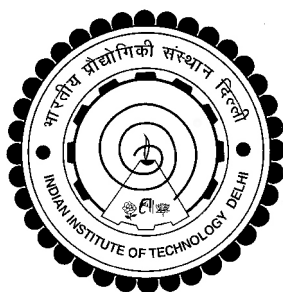


**PERSON IN PUNJABI: INVESTIGATING ARGUMENT AND CLITIC
LICENSING**

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**PERSON IN PUNJABI: INVESTIGATING ARGUMENT AND CLITIC
LICENSING**

by

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Certificate

The thesis entitled “**Person in Punjabi: Investigating Argument and Clitic Licensing**”, being submitted by **Ms. Gurmeet Kaur** to the **Indian Institute of Technology Delhi**, for the award of the degree of “**Doctor of Philosophy**” is a record *bona fide* research work carried out by her. She has worked under my supervision in conformity with rules and regulations of the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi. The research reports and results presented in the thesis have not been submitted in part or full for the award of any degree or diploma in any other University or Institutes.

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Any errors are my own.

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ABSTRACT

Person licensing (à la Bejar and Rezac, 2003) is understood as an agreement relation between a 1st/2nd person argument and a functional head in a long-distance Agree based configuration. This dissertation argues for a revision of the existing conceptualization of person licensing by undertaking a detailed investigation of argument and clitic licensing in Punjabi- a language that manifests person based split ergativity, differential object marking, and person based restriction on clitics.

The central claim of this dissertation is that person licensing is a local phenomenon that corresponds to the valuation of 1st/2nd person feature on an argument when it undergoes Internal Merge to the specifier of an appropriate functional head. This is evidenced by the licensing of 1st/2nd transitive perfective subjects in Punjabi which must obligatorily raise to the specifier of ParticipantP, located between TP and vP.

Taking this finding as its point of departure, the thesis proceeds to examine person-case licensing on 1st/2nd objects, and the 3rd clitic in Punjabi. Marked with –nuu, 1st/2nd objects in the language are shown to be licensed by movement to the edge of vP, where their person licensing requirement is subsumed by case valuation. This leads to the second crucial claim of the thesis, which states that person licensing interacts with case licensing in the derivational component. However, this interaction is asymmetric across the subject and object domain, leading to differential person effects.

In addition, the thesis presents and explains the restriction on the distribution of the 3rd person pronominal clitic in the language as ensuing from the person licensing requirement of 1st/2nd person perfective subjects.

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ABBREVIATIONS

1: 1st person

2: 2nd person

3: 3rd person

nom: nominative case

acc: accusative case

sAcc: strong accusative case

erg: ergative case

dat: dative case

obl: oblique case

m: masculine gender

f: feminine gender

sg: singular

pl: plural

pres: present tense

past: past tense

fut: future tense

perf: perfective aspect

prog: progressive aspect

hab: habitual aspect

conj. part: conjunctive participle

rel.pron: relative pronoun

poss: possessive

inf: infinitival

gen: genitive

caus: causative

foc: focus

top: topic

neg: negation

part: participial

hon: honorific