Exclamative Constructions in Persian: A Minimalist Approach¹

Mazdak Anoushe²
Mina Rezvaniyan³

Received: 2015/02/19
Accepted: 2015/07/12

Abstract

In the generative literature much less attention has been paid to the exclamative constructions with an exclamative word than the interrogative ones. This calls for a more detailed analysis of the exclamative constructions, and an attempt will be made within the Minimalist framework to determine the syntactic position occupied by the exclamative word če (what). In this regard, we need to distinguish between two types of exclamative expressions due to the (non-) quantificational nature of the wh-phrase. This involves interpreting the wh-word on the one hand in A-bar position as a Q-adverb and keeping its quantificational force, and on the other hand in the head of a demonstrative phrase (DP) as an indefinite article and giving a non-quantificational reading. We will argue that, in addition to this, in Persian the edge feature [EF] on C in an exclamative clause cannot trigger movement of an exclamative expression to spec-C, contrary to

¹ (DOI): 10.22051/JLR.2015.1841
² Assistant Professor, General Linguistics, University of Tehran) Corresponding author); mazdakanushe@ut.ac.ir
³ MA, General Linguistics, University of Tehran; mina.rezvaniyan@alumni.ut.ac.ir
what happens in English. Closer examination of a wider range of data, however, reveals that the Persian exclamative wh-phrase may undergo an optional movement to the specifier position of a focus projection which is above the TP, resulting in a well-formed but emphatic interpretation of the exclamative construction.

**Keywords:** exclamative construction, exclamative word, determiner phrase, quantifier, focus phrase.