

## Discourse Devices in Telugu

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### ABSTRACT

*The aim of this paper is to discuss some of the productive discourse devices and markers noted in 50 spoken narratives elicited from Telugu native speakers. Since most of them are college students and residents of Hyderabad, they are also exposed to English as well as Hindi-Urdu (Dakkhini). After presenting certain salient features of Telugu language, the role of conjunctive participles, relative participles, quotatives, and co-reference in maintaining discourse cohesion is discussed with specific examples from normal adult speakers as well as two neurologically impaired patients. It is argued that future Telugu language assessment tools for clinical population need to incorporate some of these discourse features.*

**Keywords:** Discourse, narrative devices

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Since the 1970s Discourse analysis has predominantly been associated with studies of the spoken language. According to Snow & Ponsford (1997), discourse may be broadly divided into two categories interactive (i.e. conversation) and Non-interactive i.e. monologue. Narrative is a monologue. Most studies on discourse employed two types of analysis (a) micro linguistic examination which is discourse at the word and sentence level, (b) macro linguistic analysis examining discourse across sentences and/or at the level of entire text. In these studies attention is paid primarily to macro linguistic features contributing to cohesion. Halliday & Hasan (1976), proposed that speakers ensure continuity of meaning within the text by using certain types of linguistic devices. They also mentioned as to how cohesive ties provide linguistic linkages necessary to achieve a unified, semantically coherent text, rather than a string of unrelated sentences.

The linguistic devices of coherence from English cannot be generalized to Indian languages. Hence, through a departmental project,