RESEARCH ARTICLE

A SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF DEICTIC REFERENCE USE OF VERBS OF MOTION IN TELUGU AND ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

The present work is an attempt at a semantic analysis of deictic reference of Motion verbs in Telugu and English. Characterizing the semantic organization of the motion situation these verbs operate in, an attempt has been made to show and discusses the deictic reference, the location of persons and objects in relation to the spatio-temporal co ordinations of the act of utterance, inherent in the specification of the verbs of motion in Telugu and English. Telugu presents an interesting picture in regard to deictic reference for whereas English verbs with the exception of verb-pairs such as 'come'/ 'go', 'bring'/take ' and 'arrive' / 'depart ' are unspecified to deictic reference, Telugu can, in a majority of cases convey information of direction away from or towards the speaker through a compounding process.

Keywords: Semantics, theoretical Linguistics, syntax, Motion verbs, thematic roles, deictic references.

INTRODUCTION

The present work is a study of a semantic analysis of Deictic Reference use of verbs of motion in English and Telugu. I will investigate into the deictic reference provided by the verbs of motion. English and Telugu present quite a contrast as far as deictic reference is concerned. In English 'come' and 'go' are the main verbs that have an inbuilt reference to the location of the speaker while Telugu allows for deictic reference through a compounding process.The purpose here is to explore the semantic structures underlying the verbs of motion and see how they relate to syntactic structures also. Verbs of motion which form part of the language are interpreted as a system meanings accompanied by forms through which meanings can be realized. The semantics is crucial and plays main role in the study of language.

The present study is not merely an exercise in contrastive analysis; rather the concern is to explore how different languages (English and Telugu in the present study) conceptualize a motion situation and how they exhibit differences or similarities in realizing it at the semantic level of sentence structure. We look at language from a semantic perspective; inter sentential constraints play a role that is problems more important than under other views of language for a number of limitations which cross sentence boundaries are clearly semantic in nature. A situation that can be considered to consist of, one object moving or located with respect to another object will be termed a motion situation and symbolized (*Talmy,* 1975*:*181*).*Talmy conceives of the

motion situation to consist of four components, figure, ground, path and the state- of- motion. Figure refers to the moving object, ground to the located object. Path refers to the particular course followed or site occupied by the figure with respect to the ground and the state of motion can be either moving or stationary. Outside the motion/ location event proper the figure can concurrently be in some independent activity or state, bearing the relation manner to the first event. In terms of generative underlying structure, a motion/ location event will be represented by a four –constituent phrase-marker, the figure object by the subject nominal, the ground object by the (oblique) object nominal; the path by an ad position and the state-of-motion by the verb; in particular by either of the two deep verbs represent able as MOVE and BE-LOCATED (*Talmy: 1978:641-642).*

The Importance of Verbs

We shall begin our study by comparing the points of view of various linguistics as regards the primacy of verbs. In traditional linguistics, the grammatical unit 'sentence' has been postulated to account for the syntactic relation obtaining among different constituents. The sentence nucleus has been analyzed in two parts: a nominal subject and a verbal predicate, the distinction being intrinsically linked with the difference between reference and predication. There is an alternative analysis of the structure of the proposition that is formalized in the first order calculus predicate. According to this formalization, the predicate is an operator with one or more arguments; the predicate is represented by a verbal element and arguments by nominal.

An intransitive verb is termed a one-place operator which relates one nominal to another and so on. According to this conception of constituent structure of sentences, the verbal element appears to be 'the pivot of the sentence nucleus '(*Lyons, 1977; 434; 5).*In Sanskrit grammatical tradition, too, the verb is considered to occupy the central place, for the only portion of syntax treated separately in Sanskrit grammars is the 'karak prakarana' or the chapter on 'government' 'karak'.   Incidentally is defined as a relation between a noun and a verb in a sentence. *Fillmore (1968)* has extended the notion of government in his theory of case relation to provide a universal framework for syntactic analysis. In Fillmore's theory, the subject noun in a sentence may enjoy special status in descriptions of theme-rhyme system but it has no significance in constituent structure that the deep syntax level. The deep structure of a sentence in regarded as consisting of predicate that in the verb and a number of roles or the cases associated with it. There is no direct correspondence between deep cases and their surface relation as subject, object or various pre phrases.We shall refer to predicative elements as verbs and nominal elements as nouns*. Chafe (1970: 96)* dichotomizes the total human conceptual universe into two major areas; one, the area of the verb , embraces states (conditions, qualities) and event , the other , the area of the noun embraces ' things' both physical projects and refined abstractions of these, Two, the verb will be assumed to be central and the noun peripheral ….in every language a verb is present semantically in all but a few marginal utterances as in 'oh !'. 'Ouch' etc.

