

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.

