

Ezafe, PP and the Nature of Nominalization

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In the talk we argue that the English VP/NP structures in (1a-d) have exact counterparts in the i(ranian)Persian PP/NP structures in (2a-d), where P₁-P₃ are three different classes of iPersian Ps and where *-Ez* is the so-called "Ezafe" morpheme.

- (1)
- | | | | | |
|----|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| a. | John | [_{VP} destroy | the evidence] | "Pure VP" |
| b. | John -s | [_{NP} destroying | the evidence] | Nominalized VP |
| c. | John -s | [_{NP} destroying | of the evidence] | Nominalized V |
| d. | John -s | [_{NP} destruction | of the evidence] | Deverbal N |
-
- (2)
- | | | | | |
|----|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| a. | NP | [_{PP} P ₁ | NP] | "Pure PP" |
| b. | NP -Ez | [_{NP} P ₂ | NP] | Nominalized PP |
| c. | NP -Ez | [_{NP} P ₂ | -Ez NP] | Nominalized P |
| d. | NP -Ez | [_{NP} P ₃ | -Ez NP] | "Depositional" N |

The notion "nominalization" is thus shown to be relevant to both of the lexical categories identified by Chomsky (1972) as [-N] (3):

- (3)
- | | | | |
|------|------|-------------|--|
| | [+N] | [-N] | |
| [+V] | A | V | "Syntactically Nominalizable Categories" |
| [-V] | N | P | |

As we show, capturing this relationship entails:

- Establishing a common syntactic function for English *-s/of* and iPersian *-Ez* (Samiian 1983,1994; Kirimi and Brame 1986/2012; Samiian and Larson 2018)
- Positing a shared cross-categorial structure for VP-PP (Jackendoff 1973; van Riemsdijk 1990; Svenonius 2003).
- Abandoning traditional Nominalization for a more general "split-feature" view of category specification.