Research Paper Literature

Discoursing the Linkages between Tamil and Malayalam Morphemes

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ABSTRACT

Tamil and Malayalam languages are belonging to Dravidian languages family. Both are prosperous and nominative-accusative languages. Even though these languages are being used by different states, they are culturally and linguistically well connected. This paper is a brief discourse on the linkages between Tamil and Malayalam morphemes

KEYWORDS Linguistics, Morphemes, Type of Morphemes, Malayalam and Tamil.

The basic structure of language includes phonemes, morphemes, syntax and semantics. These sub-fields range from those focused primarily on form and to those focused primarily on meaning. They also run the gamut of level of analysis of language, from individual sounds, to words, to phrases, up to cultural discourse. Morphemes are cardinal parts of a language system, because morphemes having other parts of a language. A morpheme is the smallest meaningful unit in the grammatical system of a language. In linguistics, morphology is the study of words, and since the morpheme is at the core of morphology.

The word morphemes originated in 19th century from French word *morphème,* from Greek *morphē 'form'* on the pattern of French. A morpheme is defined as a meaning full morphological unit of language that cannot be further divided. e.g.: 'in', 'com', 'ing' forming incoming. Charles F. Hocket defines morphemes are "A minimal unit of meaning or grammatical functions". Example: tourists, there is one minimal unit of meaning *tour*, another minimal unit meaning *ist* (meaning: a person who does something) and minimal unit of grammatical function –s (including plural). In dictionary meaning any of the minimal grammatical units of a language, each constituting a word or meaningful part of a word, that cannot be divided into smaller independent grammatical parts, as the, write, or the -ed of waited. As the smallest recognized unit of grammar and syntax, morphemes function as the foundation of language.

As scientists have studied the composition of the universe, they've determined that the smallest unit for measuring an element is the atom. Scientists utilize this classification system for uniformity, so that they are on the same page in the terminology of their studies. Similarly, linguists, or those who study language, its history, and development, have devised a category for the smallest unit of grammar: morphemes. Morphemes function as the foundation of language and syntax, the arrangement of words and sentences to create meaning. The term morpheme can apply to a variety of different situations. In linguistics, it would further classify morphemes as either as phonemes (the smallest units of grammar recognizable by sound) or graphemes (the smallest units of written language).

Linkage Classification

Morphemes are classified into two categories. That is *free* and *bound* morphemes. Free morphemes are can stand on there on as independent words bound. e.g.: tour. Bound morphemes are cannot normal stand alone, but it is typically attached to another form. eg: in the word of tourist, ist is bound morpheme. All affixes in Tamil and Malayalam are morphemes. The free morphemes can be generally considered as the set of separate Tamil and Malayalam word forms when they are used with bound morphemes, the basic word form involved is technically known as the stem.

e.g.: In **Tamil**: atarmaṅkal : a(prefix, bound), tarmam (stem, free),kaL (suffix, bound)

In **Malayalam**: adharmaṅgal: a(prefix, bound), tarmam (stem, free), kaL (suffix, bound)

In **English**: Undressed: un (prefix, bound) dress (stem, free), ed (suffix, bound)

Free morphemes are classified in to two categories. That is Lexical morphemes and Functional morphemes. First category is set of ordinary nouns, adjectives and verb. Which we think of as the words which carry the content of message we convey. These free morphemes are called lexical morphemes.

e.g.: In **Tamil**, maram (Tree), puli (Tiger), mappilai (Son in law and bridegroom), munthiri (Cashewnut) , kuthi (jump) etc…

In **Malayalam**, maram (Tree), ma:ppila (bridegroom and a person who is belongs to Christianity and Islam is colloquially called ma:ppila), munthiri (grape), cha:ttam (jump) etc…

The second groups of free morpheme are called functional morphemes. E.g: In Tamil, a:na:l (But), ku:Te (with), athana:l (Because) me:le: (on), antha (that) etc…

In **Malayalam**, pakshe: (But), ku:Te (with), athina:l (Because), MukaLil (on), athu (that) etc..

Bound Morphemes are classified into two categories, which are derivational morphemes and inflectional morphemes. The derivational morphemes are used to make new words in the language and are often used to make words of different grammatical category from the stem. Thus the addition of the derivational morpheme *-ness* changes the noun *good* to the adjective *goodness.* The derivational morphemes will include suffixed such as the *-ish* in *foolish*, the *-ly* in *badly*. It will also include prefixes such as –re, pre, ex, dis, un etc…

e.g.: **Tamil**: a:na changes to the noun azhak to the adjective azhaka:na (beautifull)

Malayalam: uLLa changes to the noun azhak to the adjective azhakuLLa (beautifull)

The inflectional morphemes are not used to produce new words in the English language but rather to indicate aspects of the grammatical function of a word is plural or singular, if it is past tense or not, and if it is comparative form.

e.g.: **Tamil**: pusthakam +kal→pusthakaṅkal (books)
Malayalam: pusthakam+kal→pusthakaṅgal (books)

In the character basis morphemes are majorly classified in to sixteen types. In this paper I just compare with Tamil and Malayalam morphemes which are generally using.

Additive morphemes
There are certain morphemes in which the affixes are added to the stem or base form to denote some different meaning. The affixes are namely prefix, suffix and superaffix. e,g:

Tamil
-ava (avamariyathai) (without manners)
-ppu (patippu) (study)
-Kal (ni:ṅkal) (you,your)

Malayalam
-apa (apamaryatha) (without manners)
-ppu (patippu) (study)
-kal (niṅgal) (you,your)

Replacive Morphemes
There are certain morphemes replace parts of stem. These are structurally different from the additive morphemes, which are added to stems.