A verb is always present, though it may, in some instances be deleted before a surface structure is reached. the nature of the verb determines what the rest of the sentence will be like; in particular, it determines what noun will accompany it, what the relation of these nouns to it will be, semantically specified for example suppose the verb is specified as an action , as we shall see is true of the verb in the men laughed. Such a verb dictates that it be accompanied by a noun, that the noun be specified as animate perhaps also as human.

Verbs of Motion

By the verbs of motion, we mean the verbs that involve concrete physical movements in perceptual space. *Gruber (1965)* in 'studies in lexical relations' studies the verbs of motion and the thematic functions they involve. But his interest is not in the analysis of the structure of motion –verbs per se but in more general notions which are probably derived from concrete concepts of physical motion. The main characteristic feature of his analysis is that all verbs of a language fall into movement and nonmovement verbs and that all sentences are characterized by certain semantic functions which form the thematic kernel pattern of 'theme', 'source', and 'Goal'.The notion 'theme' pertains to an entity which is conceived of as moving, the notion 'source' pertains to the location from where the movement originates. *Jackendoff (1972)* incorporates the thematic analysis of Gruber into his interpretive semantic approach. His lexical entry for verbs contains a so-called functional structure which is in fact, a prepositional function whose arguments fulfill specific semantic

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functions. *Verkuyl (1976*) analyzes the semantic functions theme, source and goal in terms of a CHANGE-of state PREDICATION, consisting of a two –place predicate CHANGE and two arguments, namely a source-preposition and a goal-proposition.

The domain chosen for our purpose is that of motion *event,* because motion is one of the primary experiential domains in human life and therefore bound to be lexicalized in all languages. A number of approaches has been suggested for dealing with issues related to lexicalization patterns in motion expressions, most of which have concentrated on the meaning of verbs or V+PPS. There is no doubt that verb meaning is central to any account of motion lexicalization in languages. Our primary aim in this study is to analyze the semantic organization of Deictic reference use of the motion verb situation as is realized in surface structure at the syntactic level in English and Telugu. Gruber's main aim is to propose a pre-lexical level of representation which will be relevant to semantic as to syntactic interpretation and 'will be derivationally prior to the attachment of lexical items to the base structure, which event constitutes the syntactic interpretation' *(Gruber, 1975:2).* His approach is to investigate the lexical relationships among verbs, verbs that refer to relatively concrete situations, such as position, motion, possession, identification, etc. and the syntax of particular verbs will be established by means of the lexical entry of the verbs in terms of the prelexical categorical structure. We will concentrate our attention on.

Analysis

Deictic Reference Use of Motion Verbs

The term **deixis** refers to those 'aspects of language whose interpretation is relative to the occasion of the utterance, and to times before and after the time of the utterance; to the location of the speaker at the time of the utterance; and to the identity of the speaker and intended audience.*(Fillmore:1966:220)* ,he has also discussed the deictic properties of the verbs of motion 'come' and go'. In English, the destination of 'come' may be the speaker's or the addressee's location either the time of the utterance or the time referred to in it; the destination of 'go'. On the other hand, must be somewhere other than where the speaker is at the time of the utterance.

