Control in Kannada

Philip Monahan
University of Florida

Kannada (kan), Dravidian
also known as Kanarese, Canarese, Banglori, Madrassi
spoken in India (Asia)

1   Grammar Profile

1.1   Morpho-Syntax

1.1.1   Head position
head-final (postpositions, RelN)

1.1.2   Morphological type
agglutinating of the suffixing type

1.1.3   Case system
nom/acc: case overtly marked on subjects and objects; nominative (-Ø),

accusative (-annu), genitive (-a), dative (-(i)ge/-a:kke), locative (-alli),

instrumental/ablative (-inda), vocative (-e:/vowel length)

1.1.4   Verbal Agreement
suffixes marking agreement with the subject in number, gender and person.

1.1.5   Null Arguments
subjects and objects can often be dropped.

1.2   Matrix Clause

1.2.1   Basic word order
SOV is unmarked, but word-order is relatively free.

© 2003 Philip Monahan   Variation in Control Structures Project
http://accent.ucsd.edu/

1.2.2   Alternate word orders

SOV is unmarked, but most any word order is permissible, particularly in the matrix clause.

1.2.3   Ordering of nominal and pronominal arguments

SO, OS; same as nominal arguments

1.3   Embedded Clause

1.3.1   Basic word order

complement sentences are more rigidly verb-final than independent sentences

1.3.2   Verbal agreement

There is no subject/verb agreement in infinitival complements

1.3.3   Possible morphological categories of the embedded clause

special forms of the verb-verbal participle; relative participle: -a CV: -Ø/-o:; gerund non-past: -udu CV: -o:d (+ -ak), past: -iddu CV: -id (+ -ak); infinitive: -a(l)(u) CV: -lik (CV = colloquial variety)

2   Control Profile

2.1   forward subject control into infinitival complement

2.1.1   Example structure

  (1)   madhurai [Øi bomba:y-ige ho:g-alu] nira:karisidaLu
         madhura-nom bombay-dat go-inf refuse-past-3sf
         'Madhura refused to go to Bombay'

2.1.2   Predicates participating in the construction

desiderative verbs: iSTapaDu 'like', tavakisu 'be anxious'

implicative verbs: prayatnisu 'try', nira:karisu 'refuse'

2.2   forward subject control into gerund complement

Both gerund and infinitival complements can form control structures.

2.2.1   Example structure

  (2)   ra:man-igei [Øi i:juvudakke] baruvudilla
         rama-dat swim-n.past-ger-dat come-n.past-ger-neg
         'Rama doesn't know swimming'

2.2.2   Predicates participating in the construction

modal verb: baruvu 'come/know'

2.3   forward object control into infinitival complement

2.3.1   Example structure

  (3)   madhura ansi-gei [Øi pa:tre toLey-alu] he:LidaLu
         madhura-nom ansi-dat dishes wash-inf say-past-3sf
         'Madhura asked Ansi to wash the dishes'

2.3.2   Predicates participating in the construction

communication verbs: a:gna:pisu 'command', he:lu 'tell'

manipulative verbs: otta:yisu 'persuade', pusala:yisu 'cajole'

References

Sridhar, SN. (1990) Kannada. New York: Routledge.

Philip Monahan
Department of Linguistics
University of Florida
Gainesville FL USA