

CHAPTER-4

Non-Finite verbs in Kannada inscriptions

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ABSTRACT

Written forms like inscriptions and literary works are key sources for studying language. Inscriptions include social and regional elements of a specific period, making their linguistic study helpful in understanding the origin, structure, history, and development of Language.

A sentence consists of a subject, object, and verb. The verb at the end of the sentence takes gender and number agreement from the nominal element and becomes a finite verb, providing closure to the sentence. Verbs appearing in the middle of the sentence consist of the verb root and tense markers. They allow expressing one action after another in the sentence and indicate that the sentence is not yet complete. This article studies the structure of these non-finite verbs and their functions in sentences.

Kannada has a large number of inscriptions from around the 5th century CE through the 19th century. Studying these old written records helps trace the language's evolution. With this aim, the present study uses Kannada inscriptions from the 11th and 12th centuries. During this period, dynasties such as the Kalyana Chalukyas, Kalachuris, Hoysalas, Sevunas of Devagiri, Alupas, Rattas, Sindas, Kadambas of Kadarikkallu, and Ahihayas ruled various parts of Karnataka. This era, under multiple royal dynasties, saw significant social changes, whose influence is evident in the language. Studying the language of this period reveals its structure. The current study applies principles of descriptive linguistics.

Non-finite verbs express temporal relations between two actions, as well as negation, condition, and clause-linking functions in sentences. Non-finite verbs appearing in the middle of sentences carry verb root with tense suffix but lack gender-number suffixes.

Example:

māḍu + -i = māḍi

(v+ pp = nfv)

Surekha vyāpāra **māḍi** manege bandaḷu

1 Temporal Relations:

Tense suffixes appear in sentence verbs. The final verb indicates the time relation between the action time and speaking time. The medial verb doesn't show this relation; instead, it indicates the temporal relation between two actions in the sentence.

Though Keshiraja's *Shabdamani-darpana*, well-known Kannada Grammar of 13th century, does not directly discuss tense in non-finite verbs but while describing tense suffixes, it states that -i, -u mark past tense, and -utum, -uttum, -utte, -ute mark present tense. Examples given like **nenedu** pēḷḍaṁ, **nacchi** bandaṁ show tense markers used in non-finite verbs

pratipādyamutvāmitvam |

mativāntarin eyde pūrvakāla kriye gā ||

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yutumuttumu tteyuteyem |

du taguḷguṃ vartamāna viḥita kriyeoḥ || [236]¹

This article identifies -ut-, -i-, -ṭ-, -d- suffixes with verbs in Kannada Inscriptions to express two events in one sentence and their temporal relation. The two actions in a sentence may occur simultaneously or sequentially. Their formation and functions in sentences are discussed here.

1.1 Past Tense

Two actions in a sentence can be shown where one action occurs followed by another through non-finite verbs. This is achieved by adding -i-, -d-, -ṭ- suffixes to the verb root of the first action.

1.1.1 -i

When the -i suffix (indicating past-perfective) is added to the verb root of the first action, it shows that one action is completed and another follows.

Structure: pōgu + -i = pōgi

(v+ pp = nfv)

śrī hajjēśvara devara liṅgamam śrīparvvatake pōgi chāvūḍamayyagē liṅapraṭiṣṭheyale biṭṭa keyi... (Bī.Gi.Śā.66)

Structure: geyu + -isu + -i = geyisi

(v+caus+pp = nfv)

siṅgarasaru basavana kēriyēriye rebbēśvaradēvaram praṭiṣṭhe geyisi baisaṃbāla vṛttiyāge koṭṭar... (Su.Tā.Śā.46)

Structure: kaṭṭu + -isu + -i = kaṭṭisi

(v+ caus+ pp= nfv)

inti dharmamam pratipalisidavargge varaṇāśiyalu sāsira kavileyakōḍum koḷagumam ponnalu kaṭṭisi chaturvēdapāragarappa brāhmaṇaraggē koṭṭa phala... (Su.Tā.Śā.13)

1.1.2 -ṭ-

When the -ṭ- suffix (indicating past tense) is added to the first verb root, it expresses that one action has occurred and another will follow. After the past -ṭ- suffix attaches to the verb root, -u acts as sentence coordination.

