Evidence of Unexpressed Postpositions in Urdu Phrase Structure

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Abstract

Urdu postpositions are much different from English prepositions, not only semantically but also morphologically and syntactically. Morphologically they appear as clitics, as bound morphemes, and as phonetically null entities. As clitics, they perform dual function: case markers and postpositions. Syntactically, they behave in three different ways: (1) as overt postpositions, (2) in the form of OAF, (3) by staying completely unactualized. This paper describes their silent behaviour.
Keywords: Case Postposition, Nominative Accusative, Dative Locative, Genitive Instrumental, OAP, OAF

Postposition is a very confusing topic in Urdu syntax. They become even more confusing when they appear on Adjunct slots. Here, sometimes they stay overt, and sometimes covert. How we come to know about their covert presence is the topic of this paper. We are going to describe the evidence of their presence, their structure, and their syntactic function.

Anderson (2006, p. 18) says the term *case* is derived from Latin word *casus* /ˈkɑː·zʊs/. It means *falling.* In the opinion of the Greeks, Nominative was the *upright* case, and others were *falling* from 'uprightness'. The term *oblique* literally means *slanted.* For our convenience, we interpret them, with modification of Butt's (2006) idea, as *direct* and *indirect* links between an argument and predicator/postposition.

Urdu Noun Phrases (NPs) usually precede some particles which are differently described. Mohanan (1990), Butt (1995, 2004, 2006), Rizvi (2008) term them as case clitics that do the function of case marking; whereas Schmidt (1999) calls them postpositions. The authors have combined the two theories and have tried to separate their functions of case marking and postposition (Khurshid et al., 2021a, 2021b). Their detail is given below.

Urdu NPs bear three types of cases: vocative case, nominative case, and oblique case (Butt, 1995). NPs bearing vocative case, precede an imperative sentence, and are separated from the verb by a comma. Their function is to point out the addressee. Nominative and oblique cases mark subject and object NPs. Nominative case is the default case. Absence of any case becomes nominative case. A nominative NP shows markedly different behavior from an oblique NP. Oblique case markers are: [ne], [ko], [mɛ̃], [pər], [t̪ək], [se], and [kɑ, ke, ki]. Mohanan (1990) and Butt (1995) have termed them as:

[ne],	Ergative case marker
[ko],	Accusative case marker
[ko]	Dative case marker
[mɛ̃], [pər], [t̪ək],	Locative case markers
[se],	Instrumental case marker
[kɑ, ke, ki]	Genitive case markers

[ne] appears on external argument of the perfective verbs (Davison, 2004). [ko] functions both as an accusative and a dative case marker. [mɛ̃], [pər], [t̪ək] and [se] may mark both internal and external arguments (Butt, 2004; Woolford, 2006). They usually function as the heads on internal PP arguments (Rizvi, 2008), termed by Valin (2004) as Oblique Phrases. [kɑ, ke, ki] usually appear on complement NPs (Khurshid et al. 2021a, 2022 b). Their function is to show possession. They usually link two NPs.

The authors have drawn a line of distinction between case markers and postpositions on the basis of their differing functions. The ergative, accusative, and dative case may be taken as case markers. Whereas, the clitics following NPs in complement, adjunct, oblique phrase slots may be identified as postpositions (Khurshid et al., 2021a, 2021b). Their examples are given below:

	larka chamra kat ta he [ˈləɽ·ka ˈt͡ʃəm·ɽa ˈkɑːt̪·t̪a hɛ]							لڑکا چمڑہ کاٹتا ے
1	ˈləɽ·k -a	**Ø**	ˈt͡ʃəm·ɽa	**Ø**	ˈkɑːt̪·	t̪	-a	hɛ
	boy.3.s.m	**NOM**	apple.3.s.m.	**NOM**	cut	IMPERF.s.m		is
	The boy slashes leather							

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larke ne chamra kata [ˈləɽˑke ne ˈt͡ʃəmˑɽa ˈkɑːˑʈa]							لڑکے نے چمڑہ کاٹا ہے
ˈləɽˑk	**-e**	**ne**	ˈt͡ʃəmˑɽa	**Ø**	ˈkɑːˑʈ	-a
boy.3.s.m	**OAF**	**ERG**	apple.3.s.m.	**NOM**	cut	IMPERF.s.m
The boy slashed the leather.						

