



A Comparative Study of Marathi and English Languages

KEYWORDS

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ABSTRACT A comparative study includes both similarities and differences. The minimum need of a comparative study is the binary concern to meet the full demands of comparison. Etymologically, the term means any literary work that compares. This study intends to compare Marathi and English languages through the illustrations of structure and style of both languages. Marathi is a regional language but it is not going ahead by the experimentation in the use of language. For instance, Bhalachandra Nemade has exercised verbless language in his novel 'Kosala'. Many sentences in the novel are verbless but they make a complete sense without any difficulty to the reader. There are no articles in Marathi which have an important place at the structural level in English. We cannot find a single printed page in English without the use of articles. Marathi doesn't have such structural category. The prepositions in Marathi do not occur in isolation, while they are attached to the concerned words. English prepositions are highly productive and they occur as free morphemes. A number of phrases have been formed by using prepositions in English. Marathi has three namely present, past and future but English has subtenses for each of the main tense. There is interference to the learners of English whose mother tongue in Marathi. Even the Indian poet Nissim Ezekiel has omitted articles in English in some of his poems. Many Indian students cannot make use of proper prepositions. The poets like Arun Kolatkar and some others have experimented a different orthographic style in their poetry. There are some others areas such as sentence pattern, suprasegmental features, grammar etc. for the comparative study of Marathi and English.

Marathi, the regional language of Maharashtra, resembles with Hindi the other Indian languages in its orthographic form. It doesn't have any similarity with the alphabet of English. Marathi alphabet is modified to form words but English words are formed without any change in the letters from alphabet. The basic sequence of a sentence in Marathi is subject, object and verb. The government and concord of English is completely different from Marathi. English sentence is basically formed using the sequence subject, verb and optional elements like object, complement and adverbial. Both the languages have figures of speech which are used for the stylistic purpose. The creativity in both the languages emerges through linguistic devices employed by the author. The norm of capitalization has rules in English but there is no capital letter in Marathi. Some news papers and other print media have violated the orthographic convention only in the beginning of particular column. Some English authors too are practicing the same convention.

The Government and Concord have fixed patterns in English. The concord between subject and verb is definite in English. Marathi uses imperatives regardless of number. The same sentence can be used for singular as well as plural number. This has been practiced to give respect to the elders and royal families use such a language for all the numbers. Hence it becomes difficult to identify the number from the written sentence. The way we use English and Marathi is different in various aspects. The structural words 'a', 'an' and 'the' play significant role in the formation of sentences. They govern the semantics of language in English. Marathi language doesn't have articles hence for the sake of completion of sense of sentence the figures are used. In English if the sentence is 'There was a king', 'a' indicates the meaning 'EK' which is equivalent in Marathi. The article 'the' makes singular noun definite and it is used

as per the rules of grammar of English.

The prepositions are about one hundred and fifty in English. They are highly productive words having high frequency of an occurrence. They are added to certain words to form phrases and idioms in English. Moreover, they occur isolated in English. They are never attached to the other words. They are not bound morphemes. They are inserted in a sentence as free morphemes. It is necessary to distinguish between the usage of prepositions in English and Marathi. The literal meaning of Marathi words deceive the correct choice of English preposition. Translation from Marathi into English or vice-a-versa becomes difficult because of the complex nature of English preposition. English language doesn't have orthographic additions other than the letters from alphabet. Marathi has a number of additions such as Kana, Matra, Velanti which is difficult to use according to the grammar of English. Just as second language learners adopt English with ease, Marathi may not be caught by the second language learners. Orthography and graphology of English have definitely less complexity as compared with Marathi and other languages. The ratio of English learners is high because the language itself favours the growth of it.

The vocabulary of Marathi has certain limitations because of regional usage. English has spread all over the world and acquired the position of global language. Marathi has accepted the number of words from English for usage. The words like operation, photo, hotel, hospital, bus stand, railway station etc. have been used in Marathi as a language. Marathi is being creolized day by day. On the other hand if there is a need word the neologism provides it. The dictionaries of English are unended and infinite. The same is a case with Marathi but even the illiterate people have acquired some English words in their Marathi usage. One

can do exercise on the vocabulary that is being actively used in both Marathi and English languages. The present use of Marathi has been influenced by the English words and sentences. Other Indian languages too have been influenced by the English. The case grammar of Marathi and English can be used effectively but English makes use of very few cases as per the need of the grammar to complete the sentences. Marathi has the exercise known as parsing. English makes use of giving labeling to the words and phrases.

The noticeable thing in Marathi is that it has some words corresponding to their action. For instance, the words karkara, zulzul, salsal etc. seem to reflect the action. English is purely arbitrary and there is no correspondence between the sound of the word and its meaning. English grammar and the rules of grammar are logical. The rules for number, making past tense are purely arbitrary. Marathi grammar is not as logical as English is. The number, case grammar, gender rules are clear in Marathi. English has compromised grammar of gender. For example, teacher, lawyer, doctor, baby, child etc. Marathi has words like chhokara and chhokari for the English word baby.

A comparative study of Marathi and English languages will help to the beginners as well as advanced learners. If one is good at native language it helps to understand the differences between first, second and third languages. Who may be the language user he knowingly or unknowingly calculates mentally before using the second language. In order to interpret the language as a social code the unconscious grammar of Marathi and English is essential part of language usage and learning. The prescriptive grammar helps to pass the examinations but fails to know the cultural usage. The unconscious grammar of both the languages tell about costumes, routine food, combination of food dishes and some other things which are part of tradition and ceremonies. The girls wear bangles but boys do not. The cows are worshipped in India but they butchered in some parts of the world.

For the sake of proper message the unconscious grammar acquired in the society plays a major role in the usage of language. There is a need to co-relate the rules of grammar with social code of both the languages. We must disseminate our unconscious grammar for the proper behavior of the person on the particular occasion.

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