

## **A Morphosemantic Analysis of An Agent Theta Role in English and Sindhi**

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**Abstract.** The goal of this research is to figure out and analyze the argument/thematic structure of Sindhi verbs. In Sindhi, it emphasizes agent thematic relations. The study aims to determine the agents' argument/thematic structure in English and Sindhi. The information is based on verbal/oral Sindhi. To analyze the agent thematic relations in Sindhi; their relevance and position in sentences, each verb phrase is analyzed in terms of argument/thematic structure. The data are analyzed using Carnie's (2006) "Theta Roles and Thematic Relations." The study finds that Sindhi agents are like English agents in terms of function and relevance. The sole difference is that Sindhi agents are more adaptable than English agents; they have more flexibility in terms of place and position in the verbal form of the language. It has also been seen that spoken Sindhi violates the position of agents. However, this violation does not affect the syntax and semantics of agents; it is equally well accepted. Such violations are very common in Sindhi, and they are grammatically accepted, and theta roles and thematic relations are realized in them. In contrast to English, Sindhi agents can be used at the beginning, middle, or end of a statement in spoken Sindhi. Sindhi agents have a larger presence than English agents.

**Keywords:** Thematic Relations, Argument Structure, Agents, English, Sindhi.

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### **1. Introduction**

Every language has a distinct structure that distinguishes it from others. They may have the same communication goal, but they will never have the same structure. The structure varies depending on the language. The structure of Sindhi, for example, differs from that of English, and vice versa. English has an SVO structure (subject, verb, and object), but Sindhi has an SOV structure (subject, object, and verb). Every language has its own morphological, phonological, semantic, and syntactic qualities that distinguish it from other languages.

In terms of the features mentioned above, Sindhi is one of the subcontinent's oldest and richest languages (Fahmida, 2012). Sindhi is written in three different

scripts, all of which have identical pronunciation and vocabulary: (1) The Arabic-Sindhi script, which is used in Pakistan, (2) the Devanagari script, which is used in India, and (3) the Roman script, which is used in the internet, mobile phones, and tablets, among other things (Jatly, 2013; Tarachandani, 2011).

Sindhi grammar, morphology, phonology, and especially parts of speech have all gotten a lot of attention. Sindhi semantics and syntax, on the other hand, have received little or no attention. There is no detailed study of Sindhi syntax available (Pitafi, 2009; Fahmida, 2011). Sindhi is the oldest and most widely spoken language on the subcontinent. The major portion of syntax, on the other hand, is completely ignored. In general, there is good work on Sindhi grammar, but there is little or no work on syntax.

Stack (1849), Ernest (1872; 2011), Munshi (1925), Baig (1925), and Adwani (1926) were among the first to publish about Sindhi morphology, grammar, and parts of speech. Neither they nor their followers have written extensively about Sindhi syntax. It's either been overlooked, or these are current language phrases that they are unfamiliar with. Modern writers such as Fahmida, 2009; Rahman, 2009; Rashdi, 2009; Pitafi, 2010; Jokhio, 2012; 2013 & 2014 continue to ignore it. As a result, the study's goal is to determine Sindhi verbs' Argument/Thematic Structure in terms of Agent Thematic Relations.

## 2. Background of the Study

### 2.1. Verbs in Sindhi

The verb is a highly important aspect of a sentence since it depicts the activity of the phrase. The Argument Structures arguments are established by verbs. Theta roles and thematic relationships are assigned to the arguments by verbs (Dowty, 1991; Oltra-Massuet & Castroviejo, 2014). Arguments are revealed through the nature of verbs. Transitive verbs, for example, are two-place arguments, whereas intransitive verbs are one-place arguments (Carnie, 2006; Radford, 2009). The verbs are referred to as the sentence's body (Jokhio, 2012a). A verb is a word that describes an activity or the state of someone in a sentence.

Maintverbstandttotbetortauxiliarytverbstarethe two sorts of Sindhi verbs (Jokhio, 2012b; Zahid, A., 2016). Auxiliary verbs are subdivided into free auxiliaries and connecting auxiliaries, and main verbs are further divided into regular and irregular verbs. Sindhi verbs are developed from imperative forms (Baig, 2006). Sindhi imperatives are nouns in Sindhi, but they also function as verbs, and many other verb forms are derived from them, which is why they are referred to as basic forms in Sindhi. Nominative, accusative, and state cases of nouns are likewise derived from imperatives, according to Baig

(2006). The objects of Sindhi irregular verbs do not appear in the sentences directly (Adwani, 1926 & 1985). Sindhi verbs are divided into two categories: intransitive and transitive verbs, which are further divided into subcategories (Allana, 2010; Jokhio, 2012; Khoso, 2005; Rashidi, 2007; Acuña-Fariña, J. C., Meseguer, E., & Carreiras, M., 2014; Agmon, N., & Bloch, Yigal. (2013).