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larke ne chamre ko kata [ˈləɽˑke ne ˈt͡ʃəmˑɽe ko ˈkɑːˑʈa]							لڑکے نے چمڑے کو کاٹا
ˈləɽˑk	**-e**	**ne**	ˈt͡ʃəmˑɽ	**-e**	ko	ˈkɑːˑʈ	-a
boy.3.s.m	**OAF**	**ERG**	apple.3.s.m.	**ERG**	**ACC** (to)	cut	IMPERF.s.m
The boy slashed the leather.							

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larke ne chamra chhuray se kata [ˈləɽˑke ne ˈt͡ʃəmˑɽa t͡ʃʰʊˑɾe se ˈkɑːˑʈa]								لڑکے نے چمڑا چھرے سے کاٹا
ˈləɽˑk	-e	**ne**	ˈt͡ʃəmˑɽ -a	t͡ʃʰʊˑɾ	**-e**	**se**	ˈkɑːˑʈ	-a
boy.3.s.m	**OAF**	**ERG**	leather.3.s.m.	knife.3.s.m.	**OAF**	**INS**	cut	IMPERF.s.m .
The boy slashed the leather with a knife.								

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larkay ne seb sofe pe rakha. [ˈləɽˑke ne seb ˈsoˑfe peʰ ˈɾəˑkʰa]							لڑکے نے سیب صوفے پہ رکھا
ˈləɽˑk-	-e	**ne**	seb	ˈsoˑf-	-e	peʰ	ˈɾəˑkʰ-	-a	Ø
boy.3.s.m	**OAF**	**ERG.**	apple.3.s.m.	couch.3.s.m	**OAF**	**LOC. (on)**	put	s.m.	past tense
The boy put the apple on the couch.									

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John ne seb mujh tak pohnchaya. [d͡ʒɒn ne seb mʊd͡ʒʰ tək pɔ̃ʰˑt͡ʃaˑja]							جان نے سیب مجھ تک پہنچایا
d͡ʒɒn	ne	seb	mʊd͡ʒʰ	**Ø**	**tək**	pɔ̃ʰˑt͡ʃaˑj-	-a	Ø
John.3.s.m	**ERG.**	apple.3.s.m.	me	**Obl.**	**LOC (to)**	carry	s.m.	past tense
John carried the apple to me.								

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mujhay raat ko jana he ˈmʊˑd͡ʒʰe ɾaːt ko ˈd͡ʒɑːˑna hɛ						مجھے رات کو جانا ہے
ˈmʊˑd͡ʒʰe	**-e**	ɾaːt	**Ø**	**ko**	ˈd͡ʒɑːˑna	hɛ
me.1.s	**OAF**	night.3.s.f.	**OBL**	**DAT**	go.INFIN	is
I am to leave at night.						

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mujh ko raat ko jana he ˈmʊˑd͡ʒʰ ko ɾaːt ko ˈd͡ʒɑːˑna hɛ						مجھ کو رات کو جانا ہے
ˈmʊˑd͡ʒʰ	**Ø**	**ko**	ɾaːt	**Ø**	**ko**	ˈd͡ʒɑːˑna	hɛ
me.1.s	**OBL**	**OAF**	night.3.s.f.	**OBL**	**DAT**	go.INFIN	is
I am to leave at night.							

