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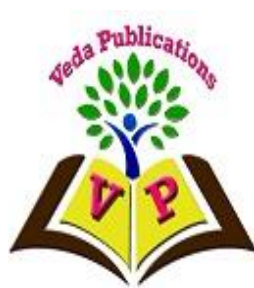# SYNTACTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ENGLISH AND TELUGU

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ABSTRACT

This paper highlights some syntactic features prevalent between English and Telugu. These insights can actually offer good amount of information on how languages are structured and varied. Such information is always useful for informed research and pedagogy. Application of the findings of linguistics in the area of syntax and structure continue to source the English Language Teaching methods and approaches all over the world. And it unimaginable to visualize the present state of ELT practices without the field of Applied Linguistics. Some of the features highlighted here in this paper include pro-drop, Expletives, Agreement, Quantifier.

Keywords: *Syntax, ELT, Syntactic Phenomenon, Pro-Drop Languages.*

Pro-drop

A pro-dropis a syntactic phenomenon. In pro-drop languages certain class of pronouns may be omitted when they are grammatically inferred. In Telugu all the pronouns may be dropped. In English this pro-drop is not possible.

S. No	English	Telugu
1.	I have come	nenuvaccanu I.NOM come.PST-1.SG.H
2.	Lorry came	lArI vachiMdi lorry.NOM come.PST-3.SG.N
3.	They came	vAlu vachAru they.NOM. come.PST-3.PL.H.
4.	I ate food	annaM tinnAnu food.NOM eat.PST-1SG.H

Expletive subjects

An Expletive subject (EXPL) is a word that performs a syntactic role but cannot contribute anything to meaning. In English such construction are seen where as in Telugu this phenomenon is absent.

English	Telugu
It rained	-----
There comes Guruji	-----

Agreement

Agreement is "grammatical relationship in which there is a correspondence between the forms of two elements; between the noun and the verb or between the subject and object in a sentence." Keith Brown (2006). It also got the other names like concord and government in the syntactic analysis. It is also an instance of inflection that usually involves the creation of the value of some grammatical category such as

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gender, person and number agreement between mixed words or parts of the sentence. (Parameswari: 2014). The agreement may be grammatical or lexical. Grammatical agreement plugs the parts of the sentences that are related jointly in spite of its parts which come into view together. As has been discussed above, the agreement varies from language family to language family. In English, the major agreement regulator is the sentence subject. The agreement sometimes targets verbs and pronouns, and the main agreement categories like person, number and gender. The case of literature, writers enlarge anaccount of number agreement, whose beliefsconcentrate onthe pronouns that obtain number lexically, while the verbsaccomplish it syntactically similar assistances from number meaning and from the numbermorphology of agreement managers.

Noun Quantifier Agreement

Quantifiers are lexical items. These lexical items express the amount of the quantity that noun is used for carrying out the amount. These are used in noun phrases irrespective their family affiliation, indicating number or amount being referred to. These lexical items modify to show agreement among the complement nouns in Gender-Number-Person in Telugu language. But these are not available in English.

Quantifiers "andaru/antamandi" in Telugu convey the meaning of all, that many etc.

In Telugu they have the agreement where as in English the agreement does not show overtly in sentences.

Telugu: andaru/antamandi manuSulu vachAru

All/ that many   people-PL. come PST-3.SG.H.

English:All those people came. or Everybody came

Telugu: manuSulu aMdaru/aMtamaMdi vachAru

people-pl   that many   PST-3.SG.H.

English: '[all men/ that many has] came.'

Quantifiers "andaru/antamandi" in Telugu and all, that many in English occur as Universal Quantifiers (UQ). They agree in number with quantified nouns [+hum] in Telugu. They don't have any agreement in English. The Universal Quantification Marker (UQM) in Telugu (i.e. lengthening of a final vowel) is obligatorily used with the second entity of noun phrase. In Telugu, "*andaru*" in its post-nominal position has an alternative equivalent "*anta*" where the human agreement marker is invisible. But these post nominal position has no alternative equivalent in English. The alternation of "andaru" is possible from front to back and back to forth in Telugu. Such kind of provision is not possible in English at all. The following examples will illustrate the back and forth movement of andaru;

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Telugu: andaru manuSulu   vaccAru

all   people- PL. UQM   PST-3.SG.H.

English:All people came.

Telugu: manuSulu andar-u   ant-A   vaccAru

people- pl   all   UQM   all   UQM
            PST-3.SG.H.

English:All people came.

Telugu: andaru vaccAru

        all-UQM   come.PST-3.SG.H.

English:All people came.

Quantifiers "anni*"* in Telugu occur as Existential Quantifiers (EQ). The quantified[-hum] is marked obligatorily for theplural marker in Telugu. When transposed, the quantifiednoun with number agreement moves to left side of quantifiers. The quantified nounmay be dropped in case, if the context is understood. This kind of the facility is not at all possible in English language. Since it is position destined language, the provision may change the semantic nature of the sentence.

