Linguistics I

Language Typology and Universals

Paper Presentation

Sayar Ghosh Roy

Numeral Formation in Didayi, A Munda Language

- *K. Ashirvadam*

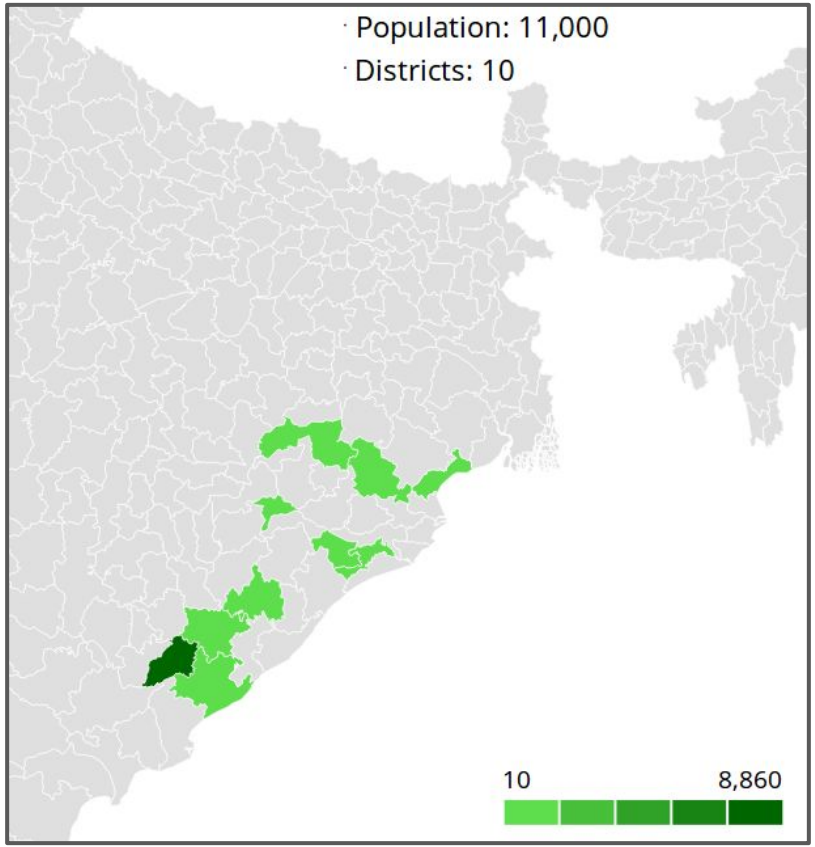
The People

Small hill tribe

Refer to themselves as ‘Gatro’, neighbors call them ‘Didayi’

Location

- Kudumulugumma and Mudaliguda Grampanchayats of Kudumulagumma Block
- Rasbada and Andrahal Grampanchayats of Khairaput Block, adjoining to the well → known Bonda hills in Malkangiri district, Orissa State
- small numbers in the neighbouring area of Sajankota Police station of Andhra Pradesh


· Population: 11,000
· Districts: 10
10
8,860

Family Structure

patriarchal and patrilineal in nature, family mostly of nuclear type

sons are required to construct their own houses within a year of their marriage and live separately from their parents

village has its own secular head called ‘Naik’, and religious head or priest called ‘Palasi’, and executive assistant called ‘Chalan’

posts are selective by practice and are more or less hereditary

village panchayat has to look after the welfare of all the tribes of the village

Language

Also called Gta’

tribal language of the South Munda family

akin to those of the Bondas and Gadabas

branch of the austroasiatic language family

within South Munda, considered to be the first branch off a node that also subsumes the Remo and Gutob languages

has two main varieties, namely Plains Didayi and Hill Didayi

Numerals

generally abundant as quantifiers combined with classifiers

actual number is denoted by the quantifiers

quantifiers are used independently, when they are used in counting or in enumerating human beings

morphosyntactic functions take place in different situations:

1. numerals take certain affixes and function as adverbs
2. attributive adjective in endocentric construction
3. as nouns

Cardinal numerals

count objects whether animate or inanimate

ten basic quantifiers in Didayi and those may be called the primitives of the numeral system

> 10 - use compounding

System:

Decimal: 11 to 19 - compound word consisting of the word for 10 to be followed by another numeral for one to nine

