Computational Linguistics (CL3.101)

Summer 2021, IIIT Hyderabad

Graded Exercise 1

Note: The transcription system followed here is IAST. Exceptions and other sounds are represented as follows:

ń for /η/, the velar nasal

zh for /1/, the voiced retroflex approximant

! for /|/, the retroflex lateral approximant

' for /ɨ/, the closed unrounded central vowel (represented using a halant or 'u' in Malayalam)

t for /t/, the voiceless alveolar stop

 \underline{r} for /r/, the alveolar trill (r is /r/, the alveolar tap)

Voiceless consonants between vowels or between a vowel and a nasal are voiced.

Exercise 1

1. I love rainy season. I walk in rain whenever possible. My mother thinks I am mad.

എനിക്ക് മഴക്കാലം ഇഷ്ടമാണ്. സാധിക്കുമ്പോഴെല്ലാം ഞാൻ മഴയത്ത് നടക്കും. എന്റെ അമ്മയ്ക്ക് ഞാൻ വട്ടാണെന്ന് തോന്നുന്നു.

enikk' mazhakkālam iṣṭamāṇ'. sādhikkunpōzhellāṃ ñān mazhayatt' natakkuṃ. ente ammaykk' ñān vaṭṭāṇenn' tōnnunnu.

2. He is my brother. He hit the ball. The ball hit the window. The window broke. He broke the window.

അചൻ എന്റെ സഹോദരനാണ്. അവൻ പന്ത് അടിച്ചു. പന്ത് ജന്നലിൽ തട്ടി. ജന്നൽ പൊട്ടി. അവൻ ജന്നൽ പൊട്ടിച്ചു.

avan ente sahōdaranāņ'. avan pant' aţiccu. pant' jannalil taţţi. jannal potti. avan jannal potticcu.

3. The boy who is standing near the gate is my brother. വാതിലിനടുത്ത് നിൽക്കുന്ന പയ്യൻ എന്റെ സഹോദരനാണ്. vātilinatutt' nilkkunna payyan ente sahōdaranāṇ'.

Exercise 2

- (a) Malayalam has 7 cases: nominative, accusative, genitive, dative, locative, sociative, vocative. Examples are as follows:
 - (i) nominative: e.g. അവൻ (avan) "he", മേശ (mēśa) "table", പടം (paṭam) "picture"
 - (ii) accusative: e.g. അവനെ (avane) "him", മേശയെ (mēśaye) "table (acc.)", പടം (paṭam) or പടത്തെ (paṭatte) "picture (acc.)"
 - (iii) genitive: e.g. അവന്റെ (avante) "his", മേശയുടെ (mēśayuṭe) "of the table", പടത്തിന്റെ (paṭattinte) "of the picture"
 - (iv) dative: e.g. അവന് (avan') "for him", മേശയ്ക്ക് (mēśaykk') "for the table", പടത്തിന് (paṭattin') "for the picture"
 - (v) locative: e.g. അവനിൽ (avanil) "in him", മേശയിൽ (mēśayil) "in the table", പടത്തിൽ (patattil) "in the picture"
 - (vi) sociative (noun to which speech is addressed/"with"): e.g. അവനോടെ (avanoțe) "to/with him", മേശയോടെ (męśayoţe) "to/with the table", പടത്തോടെ (paṭattoţe) "to/with the table"
 - (vii) vocative: e.g. അവനേ (avanē) (untranslatable), മേശേ (mēśē) "O table!", പടമേ (paṭamē) "O picture!"

(b) Tense: There are basically two tenses: past and non-past. For example, consider the verbs ചെയ്യുക (ceyyuka) "to do":

past: ചെയ്തു (ceytu) "did", ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട് (ceytiṭṭuṇṭ') "has/have done", etc.

non-past: ചെയ്യും (ceyyum) "does/will do", ചെയ്യുന്നു (ceyyunnu) "is doing", etc.

Aspect: There are four aspects: simple, progressive, perfect (as in English), and habitual:

simple: ചെയ്തു (ceytu) "did", ചെയ്യും (ceyyum) "does/will do" progressive: ചെയ്യുകയായിരുന്നു (ceyyukayāyirunnu) "was doing", ചെയ്യുന്നു (ceyyunnu) "is doing"

habitual: ചെയ്യാറുണ്ട് (ceyyāruṇṭ') "does (habitual)"
perfect: ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ട് (ceytiṭṭuṇṭ') "has/have done", ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നു (ceytiṭṭuṇṭāyirunnu) "had done", ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടാവും (ceyiṭṭuṇṭåvum) "will have done"

Modality: The moods in Malayalam are assertive, interrogative, subjunctive, potential and conditional:

assertive: all above verb forms

interrogative: ചെയ്തോ (ceytō) "did <subject> do?", ചെയ്യുമോ

(ceyyumō) "will <subject> do?"

subjunctive: ചെയ്തേനെ (ceytene) "would have done"

potential: ചെയ്യാം (ceyyām) "can do"

condition: ചേയ്താൽ (ceytāl) "if <subject> does"

(c) Gender: Malayalam has a common gender system. Most adjectives that are not derived from verbs change according to gender:

അവൻ സുന്ദരനാണ് (avan sundaranāṇ') "he is handsome" അവൾ സുന്ദരിയാണ് (avaļ sundariyāṇ') "she is beautiful" അത് സുന്ദരമാണ് (at' sundaramāṇ') "it is beautiful"

Among substantives, third-person pronouns and animate nouns change according to gender. Verbs are not conjugated according to gender.

Number: There are two numbers, singular and plural. Pronouns and nouns distinguish them; the latter by the plural morpheme -കൾ (-kal); for example, മേശകൾ (mēśakal) "tables", പടങ്ങൾ (paṭańńal) "pictures". Pronoun plurals are irregular. Verbs are not conjugated according to number.

Person: There are three persons: first, second and third; e.g. ഞാൻ (ñān) "I", നീ (nī) "you (informal)", അവൻ (avan) "he". Verbs are not conjugated according to person.

(d) Voice is distinguished by adding a derivational suffix to the verb. For example, ചെയ്യുക (ceyyuka) "to do" and ചെയ്യപ്പെടുക (ceyyappeṭuka) "to be done". This passive verb behaves exactly like a normal verb syntactically. The agent is indicated by the accusative case and the particle കൊണ്ട് (koṇṭ'), for example:

അവൻ ചെയ്തു (avan ceytu) "he did (it)" അവനെകൊണ്ട് ചെയ്യപ്പെട്ടു (avanekkoṇṭ' ceyyappeṭṭu) "(it) was done by him"

It was noticed that a similar tense system is used in Telugu, where present and future are not always distinguished.