Control in Kannada

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Kannada (kan), Dravidian
also known as Kanarese, Canarese, Banglori, Madrassi
spoken in India (Asia)

1 Grammar Profile

1.1 Morpho-Syntax

1.1.1 Head position
head-final (postpositions, RelN)

1.1.2 Morphological type
agglutinating of the suffixing type

1.1.3 Case system
nom/acc: case overtly marked on subjects and objects; nominative (-Ø),
accusative (-anu), genitive (-a), dative (-i/ge/-a:kke), locative (-alli),
instrumental/ablative (-inda), vocative (-e:/vowel length)

1.1.4 Verbal Agreement
suffixes marking agreement with the subject in number, gender and person.

1.1.5 Null Arguments
subjects and objects can often be dropped.

1.2 Matrix Clause

1.2.1 Basic word order
SOV is unmarked, but word-order is relatively free.
1.2.2 Alternate word orders
SOV is unmarked, but most any word order is permissible, particularly in the matrix clause.

1.2.3 Ordering of nominal and pronominal arguments
SO, OS; same as nominal arguments

1.3 Embedded Clause

1.3.1 Basic word order
complement sentences are more rigidly verb-final than independent sentences

1.3.2 Verbal agreement
There is no subject/verb agreement in infinitival complements

1.3.3 Possible morphological categories of the embedded clause
special forms of the verb-verbal participle; relative participle: -a CV: -Ø/-α; gerund non-past: -udu
CV: -o:d (+ -ak), past: -iddu CV: -id (+ -ak); infinitive: -a(l)(u) CV: -lik (CV = colloquial variety)

2 Control Profile

2.1 forward subject control into infinitival complement

2.1.1 Example structure
(1) madhurai [Øi bomba:y-ige ho:g-alu] nira:karisidaLu
madhura-nom bombay-dat go-inf refuse-past-3sf
'Madhura refused to go to Bombay'

2.1.2 Predicates participating in the construction
desiderative verbs: iSTapaDu 'like', tavakisu 'be anxious'
implicative verbs: prayatnisu 'try', nira:karisu 'refuse'

2.2 forward subject control into gerund complement
Both gerund and infinitival complements can form control structures.

2.2.1 Example structure
(2) ra:man-igei [Øi i:juvudakke] baruvudilla
rama-dat swim-n.past-ger-dat come-n.past-ger-neg
'Rama doesn’t know swimming'

2.2.2 Predicates participating in the construction
modal verb: baruvu 'come/know'

2.3 forward object control into infinitival complement

2.3.1 Example structure
(3) madhura ansi-gei [Øi pa:tre toLey-alu] he:LidaLu
madhura-nom ansi-dat dishes wash-inf say-past-3sf
'Madhura asked Ansi to wash the dishes'
2.3.2 Predicates participating in the construction

- communication verbs: a:gnā:pisu 'command', he:lu 'tell'
- manipulative verbs: otta:yisu 'persuade', pusala:yisu 'cajole'

References


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