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Coordinative Suffixes in Manipuri

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Abstract

The present paper deals with the well-known and important aspects of coordinators used in bisyndetic type of syndetic coordination. The paper studies the syntactic and pragmatic functions of coordinative suffixes. Syntactically coordinative suffixes appear as suffixes but pragmatically they function as a lexical coordinator. The use of suffix coordinators in coordinate structures is very frequent more prominently in spoken than the written form. The paper also presents the structural and functional analysis of the coordinative suffixes in Manipuri.

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Introduction

Suffixes which are employed in coordinate structures functioning to conjoin the conjuncts in Manipuri are identified as *-ne*, *-gə~-kə*, and *-su*. They conjoin the conjuncts or coordinands which are grammatically equal in rank or status, and hence, they are coordinative suffixes. These coordinative suffixes carry the functional meaning of *əməsuŋ/əmədi* ‘and’. Syntactically they appear as suffixes but pragmatically they function as lexical coordinator *əməsuŋ/əmədi* ‘and’ whose literal or underlying meaning is ‘and’.

The use of such coordinative suffixes *-ne*, *-gə~-kə*, and *-su* in Manipuri is found in bisyndetic type of syndetic coordination. These suffixes occur as one coordinator per coordinand, firmly suffixed to the coordinands. Similarly, the comitative enclitic *=heè*, in Hakha Lai, is only used bisyndetically in emphatic conjunction. Rather, the bisyndetic coordinator consists either of repeated instances of the comitative case clitic, *=heè*, or of the particle *zój* which is used as isolated coordinator (Peterson and VanBik, 2004).

Bisyndetic coordination involves two coordinators (Haspelmath, 2004:4P). There is also a coordinative suffix *-rə~-lə* meaning ‘or’. The coordinative suffixes *-ne*, *-gə~-kə*, and *-su* meaning ‘and’ and *-rə~-lə* meaning ‘or’ in Manipuri are discussed below.

Coordinative Suffix *-ne*

1(a). əine mane cətlure

əi-ne ma-ne cət-lu-re

I-CS he-CS go-COMD-PERF

He and I have gone there.

(b). tombəne caubəne halləkle

tombə-ne caubə-ne hal-lək-le

Tomba-CS Chaoba-CS return-INCT-PERF

Tomba and Chaoba have returned.

(c). lairikne kolomne purəko

lairik-ne kolom-ne pu-rək-o

book-CS pen-CS bring-INCT-COMD

Bring the book and the pen.

In these binary coordinating constructions of all the above sentences conjoined by the coordinative suffix *-ne*, the two NP coordinands occur with one coordinator per coordinand. The coordinative suffix *-ne* carries the meaning of ‘and’ by conjoining the two coordinands. Unlike the usage of the coordinative lexical *əməsuŋ/əmədi* ‘and’, the coordinative suffix *-ne* occurs correlatively only in bisyndetic type of coordination, i.e., the suffix *-ne* can not occur in monosyndetic coordination. The occurrence of the suffix *-ne* singly is unacceptable as in (2) below.

*2. lairikne kolomØ purəko

lairik-ne kolomØ pu-rək-o

book-CS pen bring-INCT-COMD

In addition to binary coordinating constructions, Manipuri allows multiple coordinands (more than two). In such constructions as well, one coordinative suffix per coordinand occurs. The suffix is firmly attached to the coordinand, but not isolated from the coordinand, as illustrated in the following examples.

3(a). lairikne k^haune p^huritne k^hoŋgraune ləiu

lairik-ne k^hau-ne p^hurit-ne k^hoŋgrau-ne ləi-u

book-CS bag-CS shirt-CS trouser-CS buy-COMD

Buy book, bag, shirt and trousers.

- (b). əine nəŋne mane cətkəni
 əi-ne nəŋ-ne ma-ne cət-kəni
 I -CS you-CS he -CS go-FUT
 He, you and I will go.

Similarly, a language like Hakha Lai (Tibeto-Burman) uses the NP coordinator =lee' 'and' in multiple coordinands (Peterson & VanBik, 2004). As in (4) below, it seems that the omission of coordinative suffix *-ne* from some multiple coordinands is generally not possible.

- *4. ceŋØ ŋaØ semØ ləp^hoine ləire
 ceŋØ ŋaØ semØ ləp^hoi-ne ləi-re
 rice fish apple banana-CS buy-PERF

The coordinative suffix *-ne* carrying meaning 'and' conjoins noun phrases and verbal nouns. It does not conjoin verbs or clauses, as in (5) below.

5. ramdi tumbəne cabəne t^həkpəne təu ləire
 Ram-di tum-bə-ne ca-bə-ne t^hək-pə-ne təu ləi-re
 Ram-DEM sleep-NZR-CS eat-NZR-CS drink-NZR-CS do spend-PERF
 Ram is spending time by sleeping, eating and drinking.

Coordinative Suffix -gə~-kə

The coordinative suffix *-gə~-kə* conjoins only nouns, pronouns or verbal nouns not verbs or clauses as in (6), (7), (8) and (9) below.

- (6). jemskə mənigə lakkəni
 jems-kə məni-gə lak-kəni

James-CS Mani-CS come-FUT

James and Mani will come.

(7). mək^hoigə əigə cətkəni

mək^hoi-gə əi-gə cət-kəni

they-CS I-CS go-FUT

They and I will go there.

