

29400 Compound Verbs* RM

* The contents of this Resource Material are from Michael C. Shapiro A Primer of Modern Standard Hindi, pp145-149 and pp 153-156.

19.1 Compound Verbs (Introduction)

In the preceding chapters of this book it has been assumed that the Hindi sentence ordinarily contains a verbal stem to which grammatical inflections of various sorts are added. For pedagogical reasons the verbal stems treated so far have by and large been single, that is, have contained only one verbal element prior to the inflections. Now it must be revealed that Hindi stems are frequently *compound*, that is, composed of two distinct verbal elements prior to the inflections.

The general schema for the compound verb in Hindi is V1V2 +inflections. In this construction the V1 element occurs in its stem form (i.e. devoid of any inflection) while the V2 element received the inflection for the entire compound.* In the vast majority of cases the meaning of a V1V2 compound is a modification of the general meaning of the V1 element. These principles are illustrated in the following example sentence:

सन् १९४७ में भारत को आज़ादी मिल गई।

In 1947 India received [her] independence’.

In this sentence मिल गई is a compound verb form. It contains the V1 element मिल in its uninflected stem form as well as the V2 element गई which is the si. perf. f.s. form of जाना. The central meaning of the entire compound, namely ‘received, obtained’, is a modification of the lexical sense of the V1 element मिलना, not of the V2 element जाना.

Virtually all verbs of Hindi can occur as the V1 member of compound verb constructions, although only a small number commonly occur as the V2. The verbs most frequently found as V2 components of compounds are जाना, आना, लेना, देना, रखना, बैठना, पड़ना, उठना, पहुंचना, चलना, डालना, मरना, and मारना.**

In many cases, the meaning contributed by the V2 element to the compound

bears little or no resemblance to the literal meaning of the V2 element when it occurs elsewhere as an independent verb of a sentence. Thus in the above example it is not possible to say that the जाना V2 element contributes some element of ‘going’ to the entire compound. In fact, it is quite difficult to isolate a single semantic notion contributed by the same V2 element to the various compounds in which it can occur. Often a V2 element brings different semantic properties to compounds formed with V1 elements of different types.

19.2 Compounds With जाना

Compounds in which जाना appears as the V2 element are of several distinct types. In the first of these the जाना element is used together with an intransitive verb of some sort, the whole compound indicating a change of state or condition. Thus whereas होना ‘to be’ by itself indicates a state (namely one of being), हो जाना ‘to become’ indicates a change of state. Often to the notion of change of state is added an indication of the completion or fulfillment of some intransitive verbal activity.***

छोटे पौधे घर के पीछे आ गए।

‘The small plants grew up behind the house’.

सुबह का खाना चुल्हे पर पक गया।

‘The morning meal got cooked on the (earthen) stove’.

घर जाकर वह तुरंत सो गई।

‘She went home and immediately went to sleep’.

Often it is not possible to isolate any denotative meaning added by the element to an intransitive V2. This is especially true when the V1V2 compound occurs as the main verbal element of a sentence. In such cases the जाना element is used to mechanically expand any of a wide variety of

intransitive V1 elements:

अच्छी रोटी कहाँ मिलती है / मिल जाती है?

‘Where can you get good bread?’

बच्चो, तुम इधर आओ / आ जाओ।

‘Children, come here’.

समय पीत जाता है, बात रह जाती है।

‘Time passes by but the memory remains’.

ख़राब दिन किसी तरह कट गए।

‘Somehow or other the bad days were endured’.

With transitive verbs indicating ingestion, जाना adds a sense of the totality or thoroughness of the acts of ingestion. Thus from खाना ‘to eat’ and पीना ‘to drink’ are formed खा जाना ‘to eat up, devour’ and पी जाना ‘to drink up’:

काम से लौट कर वह घर का सब खाना खा जाता है।

‘He eats up all the food in the house when he comes home from work’.

In yet other compounds, जाना retains some of its literal meaning of ‘to go’.

In such cases जाना designates motion away from the speaker of the sentence.

The constructions ले जाना ‘to take someone or something somewhere’ and

निकल जाना ‘to emerge’ (with motion away from the speaker) are compounds of this sort:

वह कल दोपहर को अपने घर से निकल गया।

‘He left his home yesterday afternoon’.

