Long-Distance Agreement in Urdu Infinitival Clauses: A Syntactic Analysis

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Keywords: Long-distance agreement, move, clause, phase interpretability condition, case

Article Information			
Received	2th Jan 2026	Accepted	9th Mar 2026
Published	30th Mar 2026		

Abstract

The aim of the current is to investigate long-distance agreement (LDA) in Urdu infinitive clauses specifically emphasizing on DPs case licensing, agreement, and movement, employing Bošković's model (2003, 2006, 2007). Previous studies articulated that long-distance agreement (LDA) is mediated by case-driven in long-distance movement, short distance movement in diverse range of languages including Hindi Urdu, Kashmiri, and Tsez to the clause edge, thereby enabling agreement across domains. Such outcomes established a close link between case and agreement, with movement providing the structural configuration necessary for agreement. Employing qualitative research design, Urdu demonstrates a different pattern in infinitival clauses as in Urdu, they are structurally reduced (vP/VP rather than CP/TP), which blocks accessibility for agreement under the Phase Impenetrability Condition (PIC). Consequently, matrix verbs, seskha and passand and auxiliaries, hai, license ergative or accusative case but fail to establish ϕ feature agreement with embedded infinitival or the object DPs. On the other hand, move could theoretically circumvent PIC utilizing successive cyclic movement, the Urdu instances show that such movement is not activated, blocking agreement. These findings deviate from previous Hindi Urdu accounts that reveal the LDA triggered by embedded objects and instead support Bošković's (2007) distinction: Agree is locality bound and blocked in reduced clauses, while Move offers a potential escape route that remains unused in Urdu nonfinite structures. This study contributes to the broader theoretical debate by representing that Urdu gives strong empirical evidence for phase theory while showing heterogeneity in agreement.

Introduction

This study investigates the long-distance agreement (LDA) in Urdu embedded clauses employing the fundamental principles of language design with which it operationalizes (Chomsky, 2005; 2014). In sentential level, a unified cycle of processes is involved to generate a well-formed grammatical sentence (Ali et al., 2023a; 2023b; Jabbar, 2021; 2025). Consider the example (1).

1. *Raam-ne roti khaa-nii caah-ii*

Raam-ERG bread. F eat. INF. SG want. PERF. F. SG

"Ram wanted to eat bread." [Mahajan, 1989, p. 237]

In (1), Long Distance Agreement in Hindi as cited by Mahajan (1989) works superficially. When the subject, Raam, of the matrix clause has an overt case marker, -ne, the main verb can agree with the object inside the embedded clause. In (1), the subject Raam-ne is case-marked, so the main verb caah-ii ("wanted") and the embedded verb khaa-nii ("eat") both agree with the feminine object roti ("bread"). Unfortunately, if the subject does not carry an overt case marker (2), then the main verb must agree with the subject instead, and the embedded verb shows default agreement rather than matching the object. Case-marking on the subject determines whether agreement can extend across clauses or confines within local domain.

2. *Ali roti khaa-na chah-ta hai*

Ali bread. F eat-INF.M.SG want-PRS.M.SG AUX.SG

"Ali wants to eat bread."

In the above example (2), the subject, Ali is not case-marked. The matrix verb chah-ta ("wants") and the infinitive khaa-na ("eat") agree with the subject, Ali. The object roti ("bread," feminine) does not control agreement in (2). This is local agreement, restricted to the subject. According to the observation from (1-2), it is induced that long-distance agreement only occurs within non-finite, infinitive clauses but not within finite clauses (Bhatt, 2005, p. 776).

3. *Ali-ne soc-aa keh Aqsa aik gaana gaa-tii hai.*

Ali-ERG think-PERF.M that Aqsa. F a song sing-HAB.F be.PRS.3SG

"Ali thought that Aqsa sings a song."