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Larkay ne dakkhane jana he. [ˈləɽˑke ne ˈɖɑːkˑˌxɑːˑne ˈd͡ʒɑːˑna hɛ]						لڑکے نے ڈاک خانے جانے ہے۔
ˈləɽˑk-	-e	ne	ˈɖɑːkˑˌxɑːˑn-	-e	**Ø**	ˈd͡ʒɑːˑna	hɛ
boy.3.s.m	**OAF**	ERG	Post office.	**OAF**	**P**	go.INFIN.	is
The boy is to go to the post office.							

In the above glosses, note the boldfaced items. They are: Ø, NOM, -e, Obl, [ne], ERG, ACC, DAT, LOC, P., representing empty, Nominative, -e feature (Oblique Agreement Feature), Oblique marker, Ergative marker, Accusative marker, Dative marker, Locative marker, Postposition respectively.

Oblique cases need a linking feature [-e] to agree with an NP. For example, [ˈləɽ·k**e** ne], [ˈt͡ʃəm·ɽ**e** ko], [ˈso·f**e** peʰ], etc. Nominative case neither needs any clitic nor any linking feature on the noun head. It's the default case. In this paper, the linking feature, [-e] is going to play an important role ahead. It stays on all the noun heads in front of oblique case markers, sometimes overtly, and sometimes covertly. But even in its covert presence, it can easily be detected. Examples of covert oblique markers are [ˈmʊd͡ʒʰØ ʈək], [ˈmʊ·d͡ʒʰØ ko], [rɑːʈØ ko]. In the last three examples, [mʊ·d͡ʒʰ] and [rɑːʈ] bear a zero Oblique Agreement Feature (OAF). It becomes phonetically realized on nouns ending on [a] sound. On all other nouns, it remains silently present. We can test the presence of OAF, by replacing the noun head with another one ending on [a]. For example, in 10 below, replacement test clearly indicates the silent presence of OAF.

10	[ˈmʊd͡ʒʰ Ø ʈək]	[ˈmʊ·d͡ʒʰ Ø ko]	[rɑːʈ Ø ko]
	[ˈfɛs·l- **-e** ʈək]	[ˈpər·ɖ- **-e** ko]	[ə̃n·ˈd̪ʰe·r-**e** ko]

We may double check the presence of OAF with another test. This test is based on number morphology. The number morphology of Urdu nominative nouns is different from that of oblique nouns. The former usually end on [e], [ẽ] and [ã̆], While the latter end on [õ] sound. Number morphemes on arguments are different from those on vocative NPs. This difference needs to be contemplated.

	Nominative	Oblique	Vocative	
Singular	Plural	Plural	Singular	Plural
[ˈləɽ·ka]	[ˈləɽ·ke]	[ˈləɽ·kõ]	[ˈləɽ·ke]	[ˈləɽ·ko]
[mez]	[ˈme·zẽ]	[ˈme·zõ]	[mez]	[ˈme·zo]
[ˈləɽ·ki]	[ˈləɽ·ki·jã̆]	[ˈləɽ·ki·jõ]	[ˈləɽ·ki]	[ˈləɽ·ki·jo]

(Butt, 1995)

Noun heads in front of oblique markers bear [õ] sound. To test the presence of silent OAF, singular noun can be replaced by its plural number. If the replaced noun ends on [õ] sound, it confirms physical presence of OAF. But the story is not over yet. We have one more test left.

The presence of OAF is not restricted to noun heads only. It extends to the associated modifiers and determiners too. [a]-sound-ending rule applies to modifiers and determiners too. To test the presence of OAF, an adjective or determiner ending on [a] sound may be inserted in front of the noun head. If the inserted adjective/determiner acquires OAF, it points out the presence of a covert OAF on the noun head. For example,

Determiner		Adjective		Noun with Covert OAF	Oblique Case
	OAF		OAF		LOC
		ˈbə·ɽ-	-e	mə·ˈkɑːn Ø	mẽ
ˈme·r-	-e			mə·ˈkɑːn Ø	mẽ
ʈʊmˈhɑːr-	-e	t͡ʃʰo·t-	-e	mə·ˈkɑːn Ø	mẽ

Now, after providing the evidence of logical presence of a phonetically null OAF on noun heads, we proceed to the issue of postpositions and then to covert postpositions.

