

LANGUAGE IN INDIA

Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow

Volume 7 : 10 October 2007

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LANGUAGE OF HEADLINES IN KANNADA DAILIES

M. N. Leelavathi, Ph.D.

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Language of Kannada Dailies
Chapter 4

M. N. Leelavathi, Ph.D.

CHAPTER 4

MULTIDECK HEADLINES

A multideck headline is one which consists of two or more independent units given in separate lines one below the other and not separated by a punctuation mark. An independent unit is formally distinguished by its representing the structure of one of the nominal or verbal types of headlines. Each unit of multideck headline is syntactically as well as semantically related to the other. A multideck headline is different from a multiline headline, which is a single unit given in two or more lines for space adjustment. Consider the following examples distinguishing a multideck and a multiline headline.

Multideck headline

1. sheekharge bembala
Shekhar-dat support
buuTa samarthane
Buta justification
'Buta Singh justified the support to Shekhar'

Multiline headline

2. sinimaa TikeT
cinema ticket
keeLi ode tinda
ask-pp get beaten up-pst.rp
kaaleeju vidyaarathi

'the college student who asked for a cinema ticket and got beaten up'

The multideck headline illustrated in example 1 consists of two independent units, that is, two different types of nominal headlines viz., dative noun + noun and subject noun + noun and the first one is an object noun clause of the predicate belonging to the second one as revealed in the following underlying structure:

1a. sheekharge bembala (niiDiddannu)
 Shekhar-dat support give-pst.ger-acc
 ↓
 buuTa samarthane + (isidaru) (=samarthisidaru)
 ↓
 'Buta Singh justify-pst-3sh'

The multiline headline exemplified in 2 is on the other hand, a single unit representing relative adjectival clause + noun type of nominal headline and its underlying structure is as follows:

2a. (kaaleeju vid yarthi) sinēmaa TikeT
 ↓ i
 college student cinema ticket
 keeLi ode tindanu -kaaleeju vid yarthi
 ↓ i
 tinda
 ask-pp get beaten up-pst-3sm college student

The use of multideck is just one way of separating two or more units of a headline. The punctuation marks like comma, colon, semicolon, dash and dots are also used prevalently for

this purpose as illustrated below:

Comma

3. roogi biTTa, kees shiiT hiDida
 patient leave-pst-3sm, case sheet hold-pst-3sm
 '(doctor) left the patient,(but) retained the case sheet'

Colon

4. kaaveeri yoojanegaLu nillavu:
 Cauvery projects stop-fut.neg-3pln
 sacivara spaSTane
 minister-gen clarification
 'Cauvery projects will not be stopped:
 minister's clarification'

Semicolon

5. praaviDeNT fanD
 provident fund
 baDDi haNakke ottaaya;
 interest amount-dat pressure
 satyaagraha bedarike
 satyagraha threat
 'pressure for provident fund interest amount; satyagraha
 threat'

Dash

6. baamb biiti-janaruu eccaravahisali
 bomb fear people-emp take precautions-opt
 'bomb fear-let people also take precautions'

Dots

7. ede haalu uNisi ...maguvaaguvudu
 breast milk feed-imp.pl...get conceived-npst.ger
 tappisi
 stop-imp.pl
 'breast feed... avoid child birth'

It is also found that two independent units are given adjacently in a single line even without a punctuation mark as follows:

8. helmeT tegeda praaNa tetta
 helmet remove-pst-3sm life lose-pst-3sm
 '(someone) removed (did not wear) the helmet and lost his life'
9. obba cuuDaayisida mattobba caccisikoNDA
 one fellow cease-pst-3sm -another fellow get beaten-pst-3sm
 'one fellow teased, another fellow got beaten up'

With the different alternatives available to express two or more units of a headline, multideck is found to be sparingly used in Kannada dailies. Among the attested multideck headlines, doubledeck headlines are predominant and three-deck headlines are rare. The different syntactic and semantic relationships in which multideck headlines are used is discussed in this chapter.

In multideck headlines, the first deck is found to be a casual / postpositional constituent, an adjectival clause, an adverbial clause, or a quotative clause to the second deck.

and their respective underlying structures.