Tamil
kamalam (lotus)→kalam (pot)
ka:thal(love)→ka:l (leg)

Malayalam
kamalam (lotus)→kalam (pot)
thavaLa (frog)→ thaLa (anklet)

Subtractive Morphemes
In this type of morphemes like the addition to the morpheme or stem in order to convey. The different meanings in some language subtraction are done from the stem to bring out different meaning. This type of morpheme is not commonly found in many languages.

Tamil
a- ani:thi (unjustice) →ni:thi (justice)
Nal (good) + koTai (umbrella) →nankoTai (donation)

Malayalam
a- ani:thi(unjustice)→ni:thi (justice)

Zero Morphemes
There are certain morphemes in English, they are structurally same forms in singular and plural, there is plural makers in English-s,-es,-ies. In some instant we can understand the morpheme that it is plural, only according to the context. Such types of forms are used with the zero allomorph symbol Ø. These varieties of morphemes are named as zero morphemes.

Tamil:
ku:nthaL(hair)→ ku:nthaL + Ø , ni:r (water)→ ni:r+Ø

Malayalam:
enna(oil)→ enna+ Ø, veLLam (water)→ veLLAm+Ø These examples doesn't have plural marker but that noun shows plural only according to the context. That means all uncountable nouns are functioned as a zero morpheme in Dravidian Languages.

Empty Morpheme
There are certain morphemes where the morpheme links the stem and affix. The linking word will have no meaning in the construction

Tamil
Marattai (about tree)(maram+ai)
Pazhattai (about banana)(pazham+ai)
karattai (about hand) (karam+ai)
puLiṅkai (tamarind seed)(puLi+k:ai)
na:tinai (about province)(na:tu+ai)

Malayalam
maratte (maram+tt+e),-tt doesn't have any meaning.
pazhatte (pazham+tt+e)"
karatte (karam+tt+e)"
puLiṅkaya (puli+iṅ+kaya) -iṅ doesn't have any meaning.
na:tinae na:tu+in+e -iṅ doesn't have any meaning.

Portmanteau Morphemes
If two or more morphemes assumed to be many fests a single sequence of phoneme, that sequence is termed as portmanteau morph.

Tamil
aaTu+um→aaTum (which will dance)
paaTu+um→paaTum

Malayalam
aaTu+um→aaTum
paaTu+um→paaTum (which will sing)

Closing and Non Closing Morphemes
There are certain morphemes in which the construction in closed for further derivation and inflection is called closing and then in which the construction is not closed is called non closing morpheme.

Example for closing morpheme	Example for closing morpheme
Tamil	**Malayalam**
Tamil	**Malayalam**
Vant:n(he came) vannu	Po→yi (gone) po→yi
po:na:n (he left) poyirunnu	ce→y (to do) ce→y
ceytha:n (he did) cheythirunnu	tha→a (give) tha→a

Link Morpheme
There are certain morphemes which function as linking devise as called linking morpheme e.g.:

Tamil
maram+tt+ai (about tree)

Malayalam
maram+tt+e ., here the morph –tt functions only is a linking device it has no meaning.

Unique Morpheme
There are certain morphemes were the only one combination will give meaning and the other one will not give meaning. e.g.:

Tamil
piLLaitha:icci (pregnant lady)

Malayalam
kunnikkuru (Indian Liquorice), kunnimaNi

in these words, tha:icci, kunni doesn't give any meaning, only the combination will give meaning.

Obligatory and Non Obligatory Morphemes
There are certain morphemes they are based on the particular grammatical category in the language. It occurs in some of the morphemes as decided except the Malayalam language all other major language having obligatory morphemes. Malayalam having obligatory morphemes only occurs in participial nouns.

Tamil	Malayalam
Vanta:n (he ccame)	vannu
Po:na:n (he went)	po:yi

Vannavan, pa:tiyavan, ceythavan etc… These Malayalam participial nouns having obligatory morphemes and Tamil language has PNG marker, hence it is obligatory morpheme.

Conclusion

Indeed, several fundamental distinctions in linguistic analysis are seen to be bound up in the usage by linguists of the basic term 'morpheme'. However, the word 'morpheme' is one of the most basic terms in linguistics, one which students are expected to control almost from the beginning of their study of the field. Linguists of many persuasions use the word freely, if only as a descriptive convenience, even when their theoretical commitments are not consistent with the idealized picture of word structure inherited from our structuralist forebears. We commonly assume that both the intension and the extension of the term are virtually self-evident, but it turns out on closer examination to hold the keys to some of the deep questions we can ask about the nature of language. One of these, indeed, is whether or not there is any such thing as a 'morpheme'.

The stems and affixes of morphemes provide the main and additional meanings, which varies from language to language. The Agglutinative Languages like Malayalam is rich in inflections, which require complex procedures to extract its inflections and grammatical information. In Malayalam most of the lexical items, such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs are inflected heavily, giving information such as person, number, tense, and mood respectively. These inflections can be nested in many cases. The nesting increases the difficulty in identifying the morphological features. Malayalam has a rich morphology, and identifying the morphological suffixes of Malayalam verbs and nouns are quiet tough task. These two languages are sharing certain similarities such as verb final language, free word order but structurally they are different. Both languages are belonging to the Dravidian family of languages, are nominative-accusative languages. In Tamil and Malayalam nouns are inflected with case markers by suffixation and connectives remain agglutinated and it has non-finite verb form for subordination.

Both Tamil and Malayalam are morphologically rich languages. When we try to analyse morphemes in connection with Tamil and Malayalam, as the two south Indian languages, is comparatively very significant. After the comparison of morphemes in Tamil and Malayalam, find these languages are more bounded in their system of free morphemes and also they are totally different in their system of bound morphemes.

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