Schmidt (1999) classifies Urdu postpositions into three types:

        Simple Postpositions: [ne], [ko], [mẽ], [pər], [ʈək], [se], [kɑ, ke, ki]

        Serial Postpositions: [mẽ se], [pər se] etc.

        Compound Postpositions: They are some phrasal combinations. Their detailed lists are given below:

[ka] + Oblique Noun + Case Marker

[ke mʊ·ˈqɑ.ble mẽ]	in comparison with
[ke ˈzər·je (se)]	by means of
[ke sə·ˈbəb se]	because of
[ki ʋə·ˈd͡ʒɑːʰ se]	because of
[ke ʈər pər]	by way of

Schmidt, 1999, p. 81)

[ka] + Oblique Noun (OAF) + Ø Case Marker

We come to know about OAF on NP because in all examples below masculine genitive [ka] appears in oblique form as [ke]. It's evident that the genitive marker has acquired OAF from the following NP. Let's apply the replacement rule. See the structure of the last item in the table below. [ke ˈʋɑːˑste]. [ˈʋɑːˑste] ends on [-e] sound. Now the question arises what has assigned OAF [ˈʋɑːˑste].

[ki d͡ʒəˈɡɑʰ (Ø Case Marker)]	in place of
[ke sɑːt̪ʰ (Ø Case Marker)]	with
[ke əˈlɑːʊɑ (Ø Case Marker)]	in addition to
[ke xɪˈlɑːf (Ø Case Marker)]	against
[ki ˈt̪əˑrəf (Ø Case Marker)]	towards
[ke ˈʊɑːˑst̪e (Ø Case Marker)]	in order to

(Schmidt, 1999, p. 82)

[ka] + Oblique Adjective (OAF)

[ke mʊˑˈt̪ɑːˑbɪq]	according to
[ke mʊˑˈt̪ɑːˑlɪq]	about
[ke ˈbrɑːˑbər]	equal to, similar to

(Schmidt, 1999, p. 82)

[ka] + Oblique Adverb (OAF)

[ke ˈuːˑpər]	above
[ke sɪˑˈʊɑ]	except for
[ke ˈpɑːs]	near
[ke bɑːd̪] Ø	after
[ke ˈpiːˑt͡ʃʰe]	behind, after

(Schmidt, 1999, p. 83)

Postpositional Sequences

[ke ˈniːˑt͡ʃe se]	out from under
[ki ˈt̪əˑrəf se]	via
[mɛ̃ se]	out of
[ke ˈuːˑpər se]	over

(Schmidt, 1999, p. 85)

Kachru (2006) ha classification Hindi/Urdu postpositions as simple postpositions, complex postpositions, zero postpositions (pp. 103, 104-107).

[ke ˈniːˑt͡ʃe]	under	[ke ˈpiːˑt͡ʃʰe]	behind
[ke ˈənˑd̪ər]	inside	[ke ˈsɑːmˑne]	in front of
[ke zərˑˈje]	by	[ke ˈbɑːˑhər]	outside
[ki bəˑˈd͡ʒɑe]	instead of	[ki bəˑˈɣəl mɛ̃]	next to
[ke ˈpɑːs]	near	[ke lɪˑˈje]	for
[ke ˈpɑːs]	near	[ke sɪˑˈʊɑ]	without
[ke ˈuːˑpər]	Above		