In (3), the agreement pattern shows how finite clauses restrict Long Distance Agreement (LDA). The matrix subject Ali-ne is carries masculine feature and ergative-marked, so the matrix verb soc-aa ("thought") agrees with Subject DP valuing masculine feature and singular number feature. Within the finite clause, the embedded verb gaa-tii ("sings") agrees with the embedded object gaana ("song"), which is masculine. Crucially, the matrix verb cannot agree with the embedded masculine object song—the form soc-ii (feminine agreement) is ungrammatical. This demonstrates that in Urdu/Hindi, agreement remains local in finite clauses: the matrix verb agrees only with its own subject, while the embedded clause handles its own agreement internally. Unlike infinitival clauses, where LDA allows the matrix verb to "reach into" the embedded clause and agree with the object, finite clauses act as a boundary that blocks such cross-clausal agreement. The study contributes to understanding this research gap extending that Urdu categorically blocks agreement into finite clauses but not in non-finite clauses. This raises the theoretical questions:

RQ1: Is the blocking of Long-Distance Agreement (LDA) in finite clause clauses a universal mechanism in syntactic theory, or does it vary cross linguistically?

RQ2: How do structural differences in clause types account for cross linguistic variation in agreement domains, and what does this show towards the locality of syntactic operations?

Review of the Literature

Long-Distance Agreement (LDA) has gathered considerable focus in syntactic theory because of its occurrence across a diversified array of languages and its practical implications for understanding syntactic dependencies and locality constraints (Chomsky, 1981). The phenomenon has been observed in languages from several linguistic families such as Basque (Preminger, 2009), Hindi-Urdu (Mahajan, 1989, 2017; Davison, 1991; Butt, 1995; Bhatt, 2005; Chandra, 2007; Jabbar & Ali, 2026; Keine, 2013), Kashmiri (Alghamdi et al., in press; Subbarao & Munshi, 2000), and Tsez (Polinsky & Potsdam, 2001). This widely attested distribution insights long-distance agreement (LDA) as a cross-linguistically significant syntactic feature.

From an empirical intuition, long-distance agreement (LDA) puts a strong question against traditional assumption about locality in syntactic theory (Bhatt, 2005). It involves agreement between different elements that are not in closest in sentence structural proximity, thereby raising the challenges about the mechanisms that allow such non-local structural interactions. Theoretically, LDA has gained extensive debates regarding the nature of syntactic dependencies and the boundaries of clausal structure. As such, it serves as a crucial test case for investigating robustness of existing syntactic models (Chomsky, 2014).

In this line of inquiry, a decade ago, extensive research has merged (Amato, 2023 ;2025; Bhatt, 2005; Béjar & Rezac, 2009; Chomsky, 2001; Nevins, 2011; den Dikken, 2026; Sheehan, 2024; Cognola & Walkden, 2024),

providing a deeper understanding of agreement in syntax and typically long-distance constructions (Bhatt, 2005; Béjar & Rezac, 2009; Chomsky, 2001; Nevins, 2011; den Dikken, 2026). Scholars have identified many recurring properties across languages, which Bhatt and Keine (2017) suggest as "universal of long-distance agreement (LDA)." These shared properties propose that despite surface-level differences, there may be underlying principles governing the representation of LDA across languages. However, the universals have not moved to a unified theoretical framework. Despite this, the field remains limited to certain analysis suggested to elaborate the under-investigation phenomenon. Bhatt and Keine (2017) present a unified account of theoretical approaches, demonstrating the strengths and limitations of each. A few analyses give long-distance agreement (LDA) to movement-based analysis, on the other hand, some invoke feature sharing or reconstruction processes. Despite these endeavors, no single framework has successfully accounted for all instances of LDA, even within a single language. This lack of scholarship underscores the complexity of the phenomenon and the need for more nuanced, language-specific investigations. It is however pertinent that LDA is increasingly considered not as a uniform syntactic process but as an epiphenomenon—an emergent property reformulating from the interaction of several syntactic and semantic factors. This assumption necessitates a shift from exploring a universal alignment to conducting detailed, case-by-case analyses. By exploring long-distance agreement (LDA) within specific linguistic contexts, several scholars (Mahajan, 1989, 2017; Davison, 1991; Butt, 1995; Bhatt, 2005; Chandra, 2007; Keine, 2013) posit the fundamental properties that drive these patterns refining broader theoretical model as well.

