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A Preliminary Analysis of Causative Construction in Koshli Language

Brahmananda Padra, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. (JNU)
Assistant Professor, Department of English. Gangadhar Meher University
Sambalpur, Odisha-768004
brahmanandajnu@gmail.com
Mobile No-9315408815

Bailochan Naik, M.A, M.Phil., Ph.D. (JNU)
Centre for Linguistics
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
nbailochan1990@gmail.com

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Abstract

This paper presents a preliminary analysis of the causative phenomenon in Koshli. The paper investigates the causative construction on the basis of its form and the function. Moreover, it presents the classification of causative construction on the basis of linguistic analysis. In other words, in this paper we present the morphology, syntax and the semantics of the causative verbs in the language.

Keywords: Koshli Language, Causative, Morphological, Syntactic, Semantic, Periphrastic, Lexical.

A Succinct Idea on Koshli

Koshli is an exhaustively spoken Indo-Aryan language of Western Odisha. Narang's (1937) states that, the name of the language sources from the name of the region Koshal. Grierson (2005) has observed that the grammatical similarities among the languages spoken in the region from Raighar in the North to Kalahandi in the South and Raipur in the West to Burma in the East (Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur, Deogarh, Athmallick sub-division of Angul district, Bargarh, Subarnapur (Sonepur), Nuapada,Bolangir, Boud and Kalahandi). The language also is spoken by the people of South Western district of Madhya Pradesh (present Chhattishgarh) and Bihar (present Jharkhand).

Koshli syntactically is an SOV, head-final and typologically agglutinating language. However, Koshli and Odia have some similarities with respect to their lexical items and a part of their

phoneme inventories, these can be attributed to the general similarities between languages are in close contact and come under the umbrella of South Asian languages. However, the dissimilarities between Koshli and Odia are far more significant. They differ in terms of most of their lexicons, and syntax. As shown in Naik's (2018) for example, Odia and Koshli negation behave differently when the clause in question is scrambled. Moreover, Odia is a vowel final language whereas Koshli is a consonant final language. Naik (2018) in his M.Phil Dissertation "A Digital Lexicon of Complex Predicates in Koshli" has given a transparent comparison with wonderful summary of a few differences between Odia and Koshli. Many scholars including Tripathy (undated), Das (1990), Kushal (2015), Padra (2015), Naik (2018), strongly note that Koshli is not a dialect, rather a rich and independent language, having different varieties like Sundargadia, Kalahandia, Balangaria, and Bargadia and Sambalpurai. However, language variation is inevitable and Koshli is no exception. Koshli is spoken in the ten districts and Athmallick sub-division of Angul district of Western Odisha; its varieties are spread out over these districts. Here is a list of districts given below for a clear and comprehensive understanding.

i) Sundargarh
ii) Jharsuguda
iii) Sambalpur
iv) Deogarh
v) Athamallick Sub-division of Anugul District
vi) Bargarh
vii) Subarnapur (Sonepur)
viii) Nuapada
ix) Bolangir
x) Boudh and
xi) Kalahandi

Introduction

In common parlance, **Causative verbs** mean that 'some actor makes somebody else do something or causes him to be in a certain state' (Agnihotri, 2007). The causal verb indicates 'the causing of another to do something, instead of doing it oneself' (Greaves, 1983). Causative verbs

have been differently realized in different languages world-wide. So far as the causative verbs are concerned, it has been an attractive and interesting field of research among linguists and research scholars. The study of causative constructions is important as it involves the interaction of various components such as semantics, syntax, and morphology (Comrie, 1981). It semantically refers to a causative situation which has two components: (i) the causing situation or the antecedent; (ii) the caused situation or the consequent. These two combine to make a causative situation (Nedyalkov and Silnitsky, 1973).