The term deixis is used in linguistics to locate and identify persons, objects, events, processes and activities being talked about in relation to the spatio-temporal context created by the act of utterance in which the speaker and the addressee participate. The grammticalization and lexicalization of deixis is compressible in the context of the canonical situation of utterance in which the speaker by virtue of being the speaker identifies himself with the ego and his view-point becomes the point of orientation. this derives from the phenomenon that 'the main center of the perceptual world is the ego: positions are perceived in relation to the ego, as far or near, in front or in back , up or down, left or right, and so on' *(Clark: 1976).*In English and Telugu systems, the spatial deictic system has two oppositions: proximal vs. non-proximal , the speaker's location expressed by '**here'** in English / *'ekkada'* in Telugu and all other locations expressed by '**there'** in English/ *'akkada'* in Telugu. *(Clark: 1973).*

Verbs of motion as exemplified by the more general verbs *'come'/'vaccu'* and *'go'/'vellu'* have a deictic reference built into their structure apart from the central meaning of movement which is unspecified with regard to manner, medium and means. They share in common an implication of motion in one of the two opposed directions with respect to a given place p which is determined by the zero-point , 'here-now', of the deictic context. 'he was coming' implies 'he was coming here/there' whereas 'he was going' implies 'he was going to not-here' (not- here' lexicalized as 'there'). These points to an important distinction between the set of presuppositions associated with the use of *'come'* and *'go'. Fillmore (1972:18*) gives the following examples of a sentence of the form.

O(object) comes to P (place) at T (time) in which it is presupposed of P that it is either

  i.   Where the speaker of the sentence is at the time of utterance ;

            or

  ii.   Where the addressee of the sentence is at the time of the utterance;

            or

  iii.   Where the speaker of the sentence is/was/ will be at T;

or

iv.   Where the addressee of the sentence is/was/will be at T.

These possibilities may get considerably reduced in a sentence depending on other deictic references. With 'go', on the other hand, the presupposition is that the speaker of the sentence is not at the goal-position at the time of utterance. 'Come' is always positively specified in relation to the goal of the motion while 'go' is negatively specified. This gets reflected in the entailment relations between the pro positions with '***come'*** and ***'go'*** .

1.   John has come home

Asserts   *'John is at home'* at the time of the utterance,

2.   John has gone home

Does not assert '*John is at home'* at the time of the utterance.

In English , the verbs are unspecified as to deictic reference, except for the verb pairs 'come' /'go', 'bring'/'take' and 'arrive'/'depart' . In Telugu, on the other hand, a majority of verbs can convey information of direction away from or towards the speaker. This becomes possible because of the compounding process in Telugu which combines ***'vaccu'*** or ***'vellu'*** with the verb root ***'vaccu'*** is a marked term for direction towards the speaker whereas ***'vellu'*** may be only an intensifier indicating completion. Consider the followi

3.   Jon   odd-vipi-ki   iidu-thu poy-aa –du /iiduthu vacc-aa-du

   Jon-nom   shore-towards-dat swim-progaspect go past-PNG/come-past-PNG

    John swam up to the shore

4.   jon   neru-piabagamuna iiduthu vacc-aa-du/iiduthu poy-aa-du

   John-nom water-surface   swim-progaspect   go-past-PNG/come-past-PNG

  John floated up to the   surface   of water.

5.   jon   konda-krinda-ku   dorl-i- po-ay-du/dorl-i vell-aa-du.

   John-nom hill-down-dat   roll-pastpart-go-past-PNG/come-past-PNG

   John rolled down the hill.

6.   jon   kanche-pai-nundi   duk-i po-ya-du/ duk-i vach-aa-du.

   John -nom   fence-over from   jump-past parti-go-past-PNG/come-past-PNG

   John jumped over the fence.

7.   jon   gurram- mida-nundi   padipoyadu/padenu/ * Padi- vaccenu.

  John-nom   horse upon-from fall-past partic-went-PNG/fell PNG/* fall- pastcome

   John tumbled off the horse.

8.   jon   gurramu- nundi   padi-po-ya-du   /   *padi- vacc-aa-du.

   John-nom horse-from   fall-past part-go-past-PNG /*fall-past-come-PNG

   John fell from the horse.