Structure: koḍu + -ṭ- + -u = koṭṭu

(v+ t + co = nfv)

kāṭhārada divākara daṇḍanāyaru tammain honna koṭṭu avaretippeyinalli keyi mattaru aivattu maṭṭondu maneyumam māraḱonḍu brāhmaṇa bhōjanakke biṭṭaru (Ko.Ji.Śā.69)

1.1.3 -d-

When -d- suffix (indicating past tense) is added to the first verb root, it shows one action completed and another follows. After -d- attaches to the verb root, -u- acts as sentence coordination

Structure: kāyu + -d- + -u = kādu

(v+ t + co = nfv)

¹ Keshiraja.13th cen. Keshirajana Shbdamani Darpanam. Editor. Shastri Venkatachala T V.2025 (RP). Kannada Sahitya Parishattu.Bengaluru.

e dharmavam avara kulada arasugalu mukyavagi avara kulada arasugalum sarvabhadha pariharavagi sudharmmadim **kādu** rakṣisuvru maṅgaḷa mahāśrī (Rā.Ji.Śā.39)

Structure: geyu + -d- + -u = geydu

(v + t + co = nfv)

intī dharmamam pratipālīsidavargge bāraṇāsi prayāge kurukṣetramembī puṇya tīrththalol sā sira liṅgamam pratiṣṭegey**du** sāsirvarvvedapā ragarappa brāhm anargge sāsira kavileya kōḍama koḷagumaṁ pañcaratnadim kaṭṭisiyubhaya mukhigoṭṭa phaḷamakkumaṁ (Rā.Ji.Śā.26)

1.2 Non-past Tense:

-ut-

To indicate two events/actions occurring in the same context, the -ut- suffix marking present tense attaches directly to the medial verb root.

Structure: ālu + -ut- + -a = ālutta

(v + t + co = nfv)

Śrī svastishrīmatsu chālukya chakravartti trailōkyamalladēva varṣhada nālkaneya śrīmaka saṁvatsarada māgha māsadāmāvāsye sōmavāradamdu śrīmarnumahāmaṇḍalēśvaram chāvundarasadēvanardaṅgi mahādēviyaru kallūrunā**lutta** śrīsvayambhu kalidēvasvāmiyapādārādhakam molleya baṁmmeyamge dehāta vrittīyāgi **koṭṭa** sarvvaṁānya baḷāriya keya sīmeyim pattiṭa baḍagalum attarāru (Ko.Ji.Śā.175/177)

Structure: sallu + -ut- + -a = sallutta

(v + t + co = nfv)

Śrīmattrailōkyamalladēvara	vijaya	rājya	muttarōttarābhīrvṛddhi
pravarddhamānamāchandrārkkā	tāraṁbaram	salutta	kalyāṇada nelevīḍinolu

rāyaṅgeyyuttamire ((Rā.Ji.Śā.72)

Structure: sallu + -ut- + -aṁ = salluttaṁ

(v + t + co = nfv)

Svasti Samasta bhuvanāśraya śrī prithvīvallabha mahārājādhīrāja paramēśvara satyāśrayakuḷatilaka chālukyābharāṇa śrīmattrībhuvanamalladēvara vijayarājyamuttarōttarābhīrvṛddhi pravarddhamānamā chandrārkkā tāraṁ **saluttaṁ** śrī rājadhāni kalyāṇapurada nelevīḍinolu sukha saṁkathā vinōdadim rāyaṅgeyyuttamire śrīmachchālukya vikramavarṣhada 21 neya dhātu saṁvatsarada phāḷguṇa su 11 sōmavāradamdu mane verggade daṇḍanāyaka mahadēvabhaṭṭara hejjunka karanamgaḷu bijjanamarikalla mūḍaṇamaṭha sōmēśvaradēvara sōḍareṇṇige alliya maṇḍapadalu nichchalum akkidhānyada hēru onda naḍesuvru. (Bī.Gi.Śā.38/39)