### 2.2. Theta roles and argument structure

The theta criterion sums up the requirement of this approach: each predicate's thematic function must be allocated, and there must be no NPs without a thematic role. One and only one theta role is allocated to the Theta criteria. And each theta role has only one argument allocated to it (Haegeman, 1984). Internal theta role assignment, external theta role assignment, and prediction are the three types of theta role assignment. Agents are external participants, themes are internal participants, and prediction is an action (William, 1987). There can be multiple thematic relationships in a single argument (Jackendoff, 1990). Agents aren't verbal arguments; they're external arguments (Jackendoff, 1987; Williams, 1987; Grimshaw, 1990; William, 1995; Davis, 2009; Veesar et al., 2015a; Veesar et al., 2015; Veesar et al., 2016). Dowty (1991) also mentions in his work that a single argument might have multiple theta functions. Two arguments, on the other hand, cannot have the same theta role. Agents aren't verbal arguments; they're external arguments (Jackendoff, 1987; Williams, 1987; Grimshaw, 1990; William, 1995; Davis, 2009; Maisarah et al., 2016). Dowty (1991) also mentions in his work that a single argument might have multiple theta functions. Two arguments, on the other hand, cannot have the same theta role. Arguments can be Agents or Patients depending on their verbal entailments in the structure; roles are not distinct, but prototypes are described by verbal entailments (Adger, D., 2007).

External and internal parameters can both be used in an expression. Agents are subjects in English, while Themes are objects, and subjects are higher than objects (Baker, 1996). Some English verbs accept only one argument, while others accept two, and even others, such as 'give,' accept three. Baker, on the other hand, proposes creating a new widely agreed thematic hierarchy. Agent is higher than a theme, and the theme is higher than a goal, according to him. He disputes Grimshaw's (1990) thematic hierarchy hypothesis, in which the Goal is ranked higher than Theme (Borik, O., & Mateu, Jaume, 2014; Luuk, E., 2009).

Semantic roles are examined on three levels: participant roles, these roles, and syntactic relationships. Theta responsibilities are allocated based on the structure of the clause's phrase. The arguments cannot be analyzed in isolation; they are linked to other elements and can bear one, two, or three thematic relationships (Lehmann, 2005). Theme structure is a partial representation of meaning made up of thematic relations and their reasons (Wechsler, 2005). Various linguists have worked extensively on the argument of the semantic role, such as Panini's (cited in Dowty, 1989) semantic roles, Fillmore's (1968 & 1977) on "deep cases", and Fillmore (1968) claims that "If there is an A, it becomes the subject; otherwise, if there is an I, it becomes the object; otherwise, the subject is O." In languages, the arguments are arranged in a hierarchical order. Theta roles are allocated based on the structure of expressions, but they can also be based on content (Bierwisch, 2006). His thematic hierarchy is as follows: Instrument > Patient/Theme > location > Agent > Recipient > Experiencer/Goal >

The verbs and the arguments are linked together. The right roles for verbs can also be learned through the conceptual relationship between events, acts, and

objects (Willits, D'Mello, Duran, & Olney, 2007). Linguistic experience is insufficient for learning the properties for verbs. A collection of semantic roles is ranked in the thematic hierarchy (Rappaport & Levin, 2007). Because these hierarchies are not universal, there are issues. The importance and frequency of theta roles vary by language. The semantic elements aid in the realization of arguments and the assignment of theta roles (Dowty, 1991). Fillmore's well-known subject selection paradigm is rejected by Dowty. He claims that each thematic hierarchy is valuable since it adds to our understanding of theta roles and their hierarchy (Veesar, Srinivas & Kadhim, 2015b).

External and internal arguments are sandwiched between applied arguments. These arguments are beneficiaries, and they are always accompanied by ditransitive verbs, as seen in Hiaki. External arguments are introduced via causative verbs and interior arguments are introduced by applicative morphemes in Hiaki (Harley, 2012). External arguments are simply arguments that are added to the verbal structure (Marantz, 2012). A syntactic feature of an expression is the displacement phenomenon, which can be overt or covert (Hackl, 2013; Filmore, C. J., 1968).