(8). tombədi t^həkpəgə cabəgə təu ləire

tombə-di t^hək-pə-gə ca-bə-gə təu ləi-re

Tom-DEM drink-NZR-CS eat-NZR-CS do spend-PERF

Tom is spending time by drinking and eating.

*(9). tom-di t^həkligə carigə təu ləire

tom-di t^hək-li-gə ca-ri-gə təu ləi-re

Tom-DEM drink-PROG-CS eat-PROG-CS do spend-PERF

Two coordinands of nouns in (6), pronouns in (7) and verbal nouns in (8) are conjoined by the coordinative suffix *-gə~-kə*. Besides these two coordinands, this coordinative suffix also conjoins multiple coordinands as in (10) below.

10. lairikkə kolomgə k^haugə pensilgə purəku

lairik-kə kolom-gə k^hau-gə pensil-gə pu-rək-u

book-CS pen-CS bag-CS pencil-CS bring-INCT-COMD

Bring book, pen. Bag and pencil.

The use of this coordinative suffix singly (not in the manner of one coordinator per coordinand) carries the meaning of ‘with’ and this is similar to associative case marker as in the following example.

11. əi magə cətkəni

əi ma-gə cət-kəni

I he-CS go-FUT

I will go with him.

Coordinative Suffix -su

Both bisyndetic coordination and coordination with multiple coordinands allow the coordinative suffix *-su* with the meaning of ‘and’, but its usage differs from that of the coordinative lexical *əməsuŋ* ‘and’, which occurs in monosyndetic coordination, not in bisyndetic coordination as in the examples given below.

(12). ramsu sitasu kəna əmətə lakte

ram-su sita-su kəna əmə-tə lak-te-i

Ram-CS Sita-CS who one-only come-NEG-ASP

No one, even Ram and Sita has come.

(13). əisu nəŋsu masu jaugəni

əi-su nəŋ-su ma-su jau-gəni

I-CS you-CS he-CS participate-FUT

You, he and I will participate.

(14). p^huritsu k^hoŋgraosu k^hoŋupsu ləigəni

p^hurit-su k^hoŋgrao-su k^hoŋup-su ləi-gəni

shirt-CS trouser-CS shoes-CS buy-FUT

Shirt, trousers and shoes will be bought.

When the coordinative suffix *-su* occurs in monosyndetic coordination, i.e., the use of single coordinative suffix with not more than two coordinands, it carries the meaning of ‘also’ as in the sentence given below.

15. əisu mabu k^həŋŋi

əi-su ma-bu k^həŋ-i
 I-also he-ACC know-ASP
 I also know him.

Coordinative Suffix -rə~-lə

The coordinative suffix *-rə~-lə* with the meaning of ‘or’ conjoins the two or more coordinands as in bisyndetic coordination where the suffix is firmly attached to the coordinands with one coordinator per coordinand.

(16). nəŋlə tombərə əma laku

nəŋ-lə tombə-rə əma lak-u
 you-CS Tomba-CS one come-COMD
 Come one either you or Tomba.

(17). carə səŋgomlə t^həkkədəbə əma haiu

ca-rə səŋgom-lə t^hək-kədə-bə əma hai-u
 tea-CS milk-CS drink-DES-NZR one say-COMD
 Say either tea or milk to drink.

(18). ramlə sitarə mənirə kumarə əmə kəu

ram-lə sita-rə mənī-rə kumar-rə əmə kəu-u
 Ram-CS Sita-CS Mani-CS Kumar-CS one call-COMD
 Call one either Ram or Sita or Mani or Kumar.

It is noticed from these examples that the suffix *-rə~-lə* carries the meaning of *nəttərəgə* ‘or/either or’. It conjoins noun coordinands, pronoun coordinands as in bisyndetic coordination and also in coordination with multiple coordinands similarly with the coordinative suffixes *-ne*, *-gə~-kə*, and *-su*. But the difference is in their meaning. The coordinative suffixes *-ne*, *-gə~-kə*, and *-su* carry the meaning of ‘and’.

However, the coordinative suffix *-rə~-lə* carries the meaning of ‘or/either or’. In and all the structural and functional analysis of the coordinative suffixes, it is clearly noticed that the coordinative suffixes *-ne*, *-gə~-kə*, and *-su* with the meaning of ‘and’ and *-rə~-lə* meaning ‘or’ are always attached to the coordinands correlatively or in the manner of one coordinative suffix per coordinand as in bisyndetic coordination and coordination with multiple coordinands. Structurally these are coordinative suffixes but functionally they act as coordinative lexical *əməsuŋ/əmədi* ‘and’ and *nəttərəgə* ‘or’.

Conclusion

This study focused on coordinative suffixes used in bisyndetic coordination in Manipuri. The use of suffixes is only found in bisyndetic coordination involving two coordinators mostly with one coordinator per conjunct. Because of its conjoining spirit between the conjuncts, the coordinate structure here expresses an identity with that of lexical coordinator *-əməsuŋ/əmədi* ‘and’ and hence, coordinative suffixes such as *-ne*, *-gə~-kə* and *-su* are coordinators.

Abbreviations

ACC	accusative
ASP	aspect
COMD	command
CS	coordinative suffix
DEM	demonstrative
DES	desire
FUT	future
INCT	inceptive
NZR	nominalizer
NEG	negative
PERF	perfective
PROG	progressive

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