Mahajan (1989; 2017) investigated foundation of LDA in Hindi-Urdu as a syntactic phenomenon that questions locality constraints (Chomsky, 1989; 1995; 2014) He proposed that agreement could observe across clausal boundaries, specifically in control and reconstructing structures. His later research revisits the former ideas, refining the role of movement and proposing that LDA may be mediated by covert syntactic operations which give the agreeing components into closer structural proximity. Building on Mahajan (1989), Davison (1991) investigated LDA in clausal structure and verb agreement, focusing on the optionality and variability of agreement patterns. She proposed that LDA in Urdu-Hindi is sensitive to pragmatic and discourse factors, particularly providing that agreement may be influenced by information structure unlike purely syntactic apparatus. Deviating from Davison (1991), Butt (1995) posited the interaction between case-checking and agreement. She opined that LDA emerges when embedded objects lack overt case-marking, permitting the matrix verb to agree with it. In (2), the matrix verb, chahi agrees with respect to gender and number with the embedded object roti, which is feminine singular (Ali et al., 2020; 2021a; 2021b). This is the case of LDA, wherein the matrix verb establishes an agreement with an argument inside the embedded clause. As Butt (1995) argued that agreement is accessible as roti is not overtly case-marked, making it morphologically visible and accessible for agreement. If roti were marked with -ko LDA would resultantly be blocked (3).

2. *Ram-ne roti kha-na chahi.*

   Ram-ERG bread.F.SG eat-INF want.PST.F.SG

   "Ram wanted to eat the bread."

3. *Ram-ne roti-ko kha-na chaha.*

   Ram-ERG bread-ACC.F.SG eat-INF want.PST.

   "Ram wanted to eat the bread."

Extending this analysis to Urdu-Hindi, Butt (2005) offered the LDA and object agreement share structural configuration and that both indulge in a head (specifically T) agreeing with an argument whose case features it does not check. Bhatt's research is notably for employing Chomksy's agree mechanism into the analysis and for proposing that reconstructing facilitates LDA by establishing a mono-clausal domain. Chandra (2007) employed Bhatt's reconstructing-based analysis and explored LDA in several syntactic domains, such as infinitival complements and control constructions. She also focuses on the role of phase theory and suggested

that LDA is possible when the embedded clause invalidates to constitute a full phase, allowing agreement to percolate from matrix clause (4).

4. Sita-ne roti kha-na chaaha.

Sita-ERG bread.F.SG eat-INF want.PST.F.SG

"Sita wanted to eat bread."

According to Chandra, in (4), roti kha-na does not constitute a full phase. In Chomsky's phase theory (2001), certain syntactic phase domains (CP and vP) perform as boundaries for syntactic operation including agreement. However, in restructuring, an embedded clause is infinitival and lacks a full CP or vP structure. Because of this, matrix verb chaaha to probe into the embedded clause and agree with roti, bypassing the usual locality constraint (Chomsky, 1987; 1995). Later, Keine (2013) revisited LDA with a particular focus on syntactic locality and intervention effects as Chandra (2007) put phase-based analysis (Ali, in press; Ashraf et al., 2021; 2025; Dar et al., 2024; Ilyas et al., 2023; Niaz & Ali, 2023; Saram et al., 2023). He articulated the LDA is constrained by the overtly present of intervening elements and that agreement is accessible only when the path between the agreeing head and the target is unobstructed. His core claim incorporates recent advancements in minimalist theory and probes the limits of the Agree operation in complex clause structures (5).