### 2.3. Theta roles and thematic relations

A theta role is a collection of thematic relationships related to a specific argument (Carnie, 2006). Three arguments in the following states have five thematic relationships: agent, theme, recipient, source, and objective.

1) Ali handed Peter a present.

Ali is a representative who is presenting Peter with a gift. It also serves as a source in the sentence; the context reveals that 'a present' is passed from Ali to Peter. As a result of this, Ali is also a source in the preceding sentence. The theme of the sentence is 'a

present,' which is given to Peter as an action of the sentence. Ali gives a gift to a person named 'Peter.' As a result, Peter is the one who receives the present in the sentence. In the statement, Peter is also the goal; Ali gives Peter a gift. Peter is the gift's intended recipient. As a result, the three arguments (Ali, a present, and Peter) in the above sentence have five thematic relationships.

A semantic relation between the argument and the predicate is known as a theme relation (Carnie, 2006). It is verbs that demonstrate theta roles and thematic relationships, as well as their relationship to the sentence's predicate. The semantic roles of participants are described using theta roles and thematic linkages (Radford, 2009). The following example will demonstrate this.

2) He was apprehended by the cops.  
(Representative) (Theme)

The agent who is arresting 'him' is represented by the argument 'the cops.' The second argument, 'he', is a theme that goes through the action of being arrested by the cops.

The use of what are known as theme relations is one technique of encoding selection limitations. These are specific semantic phrases that describe the role that the argument performs about the argument. The names of the participant roles linked with a predicate are known as theta roles. The participant is commonly referred to as a predicate argument (Carnie, 2006).

According to Carnie (2006), an agent is a person who starts or completes a task. The most common subjects are agents; however, they can also appear in various roles. Experiencers are arguments that feel or perceive events. Experienced people can be the subject or the object of an argument in a variety of ways. Themes are entities that undergo acts, are

moved, experienced, or perceived. A goal is an object toward which motion is directed. The source is the opposite of a goal. A recipient objective is a unique type of goal. Recipients are only used with verbs that indicate a transfer of ownership. The location is the place where the activity takes place. The instrument is the object that is used to conduct an activity. The beneficiary is the person who benefits from a particular event.

### **3. Methodology**

The current study is a qualitative one (Creswell, 2004; Kumar, 2011; Neuman, 2006). The purpose of this study is to look at the Sindhi verbs' Argument/Thematic Structure in terms of Agent Thematic relationships. The purpose of this study is to investigate and analyze the role, relevance, and function of agents in Sindhi. The research is exploratory and descriptive. The oral Sindhi dialect was used to research the nature and function of Agents.

The study's data were gathered from native Sindhi speakers. The information was gathered through conversations with the native Sindhi. The participants were questioned about their personal lives, education, current position, and status, family, present, prior, future, and goals. The participants were provided an open and natural environment in which to speak freely and spontaneously, allowing them to express themselves more fully.

#### **3.1. Analysis of the data**

The data were analyzed by using Carnie's (2007) "Thematic Relations and Theta Roles." It also serves as the study's analytical framework. In Sindhi, researchers attempted to decipher the Agent theta roles. The study looks at how Sindhi verbs carry Agents and how arguments are assigned agent theta roles and thematic relationships. The Sindhi verbs' Argument Structure is constructed to

determine the location and relevance of Agents.

### 3.2. Theta-Criterion

Each argument has only one theta role given to it, and each theta role has only one argument assigned to it (Chomsky, 1981 & 1982; Haegeman, 1994; Carnie, 2007; Radford, 2009; Bobaljik, Nevins & Sauerland, 2011; Ouhalla, J., 1999).

### 3.3. Thematic relations and agent theta roles

Thematic relations link situations to the people who are in them; they demonstrate the relationship between people and situations, and they serve as a link between syntax and semantics (Davis, 2009; Fabregas, A., 2014).

One argument can have more than one theta role and thematic relations. Two arguments, on the other hand, cannot have the same theta role at the same moment (Dowty, 1991).

The agent is the person who initiates or performs an action (Carnie, 2006). Lear and David are agents in the following sentences. The most common subjects are agents; however, they can also appear in various roles.

3) Lear smacked John.

4) David was the one who shattered the bottle.