Her concept of zero postposition is basis of this paper. In her opinion, postpositions like [t̪ək], [pər], and [ko] sometimes remain phonetically unpronounced, though their trace may easily be sensed in certain slots. This paper is going to describe the structure of such PPs in X bar framework.
Koul (2008) has issued the following list of Urdu/Hindi postpositions (p. 57):

|			
[ke ˈpɑːr]	across	[ke mʊˑˈqɑːˑble mɛ̃]	in comparison with
[ke ˈuːˑpər]	above	[ki d͡ʒəˑˈɡɑʰ]	in place of
[ke ˈɑːr ˌpɑːr]	through	[ke sɑːt̪ʰ]	along with
[ke ˈbəd̪ˑle]	in place of	[ke jəˑˈhɑ̃ː/hɑ̃ː]	at some place
[ke bəˑˈɣer/sɪˑˈʊɑ]	without	[ki t̪əˑˈrɑʰ]	like
[ke əˑˈlɑːˑʊɑ]	in addition to	[ke ˈbiːˑt͡ʃ]	inside of
[ke ˈbɑːˑhər]	outside	[ke lɪˑˈje/ˈʊɑːˑst̪e]	For
[ke ˈbrɑːˑbər]	equal	[ki ˈt̪əˑrəf]	towards
[ke ˈənˑd̪ər]	inside	[ke ˈsɑːmˑne]	in front of
[ke ˈpɑːs]	near	[ke lɑɪəq]	appropriate
[ke ˈɑːs ˌpɑːs]	near about	[ke ˈləɡ bʰəɡ]	about
[ke bɑːd̪]	afterwards	[se ˈbɑːˑhər]	out of
[ke ˈɑːˑɡe]	In front of	[se ˈpɛʰˑle]	before

Butt and King (2004, p. 18) have preferred to classify simple and compound postpositions as case phrases and postposition phrases. They take those constituents as postpositions which fall in adjunct slot and perform possessive, spatial, or temporal functions. She presents the following list of Urdu postpositions:

[ke ˈsɑːm·ne]	in front of	[ki ˈt̪ə.ɾəf]	in the direction of
[ke ˈniː·tʃe]	under	[ke ˈpɑːs]	next to
[ke ˈpiː·tʃʰe]	behind	[ke ˈpɛʰ·le]	before
[ke ˈɑː·ge]	in front of (further along)	[ke bɑːd̪]	after
[ke ˈuː·pər]	over	[ke lɪ·ˈje]	for
[ke ˈən·d̪ər]	inside	[ke sɑːt̪ʰ]	with

(Butt and King, 2004, p. 18)

Rizvi (2008), mostly borrowing from Butt and King (2004), introduces a concept of tetravalent argument structures of Urdu verbs. He has termed Locative PPs as oblique phrases.

Davison (2004) and Mohanan (1990, p. 80) describes the constituent structure of a clitic phrase as:
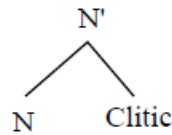
The problem with all the above theories is that they have mainly focused on subject and object NPs and have ignored adjunct slots where adpositions mainly belong. Postpositions usually describe possessions, spatial, and temporal relations. Butt (1995), and Butt and King (2004) have taken the same positions, but they have not explored this possibility in detail. Moreover, Butt and King have studied Urdu postpositions in the LFG framework. They have not described the constituent structure of Postposition Phrases and their formal distribution. We aim to accomplish this missing part.

Khurshid et al (2021a, b) has charted out Urdu PPs in X Bar background. He has differentiated cases from postpositions. He terms the clitics on arguments NPs as case markers, while the clitics on NPs in the oblique, complement, and adjunct slots as postpositions. Some detail on OAF and Oblique Adjunct Phrases (OAP) is available in these works, but this topic needs exclusive and detailed elaboration.

1. Results and Discussion

In English language, we often find a strange deviation.

> I go to college.
> I go home.

In the above examples, 'to college' is a PP, but what about 'home'? Surely, it is not an object NP. It lies in the slot of an adjunct. We expect an adverb, or adjunct PP, to fill this slot. A plausible interpretation would be that 'home' is an adjunct PP with a covert preposition head. Similar structures are very common in Urdu syntax.

