

Causativisation in Malayalam: A Historical Approach

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Abstract

This study is an attempt to present a picture of the evolution of Malayalam causative suffixes from the period of Inscriptional Malayalam (9th century) to Modern Malayalam. Since there are no definitely datable texts in the early Malayalam period, the study is confined to inscriptions.

Keywords: Malayalam, causativisation, inscriptional Malayalam, Modern Malayalam, historical approach

Introduction

In most of the languages the verb stem refers to the base morpheme that indicates the meaning of the verb. The base form of the verb can usually take affixes (prefixes & suffixes). The common and simple type of derivation of the stems is concerned with voice: Intransitive, Transitive and Causatives. This type of stem formation can be found in all the Dravidian languages.

Causative Formation in Malayalam Language

Causative verbs are another class of verbs. The term causative means ‘one to do something’. This type of verbs are formed by adding / i / to *akaarita* and / ppi / to *kaarita* in Modern Malayalam.

Inscriptional Malayalam period had the evidence of the usage of three causative markers /- i -/, / -vi- / and / -ppi- /.

eg:	<i>muttu</i>	>	<i>muttikku</i>	‘to obstruct’ TP. I - 1
	<i>paRRu</i>	>	<i>paRRiccu</i>	‘deceived’ Bh.R.I
	<i>cey</i>	>	<i>ceyviccu</i>	‘to make someone to do’ TP.I - 1
	<i>koṭu</i>	>	<i>koṭuppiccu</i>	‘to make someone give’ TN.I

It is assumed that when the causative marker is followed by /-kk/ or /-cc/, /-kk/ can be considered as a link morph and /-cc/ may be the past tense marker. /-vi-/ is rarely occurring as causative marker.

eg: *ceyvippatu* ‘to make someone to do’, P.I
ceyvippitu ” ” 11th cent, Ins.

In the above words /-vi/ functions as causative marker and /-pp/ is the link morph.

Some scholars believe that the words such as /*iduviccu*/ or /*toṭuviccu*/ have the causative marker /-vi-/. But in a closer observation it can understand that /-v/ is only a vowel glide in such words and /-i-/ function as causative marker.

eg: *toṭu + i > toṭuviccu* ‘to make someone to touch’
idu + i > iduviccu ‘to make someone to put’

Caldwell (1856) and Keralapanini (1917) recommended that /-pp-/ in /-ppi-/ is not a causative marker. They consider it as a link morph. But it is not a supporting one, because /-pp-/ causative marker is found in North Dravidian languages too. For example, in Kui language, the word /*aaṭ*/ means ‘to join’. They use /*aaṭppə*/ for ‘to make join’. Similarly /*uṇ*/ means ‘to drink’ and /*uṇppə*/ means ‘to make drink’. Kannada language have the evidence of /-pp/ as causative marker.

eg: /*tirigu*/ ‘to turn’
/ *tirippə* / ‘to make turn’.

From the above fact it may clear that /-pp-/ in /-ppi-/ is a causative marker in Malayalam language.

The markers /-i-, -vi- and -ppi-/ were used till 12th century. In addition to these markers /-ippi-/ and /-uppi-/ markers were found in 13th & 14th centuries.

/-ippi-/ marker were found in *maṇalikkara* inscription (1312 AD) and *uṇṇiṇiilisaṇḍeeṣam* (1432 AD).

eg: *eḷutu* > *eḷutippiccu* ‘to cause to write’
aRiyu > *aRiyippiccu* ‘to cause to know’
/-uppi-/ marker was seen in *uṇṇiyaccii caritam* (1332 AD)

eg: *ṇiRu* > *ṇiRuppiccu* ‘caused to stand’

The usage of these markers /- *ippi-* / and /- *uppi-* / could not be established in the coming centuries. 15th and 16th centuries retained the markers /- *i-*/ and /-*ppi-* /. E V N Namboodiri (2004) suggests that the causative marker /-*ii-*/ is existed in Malayalam language during 17th century. According to him the causative marker /-*ii* / is found in Ezhuthachan's (1682) *mahaabhaaratam*.

eg: *akappet* > *akappeṭiiccu* 'caused to be caught in'

But from the example it is understood that presence of /-*ii-*/ might be of the morpho phonemic process in which /-*vi-*/ may be changed to long /-*ii-*/ by the deletion of /-*v-*/.

18th century onwards the reoccurrence of inscriptional causative markers /-*i-* /, /-*vi-* / and /-*ppi-* / were found in the literary works of A.R Raja Raja Varma and poems of Vallathol.

eg: *kakku* > *kakkiccu* 'cause to vomit'
aRi > *aRiviccu* 'caused to know'
keel > *keelppiccu* 'cause to hear'

Conclusion

All the causative markers existed in Malayalam language were disappeared and later the markers confined only to /-*i-*/ and /-*ippi-* /. The usages of above mentioned periods might be the influence of Tamil language. In Modern Malayalam the causative marker /-*i-* / is used with *akaarita* verbs (weak verbs) and /-*ppi-* / is used with *kaarita* verbs (strong verbs).

Inscriptional Period	Old Malayalam	Middle Malayalam	Modern Malayalam
1. / <i>i</i> /	1. /- <i>i</i> /	1. / <i>i</i> /	1. /- <i>i-</i> / to
2. / <i>vi</i> /	2. /- <i>vi</i> /	2. / <i>ii</i> /	<i>akaarita</i> verb
3. / <i>ppi</i> /	3. /- <i>ppi</i> /	3. / <i>ppi</i> /	2. /- <i>ppi</i> / to
	4. /- <i>ippi</i> /		<i>kaarita</i> verb.
	5. / <i>uppi</i> /		

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