5. Sita-ne roti kha-na chaaha.

Sita-ERG bread.F.SG eat-INF want.PST.F.SG

"Sita wanted to eat bread." [LDA Possible: No Intervening Subject]

6. *Sita-ne Ram-ne roti kha-na chaaha.*

Sita-ERG Ram-ERG bread.F.SG eat-INF want.PST.M.SG

"Sita wanted Ram to eat bread." [LDA Blocked: Intervening Subject Present]

In (5), the matrix verb chaaha fully agrees with the embedded clause object roti, which bears feminine singular and there is no intervening subject between the matrix verb and embedded object. As Keine (2013), proposed that the path between probe chaaha and the goal roti is unobstructed. On the other hand, in (6) embedded clause now bears an overt subject, Ram-ne and in this way, it displays masculine singular agreement, not with roti. The overly presence of Ram-ne intervenes between the matrix verb and the embedded object, blocking agreement. Keine (2013) articulated that intervening disrupts the syntactic locality necessitated for Agree operation to be entirely camouflaged.

These studies give an idea that LDA in Urdu is not a monolithic phenomenon. Instead, it is diversified depending on clause type, case-marking, reconstructing, and syntactic theoretic—shows the complexity of LDA and the need for nuanced, context-sensitivity to minimalist approaches. This study contributes to filling this by extending the LDA analysis on embedded non-finite clauses as According to Keine (2013), intervening elements exist which sometimes block agreement due to DPs. This study provides evidence that embedded DPs within non-finite clause bears clitic which blocks but not DP.

7. *Aqsa Ram-se roti kha-na chaahi.*

Aqsa Ram-DAT bread.F.SG eat-INF want.PST.M.SG

"Sita wanted Ram to eat bread." [LDA Accessible: Intervening Subject Present]

In example (7), The intervening subject Ram-se is present with dative case, but agreement is not blocked. The matrix verb chaahi reveals default masculine singular agreement, not agreement with roti, which is

feminine singular. In this way, the construction is considered as LDA accessible, proposing that agreement could with roti despite the presence of Ram-se.

Theoretical Framework

Within the domain of long-distance agreement (LDA) across languages, various scholars have suggested a few competing analyses. Since agreement is typically understood as a local syntactic process, cases where it appears to extend beyond locality constraints are theoretically significant. Two recurring strategies have been advanced to account for such phenomena: (i) restructuring, in the sense of Wurmbrand (2001), where the embedded clause is structurally reduced and lacks certain functional projections, thereby allowing agreement to operate across clause boundaries; and (ii) movement, in which the agreement triggering element shifts into the domain of the target head, enabling agreement to be established at a distance.

Mahajan (1989, 2017), Chandra (2007), and Koopman (2006) argue that movement establishes a subtly local Spec–Head relation between the agreeing head and the triggering DP. Conversely, Polinsky and Potsdam (2001) and Keine (2013) argue that an argument can move to the edge of a clause, from which it becomes accessible to higher agreeing heads. Keine (2013) distinguishes these two strategies as "long movement" and "short movement." According to Mahajan and Chandra, the long movement of the embedded object is motivated by case, linking case assignment directly to agreement (Asad & Sidra, 2023; Alghamdi & Alzahrani, in press). However, this case driven account of long A movement fails to explain instances of long-distance agreement across subjunctive clauses, where agreement cannot be reduced to case movement alone.

Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative research methodology, theoretically anchored in the generative paradigm as articulated by Chomsky (1965, 2014), to investigate long distance agreement (LDA) in Urdu embedded clauses (Alnuzail et al., 2024; 2025; Ali, 2019). Within generative syntax, qualitative approaches are central because they emphasize the explanatory power of individual's intuitions rather than quantitative frequency counts. As Cinque and Rizzi (2013) argue, "generative syntax relies crucially on qualitative data, especially acceptability judgments, which provide evidence for the underlying structure of language" (p. 12). Following this perspective, this study employs one of the field-based methods, specifically non-participant observation, to collect naturalistic data. This technique involves observing speakers in authentic communicative contexts without direct interference, thereby minimizing the potential influence of the researcher on linguistic behavior and ensuring that the data reflect spontaneous speech patterns (Kawulich, 2005). Such an approach is particularly significant for analyzing language use in social settings where syntactic constructions emerge organically, offering insights into the interaction between grammar and discourse. From a theoretical perspective, the study aligns with the view that "the methodology of generative grammar is qualitative in nature: it seeks to explain why certain sentences are possible and others are not, based on speakers' intuitions rather than frequency counts" (Chomsky, 1965, p. 4). By adopting a qualitative descriptive framework, the research aims to uncover the syntactic patterns of Urdu nonfinite clauses, demonstrating how agreement phenomena show in embedded structures. This integration of generative theory with qualitative methodology underscores the importance of naturalistic observation and speaker judgments in advancing our understanding of agreement in syntax. The study utilized a framework proposed by Bošković (2005).

