KOSTIĆ, Svetislav. *A Syntagmaticon of Hindī Verbo-Nominal Syntagmas.* Saarbrücken: LAP Lambert Academic Publishing, 2014. 2nd edition. 388 p. ISBN 9783659426650

The author of the book, Svetislav Kostić, is an expert on Indo-Aryan linguistics (comparative and historical), structure of Sanskrit grammar, grammatical structures of Hindī and modern Indo-Aryan languages (including Romani), Sanskrit and Hindī literatures, as well as Hindu rituals. He was given a Commendation for invaluable contribution to the cause of Hindī language and literature at the Seventh World Hindi Conference in 2003 in Suriname.

This book is a corrected and enhanced edition of the first edition published in 2009. It is an investigation into verbo-nominal syntagmas (VNS) of Hindī language. The treatise is limited to a discussion only of verbo-nominal syntagmas consisting of nouns and verbs, not of adjectives. The aim of the book is to define this phenomenon as accurately as possible and to present its different forms. VNS consist of two constituents, a nominal constituent (substantive noun) and a verbal constituent. The nominal constituent precedes the verb, e.g. *rang* (colour) *kar'nā* (to do) "to colour, to paint". The essential part of this book is a list of the most frequent syntagmas or expressions of the mentioned type, named Syntagmaticon. This list is an exhaustive collection of verb-noun phrases which have not been compiled in one publication yet. It is a great contribution for linguists dealing with the Hindī language for a more extensive analysis and it is also an enormous help for the learning purposes of the students of Hindī.

The book consists of five chapters. The first chapter is a short overview of different approaches to the verbo-nominal syntagmas. It contains enumeration of grammarians and linguists who are dealing with the problem of the verbo-nominal expressions, their different approaches to the use of these expressions, typology or structural relations within the sentence. It further summarises all the different terms that verbo-nominal expressions were given by various grammarians, e.g. "nominal compounds" according to Kellogg, "conjunct verbs" according to Bailey etc., and their definitions.

The second chapter deals with the formal properties of the verb-noun formations. Closer explanations of the constituents of syntagmas – nouns and verbs – can be found here. Nouns may also be followed by grammatical words, e.g. postpositions, which define their case relations to other nouns in the noun phrase, or to the verb in VNS. Noun as a constituent is a direct object in Accusative case, either marked by postposition *ko* or unmarked, i. e. equal to Direct case. This substitution of direct object by an indirect object is a very significant phenomenon of Hindī phraseology. E.g. *us ne us'kā ceh'rā dekhā* or *us ne us'ke ceh're ko dekhā*. Both sentences have the same meaning "He/she looked at her/his face", but they are slightly differentiated, as the postposition *ko* used in the second sentence emphasizes the object more.

As for the verbs, they have a formative function. There is a list of the most frequent formative verbs, whether transitive, e.g. *kar'nā* (to do), *denā* (to give), *lenā* (to take) etc., or intransitive, e.g. *honā* (to be), *ānā* (to come) etc. In cases when verb of the general meaning takes part in VNS, the object noun is very close to it or integrated with it, and thus fixed as a semantic unit (predicative phrase).

The third chapter provides deeper insight into semantic properties of the VNS. Many of the collected syntagmas show that the meanings of the combinations are either literal, e.g. *āśā* (hope) *kar'nā* (to do) "to hope" or commonly metaphoric, e.g. *gangā* (Ganga) *pār kar'nā* (to pass) "to leave to abroad", in some cases also idiomatic. Idiomatic combinations are syntactically fixed, which means they cannot appear in syntactic variations and retain their idiomatic interpretations, e.g. *ũglī kar'nā* "to harass, to vex, to plague", cannot appear as *ũgliyā̃ kar'nā* (plural) etc. This means idiomatic VNS is a fixed construction. In comparison to the idiomatic VNS, common verb syntagmas are comprehensible from the basic meanings of their components.