4.1 First deck as casual/postpositional constituent

Object

10. viireendrara padacyuti prakaraNa

Veerendra-gen loss of office incident

raajasheekhara muurti vishleeSaNe

Rajashekhara Murthy analysis

'Rajashekhara Murthy analysed the incident of Veerendra Patil's loss of office'

10a. viireendra (ru) padacyuti(goNDa) prakaraNa(vannu)

↓
∅

↓
∅

↓
∅

Veerendrara lose of office-pst.rp incident

raajasheekharamuurti vishleeSaNe (maaDidaru)

analyse-pst-3sh

↓
∅

Dative (purposive)

11. vimaanayaana abhivridhhi

aviation development

bhaarata-raSyA oppanda

India-Russia agreement

'India-Russia entered into an agreement regarding aviation development'

11a. vimaanayaana(vannu) abhivridhhi(paDisuvadakke)

aviation-acc ↓ ∅ develop-npst.ger-dat

↓
∅

bhaarata-raSyA oppanda (maaDikoNDavu)

India-Russia enter into agreement-refl-pst-3pln

↓
∅

12. byaankgaLalli cek
 banks-loc cheque
 savlabhya
 facility
 bhaavacitra beekilla
 photograph required-neg

'photograph is not required for cheque book facility in
 the banks'

12a. byaankgaLalli cek savlabhya (kke) bhaavcitra beekilla
 banks-loc cheque facility-dat ~~Ø~~ photograph ~~Ø~~ required-neg

Locative

13. matadaarara paTTi
 voters-gen list
 hesaru seerpaDege
 name inclusion-dat
 iigaluu avakaasha
 now even opportunity

'even now opportunity is there to include the names in the
 voter's list'

13a. matadaarara paTTi (yalli) hesaru (annu)
 Voters-gen list-loc ~~Ø~~ name-acc ~~Ø~~
 seerpaDe(maaDaluu) iigaluu avakaasha (ide)
 || ||
 include-inf now-even opportunity be.pr.3sn

Ablative

14. reDKraas adhyakSa sthaana

Red cross presidentship

saci va deesaayige kok

minister Desai-dat ouster

'minister Desai ousted from Redcross presidentship'

14a. reDKraas adhyakSa sthaana (dinda)

redcross presidentship-abl

saci va deesaayige kok (koDalaayitu)

minister Desai-dat oust-imp.pass-pst-3sn

constituent

Postpositional

15. miisalu savlabhya

reservation facility

mahaaraaSTradallina

Maharashtra loc-gen

kannaDigarige suucane

Kannadigas-dat intimation

'Kannadigas in Maharashtra were intimated regarding reservation facility'

15a. miisalu savlbhya(vannu) (upayoogisi koLLuvudara bagge)

reservation facility-acc use-refl-npst.ger-gen about

mahaaraaSTradallina kannaDigarige

Maharashtra loc-gen KannaDigas-dat

suucane (vannu) (niiDalaayitu)

instructions-acc give-imp.pass-pst-3sn

4.2 First deck as adjectival clauseRelative adjectival clause

16. aaDiyoo-viiDiyoo samskriti

audio-video culture

bha. ja. pa viruddha Tiike

B J P against criticism

'criticism against BJP's audio-video culture'

16a. aaDiyoo-viiDiyoo samskriti (yannu)

audio-video culture-acc

(prootsaahisuttiruva) bhaa.ja.pa viruddha

encourage-npst.prog.rp B J P against

Tiike (maaDalaayitu)criticise^{imp.}-pass-pst-3sncomplement adjectival clause

17. raajyagaLige levi sakkare

states-dat levy sugar

taatkaalika manjuuraati krama maarc tanaka

temporary sanction action March upto

'temporary sanction of levy sugar to the states is

upto March'

17a. raajyagaaLige levi sakkare (yannu)

states-dat levy sugar-acc

(vitarisuva) taatkaaliga manjuuraati

distribute-npst.rp temporary sanction

krama (yannu) maarc tanaka (vistarisalaagide)

action-acc March upto extend-imp.pass-pr.pf-3sn

4.3 First deck as adverbial clause

Circumstance

18. maNDya vakiilara dharaNi

Mandya advocates-gen strike

nyaayaalaya bahiSkaara

court boycott

'boycotting the court, Mandya advocates conducted strike'

18a. maNDya vakiilaru dharaNi (naDesi)

manDya advocates strike conduct-pp

nyaalaya(kke) bahiSkaara (haakidaru)

court-dat boycott-pst-3pl

19. pratipakSa aagrahakke mannaNe

opposition party persuasion-dat honour

badali kaayde avadhi 5 varSa

amended act duration 5 years

'honouring the persuasion of the opposition party, the duration of the amended act has been extended for five

19a. pratipakSa (da) aagrahakke mannaNe (niidi)
 opposition party-gen persuasion-dat honour-pp

||
 ↓
 ∅

||
 ↓
 ∅

badali kaayde avadhi(yannu) 5 varSa(kke) (vistarisalaayitu)
 amended act duration-acc 5 years-dat extend-imp.pass-3sn

||
 ↓
 ∅

||
 ↓
 ∅

||
 ↓
 ∅

Manner

20. eDbarg kuriyar nirgamana le

Edberg courier going out it/for

caang solina seeDu nakaara

Chang defeat-gen revenge enial

'by way of making Edberg and Courier crashed out of the
 tourney, Chang took revenge of his past defeat'