1.3 Non-finite Verbs without Tense Markers:

When we observe the formation of non-finite verbs, we see that tense suffixes attach to the verbal base. However, in some contexts, non-finite verbs are formed by directly adding sentence connectors to the verbal base without tense suffixes. In the present article, it has been noted that when the suffix -alu attaches to the verbal base, tense suffixes are not used.

Structure: sallu + -alu = salalu

(v + co = nfv)

parabhava saṁvatsarada sankramanadandu avanchigeya donamarasan tamama bacharasa tanna pullivigeya siddayadolage āchandrakāḷam salalu sōḍareṇṇige biṭṭa paṇavaydu (ka. Gi.Śā.3)

Structure: koḍu + -alu = koḍalu

(v + co = nfv)

Structure: bēḍu + -alu = bēḍalu

(v + co = nfv)

svasti śrī macchālūkyā pratāpacakravartti jagadēkamalla dēva varṣada 10 neya pr....rada māgha bahuḷa ādityavāradaṁdu śrīmatsarvvana masyadagrahā raṁ....śēṣa mahājanamgaḷu madhuvapayya nāyakaḥ u māḍisida śrī vāsu dēva.....ṣṭeyandu avara magaṁ mācarasanu taṁmadēvarige kiṛidu bhūmiyaṁ **koḍalu**..... mahājanamgaḷu **bēḍalu** ā mahājanamgaḷu kā rūṇyag eyd u hiri ya kēre.....ḍiyim baḍagalu madhyakada || i munnamūrāgi garuḍaga mbada janārd da na....ḍi pattire mūḍalu be nkoḷvana kōlalu nā lku mattaru keyyaṁ ā.....dēvar gge dhārāpūrvakaṁ māḍikoṭṭaru (rā.ji.śā.51)

2 Negation

In simple sentences, suffixes and words indicating that an action has not occurred are attached to the verb at the end of the sentence. In compound and complex sentences, non-finite verbs can indicate that the first action in the sentence has not taken place. These non-finite verbs appearing in the middle of the sentence express negation by incorporating suffixes. Non-finite verbs achieve negation by attaching the negative suffix *-a-* to verb roots. After the *-a-* suffix, *-de* is added for sentence conjunction.

Structure: tappu + -a + -de = tappade

(v+neg+con = nfv)

Yintī dharmamaṁ tappade pratipālīṣuvru (ka.ji.śā.6)

Structure: keḍu + -isu + -a + -de = keḍisade.

(v+caus+neg+ co = nfv)

mattavayayyana heggade sunkada jakkarayanu kalluralu munna saṁsaka kē ṇaḍeva muuru ghanamum devara nandadivige yarnege bitta inti dharmamaṁ sunkake naḍeva heggadeḷum bharataneraviyūṁ sāsana maryaādayaṁ kiḍisade naḍasuvru (Ko. Gi.Śā.175/177)

3 Conditional Verb Forms

When one action in a sentence depends on another, the dependent action takes a conditional suffix. The suffixes **-aḍe**, **-oḍe**, **-eḍe**, and **-are** attach to the verb root to express conditionality in the sentence. These suffixes follow tense markers on the verb root.

