
The problems faced by the students, whose L - 1 is regional dialect while learning foreign language

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to compare and contrast the problems faced by the students, whose L - 1 is regional dialect while learning foreign language which are belonging to two different families, namely Dravidian and Indo – European. This work consists of three parts: introduction, Description regarding the problems faced by the L 1 in the grammatical context and conclusion.

Part -1 introduces the research topic, giving a brief note on Telugu and Russian/French languages, explains the needed, important and application of the present study.

Part -2 describes the problems faced by the students, whose L - 1 is Telugu while learning French.

Part -3 describes nouns in Russian and Telugu in detail. And also contrasts the agreement system of both Telugu and Russian languages while giving examples simultaneously. This highlights the problems faced by the students while learning (Telugu and Russian) and offers suggestions and recommendations for effective teaching / learning. The problems of translation while translating from Russian into Telugu and vice-versa are also discussed in it. The conclusions that are arrived incorporated in part -3 point by point.

Telugu, one of the major languages of India, belongs to the Dravidian family and it is spoken mainly in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, one of the largest states in India, by a majority of people. Also there are considerable number of people who speak Telugu in the neighbouring states like Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Orissa, Maharashtra, and Madhya Pradesh. The speakers of Telugu form the fourth largest linguistic group in India, next only to Marathi.

Russian belongs to the East Slavonic group of languages. It is the official language of Russia. Even now Russian is used widely in countries like Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan; which were the republics of erstwhile Soviet Union. Russian is also one of the five international languages, which is taught in many other countries of the world, including India.

Though a lot of work is done on agreement system in Telugu, as well as in Russian individually; a contrastive analysis between these two languages, i. e, Telugu and Russian, is not done so far.

The problems faced by the student, whose L - 1 is Telugu while learning Russian/French

The category of gender and the concept of animacy has to be paid a great attention while teaching L – 2 i.e., Russian to the students whose L -1 is Telugu. Unless the student is clear about these concepts neither he /she will not be able to construct a sentence without any grammatical mistake within the language nor will he / she able to translate any given text from L 1 to L – 2. A student, who's L 1, is Telugu invariably tries to replace the noun which denotes non – humans with the pronoun оно (ono), which can be otherwiseона(она) огонь(on) in Russian depending on the form of a noun. This type of mistakes is repeated. It is because the student is so much influenced by his / her mother tongue, in which except humans all other entities come under neuter gender. For example, observe the sentence below:

Это книга. Она лежит на столе. (eto kniga. Ona lizhit na stole.)

‘This is a book. It is lying on the table’.

C'est un livre. Il est sur la table.

But, a student, whose mother tongue is Telugu, is likely to put it this way:это книга,оно лежит на столе(eto kniga, ono lizhit na stole) – which is ungrammatical in Russian.

To distinguish the gender of some nouns in Russian, the phonological rules may not be sufficient, for example with the nouns likeдень(den') ‘day’,портфель(portfel') ‘brief -case’, огонь(ogon') ‘fire’, which come under masculine andтень(ten') ‘shadow’,пыль(pyl') ‘dust’, жизнь(zhizn') ‘life’ which come under feminine. The assignment then requires access to more than one case

form of the noun, in other words, to its declensional type; they are therefore morphological assignment rules:

However, in the beginning the students will be taught only the phonological rules. That is why such commonest feminine and masculine nouns are given to be memorized by the students in the supplement at the end.

Comparative agreement system of Telugu and Russian/French

Category of gender, number and case in general

Nouns are the main agreement "controllers" in both the languages, since they possess definite grammatical characteristics like in many other languages. The agreement "targets" in Telugu are verbs, in Russian adjectives are verbs. However, the agreement between the constituents in a phrase, clause or sentence depends on the grammatical system that is specific to the concerned language.

For example, in case of nouns though both the languages distinguish three genders in singular namely the masculine, the feminine, and the neuter, the categorization of gender in Telugu is lexico – grammatical, whereas in Russian it is purely grammatical. As it is already mentioned in the previous part, in Russian except for the nouns which denote persons, the gender of all other nouns depends on the form of a noun. For example, inanimate objects like учебник(uchebnik) 'textbook', словарь(slovar) 'dictionary', come under masculine gender, where книга(kniga) 'book', тетрадь(tetrad') 'notebook' come under feminine gender. In the same way вечер(vecher) 'evening' is a masculine gender, ночь(noch') 'night' is a feminine gender and утро(utro) 'morning' is a neuter gender.

In plural the category of gender is neutralized in both the languages. But in Telugu, human and non- human are distinguished through demonstrative pronouns, cardinal numerals and finite forms of verb.

As far as Telugu is concerned the declensions of nouns as per case are not discussed since there is no case agreement in Telugu. But when it comes to Russian the declension of nouns as per case cannot be ignored, since the case of a noun determines the form of the adjectives, pronouns and participles which agree with it.

Russian distinguishes six cases (namely the nominative, the genitive, the dative, the accusative, the instrumental, and the prepositional). In Russian most of the nouns have twelve forms (six cases in each of the numbers), some of which coincide.

Nouns used only in the singular or plural will have six case forms in Russian. A number of nouns in Russian which change neither for number nor for case will have only one form.

In Russian for case formation three types of declensions exist as described in part -3 under the sub-heading of declension of nouns as per case. The ending indicating the case of the noun also indicates its number simultaneously.

Conclusion

1. The category of gender in Telugu is lexicon – grammatical. In plural the gender distinction of masculine and feminine is neutralized. Instead, the feature human and non – human is distinguished.
2. In Russian the category of gender is grammatical, in plural it is neutralized.
3. In Russian most nouns have 12 forms (six cases in each of the two numbers), some of which coincide with neutralization of their forms. Some nouns have six forms (six cases in one of the two numbers – singular or plural). A number of nouns have only one form (nouns which change neither for number nor for case).
4. The ending indicating the case of the noun also indicates its number simultaneously in both the languages.
5. In Russian it is important to distinguish the nouns into animate and inanimate for case declensions.
6. In Telugu the gender is distinguished through the finite verb forms in non – past tense as well as past tense only for third person singular. But whenever the predicator is a noun or an adjective, gender agreement with the semantic gender of the speaker or the addressee is essential.
7. In Russian the gender is distinguished through the finite verb forms only in the past tense for all the three persons in singular.
8. In Telugu the feature feminine has an ambivalent position in the verbal gender. In the singular it can be classified under the non – human (neuter) and in the plural under the human, which means it has two target genders.
9. In Russian the number of controller and target gender are the same. There are three controller genders and three target genders.
10. The division of Telugu nouns into human and non – human is essential for verbal gender. This is proved to be correct throughout the study on agreement system.

11. In both the languages either the category of gender or the person is distinguished or not distinguished thorough its verbal agreement, the category of number is always differentiated.

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