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LING 112

Project 1

1.

Nouns

Root	+1 Plurality	+2 Case
Animate Nouns kuʈʈi 'child' aana 'elephant' amma 'mother' pakʂi 'bird' peɳɳə 'woman'	-ɵ SG -kaʅ PL	-ɵ NOM -(j)e ACC -jaal INSTR -il LOC -kkə DAT
Inanimate Nouns waʈi 'stick' kaʈʈil 'bed' roʈʈi 'bread' ʂarʈʈə 'shirt' pustakam 'book' coorə 'rice'		-ɵ NOM, ACC -jaal INSTR -il LOC -kkə DAT

Verbs

Root	+1 Passive	+2 State	(+3 tense)
koʈu 'give' ka 'see' ikkiʅijaakk 'tickle' kiʈa 'lay' santooʂi 'happy' wisa 'hungry" para 'fly' uraɳɳ 'sleep' waaji 'read' ti 'eat' nuʅʅ 'pinch' aaraadhi 'worship'	-kkappeʈ PASS	-aɳam 'want'	

Adjectives	Demonstrative Determiners	Personal Pronouns	Adpositions	Numerals
walija 'big' ceriija 'small' paʐajatə 'old, stale' nallawan 'good'	aa 'that, those' ii 'this, (these)'	swantam 3rd PERSON PRONOUN, SUBJECT ANTECEDENT awante, awaʅuʈe 3rd PERSON PRONOUN NON -SUBJECT ANTECEDENT	koɳʈə 'with'	patta 'ten'

Copula

aaɳə 'is'

2.

Overall, we can see that unlike English, word order does not play as big of a role in determining the meaning of a sentence (e.g. subject, direct object, indirect object, etc.). Instead, Malayalam uses case markers, which will be discussed in 3.

As long as the subject and object(s) are marked with case markers, the word order of clauses can be (In sentences with a subject, verb, and direct object <u>ONLY</u>): SOV (1a, 1b, 1d, 2a, 3a etc), SVO (2d, 5d, 12, 16a, 25), OSV (2b, 5c, 16b, 24), VOS (1c, 2c) and presumably more. However, the language seems to strongly favor the SOV word order based on a few different reasons: (1) It is the most common word order out of the four mentioned above; (2) in sentences with an inanimate object as the direct object, in which the direct object does not take on an ACC case marker, SOV usually occurs (from the examples available to us) (16c, 17a, 20, 29); (3) in sentences that contain a personal pronoun, SOV always occurs (32,33, 34, 35, 36). Reasons (2) and (3) could very well be consequences of the limitation to the number of examples we have available, but overall, Malayalam seems to favor SOV, despite its flexibility.

We can see this flexibility displayed even more when we throw indirect objects into the mix. There are a number of combinations observed: SIDV (1a, 16c), SDIV (1d), ISDV (1b) (note how the SOV structure is still intact in these combinations), SVDI (16a), DSVI (16b), and VIDS (1c).

Despite the flexibility of the word order of clauses in Malayalam, the word order of noun phrases appears to be very stable. This is exemplified best in sentences that use demonstrative determiners. If we look at all four examples in 2, we can see that despite the fact that each example displays a different word order at the clause level, the NP aa pattə walija aanakaɭe 'those ten big elephants' stays consistent in its word order. The same thing can be observed in 13's ii ceriija kuʈʈi 'this small child and in examples with personal pronouns in which the word order is always his/her NP (32-36).

Thematic roles play a big part in the word order of adpositional phrases. We see a couple types of adpositions in Malayalam: weeɳʈi 'for (the sake of),' koɳʈə 'with (as an instrument)'. Both weeɳʈi and koɳʈə come in the form of a postposition associated with thematic role nouns, where weeɳʈi is associated with a beneficiary and koɳʈə is associated with an instrument.

3.

- െ

-െ is the nominative case marker. Its function is to mark the subject of a sentence. We can see consistently throughout most of the examples (besides special cases such as when state verbs occur) that the subject is unmarked, or rather marked with a null suffix. This is more straightforward when the direct object is an animate noun and has the marker -(j)e (as we will see below), as we can clearly distinguish the subject and object. However, it gets trickier when the direct object is inanimate, since it would also take on a null affix. We saw in 2 that perhaps it is word order (i.e. SOV) which solves this problem, but this is not always the case (16a, 16b) so we may be able to boil it down to pure context that differentiates the subject and direct object is these types of situations. It is likely that native speakers are simply able to differentiate the subject and direct object when they are both unmarked because the conceptual category of 'animacy' is naturally distinguishable.

