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Literature

MORPHOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF GENDER-NUMBER-PLURALISATION PATTERN

Dr B Devadasa Pai	Research Scholar, ISS & H, Srinivas University, Mangalore.
Dr Rajesh Bejjangala	Research Professor, ISS & H, Srinivas University, Mangalore.
Dr Denis Vaz	Assistant Professor, Dept of Konkani, Holy Rosary College, Goa

ABSTRACT Discriptive Linguistic Analysis helps to describe how a language or a dialect is used by a speech community. The analysis extends from the area of articulation, word structure, sentence, to formation of meaning. In the present study one specific aspect of number-gender formation process occurring in a particular dialect viz. 'Amchigele Kodiyali' of Konkani Language is taken up for analysis. The analysis gives rise to a compact paradigm of desinence- based pluralisation declensions pattern of gender categories of nouns.

INTRODUCTION
Amchigele Kodiyali Konkani (AKK) is a style of Konkani spoken by 'Gouda Saraswat Brahmin' Community living in and around Mangalore-Udupi-Kasaragod towns of west coast region in India.

In any language **gender** of the noun influences the other forms or parts of speech, such as **number,** pronouns, adjectives etc to keep up their agreement with the noun. Hence, the **Gender system** plays a very crucial role in the grammar aspect of any language. In the present paper the **gender-number**-based **declension patterns** occurring in AKK dialect is studied briefly. And in the analytic process, the nouns are first classified into three gender classes, and into **desinence (**end-vowel of a word) varieties occurring in each class. And in the next stage, the way in which these end-vowels morphologically change in the process **pluralisation** are analysed and categorised systematically. Hence the approach of this brief study is morphological analysis as a part wider **Discriptive Linguistic Analysis**.

Grammatical Gender System Of Languages
Gender is nothing but a basic linguistic feature where nouns are classified into different categories like masculine, feminine, neuter etc. Gender system is present in all the languages but varies greatly over its usage. It reflects the diversity and complexity of human language.

Varieties In Gender Systems
The grammatical gender concept in languages have **evolved** over time. For instance, the modern German and old English had a three-gender system. But over centuries, English has lost its gender distinctions in nouns or adjectives, except in pronouns. English, Chinese etc are categorised as **non-gendered** Languages, since they do not have a grammatical gender system. In French, Spanish, Italian etc, there is **Binary** Gender Systems**.** For example, in French, the noun "la table" (the table) is feminine, and "le livre" (the book) is masculine. **Ternary** Gender Systems, which include neuter gender in addition to the usual masculine and feminine. In German, for instance, nouns can be masculine (der Hund - the dog), feminine (die Katze - the cat), or neuter (das Auto - the car). Marathi, Sanskrit, Konkani, German etc., have Ternary Gender Systems whereas Bangali, Hindi, French, etc. are not. Again, some languages have a **natural gender** system, where gender is assigned based on **biological** sex category. On the other hand, in some languages, the **grammatical genders** do not correlate with biological distinctions. For example, in Spanish, "la mano", the hand, is feminine, though it refers to an object. Konkani is also one such language where grammatical genders are unconnected to the biological genders of animates and so even non-living things get animate genders marks. Instead, the gender of Konkani noun is decided by the end-vowel of nominal bases. This interesting aspect is discussed in detail in the following paras.

Morphology of AK Konkani Gender-Number System
Desinence Vowels decide the genders:
Some languages, like **Russian** and **Sanskrit**, have multiple **declension classes** where nouns are grouped not just by gender but by how they inflect for **number and case**. In these languages, gender is part of a larger system of noun categorization that includes other

morphological features. It is very important to note that Konkani gender system has highly distinct structure of declension classes. So, the **end/terminal/ultimate** short/long vowels which can be referred to as the **desinence vowels,** are particularly very important in gender-number determination.

Three genders of AK Konkani:
Konkani has retained the three-gender system where as many other Indian languages closely associated to it like Bengali, have all lost neuter genders completely. The three genders in Konkani are named like - /puruːʃəlĩgə/ **masculine,** /striːlĩgə/ **feminine,** /əlĩgə/ **neuter.** In broad terms, the genders can be as marked, with certain preferred terminals vowels as follows.

Gender	End vowels	Examples	
Masculine	/u/, /ɔ/	/guru/ 'teacher'	/pɔɭɔ/ 'pancake'
Feminine	/ə/, /i/	/suːvə/ 'needle'	/saʃi/ 'seedling'
Neuter	/ə/, /ɛ/	/taːkə/ 'butter-milk'	/pəːlɛ/ 'see'

Gender- Number Declensional Categorization in AK Konkani
The process of formation of plurals from singulars (pluralization) involves **lexical changes.** Gender is thoroughgoing distinction throughout the declension system of Konkani. In the above section we have named only six terminal vowels as a model to begin with. But now in the following table a complete set of terminal vowels which decide the respective gender class for Konkani nouns are given.

In the **masculine** gender category, it is observed that the desinences of Konkani nouns occur in seven varieties: /a//i//iː//u*//u//uː//ɔ/

In the **feminine** gender category, it is observed that the desinences of Konkani nouns occur in seven varieties: /ə//a//o//i/ /i*//ə//uː/. Please note desinence vowels /iː/ and /aː/ even though occur in the singulars they do not change in their pluralisation form, hence are left out in the list.

