

## **Case System in Kangri Language**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Case refers to the relation that one word has to another in a sentence. Every language has different case system. This study explains about case system in Kangri Language. This language is used by the people who live in Hamirpur. Hamirpur is one of the states in India. There are some methodology and technique involve for the analysis of the data. Some are done inside the class and others are outside the class by visiting the area where the language under study is spoken. Next step is to analyse the data collection. The researcher found that there are eight case systems in Kangri Language that are Nominative, Accusative, Dative, Genitive, Instrumental, Locative, Ablative and Commutative Case.

**Keywords:** Case Theory, Kangri Language, Case Marking

### **Introduction**

The English word *case* used in this sense comes from the Latin *casus*, which is derived from the verb *cadere*, "to fall", from the Proto-Indo-European root *kad*. The Latin word is a calque of the Greek *πτῶσις*, *ptōsis*, lit. "Falling, fall". The sense is that all other cases are considered to have "fallen" away from the nominative. This picture is also reflected in the word *declension*, from Latin *declinare*, "to lean".

The equivalent to "case" in several other European languages also derives from *casus*, including *cas* in French, *caso* in Spanish and *Kasus* in German. The Russian word *падѣж* (*padyézh*) is a calque from Greek and similarly contains a root meaning "fall", and the German *Fall* and Czech *pád* simply mean "fall", and are used for both the concept of grammatical case and to refer to physical falls. The Finnish equivalent is *sija*, which can also mean "position" or "support".

Case is a special grammatical category of a noun, pronoun, adjective, participle or numeral whose value reflects the grammatical function performed by that word in a phrase, clause or sentence. In some languages, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, determiners, participles, prepositions, numerals, articles and their modifiers take different inflected forms, depending on their case.

Languages such as Kangri belongs to Hindi. It is spoken in the Himachal Pradesh which is situated in the heart of Western Himalayas. It is a state in the North-West of India. The language spoken in this area classified as Ergative-Absolutive that refers to as system of nominal case marking where the subject of an intransitive verb has the same morphological marker as a direct object, and a different morphological marker from the subject of a transitive verb (Comrie, 1978:329). From the data collection, we can examine different types of case system found in Kangri language.

## **Methods**

There are methodologies and techniques involve for the analysis of the data. Some are done inside the class and others are outside the class. They can be classified as follow:

### **Classroom Session**

This is the first session in order to get some orientation about the procedures of the theoretical aspects of the grammar of the language. It is done under the supervision by the lecturer. In this course, we discuss about the techniques of the data collection, various topics related to the language which is being observed, the process of the data analysis, and other methodological points.

### **Data Collection in the classroom**

This becomes the next steps after the classroom session. In this step the lecturer provides one informant, who is the native speaker of the language under study is observed. In this part started by collecting data from the familiarized words to sentences and make the phonetic transcription of Kangri Language such as grouping the words into parts of speech.

### **Visiting the area where that language under study is spoken**

The third step is to visit the town of Hamirpur. This area is surrounded by mountains exactly Himalaya mountain. It is about 570 km from Delhi. Kangri language is mainly spoken by the people who live on foot of the hill in Hamirpur. The main aim of visiting this area is to collect data by asking the native speakers of that language as many as possible, so that the data that have already collected be genuine and authentic.

### **Data Analysis**

This is the final stage in collecting the data. This stage is the most important and interesting part because the data can be analysed in detail based on the topic which has chosen. In analysing the data using some theoretical frameworks and make them in the right arrangement of report.

## **Discussions**

The term case has been adopted both in descriptive and derivational analysis of languages. In descriptive grammar, it is related with formal marking grammatical relations on nouns or it is sometimes regarded as one of the inflectional properties. In derivational generative grammar, it is an abstract feature that is signed or checked under a certain syntactic environment, so that it signals a structural dependency relation between the governor and the governed.

The following examples are the case system in Kangri. They can be described as follow:

### **Nominative Case**

It is the relationship of the verb with its subject. NP is indicated by the nominative case as in (a). The subject of finite clause is assigned nominative case by which has the feature (+YNS, +AGR). Look at the example below:

tuha	student	anne
You-2MPI-Nom	student-PI	be-pres
‘You are students’.		

From the example above, we can observe that the subject NPs is in the Nominative case. In the nominative case, the subject NPs of intransitive and transitive verbs are overtly marked. They are not marked by any suffix to indicate case marker. Therefore, we have an assumption in that in Kangri Nominative case is zero case-marker.

#### **Accusative Case**

The accusative case indicates the relationship between the verb and its direct object NP of a transitive verb. Look at the example below:

Abhishek – e	ti-jo	gift	diy- ta
Abhishek-3MS-Erg	him-acc	a gift-MS	give-pst-MS

‘Abhishek gave him a gift’.