9.   Pusthakamulu   padi-po-yi-nai   / * padi vaccinai.

   Books   fall-past parti-past-PNG / *fall-past part -PNG

   The books dropped.

10.   aa banti gadhi- lopali-ki   egiri- po-yin-di   / egiri vaccindi.

  The ball   room inside-dat   bounce-past parti-go-pas-PNG/bounce-come-past-PNG

  The ball bounced into the room.

11.   aa padava   nilla-lopali-ki   muni-gi- po-yin-di/ *muni-gi vaccine-di.

   The boat water-inside-dat sink-pastparti-go-past-PNG/*sink-past parti-comepast-PNG

  The boat sank into the water.

In Telugu translation we find that equivalents of 'drop' 'fall' 'tumble; 'sink', do not permit the compound form with ***'vaccu'*** while they take the ***'vellu'*** form. Moreover, what is to be noted in other cases is the fact that ***'vaccu'*** form is more normal; ***'vaccu'*** is used when there is a specific reference to the location of the speaker being proximal.

Lyons (1975) has pointed out that in the deictic distinction of proximity, as it operates in English, this and here are semantically marked in relation to that and there: the opposition is proximal vs. non-proximal, not

proximal vs. Distal. This might well be the case with Telugu. In English this may point to the fact that, too, when there is no explicit reference to location of the speaker in relation to the event described, the implicit deictic reference is non - proximal. Yet in (3- 4) when the goal phrase is specified to have the extent meaning, the implicit reference is to the proximity of the universe of discourse. In Telugu, too, in (3- 4) *'vaccu'* is the more normal form.

This could be accounted for by the natural phenomenon that the proposition in the sentences will be asserted to be true when the shore is visible to the speaker and visibility of the shore also implies that the speaker is near the shore.

How do we account for the unacceptability of 'vaccu' in 7, 8, 9, and 11?'

We find that all the four verbs share one feature in common, i.e. they are marked 'volition'. They are not 'do'-type' verbs; rather, they are 'happen-type'. *Sinha (1972:353)* states that deictic system of 'come' and 'go' 'works the same way, even if 'come' and 'go' are the second part of a compound verb and act as explicators only'. Yet we will like to distinguish between the use of **'vaccu'** and **'vellu'** with the motion verbs since it is felt that **'vaccu'** when combined with the verbs of motion has the deictic reference of proximity to the speaker while **'vellu'** is used in two ways.**'vellu'** can be used as an intensifier emphasizing only completion of the activity expressed by the verb or it can combine deictic reference with the meaning expressed by move. Consider the following sentences:

12.   atadu   inti-pai- kappu-nundi   dorli na- mundu – padd-a-du.

   He -nom   house-top- roof-from   roll-past parti   me-before fall-past-PNG

   He rolled down the roof top in front of me.

13.   atadu inti-pai-kappu- nundi dorl-i   na- mundu

   He-nom house-top-roof-from roll-past parti me-before

   padi- po-yadu/padd-a-du

    fall-pastParti-go-past- PNG/fall-past-PNG

     He rolled down the roof top in front of me.

14.   atadu vompaina-konda- nundi dorlu-thu na – mundu-

    He-nom slopy-hil-from roll-prog aspct   me- before

    -vacci-pad- aa-du.

     come-past parti-fallpast-PNG

     He rolled down the slopy hill in front of me.

     In the example (12) with the root verb '**dorlu'** is neutral in its specification to deixis. Example (12) belongs to the self-agentive situation type where the subject of the sentence is also the agent. In (13), both'**dorli poyadu'** and **dorli paddadu'** are acceptable and convey the meaning of suddenness and accident. **'povu'** cannot be interpreted in the deictic sense since **'na mundu'** and non-proximal reference of **'povu'** are incompatible .the occurrence of 'na mundu' (in front of me) forces the interpretation of suddenness on the sentence. Moreover, the sentence belongs to the autonomous (non-agentive) situation type because of the meaning of suddenness conveyed by **'povu'/'padu'.**

     We find that **'vaccu'** does not occur with the motion verbs that are marked **'-volition'**, as in 7, 8, 9, and 11. This points to the fact that the motion verbs when they combine with **'vaccu'** have a different derivation from the verbs when theycombine with **'vellu'**. Sentence (4) is acceptable for the subject of the verb **'iiduta'** is marked **'+volition'** and the sentence with **'vaccu'** appears to have the/following two propositions underlying the surface representation:

15.   jon   iid-aa-du.