19.3 Compounds with आना

The primary use of आना in V1V2 compounds is to add a sense of motion directed towards the speaker of the sentence. In this capacity आना stands in direct opposition to the use of जाना in such compounds as ले जाना and निकल जाना। Whereas जाना designates an act of taking something or someone away from the speaker, आना signifies that the taking is directed towards the speaker:

वह अपने बच्चों को चिड़ियाघर ले गया।

‘He took his children to the zoo.

वह अपने बच्चों को चिड़ियाघर ले आया

‘He brought his children (here) to the zoo’.

N.B, The verbs जाना and आना are not used as the second member of V1V2 compounds in which the first component is the uninflected stem of चलना.**** Rather, the expressions चला जाना and चला आना are employed, showing the inflected stem चला- (cf. 16.6).

19.4 Compounds With लेना

There are two main senses in which लेना is used as the second member of V1V2 compounds. In the first of these the verb indicates the capacity to employ some learned skill or capacity:

वह थोड़ी - थोड़ी हिंदी बोल लेती है।

‘She can speak a fair amount of Hindi’.

मैं यहाँ की बोलचाल समझ लेता हूँ।

‘I can hardly understand the style of speech here’.

The second use of लेना is to indicate that a verbal activity, almost always transitive is carried out for the benefit of its doer, or that the activity is in some way oriented or directed towards the doer:

दुकान जाकर वह नए कपड़े खरीद लेगा।

‘He will go to the store and buy some new clothes (for himself)’.

श्रीमान जी, कुछ ताज़े फल ले लीजिए।

‘Sir, please have some fresh fruit’.

There are a number of other instances of लेना in common compounds that do not fit the above patterns. These include हो लेना ‘[for work] to be completed’, X के साथ हो लेना ‘to accompany X’, and सो लेना ‘to finish sleeping’.

19.5 Compounds With देना

The verb देना is used in compounds in two important ways. Firstly, it is used with transitive verbs to indicate that a verbal activity is outwardly directed or carried out for the benefit of someone other than the doer. In this capacity देना stands in direct opposition to one of the uses of लेना in compounds:

दुकान जाकर वह नए कपड़े खरीद देगा।

He will go to the store and buy some clothes (for someone else).

इस गांव का बढ़ाई हमारे लिए तीन मेज़ें बना दी थीं।

‘This village’s carpenter had made three tables for us’.

Secondly, देना is used with intransitive V1 elements to indicate the initiation of an activity.

सात घंटे के बाद वह उस रास्ते से चल दिया।

‘After seven hours he set off by that route’.

19.6 Syntactic Properties of V1V2 Compounds

There are a number of aspects of the compound verb in Hindi that are problematic for students. One of the most important of these concerns knowing when to use compounds and when to use single verbs.

Unfortunately, there is no simple answer to this problem, although some general guidelines concerning this matter can be provided. As a rule, compound verbs are not employed in Hindi to indicate verbal activities or states of affairs that are anticipatory or subordinate to other verbal activities within the same sentence. For example, in the sentence

वह घर लौट कर सो गया।

‘He returned home and went to sleep’

the action of returning home is anticipatory of the main action of the sentence, that of going to sleep. For this reason, the simple stem लौट- is used instead of the compound लौट आ- before the conjunctive form कर . The action of going to sleep, being the primary predicate of the sentence, is, however, amplified by a V2 element, here जाना. In general, verbs followed by कर (or

its alternate के) or by postpositions of various kinds tend not to occur in compound form. Conversely, verbs that indicate the primary action of a sentence are very likely to be compound. This is especially the case if these verbal activities are specified as being carried through to some sort of conclusion. In negative clauses the use of compound verbs is generally avoided. Thus नहीं मिला is to be considered the negative of मिल गया, not *नहीं मिल गया.

Another aspect of the compound verb in Hindi that provides some difficulty for students is knowing when to use the ने construction in conjunction with compounds. It should be recalled that the ने construction is generally used when the verb is both transitive and in one of the perfective aspectual-tenses. This statement needs to be amplified if compound verbs are concerned. The ने construction is employed with compounds if and only if each element of the compound would itself require ने were it the unique verbal element of the sentence. For example, consider the compound बना लेना ‘to make something (for oneself)’. This compound requires the ने construction in the perfective because each of its two components, बनाना and लेना, independently requires ने in the perfective. By contrast, ले जाना, and ले आना, although semantically transitive (i.e., they have direct objects), do not appear in the ने construction when they are in the perfective. This is because even though लेना independently takes ने in the perfective, जाना and आना, being intransitive, do not. Since it is not the case that both components of the compound would independently require ने, the entire compound does not appear in the constructions.