In the **neuter** gender category, it is observed that the desinences of Konkani nouns occur in seven varieties: /ə//uː//a////ũ//ɛ*//ɛ*/

The terminal phonemes with * notations /u*//ɔ*//ɛ*//i*/ of nominative singulars indicate the variety of **'masked terminals'** /ʧʰənnə u-kararātə/ etc. of respective vowels phonemes /u//ɔ//ɛ//I/

Table 1: The seven-desinence based -masculine gender classes-and the corresponding five-number pluralisation- categories

gloss	end vowel based 07 categories of singulars		end vowel based 05 categories of plural	
'tea'	/ʧa/	/a/	/ʧa/	/a/
'poet'	/kavi/	/I/	/kavi:/	/i:/
'merchant'	/vjareli/		/vjareli/:	
'pastor'	/padri/		/padri/	
'patient'	/rogi:/	/i:/	/rogi:/	
'sinner'	/papi:/		/papi:/	
'labour'	/kameli:/		/kameli:/	
'male'	/mani:ʃu/	/u*/	/manʃə/	/ə/

'peacock'	/moru/		/morə/	
'cashew-ft'	/kaʤu/		/kaʤə/	
'hand'	/hatu/		/hatə/	
'object'	/vastu/	/u/	/vastu:/	/u:/
'death'	/mrutju/		/mrutju:/	
'mentor'	/guru/		/guru:/	
'rasam'	/ʃaru:/	/u:/	/ʃaru:/	
'sugarcane'	/kobu:/		/kobu:/	
'chiku'	/tʃiku/		/tʃiku:/	
'eye'	/doʃə/	/ɔ*/	/doʃɛ/	/ɛ/
'avenue'	/vaʤə/		/vaʤɛ/	
'thorn'	/kaʈə/		/kaʈɛ/	
'share'	/vaʈə/		/vaʈɛ/	

Table 2: The seven-desinence based -feminine gender classes- and the corresponding five-number pluralisation- categories

gloss	end vowel based 07 categories of singulars		end vowel based 05 categories of plural	
'bead'	/mə:ɳi:/	/i:/	/məɳi:/	/i: /
'bathroom'	/nha:ɳi:/		/nhaɳi:/	
'language'	/bʰa:sə/	/ə/	/bʰasə/	/ə/
'wife'	/ba:jələ/		/bajələ/	
'trouble'	/piɖa/	/a/	/piɖa:/	/a:/
'punishment'	/ʃikʂ a/		/ʃikʂ a:/	
'condition'	/əvəsta:/	/a:/	/əvəsta:/	
'jolly'	/məʤa:/		/məʤa:/	
'night'	/ratijo/	/o/	/ratijə/	/jə/
'queen'	/raɳəjo/		/raɳəjə/	
'Scrap wood'	/ka:pəʈi/	/i/	/ka:pəʈjə/	
'chain'	/sərpəʃi/		/sərpəʃjə/	
'ant'	/mu:ji/ /mu:jə/	/i*/	/mu:jə/	
'cow'	/ga:ji/ /ga:jə/	/ə/	/ga:jə/	
'curry'	/rãdəji//rãdəjə/		/rãdəjə/	
'lob'	/bəji/ /bəjə/		/bəjə/	
'louse'	/u:/	/u:/	/uwə/	/wə/
'sign'	/kuru:/		/kuruwə/	

Table 3: The seven-desinence based -neuter gender classes- and the corresponding five-number pluralisation- categories

gloss	end vowel based 07 categories of singulars		end vowel based 05 categories of plural	
'bunch grain'	/kəɳəsə/	/ə/	/kəɳəsə/	
'paddy crop'	/tʃɛtə/		/tʃɛtə/	
'mind'	/mənə/		/mənə/	/ə/
'pig'	/moti/		/motə/	
'name'	/nãvə/		/nãvə/	
'sand'	/rɛvə/		/rɛvə/	
'cub'	/vasəru:/	/u:/	/vasərə/	
'ball'	/tʃẽɖu:/		/tʃẽɖə/	
'jolly'	/məʤa/	/a/	/məʤa/	/a/
'a ritual'	/pu:ʤa:/		/pu:ʤa/	
'vegetable'	/tərka:ri/	/i/	/tərka:rĩ /	/ĩ/
'side'	/bəri/		/bərĩ /	
'coral'	/mo:ti/		/mo:tĩ /	
'child'	/tʃe:rəɖũ/	/ũ/	/tʃe:rəduvə/	/və/
'maid'	/tʃe:ɖũ/		/tʃe:duvə/	
'plank'	/pʰəlɛ/	/ɛ*/	/pʰəlĩ:/	/ĩ:/
'saliva'	/uʂ ʈɛ/		/uʂ ʈĩ:/	
'head'	/matʰɛ/	/ɛ*/	/matʰĩ:/	
'cloth'	/avəgalɛ/		/avəgalĩ:/	

CONCLUSIONS:

The findings of this morphological linguistic analysis led to the following conclusions.

(i) In AKK there are three gender categories- Masculine, Feminine, Neuter. And here the grammatical gender system does not correlate with the biological genders

(ii) In AKK the singular nouns desinence patterns are found to occur in 21 categories, seven each, distributed evenly over the three gender classes.

(iii) In AKK the plural forms of nouns which occur after undergoing pluralization declensions process are found to fall into 15 categories only.

(iv) Through this analysis, a compact declension patterns are established which can direct the plural formation for any given singular nominal base.

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