In sentence (b) this NPs ti-jo ‘him’ is the object of the transitive verb. This object is overtly marked by the suffix ‘-Jo’ which is attached to this object NPs.

#### **Dative Case**

The dative case indicates the relationship between the verb and its indirect object NP. It is inherent case which is dependent on theta role assignment and government. This occurs only with the ditransitive verbs, which take two object NPs, one as indirect object and another direct object. Consider the following sentence:

Se	mij- jo	ikke	pen	dit- ta
He-3MS-Nom	me-dat	a pen	give	pres-MS

‘ He gives me a pen’.

The example above uses ditransitive verb. From the data, we observe that each sentence has two internal arguments that are direct object NP and indirect object NP. The sentence has the indirect object NPs which is in the dative case. It is overtly marked by the suffix –jo.

#### **Genitive Case**

According to Chomsky (1995) genitive case is inherent case because inherent case is assigned by beta to NP only if beta theta-marks NP. The genitive case indicates the relationship between nouns or pronoun in a sentence. The following is examples of the genitive case in Kangri:

uha – da	cola
Her-Gen	bag-MS

‘Her bag’.

The suffix –da like the example uha-da is used if the NPs is in singular form and the grammatical gender for this NPs is masculine. The possessed NPs is assigned the genitive case by the overt genitive case marker –da. The suffix –da shows that there is an agreement between the possessors and possesses.

#### **Instrumental Case**

Since the instrumental case relation indicates that an NP is instrumental in carrying out the action by the verb, we shall see how it is assigned case in Kangri. Consider the following sentence:

Se	baltia –ne	pani-jo	per-da
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He-3MS-Nom      bucket-inst      water-acc      carry-pres  
'He carries water with a bucket'.

In sentence e, we observe that the NPs *baltia* 'bucket' is said to be in the instrumental case. Therefore, in Kangri postposition *-ne* 'with' is used to mark the instrumental case.

#### **Locative Case**

The locative case is said to indicate the place of action referred by the verb in the sentence. Let us look at the example:

Se                      *japan - a -jo*                      *jan -da*  
He-3MS-Nom      *japan-Nat-Loc*                      *go-pres-M*  
'He goes to Japan'.

In sentence (f) *japan* 'japan' is said to be in the locative case. The postposition *-jo* is used to mark the locative case. In Kangri there is an overt morphological locative case marker.

#### **Ablative Case**

The ablative case indicates the source from which some action has taken place or somebody or something has moved. This case is used to express the separation of a thing or person from another person. Look at the following example:

Se                      *benka -te*                      *pehe*                      *nekal -da*  
He-3MS-Nom      *bank-abl*                      *money*                      *withdraw-pres*  
'He withdraw money from the bank'.

We observe that in sentence (g) the NPs *benka* 'bank' is in ablative case. Thus, the ablative case marking in Kangri is overtly marked because of the ablative case marker *-te* 'from'.

#### **Comitative Case**

The comitative case indicates that the person or thing are involved in the action. Let see the examples below:

Tini                      *minjo-kenne*                      *poto*      *kenjana*                      *e*  
He-3MS-Nom      *me-com*                      *poto*      *take*                      *be-fut*  
'He will take photo with me'.

In this example above we find that the postposition *-kenne* 'with' is used to mark the comitative case in Kangri. Therefore, the NPs *minjo* 'me' is in the comitative case. Thus, in Kangri the postposition *kenne* 'with' assign the comitative case for the NPs in that sentence.

#### **Ergative-Absolutive Case**

Ergativity plays a role in verb agreement. In the ergative pattern, it is common for the absolutive case-marked NP to trigger its verbal agreement. Ergativity is a term used to refer to a system of case marking which treats both the subject of an intransitive verb and the direct object of a transitive verb in the same way and differentiate the way of a transitive verb is cased marked.

The subject of transitive verb is said to be in the ergative case whereas the subject of the transitive verb, are referred to as being in the absolutive case. In an ergative system of case marking there is normally zero marking for absolutive.

Let us consider these sentences below:

i. Karim – e                      cay                      pi                      ti  
Karim-3MS-Erg                tea-MS                drink                Perf-MS  
“Karim drank the tea”.

From the sentence above we can observe that the subject NPs is in the ergative case. That is the subject NPs of those transitive verbs is overtly marked by the morphological ergative markers in (i) Karim is not in the nominative case. The subject NP Karim is said to be in the ergative case because of the presence of the overt morphological ergative markers /-e/. Furthermore, the direct object NP in (a) cay ‘tea’ is in the absolutive.

### **References**

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