Telugu: nA daggara anni pustaka:lu vunnAyi

I   near   that many be-NON.FUT- 3.PL.N.

English:I have that many (books).

Telugu: nA daggara pusta-kAlu ann-I   unnAyi

 I near books-pl. All be-UQM NON.FUT-3.PL.N.

Telugu: nA daggara ann-I   unnAyi

I   near   all UQM be-NON.FUT-3.PL.N.

English: I have all.

    Unmarked forms are those that designate a linguistic form, in which a specific feature is absent. As in the case of Telugu, the unmarked quantifiers are those that are equipped with higher frequency of occurrence and wider range of usage in the language is very common. These will not have any kind of stylistic or emotional meaning in a given context. The semantic features of these corresponding quantifiers have either [-count] or [-hum] in Telugu. For example "inta, anta, enta, and eMto" are the examples for the unmarked quantifiers in Telugu. In English these unmarked quantifiers corresponds to the words like `that many', `these many', `how many' and `so many' respectively. The following examples will illustrate the unmarked quantifiers in Telugu and English.

Telugu: kondaru   pillalu anni pustakA-lu chadivAru

  some children all book-PL. read-PT.

English: some children red all the books.

Telugu: komdaru pillalu anni paMdlu tinesAru

    some child-PL. all fruit-PL.eat-PT.pl

English: some children ate all the fruits

Telugu: nA daggara konni paMdlu unnAyi

    I   near   some   fruit-pl have-pl

   English: I have some fruits

Telugu: Jenni daggara aMta paMchadAra   uMdi

 Jenni   near   that much sugar   have

English: Jenni have that much sugar

Demonstratives -head agreement:

Demonstratives are function words that convey or designate an adjective or pronoun which serves to distinguish between the members of a class specifically **I, A** and **idi and adi** in Telugu. In English these correspond to the words like this or that and sometimes these and those. In Telugu these demonstratives does not show any agreement in this aspect. Telugu shows human, non-human distinction in cardinals, ordinals, quantifiers. English also behaves in similar way where Demonstratives - head agreement can't be executed. The following examples will illustrate the phenomenon.

Telugu: EabbAyi annaM tinnAdu

This boy.NOM. EMPH. food.ate.PST.3SG.m

English: This boy ate food

Adjective-head agreement

Adjectives qualify the nouns or pronouns in a sentence. In Telugu and English the adjectives do notinflect for number, person and gender with respect to the head noun.

Telugu:sanna batta

 Thin.Adj.cloth

Telugu: andamayina ammAyi

beautiful.ADJ. girl.

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Cardinal Number Word and Head Agreement

Telugu makes distinction between the human and the non-human in the use of cardinal numbers. This kind of implementation is not possible in English. But cardinals play the job of the noun in both the languages and remains as it is.

Telugu: rendu pustakAlu

 two   book.PL-NON.H

English: Two books

Telugu:iddaru ammAyilu

 two.H girl.H.PL.

English:Two girls

Ordinal-head Agreement:

Telugu ordinals do not inflect for number andgender when they are in modifier position but when they are in predicate position they will take pronominalized endingto agree the head noun. This is not possible in English language.

Telugu: atanu rendo koduku

 he.3SG.. second   son.SG.

English: 'He is the second son of him'

Telugu: idi   mUdo pandu

 this.NH is the third fruit.SG.

English: This is the third fruit

Noun -Verb Agreement

Telugu has subject – verb agreement where as English has subject and object agreement. The finite verb agrees with the subject in the sentence. Telugu verb always showsagreement with the noun in the subject position and never agrees with the object(Rama Rao, 1975).

Telugu: ammAyi   annaM   tindi

girl.SG.NOM food.NOM eat.PST3.SG.F

English: The girl ate food

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people- pl all UQM all   UQM   PST-3.SG.H.

English: All people came.

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all-UQM   come.PST-3.SG.H.

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some   child-PL. all   fruit-PL.eat-PT.pl

English: some children ate all the fruits

Telugu: nA daggara konni pandlu unnAyi

 I   near   some   fruit-pl have-pl

English: I have some fruits

Telugu: Jenni daggara anta   panchadAra   undi

Jenni   near   that much sugar   have

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two   book.PL-NON.H

English: Two books

Telugu:iddaru ammAyilu

two.H   girl.H.PL.

English:Two girls

Telugu:mugguru ammAyilu

three.H   girl.H.PL

English: 'Three girls'

Telugu:mUdu paMdlu

three.NH fruit.PL

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he.3SG.. second   son.SG.

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Telugu: ammAyi   annaM   tindi

girl.SG.NOM food.NOM eat.PST3.SG.F

English: The girl ate food

Conclusion: This type of syntactic feature demonstration is necessary not only between English and Telugu but also between English and all other Dravidian languages. Or for that case many studies have been conducted to analyse similarities and differences in structures of two languages. And these studies continue to inspire many scholars to delve deep into structural formations. There might be many other features that are not documented here. These types of studies have greatly expanded the domains of Endangered Language documentation and Applied Linguistics.

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