In example (3), the sentence's topic is Lear. Lear strikes John with his fist. Lear strikes John of his own volition.

In example (4), David also acts breaking the bottle.

Both Lear and David's arguments exhibit agent-prototypical characteristics (Dowty, 1991). As a result, they are the agents of the preceding cases.

Let's have a look at the following Sindhi sentences that show agent theta roles and agent thematic relations in the verbal form of Sindhi.

**Table 1 is an example (5) of agent theta relations in Sindhi**

Sentence Description	Sentence
Arabic script	گوت بھجي آيس مان.
Roman script	Goth bhaji aayus maan.
Transliteration	Goth=village; bhaji=run; aayus=came; maan= I.
Translation	I came to the village.
Syntactic Analysis	(Subj: مان=maan=I, VP: بھجي آيس = bhaji aayus = came, AdvP: گوت=goth=village)

Table 1 demonstrates the structure of a Sindhi sentence (example 5) in which the speaker uses 'مان= maan = I' as a subject/agent at the end of the phrase, 'گوت= goth = village' as an adverb at the beginning of the sentence, and 'آيس بھجي= bhajitaayus = came' as a verb in the middle. The structure of the sentence reveals that the verb is an intransitive verb that only requires one argument (subject) to make the statement complete. As a result, the Projection Principle and Theta-criterion are satisfied in the above-mentioned situation.

The first argument 'مان= maan = I' is a first-person singular pronoun that replaces a proper noun (a person), and a person can do any action in the statement. In this line, the argument 'I' is doing the action of 'coming.' The phrase form indicates that the deed occurred in the past; an agent visited his village. As a result, this argument can be described as the agent performing a coming action (from somewhere to his village).

It has an agent theta role and an agentive thematic relation in the sentence, as well as a nominative case. The other argument 'گوت= goth = village', indicates the location or place where the sentence's subject is heading. As a result, it can be argued that it is a locative in the sentence because of the locative thematic relation and the locative case.

**Table 2. Example (6)**

Sentence Description	Sentence
Arabic script	آنهيءَ ڪان پوءِ وري هليا وينداهون آفيس ۾.
Roman script	Unhe khan poi wari halya wenda hon aafice mei.
Transliteration	Unhe=that; khan=from; poi=then; wari=then; halya=go; wenda=will go; hyon= are; aafice=office; mei=in.
Translation	Then (we) go back to the office.
Syntactic Analysis	( <b>Subj:</b> zero (null), <b>obj:</b> zero (null), <b>VP:</b> هليا ويندا <b>unhe</b> =halya wenda hon=go, <b>AdvP:</b> ڪان پوءِ وري <b>kahn poi wari=then</b> , <b>PP:</b> آفيس ۾= <b>aafice mei=</b> in office)

The form of a Sindhi sentence is shown in Table 2 where the speaker utilizes zero-argument as the subject, 'آفيس = aafice = office' as a complement phrase, and 'وينداهون هليا = halyatwendathon = go' as a verb in the middle position of the sentence. In the Phonetic Form (PF) of the sentences, the structure of the above-mentioned example demonstrates that it has zero arguments at the subject and object positions. However, because it is an intransitive verb, the Logical Form (LF) or deep structure of the sentence reveals that it argues the subject position but none at the object's position. The previous example's subject is omitted in the PF of the sentence, but it can be inferred and recovered by using the Recoverability Condition. In morphologically rich languages like Sindhi, the lost subject can be retrieved by verb inflections (INFL) and agreement (AGR) (Haegeman, 1994). In the aforementioned example, the inflections of the verb phrase reveal that the deleted subject is a first-person plural masculine (we). The subject of the statement is hidden in the surface structure; we won't know who the subject is unless we look at the deep structure of the sentence, because no unambiguous subject is expressed in the surface structure. The phonological inflection 'آ = aa = agreement' in the verb 'ويندا = wenda = will go', on the other hand, indicates that the subject in the phrase must be a first-person plural masculine (we), with an agent theta role. The argument 'آفيس = aafice =

office' indicates the action's purpose and location in the sentence. It has an aim and locative thematic relation as a result