* There are in Hindi other verbal compounds in which the V1 elements bear some sort of inflection. These constructions are taken up in 16.6, 30.1, and 30.6.

** Verbal stem+सकना, verbal stem+चुकना, and verbal stem+पाना

constructions, classified by some grammarians as compounds, have been discussed elsewhere (17.1).

*** हो जाना often also has the idiosyncratic sense ‘to be completed’. Thus in response to a query as to the status of some project it is appropriate to respond हो गया ‘it’s done, finished’.

**** An exception to this rule, however, is the idiomatic construction चल जाना, having the use ‘to circulate falsely, to be counterfeit’.

(Shapiro, pages 145-149)

20.1 Compounds With रखना

The verb रखना appears as a V2 element in compounds following many transitive and, on occasion, intransitive verbs. Unfortunately, it is not possible to isolate a consistent meaning contributed by रखना to such compounds. Indeed, although generalizations can be made about some of the behaviour of रखना in compounds, much of this behaviour must be considered idiosyncratic.

In some instances, the literal sense of रखना as an independent verb, namely ‘to keep, hold’ can be discerned:

माथुर जी अपने घर में दो-तीन कुत्ते पाले रखते थे।

‘Mr. Mathur used to keep two or three dogs in his home’.

उसने बड़े चमचे पाल रखे हैं।

‘He has surrounded himself with lackeys’ [cf. चमचा n.m ‘lackey’]

In other sentences, the use of रखना seems to paraphrase the use of the perfective participle of the main verb followed by हुआ, हुए etc. (28.1). Thus

जान ने ज़्यादा शराब पी रखी है।

‘John has drunk too much liquor.’

is equivalent to

जान ने ज़्यादा शराब पी हुई है।

Occasionally, रखना in compounds takes on the semantic properties of चुकना.

Thus मैंने यह पिकचर दो बार देख रखी है।

‘I have already seen this picture twice.’

is equivalent to

मैं यह पिकचर दो बार देख चुका हूँ।

Further examples of रखना as the V2 of a verbal compound include the following:

मैंने दिल्ली न जाने को कह रखा था।

‘I had told him not to go to Delhi.’

शर्मा जी ने अपनी जवानी में कई शेर मार रखे थे।

‘Mr. Sharma had killed many a lion in his youth’.

20.2 Compounds With बैठना

बैठना is employed in compound verbs designating the main verbal activity that is carried out with a lack of awareness of the part of its doer of the consequences of the action. The use of this V2 element often implies a judgement on the part of the speaker that the action is inappropriate or undesirable:

तुम क्या पागलपन कर बैठे हो।

‘What madness you have gone and done!’

तुम उस गरीब बूढ़े पर क्रोध क्यों कर बैठे?

‘Why did you get so angry with that poor old man?’

वह अपना सब कुछ छोड़ बैठा।

‘He foolishly threw away everything he had’.

The combination of the stem of उठना, ‘to rise, get up’ and बैठना has the sense ‘to jump up, to get up suddenly’:

अपनी सहेली की अवाज़ सुनकर प्रियंका (prop f) तुरंत उठ बैठी।

‘Priyanka immediately jumped up when she heard her friend’s voice’.

20.3 Compounds with पड़ना

There are at least three distinct senses in which पड़ना is used as the V2 element of V1V2 compound verbs. The verb is often encountered adding a sense of the sudden onset of a verbal activity:

बच्चा रो पड़ा।

‘The boy burst out in tears’.

बच्ची हंस पड़ी।

‘The girl burst out laughing’.

The verb is also used synonymously with देना to specify the beginning of a verbal activity.

वह उस शहर की ओर चल पड़ा (= चल दिया).

He set off towards the city.

Lastly, the verb is used in compounds in a sense close to that of its independent meaning of ‘to fall, befall’. This sense is most commonly found when the independent meaning of the V1 also betrays some sense of falling:

अशोक दूसरी मंजिल की खिड़की से गिर पड़ा।

‘Ashok fell from the second floor window’.

वह गाड़ी से ज़मीन पर कूद पड़ा।

‘He jumped from the train onto the ground’.