The fourth chapter focuses on idiomaticity of the VNS. Idioms in Hindī are very frequently used. The author has classified idioms according to semantic fields. Evidently, the majority of idioms are based on the nouns denoting body parts and organs. Instead of these, there are also idioms related with plants, eatables, animals, various human activities, natural elements and events (time, heaven, star, water, wood, wind etc.) and different things and instruments.

The fifth chapter is a conclusion drawn from the previous chapters in which the phenomenon of verbo-nominal syntagmas was analysed. VNS were examined as a more complex phenomenon, not only from its grammatical point of view.

The sixth chapter is Syntagmaticon itself. A collection of VNS which shows alphabetically (according to the Hindī alphabet) the most common idioms as well as the metaphorically and metonymically used combinations can be found here. It includes nearly eighteen hundred nouns, every noun is present with gender, etymology (Hindī, Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian etc.) and English translation. Under the noun there is a schematically ordered list of VNS with their English translation (either literal or idiomatic). The relationship amongst constituents of the syntagma is presented in following scheme:

pp. (AP)	N	pp. (AP)/N	V
1	2	3	4

The first constituent is postposition and/or adverbial phrase, the second constituent is noun, the third constituent is postposition and/or adverbial phrase, whereby under certain circumstances another noun can occur – either as a part of an adverbial phrase or as a direct object of VNS, and the fourth constituent is verb.

e.g.

pp. (AP)	N	pp. (AP)/N		V	
kī	*āvāz*	*mẽ*	*āvāz*	*milānā*	
GEN	voice	LOC	voice	to join	"to agree"

The most examples for VNS originate from body parts. The largest list of VNS is connected with the noun *ā̃kh* – the eye. Quite a long list of VNS can also be found in conjunction with noun *mũh* – mouth, *sir* – head, *nāk* – nose etc.

At the very end of this study a list of simple verbs used in VNS is attended.

The purpose of this book is to serve as a complex view on Hindī idiomaticity. It provides the reader with a punctual list of particular phrases and easy search through them. Other collections of Hindī idioms are rather unsystematic and inconsistent. Therefore the contribution of this publication is indisputable.

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GOMBÁR, Eduard. *Dějiny Libye*. [The History of Libya] Prague: Lidové noviny Publishing House, 2015. 249 p. (In Czech). ISBN 978-80-7422-363-1

Professor Eduard Gombár, working in the Institute of Near East and Africa at the Faculty of Philosophy in Charles' University in Prague, set himself a difficult task in writing the history of Libya. This comprehensive history of this North African country covers the development since prehistoric times to present day. It is undoubtedly the result of many years of successful symbiosis of the author's teaching and research work at the university.

The reader can also witness his intimate acquaintance with the region under consideration due to his frequent shorter and longer stays in many Middle Eastern countries. The book is very thoughtfully divided into sixteen chapters.

The core of the work is the exposition of the political, social and economic development of this region that was mostly colonised and dominated by different outside powers (e.g. Greeks and Romans) since the end of the seventh century A.D. and after Muslim conquests part of the Arab caliphate with its different dynasties. With the Ottoman conquest of Egypt in the sixteenth century the territory of Cyrenaica and Tripolitania was also included into the Ottoman Empire (p. 64). The process of the decline of the Ottoman Empire starting in the seventeenth century is seen as irreversible despite sincere efforts of different rulers to introduce reforms or modernisation. The author skilfully pointed to the crucial reasons for this unwelcome development. The situation had been worsened by what had happened to the country during the first half of the twentieth century. Between 1911 and 1927, the country had been ravaged by war, as Italy tried to impose colonial rule (p. 83). Despite modest British and French aid when they jointly administered Libya after 1943, the country's essentially subsistence economy was still trying to recover from the three decades of Italian Fascist colonisation and the damage caused by three years of warfare during the Second World War.

Within ten years, however, the economic picture had completely changed, as Libya entered the oil era at the beginning of the 1960s. The political situation was also