**Table 3. Example (7)**

Sentence Description	Sentence
Arabic script	اسان کي پڙيا اسڪول موڪليندو هو.
Roman script	Assan khy baba iskool mokleendo ho.
Transliteration	Assan=we; khy=have; baba=father; iskool=school; mokleendo=will send; ho=was.
Translation	Father used to send us to school.
Syntactic Analysis	( <b>Subj:</b> بابا=baba=father, <b>obj comp:</b> اسان=assan khy=us, <b>VP:</b> موڪليندو هو=mokleendo ho=used to send, <b>PP:</b> اسڪول=iskool=to school)

Table 3 depicts a Sindhi sentence in which the speaker utilizes the subject 'باپا = baba = father' in the middle position, the object 'اسان = assan khy = (to) us' in the

beginning position, and the verb 'هو موڪليندو = mokleendo ho = used to/would send' in the end position (SOV). The PP, EPP, and theta-criterion are all followed in the form of the above statement.

The first argument, 'باپا = baba = father', is a common noun that can act within the sentence. This argument is the subject or agent of the nominative case phrase, which is acting as sending "them" to "the school." As a result, this argument can be defined as the agent in an agent theta role with an agentive thematic relation in the sentence. The direct object or theme of the sentence is the second argument,

'اسان = assan khy = (to) us' (Carnie, 2006). Because it is employed at the object position in the sentence, it has an accusative case. This argument is also the beneficiary of the sentence who takes benefits from the sentence. It benefits from the subject of the sentence's action (being sent to school). The third argument, 'school', is a goal with a goal theta role and a goal thematic relation. It aligns with the studies of Sadler, L., & Camilleri, M. (2013), Ali, Z., Roonjho, Z., & Brohi, F. M. (2021)

Table 4. Example (8)

Sentence Description	Sentence
Arabic script	تہ آئون انهي شيء کي هي فالو کاندس.
Roman script	Ta aon unhe shae khy he faalo kandus.
Transliteration	Ta=that; aon=I; unhe=that; shae=thing; khy=have; hee=also; follow; kandus=will do.
Translation	I will follow only that thing.
Syntactic Analysis	(Subj: آئون=I, obj: انهي شيء=unhe shae=that thing, VP: فالو کاندس=faalo kandus=will follow, conj: تہ=ta=that, AdvP: کي هي khy hee = also/too)

Table 5. Example (9)

Sentence Description	Sentence
Arabic script	جيسو هي اسان جي گڏجاڻي آهي ان و مان توهان جو انٽرويو وٺندس.
Roman script	Jeko hee assan ji gadjani aa una mei maan tahan jo interview wathandus.
Transliteration	Jeko=that; hee=this; assan=we; ji=of; gadjani=meeting; aa=is; una=that; mei=in; maan=I; tahan=you; jo=of; interview; wathandus=will take.
Translation	I will take your interview in our meeting.
Syntactic Analysis	(Subj: مان=maan=I, obj: توهان جو انٽرويو=tawhan jo interview=your interview, VP: وٺندس=wathandus=will take, PP: اسان جي گڏجاڻي آهي ان و=that this our of meeting have that in=in this our meeting)

Table 4 presented above shows the Sindhi sentence structure where the speaker uses 'آء=aaon=I' as a subject at the initial position, 'انهي شيء=unhe shae = that thing' as an object at middle position and 'فالو کاندس = faallotkandus =will follow' as a verb at the end of the sentence. The construction of the preceding sentence shows that it satisfies the Projection Principle by portraying the phrase syntactically, the Extended Projection Principle by having an overt subject, and the Theta-criterion theory by theta marking the arguments(Chomsky, 1981).

The first-person singular pronoun 'آء=aaon=I' is the subject of the sentence and has the power to act the phrase. The function of this argument is to 'follow' something in the statement. The inflection 'pesh=u=phonological inflection' in the verb 'کاندس=>kandus= will do' indicates that the subject will act in the future (by the following something). It indicates that the sentence's speaker wishes to demonstrate that he or she will follow something in the future. As a result, this argument is the subject of the sentence in the nominative case, and it has an agent theta role in the sentence with an agentive thematic relation. The object of the argument 'انهي شيء= unhetshae = that thing' has an accusative case. It is the sentence's object or theme,

Table 5 depicts a Sindhi phrase in which the speaker utilizes the subject 'مان=maan=I' in the middle position, the object 'توهان جو انٽرويو = tawhan jo interview = your interview' in the middle position, and the verb 'وٺندس= wathandus = will take' at the end of the sentence. Because it is a transitive verb, it accepts arguments at the subject and object locations to provide a complete meaning. It also has another argument in the prepositional phrase '= our of the meeting have that in=in this meeting'.