Normal adjunct PPs in Urdu are usually a combination of an oblique case marker and an NP. Ergative, Accusative, and Genitive markers are exceptions. The first two sit with subject and direct object NPs respectively, while the third one stays as the complement PP head. Let's see a few examples of adjunct phrases:

Main haftay ko aon ga [mɛ̃ ˈhəf·t̪e **ko** ɑ̃ũ ɡa]			میں ہفتے کو آوں گا۔		
mɛ̃	ˈhəf·t̪-	**-e**	**Ko**	ɑ̃ũ	ɡa
I.1.s	Saturday	**OAF**	**DAT (on)**	come	Will
I will come on Saturday.					
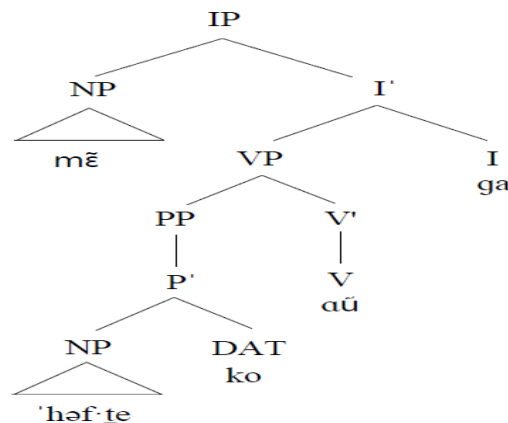
Pani choolhe pe gira ['pɑː'ni 't͡ʃuːlˑhe peʰ 'ɡɪˑra]						پانی چولہے پہ گرا۔
'pɑːˑni	Ø	't͡ʃuːlˑh-	**-e**	**peʰ**	'ɡɪˑra	Ø
water.3.s.m.	NOM	stove.3.s.m.	**OAF**	**LOC (on)**	fell	Past tense
Water fell on the stove.						

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                        IP
                    /        \
                  NP          I'
                 /\          /   \
              'pɑːni       VP      I
                         /    \    Ø
                        PP     V'
                        |      |
                        P'     V
                       /  \   'ɡɪˑra
                     NP   LOC
                    /\    peʰ
               't͡ʃuːlˑhe
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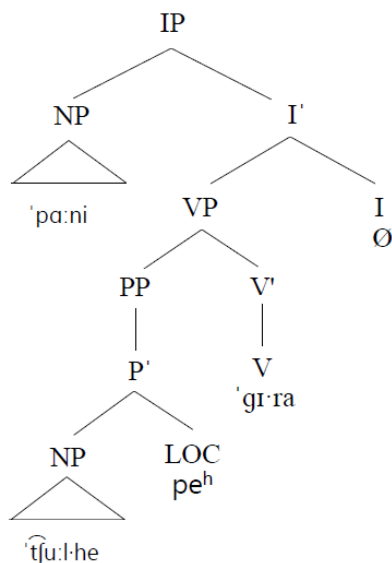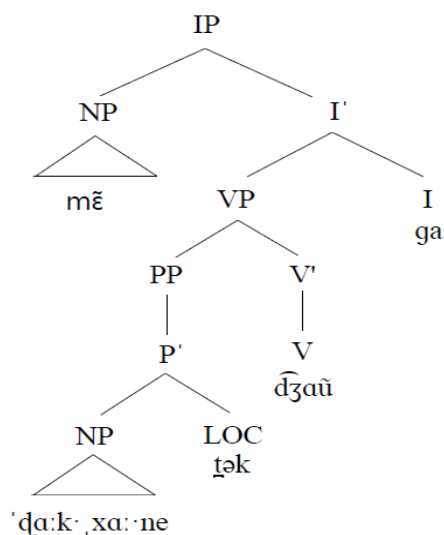
Main dak khanay tak jaon ga [mɛ̃ 'dɑːkˑ ˌxɑːˑne t̪ək d͡ʒaũ ɡa]						میں ڈاکخانے تک جاوں گا۔
mɛ̃	Ø	'dɑːkˑ ˌxɑːˑn-	**-e**	**t̪ək**	d͡ʒaũ	ɡa
I.1.s	NOM	Post office.3.s.m.	**OAF**	**LOC (up to)**	go	will
I will go up to the post office.						