    John -nom swim-past-PNG

    John swam.

16.   Jon   oddu - paiki   vacc-aa-du.

    John -nom   shore-up   come-past-PNG

     John came up to the shore.

When the sentence 'vellu' from the   underlying propositions are:

17.   jon   iid-aa-du.
      John -nom   swim-past-PNG
      John swam.
18.   jon   oddu- paiki   vell-aa-du.
      John -nom   shore-up   go-past-PNG
        John went up to the shore.

The sentence *'jon oddu paiki iidaadu'* does not have a marked reference to the subject's movement away from the speaker; it may be used to stress the fact that John completed his task, i.e. He swam up to the shore. Sentence (10) is doubtful for *'bounce'* does not normally occur with goal phrases. In (6) 'duki*/vaccadu'* is doubtful for *'duku'* referes to a complete activity including the initial movement and the resulting movement. This may be one reason for the infelicity of expression in (6) since 'tumble', 'fall', 'sink' are not volitional movements.

This derivation is unacceptable for the entity that falls cannot have control over the movement or direction of the movement. This phenomenon applies to other verbs too.

Compare following sentences:

19.   atadu   tana   bojanamu tarvata   vacc-aa-du / vell-aa-du.
      He -nom himself   food   after   come-past-PNG/go –past-PN
      He came/went after having had his food.
20.   atadu   rangu   veuta aypoyindi/vacindi.
        He -nom   colour   paint –past- PNG/about to finish
        He   painted.

The above sentence (19) can be paraphrased as the following:

19. a. atadu   bojanamu   che-si   vacc-aa-du.
       He-nom   food   eat-past parti   come-past-PNG
       He ate food (here)Hecame (out).
     b. atadu   bojanamu   chesi   vell-aa-du'
        He-nom   food   eat -past parti   come –past-PNG
       He ate food (here). He   went (out).

Yet (20) is with *'vaccu'*, and *'povu'* does not have a deictic reference. It is only an intensifier.

Here, what is to be noted that *'bojanam'* is a volitional activity whereas '*rangu/ veuta'* is not.

Here we find out that though Telugu has a syntactic device to indicate deictic reference in its verbs of motion, there are some constructions. The following points appear from the analysis:

- In Telugu, the proximal-non-proximal opposition can be conveyed through its verb system.
- *'vaccu'* occurs in the compound verbs in which the root verb. Expresses a volitional activity.
- *vellu*' has two semantic and syntactic functions. In one meaning, it is used only as an intensifier and can occur with verbs marked **'+volition'**. It can have deictic reference only with verbs marked **'+volition'**.

The reference to proximity to the speaker is marked.

Conclusion

    We demonstrated that our datadriven approach has advantages over a theory –driven one. Our network of spatial and temporal parameters was a great help in achieving our goals. It enables us to detect language features that are relevant in the lexicalization of the experimental domain of motion and explain how they find their way into lexicalization patterns. Different interactions of language –specific systems of lexical semantics, syntax and morphology may compel speakers of a particular language to refer to some aspects of events more often than speakers of the languages. We also believe that the methodology proposed can be extended to other semantic domains. The taxonomical approach where each semantic domain –on the basis of data is examined both from the syntactic and from the semantic point of view leads to a more detailed and fruitful analysis than that seen in more general approaches to semantic roles and aspectual types. In other words, we assume that each semantic domain contains its own critical divergences between languages and

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that these can best be captured by a domain –oriented analysis (see also palmer and Wu (1995) for a comparison of English and Chinese change of state verbs. It is rather the semantic content of prepositions in the two languages that governs some of the differences observed. No Telugu postposition depicts a transition or movement along an oriented path; these notions must be contributed by the verb in Telugu or construed through the connection between verb and PP. English has prepositions that depict transition and orientation. These dynamic prepositions combine with a wider range of motion verbs to express a dynamic situation by the v+pp combination.