In different languages, the causation is indicated in different ways. According to Comrie (1981), there are three different types of causatives: i) Morphological causatives, ii) Periphrastic causatives and iii) Lexical causatives. On the one hand, it is obvious from various researches that **morphological Causatives** indicate causation with the help of verbal affixes. Sanskrit, Hindi (Rajesh Bhatt and David Embick) Urdu, Persian, Arabic, Hebrew, Japanese, Khmer, Finnish and many other languages have morphological causatives. On the other hand, the periphrastic causatives indicate causation with the help of a verb which occurs along with the main verb. Here is model example, in English in a sentence to have clear understanding such as:

1) **Radha makes the child write the alphabet.**

We witness in the above example that the verb *make* is expressing causation which is occurring along with the verb *write.* English, German, and French are some of the languages which have periphrastic causatives. Lexical causatives are those in which there is no morphological similarity between the base verb root and the causative verb form.

However, our concern is neither to diagnose the periphrastic causative nor to see a lexical causative. Rather we will investigate the morphological causatives of Kohli (Sambalpuri) language. Causatives in Koshli language basically are derived through morphological processing. The affixation to the root of a basic verb plays a crucial role in the formation of causatives. Here is a table with some model examples. Let's have a look at it.

Table 1

Basic verbs	**Running translation**	**Causative verbs**	**Running translation**
kʰɑ	To eat	kʰuɑ	Make to eat
nɑc	To dance	nəcɑ	Put to dance
cəg	To climb	cəgɑ	Make to climb
bəs	To sit	bəsɑ	Put to sit
pʰĩg	To throw	pʰĩgɑ	Put to throw
pi	To drink	piɑ	Make to drink

hə̃s	To laugh	hə̃sɑ	Make to laugh
ɖəuɖə	To run	ɖəuɖɑ	Put to run
koɖ	To dig	koɖɑ	Make to dig

Koshli language does not have a third type of causative like Hindi possesses, for example [kʰɑnɑ, kʰilɑnɑ, kʰilwɑnɑ]. We have a list in the above table that conveys the addition of [-ɑ] to the root form of verb becomes the causative form.

Let's now have the causative constructions of the language and their morphological operation. The following examples show the transitive and intransitive verbs and their derived causative forms.

For example:

2) ʈukel ɑm kʰɑucʰe
girl.3SF.NOM mango.ACC eat.PRG.PRS
The girl is eating mango

3) mɑ cʰuɑ-ke bʰɑʈ̪ kʰuoucʰən
Mother.3SF.NOM child.DAT rice.ACC eat.CAUS.PRS
The mother fed the child.

4) muĩ bəhi pəɖʰsĩ
I.1S.NOM book.ACC read.HAB.PRS
I read books.

5) buɑ moʈ̪e bəhi pəɖʰɑsən
Father.3SM.NOM I.DAT book.ACC read.CAUS.PRS
My father put me study the book.

6) se nɑcucʰe
S/he.3SF.NOM dance.PRG.PRS
S/he is dancing.

7) mɑkəɖ-bɑlɑ mɑkəɖ-ke nəcɑlɑ
Monkey owner.3SF.NOM monkeyDAT dance.CAUS.PST.PRFT
The monkey owner made the monkey danced.

8) cʰuɑ-ʈɑ sui pəɖlɑ

Child.3S.NOM.DEF sleep.CONV fall.PST
The child slept.

9) cʰuɑ-ke mɑ suei pəkɑle
Child.DAT mother.3SF.NOM sleep.CAUS.CONV fall.PST
Mother put the child slept.

10) gɑɛmɑne pɑɛn pile
Cow.3P.NOM water.ACC drink.PST
Cows drank water.

11) kəmihɑ gɑɛmɑn-ke pɑɛn piɑle
Cowboy.3SM.NOM cow.3P.DAT water.ACC drink.CAUS.PST
The cowboy made the cows drink water.

12) cʰuɑʈɑ suilɑ
Child.3S.NOM sleep.PST
The child slept.

13) mɑ cʰuɑ-ke suɑle
Mother.3SF.NOM child.DAT sleep.CAUS.PST
Mother made the child slept.

14) pilɑ-mɑne kʰelucʰən
Boy.3PM.NOM play.PRG.PRS
The boys are playing.