The Projection Principle (PP), Extended Projection Principle (EPP), and Theta-Criterion Theory are all satisfied by example 9 in Table 5. The example given above is syntactically sound; it has an overt argument in the subject position and theta indicates the arguments (Haegeman, 1994).

The first argument is a first-person singular pronoun 'مان=maan=I', which is used in place of a proper noun and indicates the sentence's agent. This argument is the sentence's agent since it indicates that it will perform a function in the future (will take an interview). This argument will interview someone in the future, based on the form of the statement. As a result, it may be argued that the agent in the sentence has an agent theta role and an agentive thematic relation. The argument

توهان جو انٽرويو = tawhan jo

interview = your interview' is the one that will be subjected to the sentence's action (will be taken). As a result, the sentence's theme is thematically related to the sentence's theme.

The final argument is in the form of a prepositional phrase: 'اسان جي گڏجاڻي آهي ان ۾' = assanji gadjani aahy una mei= in this /our meeting'. It talks about the common word 'گڏجاڻي' = gadjani = meeting', which is followed by the possessive pronoun 'اسان جي' = assantji =ours'. Because 'meeting' is an abstract term that cannot be seen or touched but can only be felt, it neither performs nor suffers any actions. The first argument, 'مان' = maan = I', is debating the third argument. This argument benefits the sentence's subject: the subject (I) benefits from this meeting since he records someone's language. Furthermore, the first argument, which is an agent in the sentence 'مان' = maan = I' has a beneficiary thematic relation, since it benefits from the argument 'meeting', implying that the agent (I) benefits from taking an interview during the meeting. Thus, the argument 'مان' = maan = I' has one theta role, namely, 'agent,' and two thematic relations, namely, agent and beneficiary. It is both an agent and a beneficiary because it performs a recording action and reaps the benefits of the meeting.

includes a verb phrase (VP), two noun phrases, a prepositional phrase, and an adverbial phrase. The noun phrases with the agent and the theme theta roles in the sentence are 'آءَ' =aaon=I' and 'پي ايڇ ڊي' = Ph.D.'. The Projection Principle (PP), Extended Projection Principle (EPP), and theta-criterion theory are all satisfied by example 10 in Table 6. The example given above is syntactically sound; it has an overt argument in the subject position and theta indicates the arguments (Haegeman, 1994). The first argument (NP) 'آءَ' =aaon=I' is a first-person singular pronoun that can be used in place of a proper noun. Because it is utilized for a person, a human, it can do an action in a sentence. The same is true in this sentence; this argument is acting in the sentence; it is doing 'پي ايڇ ڊي' = Ph.D.' at the University. The phrase construction indicates that the subject (I) is pursuing a Ph.D. at a university. As a result, it can be claimed that the agent of the sentence, which has the agent theta and agent thematic relations and a nominative case in the sentence, is above this argument. The second argument, 'Ph.D.,' is the sentence's object, and it plays a theme theta role in the sentence. The sentence in this argument has an accusative case.

#### 4. Discussion

The previous examples demonstrate that the Sindhi language follows a similar pattern of employing Agent theta relations. In the English language, agents are considered to be subjects or doers of activities. The Sindhi language follows the same pattern, with Agents serving as subjects in sentences. In English sentences, agents are positioned in the first position (both written and spoken forms). In the sentences "Ryan hit Andrew" and "Michael accidentally smashed the glass," we can see the placement/position of Agents (Carnie, 2006). Ryan and Michael are agents, and they are mentioned first in the preceding words. In passive sentences,

Table 6. Example (10)

Sentence Description	Sentence
Arabic script	هتي آءُ يونيورسٽي مالايا ۾ پي ايڇ ڊي رهيو آهيان
Roman script	Hity aaon University Malaya mein PhD kary rahyo aahiyen.
Transliteration	Hity=here; aaon=I; University Malaya mein=in University Malaya; PhD; kary=do; rahyo=progressive (ing); aahiyen=am.
Translation	I am doing PhD here in University Malaya.
Syntactic Analysis	(Subj: آءَ=aaon=I, obj: پي ايڇ ڊي=PhD, VP: رهيو آهيان=rahyo aahiyen=am doing, PP: يونيورسٽي مالايا ۾=University Malaya mein=in University Malaya, Adv: هتي=ity=here)

Table 6 shows the Sindhi sentence structure, which

positions can be modified. According to our findings, Sindhi has the same pattern of inserting subjects at the beginning of sentences as English (Allana, 2010), although it differs in spoken Sindhi.