3.1. -oḍe:

Structure: āgu + -p + -oḍe = apode

(v+t+ cond = nfv)

Ī dharmamaṁ kiḍisiradhanapoḍe varanasīyalu Sahasra lingabhedavam Sahasra bramahatīyūṁ govada sahasravam madida Akshaya narakavam padwvamanagalam (Bī.Gi.Śā.63)

Structure: māru + -d + -oḍe = māriḍoḍe

(v + t+ cond = nfv)

Hū māriḍoḍe haḍagaligegeradu nāraṁ kuḍuvru (k.Gi.Śā .6)

3.2. -aḍe:

Structure: tappu + -d + -aḍe = tappiḍaḍe

(v + t+ cond = nfv)

Ī dharmamaṁ kaḍamba vamaśadarasuḷ [pālīṣade] tappiḍaḍe
[kavilegaḷum]bhramanarumanalidadoshasargum. (Rā.Ji.Śā. 8)

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Structure: tappikoḷḷu + -d- + -ade = *tappikoṇḍade*

(v+ t + cond = nfv)

I marvyādeynāvanorvvaṃ tappikoṇḍade baranasiyalkavileyanaliva dosha... (Ko. Gi.Śā.3).

3.3. -ede:

Structure: kiḍu + -isu- + -d- + -ede = kiḍisideḍe

(v+t+ cond = nfv)

Ī dharmma manāvanorvaṃ kiḍisideḍe varanasiyalu koti kavileyanu Konda mahapataka... (ka. Gi.Śā.1).

3.4. -are:

Structure: māru + -d + -are = māriḍare

(v+t+ cond = nfv)

Arisina iṅgu meḷasu jīrage śarkare bella māriḍare pongevisada eradu kagini yaradara lekkam tiruvaru (ka. Gi.Śā.3)

4 Relative Connection

It is possible to relate the action in a sentence to other sentence elements. The *-a* suffix attaches to medial verbs to connect the action to nominals or other sentence constituents. The *-a* suffix follows tense markers on the verb root. It is used uniformly across past, present, and future tenses without variation.

Structure: māḍu + -d- + -a = māḍida

(v + t + rconn = nfv)

Śrī bālabhāskaradēvaru pratisṭhe māḍida śrī kēsavadēvarigaṃ naivedyakke shreemadadyadevara gadimbada kololu bitta devara kariya nelam mattaru hattu (rā.ji.śā.72.)

Structure: *samarpisu* + -d- + -a = *samarpisida*

(v+t+rconn = nfv)

Nagaramgaḷuṃ **samarppisida** māṇiyaru dēvaraṃ pūjisuvru (bi. Gi.Śā .6.)

This study covers the structure and functions of non-finite verbs in Kannada inscriptions. In modern Kannada also, suffixes for tense relations, negation and connections are used. Most of the forms continue in Modern Kannada however, four forms which are used to express the condition are not found in Modern Kannada, but only one of them namely, *-are* is used. Since these forms continue from old inscriptional Kannada to present day with some changes, we can trace their historical development.

Non-finite verbs are one of the key features of Dravidian languages. In Kannada and other Dravidian languages, Non-finite verbs are used to indicate temporal relations between two verbs, as well as negation, conditionals, and connections. However, the specific suffixes used differ across these languages. This article identifies the use of the *-Ut-* suffix to indicate that the two verbs in a sentence occur simultaneously; the *-i-*, *-t-*, *-d-* suffixes to show that one action precedes the other; and the formation of Non-finite verbs without tense suffixes. It notes the use of the *-a* suffix to express non-occurrence of an action or negation in a sentence. For conditionals, forms like *-ode*, *-ade*, *-ede*, *-are* are found to be used. The study also identifies the use of *-a* suffix to show the relationship between a verb and a noun in the sentence. Through this, the structure of Non-finite verbs in Kannada and their functions in sentences have been understood. Imperfect verbs from the 11th and 12th centuries have been identified, with an effort made to understand primarily Old Kannada.

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Abbreviations:

caus	causative
co	coordination
cond	conditional verb forms
neg	negative
nfv	non-finite verb
pp	Past participle
rconn	relative connection
t	tence
v	verb

Source:

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