

Case Markers in Kaprang-Tangkhul

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Abstract: *This paper attempts to describe the case markers used in Kaprang-Tangkhul a Tibeto-Burman language which is typographically closely connected with its neighbouring district of Thoubal. Kaprang-Tangkhul is the name of the village as well as the name of the Tangkhul Tribe. Kaprang-Tangkhul also has the word order of subject-object-verb and it shares some of the characteristic features of verb final languages. Case is a grammatical category which is established on two counts viz. i) syntactic correlation between the substantives and ii) between two substantive in a syntactic unit (Yashwanta, 2000). On the basis of data seven case markers are found in this language, viz. nominative, accusative, ablative locative, instrumental, associative and genitive. All the case markers are suffixes to the noun and pronoun.*

Key words: *Kaprang-Tangkhul, Case markers, suffixes.*

Introduction

The Naga-kuki sub-group of Tibeto-Burman language family includes many languages and dialects spoken in North East India including the states of Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Assam. Kaprang-Tangkhul is a small Tangkhul village of Manipur. This village locates in the Thoubal district but it includes in the Senapati district. The language spoken here is also known as Kaprang-Tangkhul. Although the name Tangkhul is given to a group of tribe community they cannot communicate each other through their language. It means that Tangkhul speaks different languages. If they like to communicate either standard Tangkhul, spoken in the proper Ukhrul or in Manipuri. It is spoken in some parts of the Manipur and mainly found in the hill districts of Manipur. Tangkhul are divided into eight regions, viz, (1). Northern hilly region; Raphei, (2). North-East hilly region; Somra, (3). Eastern hilly region; Ram, (4). Southern hilly region; Kamo, (5). Western hilly region; Kharao, (6), South-West hilly region; Khaorui, (7). North-West hilly region; Kathur or Khaorui-raora and (8). South-East hilly region; Kaikhang. Kaprang-Tangkhul is included in the Southern hilly region, Kamo. Tangkhul is included in the Naga-Kuki group (Grierson LSI, Vol III, part III, 1903). Kaprang-Tangkhul also has the word order of SOV and the verb can occur in the final position. This language is an agglutinative language.

Review of Literature

There is no available literature on this language which can be used to analyze for the description of Kaprang-Tangkhul case markers. This is the only pioneer work on Kaprang-Tangkhul. They do not have their own script. The Roman alphabet is used for writing purposes. Kaprang-Tangkhul has not been introduced yet for teaching in any private or government educational institutions.

Methodology

The methodology in this paper is both primary data and secondary data. Primary data are collected from native speakers of this language and secondary data which is included the available written materials in the books, journals, articles etc. have been collected through library works.

Case markers

Any one of the forms which a noun or a noun phrase may assume in order to represent its grammatical or semantic relation to the rest of the sentence (R. L Trask: 35). In Kaprang-Tangkhul, there are seven case markers. Seven case markers are given below.

Nominative	/i/
Accusative	/t↔/
Instrumental	/n↔/
Genitive	/t↔/
Locative	/l↔~m↔~n↔~g↔/
Ablative	/tai/
Associative	/so/

Nominative case

Nominative case which is used to mark the subject of a sentence (R. L. Trask : 152). In this language nominative marker /-i/ is added to the noun or pronoun.

For examples:

- α. υi√i υ κομ√i
i-NOM rice cook-SIM.ASP
I cook rice.
- β. μ↔√i Nα σα√i
he-NOM fish eat-SIM.ASP
He eats fish.
- γ. ρα|υ√i κοπHi ινσα√i
raju-NOM coffee drink-SIM.ASP
Raju drinks coffee.

Accusative case

Accusative case which is typically used to mark the direct object of a verb (R. L. Trask: 3). In Kaprang-Tangkhul accusative marker is denoted by the suffix /-t↔/ which is added to the noun or pronoun. The accusative and genitive markers are homophonous but their differences are in functions.

