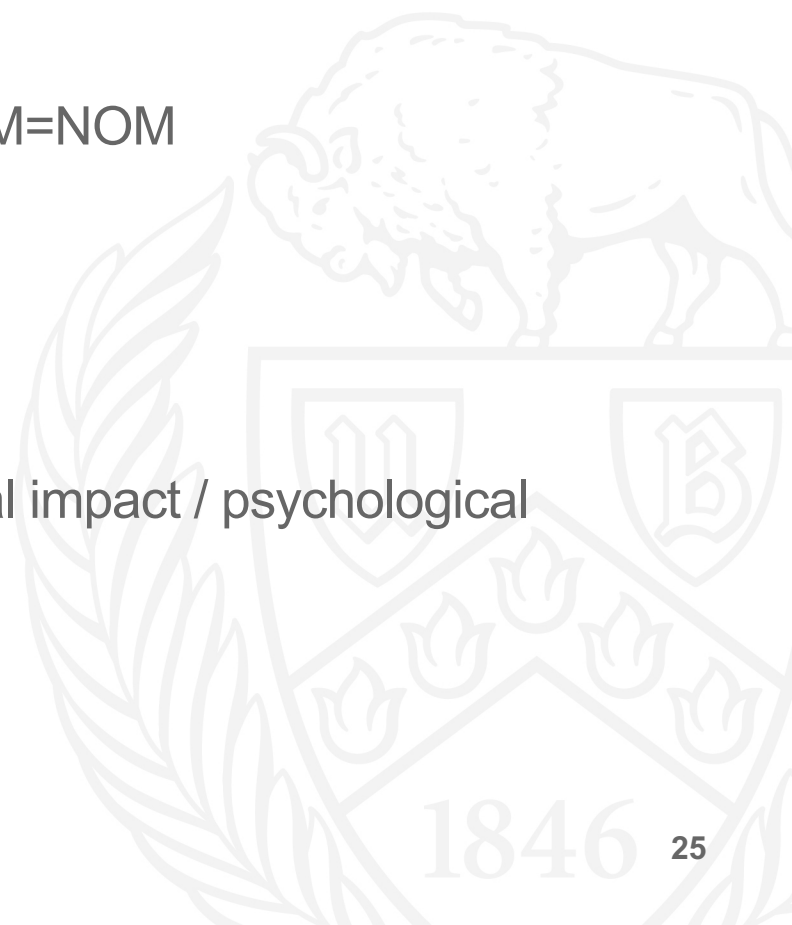
Haris.SG.M=ERG Huma.SG.F=INST cup.SG.M=NOM

tur-va-ya

break-CAUS-PERF.SG.M

Harris caused Huma\*to\* break the cup. (physical impact / psychological coercion)

Instrumental cannot be replaced by dative.



## Experiencer verb as causative and no dative on experiencer

(15) Accusative non-macrorole core argument (non-default)

Larki=ne	larke=ko	samp=se
Girl.SG.F=ERG	boy.SG.M=ACC	snake.SG.M=INST

dara-ya

scare-PERF.SG.M

“The girl scared the boy with a snake.”

Vague as boy (causee) is accusative



## Experiencer with Dative

(16)

Larki=ko sardi

Girl=DAT cold.SG.F(NOM)

“The girl felt cold.”

lag-i

hit-PERF.SG.F



## Experiencer as Nominative

(17)

Aik larki achi khabar sun  
One girl.SG.F(NOM) good.F.ADJ news.SG.F(NOM) hear.TRNS

kar khush ho gai  
do.CONV happy.ADJ happen go-PERF.SG.F

“The girl became happy to hear a good news.”

Note: experiencer occurs with dative or nominative but not with instrumental.

## Conclusion

Neither dative or instrumental are default.

Dative occurs with non-macrorole experiencer and instrumental occurs with non-macrorole effector.

Considering the explanation of the evidence to agentivity, Urdu agentivity hierarchy can be formed as under:

Ergative nominal > dative nominal > instrumental nominal  
Prototypical agentivity > induced potentiality > reduced potentiality

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