

## Reported speech, reported perception and deictic shifts in Wakhi

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Wakhi is a lesser studied East-Iranic language spoken in Central Asia. Recent studies, which were based on the corpus of original language data consisting primarily of narratives, have indicated that Wakhi makes a fundamental distinction between witness and non-witness domain (Obrtelová 2017 and 2019a). Wakhi reported speech has only “direct speech” form. Deictic shift from the perspective of the current speaker to that of the reported speaker involves the person deixis as well as the use of the witness verb form.

Wakhi reported speech patterns were described so far as a form of subordination/complementation (Pakhalina 1975: 113; Obrtelová 2019b: 231). Typical syntactic patterns described in Obrtelová (2019b: 253–254) are:

- a. speech verb + deictic shift (asyndetic)
- b. speech verb + “clause-linkage marker” *ki* ‘that’ + deictic shift
- c. (elided speech verb) + “clause-linkage marker” *ki* + deictic shift.

This paper builds on the previous studies and, based on the constantly growing Wakhi text corpus, addresses certain ambiguities challenging the traditional syntactic (subordinate/complement) interpretation. The topic is approached from a discourse-pragmatic perspective, and with regard to evidentiality and the corresponding deictic shift.

Majority of Wakhi reported speech constructions are asyndetic. Also, the speech verb can be elided, in which case the reported speech follows an intransitive verb. Similarly, the perception clauses can occur in the form of ‘reported perception’ (*ki* followed by deictic shift) in the same way as the reported speech does, with or without the perception verb.

The traditional syntactic interpretation of reported speech as a subordinate/complementation category becomes particularly ambiguous when a non-witness story is told in a witness form. This is done by a total deictic shift of the entire story to the domain of the reported speaker (1<sup>st</sup> person, witnessed form), except for the introductory statement made by the current speaker. In such deictically “shifted” narrations, often it is only the hearsay particle *ani* inserted in various places of longer parts of the reported speech that signals that the speech is still that of the reported speaker, not the current speaker.

Considering the issues listed above, I will argue that the reported speech as well as the reported perception that undergoes the deictic shift should not be treated as patterns of subordination/complementation. A plausible solution seems to be to treat them as a syntactic category on its own, as proposed by Spronck and Nikitina (2019), and at the same time, in pragmatic terms, as a form of evidential strategy.

### References:

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