20.4 Compounds With उठना

Like पड़ना, उठना can be used as the V2 element in compounds to designate the suddenness or spontaneity of a verbal activity. By comparison to पड़ना, however, उठना often implies a slightly more pronounced or emphasized

initiation of the verbal activity. It can also add a sense of the speaker's negative reaction towards the activity being described:

राम दयाल का चेहरा देख कर वह बोल उठा कि सारी ग़लती मेरी है।

'When he saw Ram Dayal's face he blurted out that the entire fault was his'.

चोरों की आवाज़ सुनकर आराधना (prop. f.) कांप उठी कि कहीं वे उसको न देख लें।

'When she heard the thieves' voices Aradhana started to tremble lest they see her'.

In compounds with V1 elements whose literal meanings incorporate a sense of rising, उठना retains some of the lexical sense of 'to rise, get up':

उस दिन वह दूसरों के पहले जाग उठी।

'She got up before the others on that day.'

20.5 Compounds With पहुंचना

The V2 element पहुंचना is used in compounds with verbs of motion to denote that the act or motion also constitutes an act of arrival at some terminus.

हम पिताजी के यहां जा पहुँचे।

'We arrived at Father's place'.

बहुत देर तक कार चलाने के बाद जोगिन्दर सिंह (prop. m.) भोपाल आ पहुँचा।

'Jogindar Singh reached Bhopal after driving for a long time'.

20.6 Compounds With चलना

चलना has a number of distinct uses as the second member of compound verbs. Firstly, it can be used synonymously with जाना to specify motion directed away from the speaker:

वह अपनी बेटी को चिड़ियाघर ले चला।

'He took his daughter to the zoo'.

Secondly, the verb can be employed to indicate the drawing out over time of a verbal activity:

सोनु (prop. m) के पिता का पेट बड़ा हो चला था।

‘Sonu’s father’s stomach had (gradually) gotten larger’.

Lastly, चलना is used for the inception of a verbal activity or condition:

उसकी तबीयत खराब हो चली थी।

‘His condition started to worsen’.

20.7 Compounds With डालना

When used in verbal compounds डालना, literally, ‘to put, throw, place’, adds a sense of violence or vehemence to the meaning of the prior verbal stem.

This verb is most commonly found combined with transitive V1 elements:

उसने यह बदमाशी क्यों कर डाली?

‘Why did he do all of these evil deeds?’

बच्चे ने अपने सब नए खिलौने तोड़ डाले

‘The child broke all of his (own) new toys’.

डालना also can convey a sense of quickness or ravenousness in compounds:

उसने तुरंत जयशंकर प्रसाद की सब कविताएं पढ़ डाली।

‘He immediately read all of Jaishanker Prasad’s poems’.

The compound मार डालना has the specific sense ‘to kill’ [cf. मारना ‘to hit, strike’]:

बदमाशों ने पड़ोस के तीन छोटे बच्चों को मार डाला।

‘The ruffians killed three neighborhood children’.

20.8 Compounds With मरना

In many compounds मरना indicates that a primary verbal activity results in death. This use of मरना in compounds is clearly related to the literal meaning of मरना, 'to die':

बिल्ली गली के कुत्तों के साथ लड़ मरी।

'The cat fought with the street dogs and died'.

उस का सबसे बड़ा बेटा गांव के तालाब में डूब मारा।

'His oldest son drowned in the village pond'.

Often मरना in compounds implies the unwarranted or inappropriate quality of a verbal activity:

बड़ी अफ़सोस की बात है कि भजन (prop. m.) उसी समय आ मरा।

'It is most unfortunate that Bhajan came just then'.

मरना can also be used to indicate that some verbal activity is carried through to extreme lengths:

अंत में वह कुछ-न-कुछ कर मरेगी।

'In the end she will take drastic action'.

भारत को स्वतंत्र बनाने के लिए जवाहरलाल नेहरू लड़ मरने के लिए तैयार थे।

'Jawaharlal Nehru was ready to fight to the death to make India free'.

इस मामले में वह कुछ-न-कुछ कर मरेगा।

'He will carry this matter through to the bitter end'.

20.9 Compounds With मारना

The transitive counterpart to मरना, मारना (literally 'to hit, strike') also is frequently found in verbal compounds. In such instances the मारना element adds the sense that force was used in carrying out the action:

उसने अचानक राम को थप्पड़ दे मारा।

‘He suddenly slapped Ram’.

The verb can also be used to indicate thoughtlessness or carelessness in carrying out an activity:

तुमने उसको ऐसा पत्र क्यों भेज मारा?

‘(For heaven’s sake) why did you send him such a letter?’

(Shapiro, pp 153-156)