There are some instances where the spoken Sindhi language disregards the placement requirements for agents, placing them at the beginning, middle and even conclusion of sentences. In Sindhi, adverbs are sometimes placed before agents that would normally be placed with the verbs. In Table 6, Example 10, an adverb is inserted at the beginning of the sentences, followed by the agent. Agents should be at the beginning of sentences, and adverbs with verbs should be in the center. Such agent and adverb placement errors, on the other hand, do not affect the structure or meaning of spoken Sindhi; it is equally accepted and grammatically correct. The theme argument is followed by the agent in Example 7 in Table 3, indicating that the theme is at the beginning of the phrase and the agent is in the middle. There are a few instances in which agents are inserted in the middle of a spoken Sindhi phrase which should not be done in written Sindhi. In Table 5, example 9, the subject (I) appears in the center of the sentence. Example 5 in Table 1 demonstrates that the Sindhi agents can be placed after a sentence that should otherwise be placed at the beginning. In the surface structure or Phonetic Form (PF) of the sentence, there are a few other locations where agents are completely removed (see example 6 in Table 2). The deleted agents can be inferred and retrieved from the sentence's verb inflections (INFL) and agreement (AGR) (Chomsky, 1982; Haegeman, 1994). The data analysis reveals that the Sindhi agent placement is not followed in the spoken Sindhi language. However, it's worth noting that this breach of agent placement does not affect the structure or meaning of sentences in spoken Sindhi.

In English, agents act sentences

such as (3) and (4) 'Lear hit John' and 'David smashed the bottle.' 'Lear' is in charge of 'hitting' John, while 'David' is in charge of 'breaking' the bottle. According to the analysis, Sindhi agents perform the same function in sentences. Agents are important in Sindhi because, like in English, they are the headwords of sentences. The character of agents in sentences reflects the nature of activities; animate agents are particularly active in sentences, which is why they use action verbs to demonstrate specific acts. The Sindhi language primarily uses action verbs to depict actions; as a result, it employs active agents who are actively engaged in the activity. Sindhi verbs can be transitive or intransitive (Adwani, 1985; Baig, 2006); in both circumstances, they take agents, who are active with transitive or intransitive verbs.

## **5. Conclusions**

The number of theta roles varies by language; each language has its own set of theta roles and thematic relationships. The purpose of this study is to investigate the agent thematic relations in Sindhi. Carnie's (2006) 'Thematic Relations and Theta Roles' was used to analyze the data.

It has been discovered that the Sindhi language follows a pattern of using agents that is nearly identical to that of the English language. Agents in English and Sindhi are placed at the beginning of a normal sentence. The written and spoken forms of English have the same pattern of word placement. Sindhi, on the other hand, varies from English in this regard because it has a fixed location (i.e., beginning) for agents in written form but none in spoken Sindhi.

In the spoken form, the placement and location of agents are more flexible; agents can be placed at the beginning, middle, or conclusion of a sentence. The current study's intriguing discovery is that such agent placement violations in spoken Sindhi do not affect the structure or meaning of the sentences.

Sindhi verbs are largely action verbs, which require agents to do acts in sentences. Agents have been discovered to be particularly active in the Sindhi language. Agents have a larger theta role in the Sindhi language in terms of prominence and frequency as a result of this.

## 6. Contribution of Study

This study contributes to the existing literature on morphology, syntax, and semantics of the Sindhi language. This study can be beneficial for researchers, students, teachers, and linguists of Sindhi as well as other surrounding languages of the country. This work can be replicated by other researchers in their mother tongues to see the application of agents and other theta roles in their languages.

## 7. Delimitations and Recommendations

There are ten theta roles in Sindhi (Ali, Z., 2016). However, the current study is limited to only agent theta roles. The study attempts to have the morphosemantic analysis of agent theta roles and thematic relations in Sindhi. Besides, it is only limited to the spoken form.

The study interviews only two native speakers of Sindhi for collecting the data. However, in the future, it can be extended to other theta roles. Sindhi theta roles can be compared with Urdu, Punjabi, Saraiki, Balochi, Pashto, and Brahui theta roles and thematic relations.

It is also recommended to have a cross-linguistic and cultural analysis of thematic relations among Pakistani languages so that we may come to know the semantic and pragmatic variations through morphosyntax.

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