Decimal + Vigesimal: 20+

muin : 1
mbar : 2
nji : 3
o : 4
male : 5
tur : 6
gu : 7
tuma : 8
sontin : 9
goa : 10

goa + muin → gomin : 11
goa + mbar → gombar : 12
goa + nji → gonji : 13
goa + o → go : 14
goa + male → gomal : 15
goa + tur → gotur : 16
goa + gu → gogu : 17
goa + tuma → gotma : 18
goa + sontin → gosonti : 19

More on Cardinals

20+

- adopts both decimal and vigesimal in formation of higher numerals (Zide. 1978).
- Decimal basis: native to the dominating Indo-Aryan as well as the Dravidian, both synchronically and diachronically (Emeneau. 1957) - forming higher numerals
- vigesimal (20 based) counting system - diachronically feature of proto-Munda (Zide. 1978, Bhattacharya. 1975)
- Use 20 as base number to derive other higher numerals through the process of multiplication and addition
- numeral for 20 i.e kuri serves as the serialized multiplical for further decimals

muin kur.i : 1 x 20 = 20
muin kur.i goa : 1 x 20 + 10 = 30
mbar kur.i : 2 x 20 = 40
male.mbar kur.i : 2 x 20 + 5 = 45
mbar kur.i goa : 2 x 20 + 10 = 50
nji kur.i : 3 x 20 = 60
nji kur.i goa : 3 x 20 + 10 = 70
o kur.i : 4 x 20 = 80
o kur.i male : 4 x 20 + 5 = 85
o kur.i goa : 4 x 20 + 10 = 90
male kur.i : 5 x 20 = 100
muin suve : 1 x 100 = 100

Visegimal Examples

Intermediate numerals between decimal & twenty onwards - result of combination of multiplication and addition

The multiplier precedes the (addend) number

Examples:

`muin muin kur.i` : 1 x 20 + 1 = 21

`gotur.nji kur.i` : 4 x 20 + 16 = 76

`gombar.o kur.i` : 4 x 20 + 12 = 92

`gogo.muin suve o kur.i` : 1 x 100 + 4 x 20 + 17 = 197

Classifier

2 types

1. `ja / ya / rva / va` : human
2. `klig` : Non-human

NOTE:

Classifiers used only upto numeral 7

> 7: Original Numeral without a classifier is used to denote human and non-human

Human Entities

`muinja sela` : 1 woman
`mbaya remuahin` : 2 persons
`njirva remuahin` : 3 persons
`ondrava remuahin` : 4 persons
`malerva remuahin` : 5 persons
`turva remuahin` : 6 persons
`gurva remuahin` : 7 persons
`sontik remuahin` : 9 persons
`goa remuahin` : 10 persons

Non-Human entities and ordinals

Non-Human Entities

- `muin girin` : 1 cat
- `njiklig bohihin` : 3 books
- `oklig gusuhin` : 4 dogs
- `turklig gisiahin` : 6 monkeys
- `gurklig duvahin` : 7 houses

Ordinals: Borrowed from Oriya

- `protom` : ‘first’
- `dvitiya` : ‘second’
- `trutiya` : ‘third’

Fractional and Distributional Numerals

Fractional Numerals: Borrowed from Indo-Aryan languages, ‘odha’ meaning half is the only fractional entity

- `muin odha` : one and half
- `goturodha` : sixteen and half

Distributional Numerals: formed by reduplicating the basic numeral

- `a. muin. muind` : ‘one-each’

Certain Common Traits of Indian Languages

- *B.Ramakrishna Reddy*

Key Ideas

ILs traditionally classified in 4 major Language Families: Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Tibeto-Burman, Austro-Asiatic

ILs have acquired certain linguistic traits which transcend genetic boundaries

Mainly due to contact or ‘coexistence in a symbiotic situation’

Cultural as well as linguistic diffusion of characteristics across languages

Mass grassroot bilingualism causing mixing of grammatical features leading to formation of common core grammar with shared features

Various structural patterns are shared among various ILs

Word Order

- Unmarked basic word order being SOV
- Verb final characteristic typical of ILs, Kashmiri being an exception
- Free Word Order

Telugu: `siita paalu taagutundi`
Hindi: `siita duudh piitii hai`
English: ‘Sita drinks milk.’

Telugu: `raamuDu eddulnu ammutaaDu`
Hindi: `raam bailoonko becegaa`
English: ‘Ram will sell the bullocks.’

