

Locative Case Markers in South Dravidian Languages: A Historical and Comparative Study

BASAVARAJA KODAGUNTI
Central University of Karnataka, India

ABSTRACT

Free morphemes such as nouns and verbs are considered to be sources for case markers in languages of the world. However, Dravidian languages have markers developed from deictic. They are neither nouns nor verbs. The present paper has collected data from South Dravidian languages for locative case markers and made an attempt to show the source and historical development of the locative case markers. The phonological, morphological and semantic explanations are made to understand the historical development of deictic to case markers. An attempt is also made to make a comparative analysis of locative case markers of South Dravidian group.

Keywords: Case system, case markers, historical linguistics, comparative linguistics, Dravidian linguistics, South Dravidian

1. INTRODUCTION

South Dravidian group of Dravidian language family consists of several major languages, namely, Irula, Kannada, Kasaba, Kodagu, Koraga, Kota, Malayalam, Tamil, Toda, Tulu, and several dialects, language status of which is under debate e.g., Badaga, Kanikkar, Kurumba, Sanketi, Urali, etc. Out of these languages, Kannada, Malayalam, and Tamil are recognized by Indian constitution, and they are administrative languages in the states of Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu, respectively. All three languages have been accorded with the classical status by