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                        IP
                    /        \
                  NP          I'
                 /\          /   \
               mɛ̃          VP      I
                         /    \    ɡa
                        PP     V'
                        |      |
                        P'     V
                       /  \   d͡ʒaũ
                     NP   LOC
                    /\    t̪ək
              'dɑːkˑ ˌxɑːˑne
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Voh kamray main betthay hain [voʰ 'kəmˑre mɛ̃ 'bɛˑt̪ʰe hɛ̃]						وہ کمرے میں بیٹھے ہیں۔
voʰ	Ø	'kəmˑr-	**-e**	**Mɛ̃**	'bɛˑt̪ʰe	hɛ̃
They.3.p.	NOM	Room.3.s.m.	**OAF**	**LOC (in)**	sit	are
They are sitting in the room.						

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                          IP
                    _____|_____
                   NP            I'
                  /\          ____|____
                 /  \        VP        I
               voʰ    _____|___      ga
                     PP         V'     hɛ̃
                     |          |
                     P'         V
                 ____|___     'bɛ·tʰe
                NP      LOC
                /\      mɛ̃
               /  \
           'kəm·re
```
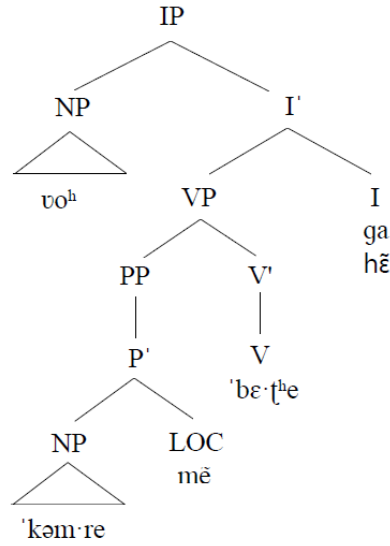
In the above glosses, a combination of overt OAF and Postposition head is given. We may call them Oblique Adjunct Postpositions (OAP). Usually, Datives and Locatives fall in this category.

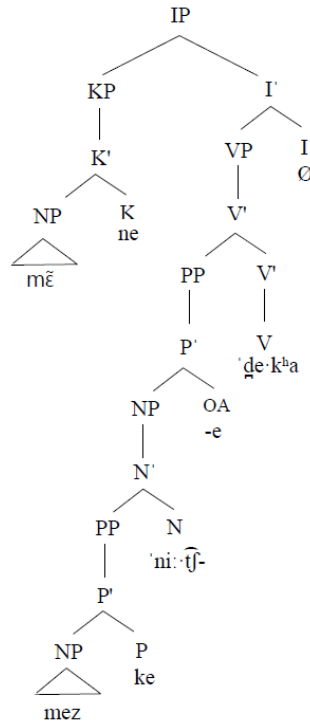| *woh dak khane jai ga* [voʰ 'ɖɑːk· ˌxɑːne d͡ʒai ga]					وہ ڈاکخانے جائے گا
voʰ	Ø	'ɖɑːk· ˌxɑː·n-	**-e**	d͡ʒɑɪ	ga
He.3.s.m.	NOM	Post Office.3.s.m.	**OA**	go	will
He will go to post office.					