Structure of Noun Phrase

Adjective + Noun

Telugu: `pedda pustakam`
Hindi: `baDii kitaab`
English: ‘big book’

Genitive + Noun

Telugu: `maa illu`
Hindi: `hamaara ghar`
English: ‘our house’

Numeral + Noun

Telugu: `naalugu aavulu`
Hindi: `caar gaay`
English: ‘four cows’

Deictic Element + Noun

Telugu: `aa ammayi`
Hindi: `vah laRkii`
English: ‘that girl’

Verb Phrase

VP → DO? IO? OO? Adv? Verb

Verbal Complex has the following invariable order: Main Verb + Auxiliary

Auxiliary verb marks inflectional categories of tense, aspect, agreement

Telugu: `neenu aa pani ceeya galanu`
Hindi: `main vah kaam kar saktaahuun`
Word-by-Word: I that work do can
English: ‘I can do that work.’

Relative Participal

Left branching is a common phenomenon

When sentence or clause is used as a modifier of noun, it always precedes the head noun

Word-by-word: Ram bought + Relative part. + book
Tamil: `raaman vaankina puttakam`
Telugu: `raamuDu konina pustakam`
Dakhini: `raam kharidaa so kitaab`
Hindi: `raam kii khariidii huii kitaab`
English: ‘The book that Ram purchased…’

Conjunctive Participle Construction

Conjunction of 2 or more series of sentences with the same subject

Convert all sentences into participle construction

Resultant sentence is in finite form

Telugu: `raamuDu bhoonceesi baDiki veLLinaaDu`
Hindi: `raam khaana khaake skuul men gayaa`
Tamil: `raaman cooru saappiTTu paLLikki pooaan`
English: ‘Ram went to school after eating food.’

Reportative

Reported speech denoted with past paticiple of verb equivalent of ‘say’ as Telugu ‘ani’, Tamil ‘enru’, Kuvi ‘inje’, Marathi mhaNuun and in Dakhini and some other Indo-Aryan languages ‘bolke’.

Telugu: `siita vaccindi ani sarooja ceppindi`
Tamil: `siita vandaaL enru sarooja sonnaaL`
Kuvi: `siita vaate inje sarooja veste`
Dakhini: `siita aayi bolke sarooja bolli`
Marathi: `siita yat mhaNun sarooja sangiitli`
English: ‘Sarooja announced that Sita has arrived.’

Dative Construction

S → NP dat. + NP nom. + Verb

Indicate semantic functions of psychosomatic experience, learning, ability, beneficiary, cognition, patient, etc.

```
siita-ku siggu
```
‘Sita is Shy.’
```
aameku iita vaccu
```
‘She knows Swimming.’
```
veeNuku bahumati labhincindi
```
‘Veenu got a prize.’
```
sarojaku naluguru pillalu (unnaaru)
```
‘Saroja has 4 children.’

Aspect

Use of existential ‘be’ as an auxiliary verb

Progressive:

Telugu: `raamuDu paaDutu unnaaDu`
Hindi: `raamu gaa rahaa hai`
Tamil: `raaman paaDiTTu irukiraan`
English: ‘Rama is singing.’

Perfective:

Telugu: `siita cadivi unDindi`
Hindi: `siita paR cukii thii`
Tamil: `siita paDciTTu iruntaaL`
English: ‘Sita has read.’

Morphological Causatives

Verbal Causatives stand as equivalent to a periphrastic construction

	Meaning	Intransitive	Transitive	Causative
Hindi	To be built	bannaa	banaanaa	banvaanaa
	To eat	–	khaanaa	khilaanaa
	To open	khulnaa	kholnaa	khulvaanaa
	To meet	–	milnaa	milvaanaa
Telugu	To fall	raalu	raalcu	raalpincu
	To write	–	raayu	raayincu
	To reduce	taggu	taggincu	taggipincu

Lexical Doublets

Copulative compounds: word pairs indicating semantic sense relations between them

Hindi: `maa baap` → mother & father

Telugu: `ammaa naanna` → mother & father

Hindi: `aRos paRos` → neighbours

Telugu: `irugu porugu` → neighbours & neighbourhood

Tamil: `akkam pakkam` → here & around

Reduplicatives

Hindi: `baar baar` → many times

`paR paRkar` → having read multiple times

`dhiire dhiire` → very slowly

Telugu: `ceppi ceppi alasi poyaanu` → tired of telling repeatedly

`gala gala` → sound of bangles (onomatopoeia)

`gana gana` → sound of bells (onomatopoeia)

`bira bira` → sound of fast walk (onomatopoeia)

Thank You