Appendix:

1. jon   oddu-vipi-ki   iidu-thu   poy-aa-du/iiduthu vacc-aa-du.
    John -nom shore-towards-dat swim-prog aspect go-past-PNG/come-past-PNG
    John swam up to the shore.

2. jon   neru- paibagamuna   iidu-thu   po-yaa-du/iiduthu vacc-aadu.
    John-nom water-surface   swim-progaspect   go-past-PNG/come-past-PNG
    John floated up to the   surface   of water.

3. jon   konda-krinda-ku   dorl-i- po-ay-du/dorl-i vell-aa-du.
    John-nom hill-down-dat   roll-pastpart-go-past-PNG/come-past-PNG
    John rolled down the hill.

4. jon   kanche-pai-nundi   duk-i po-ya-du/ duk-i vach-aa-du.
    John -nom   fence-over from   jump-past parti-go-past-PNG/come-past-PNG
    John jumped over the fence.

5. jon   gurram- mida-nundi   padipoyadu/padenu/ * Padi- vaccenu.
    John-nom   horse upon-from fall-past partic-went-PNG/fell PNG/* fall- pastcome
    John tumbled off the horse.

6. jon   gurramu- nundi   padi-po-ya-du   /   *padi- vacc-aa-du.
    John-nom horse-from   fall-past part-go-past-PNG /*fall-past-come-PNG
    John fell from the horse.

7. Pusthakamulu   padi-po-yi-nai   / * padi vaccinai.
    Books   fall-past parti-past-PNG / *fall-past part -PNG
    The books dropped.

8. aa banti gadhi- lopali-ki   egiri- po-yin-di   / egiri vaccindi.
    The ball   room inside-dat   bounce-past parti-go-pas-PNG/bounce-come-pastPNG
    The ball bounced into the room.

9. aa padava   nilla-lopali-ki   muni-gi- po-yin-di/ *muni-gi vaccine-di.
    The boat water-inside-dat sink-pastparti-go-past-PNG/*sink-past parti-come-past-PNG
    The boat sank into the water.

10. atadu   inti-pai- kappu-nundi   dorli   na- mundu – padd-a-du.
    He -nom   house-top- roof-from   roll-past parti   me-before fall-past-PNG
    He rolled down the roof top in front of me.

11. atadu   inti-pai-kappu- nundi   dorl-i   na- mundu padi- po-ya-du/padd-a-du
    He-nom house-top-roof-from roll-past parti me-before fall-pastParti-go-past-PNG/fall-pastPNG
    He rolled down the roof top in front of me.

12. atadu   vompaina-konda- nundi dorlu-thu   na - mundu vacci-pad-aa-du.
    He-nom slopy-hil-from roll-prog aspct   me- before come-past parti-fall-pastPNG
    He rolled down the slopy hill in front of me.

13. jon   iid-aa-du.
    John -nom swim-past-PNG
    John swam.

14. Jon   oddu - paiki   vacc-aa-du.
    John -nom   shore-up   come-past-PNG

John   came up to the shore.

15. jon   iid-aa-du.

   John -nom   swim-past-PNG

   John swam.

16. jon   oddu- paiki   vell-aa-du.

   John -nom   shore-up   go-past-PNG

   John went up to the shore.

17. atadu   tana   bojanamu tarvata   vacc-aa-du / vell-aa-du.

   He -nom himself   food   after   come-past-PNG/go –past-PNG

   He came/went after having had his food.

18. atadu   rangu   veuta aypoyindi/vacindi.

   He -nom   colour   paint –past- PNG/

    He   painted. about to finish

19. a. atadu   bojanamu   che-si   vacc-aa-du.

   He-nom   food   eat-past parti   come-past-PNG

    He ate food (here)

    He came (out).

   b. atadu   bojanamu   chesi   vell-aa-du'

     He-nom   food   eat -past parti   come –past-PNG

     He ate food (here).

     He   went (out).

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