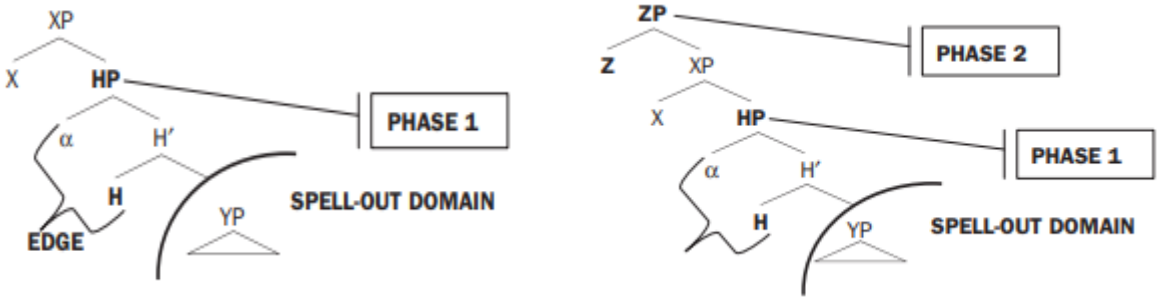
Bošković's Model (2007)

Bošković (2003, 2007) presented his model of agree, typically used to analyze non-finite clause as its core claim is that non-finite clauses are "structurally reduced clauses". This perspective of reduction is based on principle of economy preferring that these reduced clauses are isomorphic of vP/VP but not with CP/TP. According to him, reduced clause lacks full projection of CP. The agreement process within phases is constrained by locality and Phase-Impenetrability Condition (PIC). We utilize phase interpretability condition (PIC) proposed by Chomsky (2001) given below:

Phase Interpretability Condition

"*In phase α with head H, the domain of H is not accessible to operations outside α; only H and its edge are accessible to such operations*." (Chomsky, 2001, p. 13).

According to PIC, once a phase is completed, only its edge remains accessible to operations from outside the phase. In this way, agree—an operational mechanism where a probe (T) locates and searches for a goal (a DP with matching ϕ-features)—can only find if the goal is at the edge of the lower phase.



Bošković (2003; 2006; 2007) separates the syntactic operations Agree and Move in relation to the Phase Impenetrability Condition (PIC).

Agree

"Agree is a relation between a probe and a goal, where the probe searches its c command domain for a matching feature and values it." (Bošković, 2007, p. 590).

According to agree, a probe, T searches for a goal DP with matching ϕ features, is strictly constrained by locality and PIC, which stipulates that once a phase is complete only its edge remains accessible and move.

Move

"Move is internal Merge: it takes an already merged element and re merges it, creating displacement (Bošković, 2007, p. 590).

Move can escape PIC constraints through successive cyclic movement across phase edges, permitting elements to move from otherwise inaccessible domains. Bošković (2007) further emphasizes that intervention effects reveal the limitations of Agree, since intervening elements can block agreement, underscoring its locality restrictions.

Long-Distance Agreement in Urdu Infinitive Clauses

8. *Mujhe khaat likh-na pasand hai.*

I. ACC letter write-INF like be. AUX. PRES

"I like to write."

