Non-finites in early New Indo-Aryan: a multi-layered diachronic analysis

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Abstract

The aim of the paper is to present the results of a research study on non-finite verbs in early stages of NIA with a focus on converbs. The corpus, tagged by means of IATagger (Jaworski 2014), comprises texts representing four dialectal groups, namely Rajasthani, Awadhi, Braj and Pahari consisting of 10000 words each dating from 15th-17th centuries (excerpted from Bhānāvat and Kamal 1997-1998; Gautam 1954; Joshi 2009; Vājpeyī 2009). The methodological foundation of the research has been based on two frameworks: the RRG approach (Van Valin & LaPolla 1997; Van Valin 2005) and the ‘multivariate analysis’ (Bickel 2010). Even though both have synchronic and typological bias, they appear to be suitable for a diachronic analysis as well. The architecture of the IATagger enables combination of quantitative (statistical) methods applied to morphological, syntactic, semantic and pragmatic levels. As a result, it was possible to inspect the evolution of the converb’s morphology, main argument marking in converbal chains, various types of junctures (nuclear, core and clausal), control properties of converbs, scope of select operators in converbal chains (e.g. IF and T scope).