20a. eDbarg kuriyar (avarannu) nirgamisu(vante) (maadi)

Edberg, Courier-acc go out-npst.rp-like that do-pp

||
 ↓
 avara
 ||
 ↓
 ∅

||
 ↓
 nirgamana
 ||
 ↓
 ∅

||
 ↓
 ∅

||
 ↓
 ∅

caang soolina seeDu (tiirisikoNDaru)

Chang defeat-gen take revenge-refl-pst-3sh

||
 ↓
 ∅

Reason

21. balgeeriyaavannu hosakida naijiiriya

Bulgaria-acc smash-pst.rp Nigeria

gaayaaLu hulige baarada nidde

wounded tiger-like person-dat come-neg.rp sleep

'because Nigeria smashed Bulgaria out, the hurt Bulgarian

- 21a. balgeeriyaa(vannu)(naijiiriyaa;) hosakitu naijiiriyaa; (aadarinda)
 Bulgaria-acc ↓↓ Nigeria || smash || pst-3sn therefore
 ↓↓ ↓↓ ↓↓
 ∅ ∅ ∅
 gaayaalu hulige nidde (baralilla)
 wounded tiger like person sleep come-_{pst.neg}
 ||
 ↓↓
 ∅

Concession

22. ciman pakSakke maanyate
 Chiman party-dat recognition
 apeekSita cinhege nakaara
 desired symbol-dat denial
 'even though Chiman's party was recognised, desired
 symbol was denied'
- 22a. ciman pakSakke maaanyate (niididaruu)
 Chimon party-dat recognition give-_{concess.}
 ||
 ↓↓
 ∅
- apeekSita cinhege nakaara (suucisalaayitu)
 desired symbol-dat denial intimate-_{imp.pass-pst-3sn}
 ||
 ↓↓
 ∅

4.4 First deck as quotative clause

23. kuveeT vimoocane
 Kuwait liberation
 raayabhaari aashaya
 ambassador wish
 'the ambassador has expressed his wish that Kuwait must get
 liberated'

23a. kuveeT vimoocane (goLLabeeku) (endu)

Kuwait liberation get-inf-must

|| ||
q q
↓ ↓
∅ ∅

raayabhaari aashaya (vyaktapaDisiddaare)

ambassador wish express-pr.pf-3sh

||
↓
∅

4.5 Three-deck headlines

Adverbial clause of reason + consequence + consequence

24. uttarapradeesha vidhaana sabhe visarjane

Uttarpradesh legislative assembly dissolution

mulaayam ustuvaari mukhyamantri

Mulayam care taker Chief Minister

mee tingaLalli cunaavaNe

May month-loc election

'because of the dissolution of Uttar pradesh legislative assembly, Mulayam became the care taker Chief Minister and election will be conducted in the month of May'

24a. uttara pradesha vidhaana sabhe (yannu)

Uttarpradesh legislative assembly-acc 0

visarjis(u iddarinda) mulaayam ustuvaari

dissolve-pst.pf-ger-ins Mulyam caretaker

↓ ↓
visarjane ∅

mukhyamantri (yaadaru)

Chief Minister become-pst-3sh

||
↓ ↓
∅ ∅

mee tingaLinalli cunaavaNe (yannu)

May month-loc election

(naDesalaaguvudu)

conduct-imp.pass-3sn

Postpositional phrase + adverbial clause of reason + consequence

25. kiriya vaidyara sampu

junior doctors-gen strike

maatukate apuurNa

talks incomplete

matte hanneradandu sandhaana

again on 12th - on negotiation

'since the talks regarding junior doctor's strike were incomplete, negotiations will be resumed on 12th'

25a. kiriya vaidyara samp^u(annu) (kuritu)

junior doctors-gen strike-acc about

maatukate apuurNa(gonDiruvudarinda)

negotiation remain incomplete-pr.pf.ger-ins

matte hannerad^{ra}andu sandhaana (naDesalaaguudu)

again on 12th negotiate-imp.pass-fut-3sn

Multidecker as a vertical arrangement of units is a device used by headline writers when they do not have space-length horizontally. Except this practical factor, there is nothing

very special about the multidecker arrangement. Multideck headlines are 'informative' but they are not so 'precise' and 'attractive' as the single-deck headlines (cf. Simon-Vandenberg, 1981:114).

CHAPTER 5

TUATION