In (8) agreement and movement behave quite differently in Urdu nonfinite—infinitive clauses. The matrix argument, DP mujhe ("me") surfaces in the accusative case, while the infinitival verb khaat likh na ("to write") typically functions as the complement predicate pasand ("like"), and the auxiliary hai additionally provides tense anchoring. According to Bošković, nonfinite clauses are structurally reduced, typically vP/VP rather than full CP/TP, which means that agreement is tightly constrained by the Phase Impenetrability Condition (PIC). In (8) the matrix T of Urdu (hai) functions as the probe, but because mujhe is accusative and not

located at the edge of the lower phase, the auxiliary cannot establish ϕ feature agreement with it, resulting in tense marking only. Contrarily, if mujhe were to move to the edge of the phase, agreement could potentially be established, but in this construction no such movement occurs. Thus, (8) illustrates clear distinction between Agree which remains strictly local and blocked by PIC, while Move could in principle circumvent PIC but is not employed, justifying why the Urdu auxiliary hai does not agree with mujhe is the semantic subject of pasand.

9. *Us-ne bohat jaldi gaa-na seekha.*

He. ERG very quickly sing.INF learn. PRES

"He learned to sing."

In (9) the subject DP, us ne ("he") appears in the ergative case, demonstrating the perfective aspect of the verb seekha ("learned"), while the infinitival verb gaa na ("to sing") serves as the embedded complement. In (9), the matrix verb seekha probes for agreement, but the embedded infinitival bohat jaldi gaa na is structurally reduced and does not project a full CP edge, limiting the possibility of agreement across the clause domain. By contrast, if the embedded subject or object were to move to the edge of the phase, agreement could potentially be established, but in (9) no such movement is observed. Thus, (9) indicates why the matrix verb seekha licenses the ergative subject us ne but does not show agreement with the embedded infinitival gaa na.

10. *Main-ne khana bana-na seekha.*

I-ERG meal cook-INF learn.PRES

"I learned to cook food."

In (10), the subject DP, main ne ("I") appears in the ergative case, licensed by the perfective aspect of the matrix verb seekha ("learned"), while the embedded infinitival verb bana na ("to cook") functions as the complement of seekha. In this (10) example, the matrix verb seekha probes for agreement, but the embedded infinitival bana na does not project a full CP edge, restricting agreement across the clause boundary. On the other hand, if the embedded object khana ("food") were to move to the edge of the phase, agreement could potentially be achieved, but in this construction no such movement have been noticed. Thus, the (10) illustrates why the matrix verb seekha licenses the ergative subject main ne but does not agree with the embedded infinitival bana na.

After analyzing Urdu clausal structures, a set of generalized observations have been gained:

a. Nonfinite clauses as reduced structures: Urdu infinitival complements (8-10) operationalize like structurally reduced chunks and clauses, typically vP/VP rather than full-fledged CP/TP. This reduction limits the accessibility of internal elements for agreement.
b. Case vs. agreement distinction: Subject DPs in (8) mujhe (accusative) or main ne/us ne in (9-10) are licensed by ergative case independently of agreement. The matrix verb or auxiliary unifiedly provides tense anchoring but does not establish ϕ feature agreement with these non-nominative subjects.
c. Phase Impenetrability Condition (PIC): Once a phase is complete, only its edge remains accessible. This explains why embedded infinitival verbs and their objects (8-10) cannot trigger agreement on the matrix verb unless they move to the phase edge.
d. Agree vs. Move:
    - Agree is strictly local and blocked by PIC, so probes like T or v cannot reach into the interior of reduced nonfinite clauses.
    - Move can circumvent PIC through successive cyclic movement across phase edges, but in these Urdu examples no such movement occurs, leaving agreement blocked.

e. Empirical outcome: Specifically, the matrix verb (seekha) licenses ergative case on the subject DP but does not agree with the embedded infinitival or its object. This pattern illustrates Bošković's distinction: Agree is constrained and fails across reduced clauses, while Move could in principle enable agreement but is not employed in these constructions.