For examples:

- a. υι ανυ√τ↔ μ↔ρεN√Nε
i mother-ACC love-SIM.ASP
I love my mother.
- b. μ↔√ι μαρχψ√τ↔ ωυ√ι
he-NOM marcy-ACC beat-SIM.ASP
He beats Marcy.
- c. υι ν↔N√τ↔ αναN√Nε
i you-ACC know-SIM.ASP
I know you.

Genitive case

Genitive case which is marks a possessor (R. L. Trask: 95). In Kaprang-Tangkhul, genitive marker /-t↔/ is added to noun or pronoun.

For examples:

- a. υι√τ↔ πΗυριτ
i-GEN shirt
My shirt.
- b. μενα√τ↔ λαρικ
meena-GEN book
Mena's book.
- c. ωαδα υι√τ↔ ι√φε
this i-GEN dog-b.v
This is my dog.

Locative case

Locative case is a case which expresses location (R. L. Trask: 134). In Kaprang-Tangkhul locative case is indicated by suffix /-l↔~n↔~m↔~g↔/.

For Examples:

- a) λαιρικ τεβ↔λ↔ομε
book table-LOC have
The book is on the table.
- b) με λ↔ιμ↔ραμ↔φ↔ωε
they leimaram-LOC go-PERF.ASP
They have gone to Leimaram.
- c) υι σκυλ↔φ↔χε
i school-LOC go-FUT.ASP
I will go to school.

The locative marker is also used in the following function

- a) υι πυN σομ↔σκυλ φ↔ωε
i time ten-LOC school go-PERF.ASP
I go to school at 10:0 clocks.
- b) μ↔ιμHαλ↔ασοντα φ↔χε
he imphal-LOC tomorrow go-FUT.ASP
He will go to Imphal tomorrow.

Associative case

In Kaprang-Tangkhul, associative case is also identified by suffix */-so/* marks as in the following sentences

For examples:

- a. υι ν↔N↔σο σκυλ φ↔χε
i you-ASS school go-FUT.ASP
I will go to school with you.
- b. me ιβεμχα↔σο μ↔λακ↔με
they ibemcha-ASS play-PROG.ASP
They are playing with Ibemcha.
- c. γιτα ρανι↔σο ηοN↔χε
gita rani-ASS come-FUT.ASP
Gita will come with Rani.

Ablative case

The ablative case which typically expresses the meaning 'out of' or 'away from' (R. L. Trask: 1). In Kaprang-Tangkhul ablative marker */-tai/* is added to noun or pronoun.

For Examples:

- a. υι βαζαρν/ται Να ↔λυι ηοΝν/ι
i bazar-ABL fish buy come-SIM.ASP
I buy fish from market.
- b. μ↔ ιμπΗαλν/ται ηοΝν/ι
he imphal-ABL come-SIM.ASP
He comes from Imphal.
- c. ν↔Ν δελιν/ται ηοΝν/ι
you delhi-ABL come-SIM.ASP
You come from Delhi.

Instrumental case

The instrumental case is used to mark the instrument with which something is done (R. L. Trask: 115). In Kaprang-Tangkhul instrumental case is marked by suffix /-nə/.

For examples:

- a. υι χινν/ν↔ ανχι σεμν/με
i knife-INS curry make-PROG.ASP
I make curry with a knife.
- b. μανι χινν|αον/ν↔ ρο χυινν/με
mani big knife-INS bamboo cut-PROG.ASP
Mani cut the bamboo with a big knife.
- c. μ↔ ρυινν/ν↔ τΗιΝ χυινν/με
he axe-INS tree cut-PROG.ASP
He cut the tree with an axe.

Conclusion

From the above discussion it becomes clear that Kapang-Tangkhul neat system of case markers. The case markers are suffixes to the noun and pronoun. In this language seven case markers are used.

ABBREVIATION

ABL	Ablative
ACC	Accusative
ASS	Associative
b.v	Be verb
FUT.ASP	Future aspect
GEN	Genitive

INS	Instrumental
LOC	Locative
NOM	Nominative
PERF.ASP	Perfective aspect
PROG.ASP	Progressive aspect
SIM.ASP	Simple aspect

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