15) rɛpʰəri pilɑ-mɑn-ke kʰelouchʰən
Referee.3S.NOM boy.3P.DAT play.CAUS.PRS
The referee is making play the boys.

We see from the above examples clearly that the causative construction in the language is possible which basically is derived from the base form of verb. The examples (3), (5), (7) (9), (11), (13), and (15) include the causative verb constructions where somebody causes someone or something to perform a certain action. In example (3) [mɑ 'mother'] causes [chuɑ 'child'] to eat. Likewise in other examples including (5), (7) and (9) (11), (13) and (15) the process can be identical and observable.

To have a fundamental but transparent idea, the verbal paradigm of causative construction in Koshli is very useful; hence, it is given below in Table 2 with its corresponding verbal base.

Table 2

Verbal Base	**Causative Construction**
bʰiɟ To drench	bʰiɟɑ Cause someone to drench
cɑl To walk	cəlɑ Make someone to walk
kɑ̃ɖ To cry	kənɖɑ Cause someone to cry
kər To do	kərɑ Cause somebody to do
lekʰ To write	lekʰɑ Cause somebody to write
pəɖʰ To read	pəɖʰɑ Make someone to read
uʈh To rise	uʈʰɑ Make someone to rise
sikʰ To learn	sikʰɑ Make somebody learn
gɑɖʰ to bath	goɖʰɑ Make someone to bath
bʰɑs To float	bʰəsɑ Cause somebody to float
ʈɑɳ to draw	ʈəɳɑ Make someone to draw
ɖoɳ To peep	ɖoɳɑ Make to peep

In the above paradigm we observe the following causative derivation process which involves the sound alternation: there could be two possible ways.

a) There are some of the causative constructions which have taken the affixation [-ɑ] and this is added to the verbal base, basically when the verb is in the present, past and future simple.

b) When the verb is in the present, past and future progressive, the causative suffix [-ə] is added to the root.

However, another aspect we should notice here is the valency of verb. As Kachru (2006) and Comrie (1981) have opined that 'in each step of causative derivation there is an increase in the valency of the verb.' To have a comprehensive understanding of the idea again we have taken some model examples below.

16) cʰuɑ kʰellɑ
child.3S.NOM play.PST
The child played.

17) nani cʰuɑ-ke kʰelɑle
Sister.3SF.NOM child.DAT play.CAUS.PST
Sister made the child play.

18) cʰuɑ-ʈɑ gɑɖlɑ
Child.3S.NOM.DEF bath.PST
The child took a bath.

19) cʰuɑ-ke mɑ goɖʰɑle
Child.3S.DAT mother.3SF.NOM bath.CAUS.PST
Mother made the child bath.

20) mɑ cʰuɑ-ke goɖʰɑle
Mother.3SF.NOM child.DAT bath.CAUS.PST
Mother made the child bath.

21) jʰi-ʈɑ rɑ̃nɖʰucʰe
Daughter.3SF.NOM.DEF cook.PRG.PRS
The daughter is cooking.

22) mɑ jʰi-ke rə̃nɖʰɑle
Mother.3SF.NOM daughter.DAT cook.CAUS.PST
Mother made the daughter cook.

23) jʰi-ke mɑ rə̃nɖʰɑle
Daughter.DAT motehr.3SF.NOM cook.CAUS.PST

24) mɑ ɟʰi-ke bʰɑʈ rə̃nɖʰɑle
Mother.3SF.NOM daughter.DAT rice.ACC cook.CAUS.PST
Mother made the daughter cook rice.

The above examples offer a clear understanding that the increment of valency of verb has taken place. The examples which do not have causative verbs possess one or two arguments. When it turns to be causative constructions, the valency has been increased and the number of arguments has also increased to two, three or more than that.

Conclusion and Future Work

To sum up, the present paper presents a preliminary analysis of causative constructions in Koshli language, with a fundamental classification followed by a surface linguistic analysis, containing the form and function. The work could be of help particularly for the researchers in this area for further research in the language, and in linguistics in general.

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