Discussions

The findings of this study on Urdu clauses, viewed by Bošković's model (2003, 2006, 2007), diverge in important ways from previous accounts of long-distance agreement (LDA). Earlier studies, such as Mahajan (1989, 2017), Chandra (2007), and Koopman (2006), argued that LDA is established through long A movement of the embedded object DP, driven by case, thereby establishing a local Spec–Head relation with the agreeing head. Polinsky and Potsdam (2001) and Keine (2013), by contrast, argued for short movement, where an argument moves to the edge of a clause and becomes accessible to higher probes. Such studies generally assume that case and agreement are closely linked, and that movement—whether long or short—provides the structural configuration necessary for agreement to occur. However, this study provides analysis of Urdu clauses which shows that such case driven movement accounts cannot fully explain agreement patterns in reduced nonfinite clauses (Ali, 2025a; 2025b; Jamil et al., 2025; Ali et al., 2025a; 2025b; Alnuzaili et al., in press). Based on the evidence provided in (8-10), the outcome aligns with Bošković's claim that nonfinite clauses are structurally reduced domains (vP/VP rather than CP/TP), which restricts accessibility for Agree (Alghamdi et al., 2025). Under the Phase Impenetrability Condition (PIC), only the edge of a phase remains accessible once the phase is complete. Since the embedded infinitival lacks a full CP edge, Agree cannot reach into the clause to establish agreement.

This contrasts with previous LDA studies in Hindi Urdu (e.g., Bhatt, 2005), which document cases where embedded objects can trigger agreement on the matrix verb. Such accounts rely on movement to the phase edge or on case driven mechanisms that make the embedded DP accessible. The Urdu presented in this study (8-10) deviates from those findings by demonstrating that no movement occurs in these constructions, leaving Agree blocked by PIC. Consequently, while earlier studies emphasize movement as the key to LDA, however the current analysis demonstrates that in Urdu reduced nonfinite clauses, Agree remains strictly local and fails across clause boundaries, and Move is not activated to circumvent PIC.

Conclusion

All in all, this study contributes to the broader understandingly debate on long distance agreement (LDA) by demonstrating that Urdu nonfinite clauses give strong for Bošković's (2003; 2006; 2007) distinction between Agree and Move, but also show a deviation from previous Hindi Urdu accounts: agreement does not extend across reduced clauses, even when case is licensed, because movement is absent. The major findings of this study indicate that Urdu infinitival complements are structurally reduced (vP/VP rather than CP/TP), which blocks accessibility for agreement under the Phase Impenetrability Condition (PIC). As a result, matrix verbs and auxiliaries license ergative or accusative case but fail to establish ϕ feature agreement with embedded infinitival or their objects (Asad & Sidra, 2023). On the other hand, move operation could theoretically circumvent PIC through successive cyclic movement, the Urdu data reveal that such movement is not activated, leaving agreement blocked. This pattern contradicts with previous Hindi Urdu research that argue LDA triggered by embedded objects, proposing that clause structure reduction plays a decisive role in constructing agreement possibilities. These findings demonstrate that LDA in South Asian languages is more heterogeneous than previously assumed, with Urdu offering clear empirical support for phase theory while challenging movement-based accounts of agreement.

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Article Information and Declarations

Declarations

Authors' Contribution:

- [a-b]Conceptualization, and intellectual revisions, Data collection, interpretation, and drafting of manuscript
- The authors agree to take responsibility for every facet of the work, making sure that any concerns about its integrity or veracity are thoroughly examined and addressed
- We acknowledge the foundational contributions of scholars such as Bošković and Keine, Polinsky, Potsdam on agreement, movement, and clause structure provided the intellectual backdrop for this study.

Conflict of Interest: NIL

Funding Sources: NIL

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How to Cite:

Long-Distance Agreement in Urdu Infinitival Clauses: A Syntactic Analysis. (2026). Wah Academia Journal of Global Religions, 2(1), 61-72. https://doi.org/10.63954/c7dcyc57