```
                          IP
                    _____|_____
                   NP            I'
                  /\          ____|____
                 /  \        VP        I
               voʰ    _____|___      ga
                     PP         V'
                     |          |
                     P'         V
                 ____|___      d͡ʒɑi
                NP      OA
                /\      -e
               /  \
         'ɖɑːk· ˌxɑː·n-
```
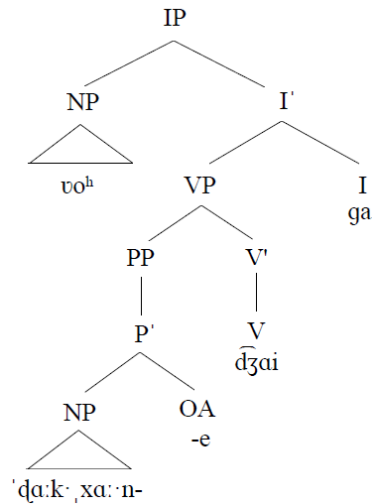
Main ne mez ke neechay dekha [mɛ̃ ne mez ke 'niːˑt͡ʃe 'ɖe·kʰa]							میں نے میز کے نیچے دیکھا
mɛ̃	ne	mez	Ø	ke	'niːˑt͡ʃ-	**-e**	'ɖe·kʰa
I.1.s	ERG.	Table.3.s.m.	OAF	GEN. (of)	beneath	**OA**	See. IMP
I looked down beneath the table.							

```
                          IP
                      ┌────┴────┐
                     KP         I'
                      │       ┌──┴──┐
                     K'       VP    I
                   ┌──┴──┐     │    Ø
                  NP     K     V'
                  △      ne  ┌──┴──┐
                  mɛ̃         PP    V'
                             │     │
                             P'    V
                           ┌──┴──┐ ˈɖe·kʰa
                          NP     OA
                          │      -e
                          N'
                        ┌──┴──┐
                       PP     N
                        │    ˈniː·t͡ʃ-
                        P'
                      ┌──┴──┐
                     NP     P
                     △      ke
                    mez
```

ham ne pray dekha. [həm ne pre ˈɖe·kʰa]				ہم نے پرے دیکھا
həm	ne	pr-	-e	ˈɖe·kʰa
we.1.p.	ERG.	away	OA	look.IMP
We looked away.				

```
                      IP
                  ┌────┴────┐
                 KP         I'
                  │      ┌───┴───┐
                 K'      VP      I
               ┌──┴──┐    │      Ø
              NP     K    V'
              △      ne ┌─┴──┐
             həm        PP   V'
                        │    │
                        P'   V
                      ┌─┴─┐ ˈɖe·kʰa
                     NP   OA
                     △    -e
                    pr-
```
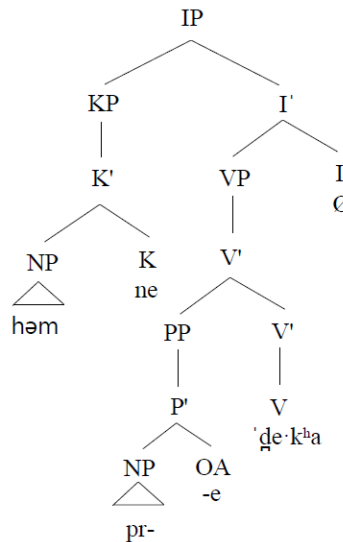
In the above glosses, we find Oblique Agreement Feature, but no Oblique Adjunct Postposition. Presence of OAF is the evidence of a silent Postposition ahead. When we try to insert a postposition, either the meaning changes, or the structure becomes unacceptable. The covert postposition here exists purely in abstraction; it has no physical representation. As OAF, overt or covert, indicates the presence of an abstract postposition here, it, in a way, represents Oblique Adjunct Postposition. Their phrasal structure may be described as above.

Now a question arises as to why we take OAF as a postposition. Why don't we leave the slot of postposition empty as we did in case of Inflection phrase above? The native speakers of Urdu often stress this morpheme to refer to a place. For example,

Pray ja. [pre d͡ʒɑ]	پرے جا
pre	d͡ʒɑ
away	go
Keep away	

Sometimes, native speakers of Urdu unusually prolong the [e] part of the nominal adverb [pre] to mean 'farther'. It gives a hint that they tend to substitute [e] with the abstract postposition.

From the above data, we arrive at the understanding that all adjunct slots of an Urdu sentence are occupied by a PP, overt or covert. They may be labelled as Adjunct Postpositions. Sometimes, they appear as OAF; sometimes they remain phonetically null, but their logical presence can always be tested and verified.

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