

SYNTAX

Until very recently, Kannada syntax has not been thoroughly studied. In the last fifteen years, a number of doctoral dissertations have appeared (e.g., Ramanujan 1963, Nayak 1967, Ullrich 1968, Nadkarni 1970) that have treated various aspects of Kannada either in a general way or as a study of particulars of specific dialects. No thorough study of the syntax of modern Kannada has yet appeared in English, and when the first draft of this grammar was written, D. N. S. Bhatt's *kannada vaakyagalu* (1978) had not yet become available in this country. That work treats the subject of syntax in Kannada thoroughly and in a modern framework; unfortunately, because it is not in English, it is not available for reference for those knowing no Kannada. Until the appearance of this work, the task of writing about Kannada syntax in English consisted of summarizing the few existing studies; since its appearance, an adequate presentation of Kannada syntax requires a translation of his study into English. Obviously, this is not a possibility, but neither would an English summarization be sufficient.

Our solution, and we are fully aware of its deficiencies, is to present a revised version of our earlier draft of this chapter, with cross-references to Bhatt wherever pertinent. In the meantime, we await either a full translation into English of his work, so that non-Kannada speaking scholars can benefit from it, or other studies of Kannada syntax stimulated by it.

4.0.1. Word Order. The basic word order in a Kannada sentence is Subject-Object-Verb (SOV). Other orders can be found in a sentence, due to stylistic variation or for other reasons. Generally, the verb occurs as the last constituent of the sentence. However, sometimes in colloquial speech, the verb may be followed either by the subject or the object; this may be called "after-thought" word order, since the speaker may not have thought out the sentence well and wants to add something. It may also be due to extraposition (see 4.10.1), which has the function of focusing on some element of the sentence for emphasis or other reasons.

Traditionally, a simple sentence is described as consisting of a subject and a predicate as shown below:

Subject	Predicate	
	Object	Verb
<i>avanu</i>	<i>paaT(h)a</i>	<i>oodda</i>
he	lesson	studied
'he studied the lesson'		

4.0.1.1. Subject. The subject of a sentence is usually a noun or noun phrase. It usually occurs in the nominative case (see 2.3.1), except in certain instances where the sentence has either a psychological verb or a stative-defective verb (see 3.7), or where the sentence has the copula *iru* in the sense of 'have' (see 3.7.4). In these cases, the subject occurs with the dative case as shown below:

<i>nange tale noovatte</i>	'I have a headache'
to me head aches	
<i>ninge kannada gottaa?</i>	'do you know Kannada?'
to you Kannada known Q	
<i>avrig erD makL iddaare</i>	'he has two children'
to him two children exist	
<i>arsarig doD armane ide</i>	'the king has a big palace'
to the king big palace exists	

The subject of a sentence is an important structural element and plays a crucial role in many grammatical processes in the language. As already noted, the subject occurs normally in the initial portion of a sentence.

It is always in agreement with the verb with respect to PNG (see 3.4.1), except in the case of those dative subjects discussed earlier.

<i>naanu</i>	} <i>pustaka</i> book }	<i>oodtiini</i>	'I read the book'
I		read	
<i>naavu</i>		<i>oodtiivi</i>	'we read the book'
we		read	
<i>niinu</i>		<i>oodtii(ya)</i>	'you read the book'
you (sing')		read	
<i>niivu</i>		<i>oodtiiri</i>	'you read the book'
you (pl.)		read	
<i>avanu</i>		<i>oodtaane</i>	'he reads the book'
he		reads	
<i>avaLu</i>	<i>oodtaaLe</i>	'she reads the book'	
she	reads		
<i>avaru</i>	<i>oodtaare</i>	'he/she/they read(s)	
he	reads(s)	the book'	
she			
they			

When a sentence is passivized, it is the subject that is optionally moved to the object position along with the instrumental case marker in the passivized sentence (see 3.11.3).

naan pustka oodde 'I read (past tense) a book'
pustaka nanninda oodalpaTtu 'the book was read by me'
 book by me read was

Further, when a sentence contains another noun or pronoun (third person only) that is coreferential, i.e., refers to the same thing, as the subject, this noun or pronoun is replaced by the reflexive pronoun *taanu* (Sridhar 1979:3). This is illustrated by the following examples:

avn tan maneeeg hoogtaane 'he goes to his (own) house'
 he his own house goes
avn nang tan mane toorsda 'he showed me his (own) house'
 he to me his own house showed

In the last example, *tan* 'one's own' can only refer to *avn*, the subject, and not to *nange*, the indirect object.

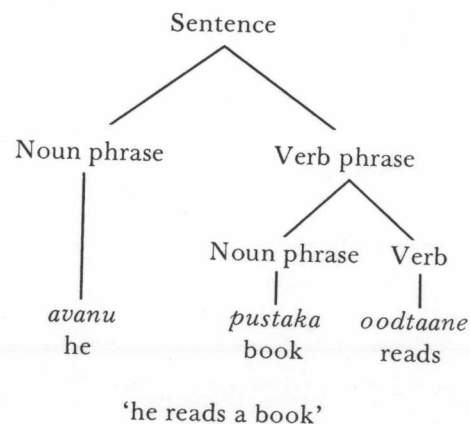
4.0.2. Predicate. The predicate of a sentence (in addition to the structures seen above) may consist of a noun phrase only (with no obvious verb present on the surface level). In these cases, the sentence consists of two noun phrases, one as the subject and the other as the predicate, and it is called an equational sentence; such sentences usually express the "identity" of the two nouns.

avr meeStru 'he is a teacher'
 he teacher
naan huDga 'I am a boy'
 I boy

The predicate may also have only a verb:

avn hoogtaane 'he goes (somewhere)'
 he goes
naan bande 'I came'
 I came

The predicate may also have a noun (phrase) and a verb as well. The two together make up the verb phrase. The object of a sentence is the noun phrase "dominated" by (affected by) the verb phrase. This can be illustrated by the following tree diagram:



In this sentence there are two noun phrases, one as the subject, *avanu*, dominated directly by the sentence node, and one in the predicate, *pustaka*, dominated by the verb phrase, that is, the object of the verb.