-(j)e

        -(j)e is an accusative case marker. In other words, it attaches to the direct object in a clause. We can see this displayed in many examples such as all the sentences in 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 etc. However, it does not attach to all nouns that are the object of a clause. As stated earlier in 2, -(j)e only attaches to direct objects if that direct object is an animate noun. The reason why we know this is because even though it attaches to nouns like elephant, child, mother, bird etc., it does not attach to nouns such as bed, bread and book. This is exemplified explicitly in the contrast between 10 and 11. While pakşi 'bird' must take on –(j)e (10a) and cannot be without it (*10b), kaʈʈil 'bed' cannot take on –(j)e (11b*), even though it is the object of the sentence.

        Phonologically speaking, the case marker occurs as –je when preceded by a vowel (1 etc.), and as –e when it is preceded by a consonant (2 etc.).

-kkə

        -kkə is the dative case marker, and has two main functions. The first is to mark the indirect object (1a, 16a, 29, 30). Specifically in these examples, the sentence involves the indirect object receiving either a thing or a deed done for them. Furthermore, that indirect object is the recipient or beneficiary.

        The other use of the dative marker is to mark the experiencer associated with a state verb. This is shown in examples 22, 28, and 29, in which the verb takes on the suffix aŋam 'want' and the experiencer of 'want' takes on the dative case marker --kkə. We can also see the dative case marker used in a similar way in 8a: kuʈʈikkə wisannu 'The child was hungry.' 'Hungry' as a verb essentially means that the experiencer is in a state of being hungry. This can be contrasted with the preceding example (7): amma santooşiccu 'the mother was happy.' Although this is a similar syntactic structure to 8, it cannot take on the dative case marker (7b), likely because 'happy' is not a state verb in this language.

-jaal

        -jaal is the instrumental case marker. We can also see two uses of this case marker. The first is the more obvious one, in which it marks the noun with the thematic role of instrument, seen with waʈijaal 'with the stick' (5a, 35, 36).

        The second use of the instrumental case is to mark the passive agent, in other words, the agent in a passive sentence. We can see this with kuʈʈijaal 'by the child' (27, 28) and ammajaal 'by the mother' (30).

-il

        -il is perhaps the most straight-forward case marker out of the four that we can observe from the examples we were given, or perhaps this is because it only shows up in one example. –il is a locative case marker. It attaches to a noun which expresses location, as we can see in 6: amma aa kaʈʈilil kiʈannu 'The mother lay on that bed,' where aa kaʈʈilil means 'on that bed.'

4.

　　There are three different personal pronouns in the data we have: swantam, awante, awaɭuʈe, which are all 3rd person pronouns. However, we can divide these three into two different categories based on the antecedent that they corefer.

　　The first is swantam. This has a couple characteristics that we can observe. First, we can see that it can be used for both 'his' (32, 34) and her (35), so it is does not differentiate gender. Next, it can be observed in the examples that swantam corefers the subject as the antecedent. In 32 and 34, swantam is coreferencable with the index i (i.e. the subject 'the child' as the antecedent), but not *j (i.e. some other hypothetical person that is not mentioned in the sentence as the antecedent). Likewise, in 35 swantam is coreferencable with i (i.e. the subject 'the woman'), but not *j (i.e. the direct object 'the mother'). As both 'child' and 'mother' are the subjects in these examples, we can conclude that swantam is a person pronoun that corefers the subject as the antecedent.

　　Both awante and awaɭuʈe fall into the next category. We can notice right away that unlike swantam, these pronouns do differentiate between genders (i.e 33 vs 36). Additionally, we can see that these personal pronouns corefer an antecedent that is not the subject. For example, in 36, awaɭuʈe cannot corefer the subject *'woman' but can corefer the object in this sentence, 'the mother." Even more interestingly, in 33, awante cannot corefer the subject 'the child,' but can corefer an entity that is not mentioned in this sentence. This lack of mentioning can be used as evidence to come to the conclusion that awante and awaɭuʈe do not cofer any specific entity in a syntactic structure (e.g. subject, object, etc.), but rather simply it corefers any entity that is not the subject. This is perhaps also the reason for why these personal pronouns differentiate in gender, in that the lack of specificity as to which entity in the sentence it corefers must be compensated by adding specificity in other areas, in this case, gender.

5.

　　There are two observable functions in which adjectives are used in the example sentence. The first is the modifier function (2a, 11a, 12, 13). As discussed regarding the word order of noun phrases in 2, noun phrases have a consistent structure, in which adjective also plays a role. In this specific environment, the adjectives precede the noun, as exemplified particularly well in 12: ceriija kuʈʈi kaɳʈu walija waʈi 'The small child sees the big stick,' where we can see that just as in the English translation ceriija 'small' precedes kuʈʈi 'child,' and walija 'big' precedes waʈi 'stick.'

　　The other function in which adjectives in Malayalam displays is the predicate function (14, 15a, 18, 19, 21). In most of the examples, sentences in which adjectives are used with the copula follow the order of subject-adjective-copula, but it is not limited to this order. We can see in 15b that the order can also be adjective-noun-copula. However, the copula cannot come before the adjective as observed in 15c.