Synchronic exploration in search of diachronic paths: An areal-typological study on the grammaticalization of “PUT/KEEP” in Northeast, Central, and South Asian languages

Prashant PARDESHI
Kobe University, Japan
prashantpardeshi@gmail.com
Workshop of Linguistic Typology, Kobe University, 25th Oct. 2008

1. Introduction

- Background & Purpose
- Masica (1976: 141-158)
  Explicator compound verb
  - one of the hallmarks of the languages spoken in Northeast, Central, and South Asia

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- Masica (1976: 151): Explicator compound verb

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- Explicator compound verb
  - Sequence of two verbs: V1(non-finite) + v2(finite)
  - V1 = Primary/Main/Polar Verb
  - v2 = Secondary/Explicator/Vector Verb
  - Semantics: V1 is the semantic center of gravity and v2 is semantically bleached.
  - The set of v2s is a closed class: GO, COME, GIVE, TAKE, PUT/KEEP, SEE, THROW, SIT, STAND etc.

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- Masica (1976: 146): Chief explicator auxiliaries

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- Explicator compound verb \([V1+v2]\)
- The concatenation of \([V1+v2]\) is \textit{lexically selective}.
- A given \(v2\) combines only with such \(V1\) as are compatible with it.
- Not much is known about the cross-linguistic differences in the co-occurrence restrictions of a given \(v2\) with the \(V1\).

- The co-occurrence restrictions of a given \(v2\) with the \(V1\) may be taken as a barometer of the degree of semantic bleaching or grammaticalization of the \(v2\) in question.
- Assuming that the direction of semantic change is the same but that the speed of the change may vary from one language to other.

- A comparative study of vector verbs across the languages of Northeast, Central, and South Asia provides us an invaluable opportunity to examine the process of grammaticalization at different points in apparent time and to follow it through successive phases (see Hook 1988).
- Such an exploration in “space/geography” provides a glimpse into the “time/history” of the trajectory of change.

- In this paper, I focus on the vector verb \((v2)\) usage of the experientially basic verb \(PUT/KEEP\) in the languages of Northeast (Japanese, Korean, Mongolian), Central (Kazakh, Uzbek, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Uyghur) and South Asia (Hindi, Marathi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam) in an attempt to shed light on the similarities and differences in its co-occurrence restrictions with the main verb \((V1)\) through a questionnaire-based elicitation study.
2. Methodology

• Consultants:
  - Korean: Dr. J-M, Kim, Dr. H-J Chung, Y-N Li, Yi-I Kwon and J-H Kwon
  - Mongolian: Badema (Wūlánchábù City, Inner Monogolia, China)
  - Uzbek: Mukhamediev Nozim Mufazzalovich (Tashkent, Uzbekistan)
  - Tajik: Rustamov Mirmuhammad (Samarkand, Uzbekistan)
  - Kyrgyz: Djamilia Soltobaeva (Ak Tuz, Kyrgyzstan)
  - Kazakh: Saltanat Abdildina (Astana, Kazakhstan)
  - Uyghur: Gulizar Keyim (Ghulja City, Uyghur Autonomous Regions, China)
  - Hindi: Sunil Lakhera (New Delhi, India)
  - Telugu: Dr. SAR Reddy (Kakinada, India)
  - Tamil: Verrappan Veerasureshkumar (Madurai, India)
  - Malayalam: Dr. P. A. George (Thiruvananthapuram, India)

Thank you very much !!!

2. Methodology

• V1 classification: 5 groups in the order of decreasing transitivity:
  1. canonical transitive (e.g. wash clothes, clean the room etc.) exx. 2-12
  2. semi-transitive/ingestive (e.g. eat food, drink medicine) exx. 13-17
  3. reflexive transitive (take shower, wash one's hands etc.) exx. 18-20 & 23
  4. unergative (e.g. run, walk, sit, etc.) exx. 21, 22, 24-31
  5. unaccusative (e.g. die) ex. 32

  Check if the above can co-occur with the vector PUT/KEEP in the languages under discussion.

3. Findings

1. Canonical transitive, exx. 2-12 (see appendix)

Uzbek (Central Asia)
6 Ertaga sayo qo'yi to qo'yi bodulqila/ *bodulqila wju talbiwya
tomorrow journey to go out-CP
go-1S hence cloth-CP keep-CP

Malayalam (South Asia)
6 Nale muthal ydtrakkyu pokkannakhunkodu vasuthram
tomorrow from journey to go-hence cloth-ACC
wash-CP keep-AST

Since I was to go on a trip from tomorrow I washed the cloths beforehand.

Exx. 2-8, 10: In all the language at hand the combination of [WASH+ KEEP/PUT] is permitted.

3. Findings

1. Canonical transitive, exx. 2-12 (see appendix)

Mongolian (N-E Asia)
9 tere sah-ba toqai bodulqila-ya/ *bodulqila-ju
talk-GEN that thing-GEN think-CP think-FUT keep-CP

Telugu (South Asia)
9 As visayam gaunchi aalschi-staalnu that topic about think-1S.FUTURE think-CP keep-CP
aalschi-ni-uncostaamu I will think about it beforehand.

As for [THINK+KEEP/PUT] combination variation is observed across lgs.
3. Findings

1. Canonical transitive, exx. 2-12 (see appendix)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Sentence</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tajik</td>
<td>I kept that file on the desktop.</td>
<td>Exx. 11, 12</td>
</tr>
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<td>Hindi</td>
<td>I kept that file on the desktop.</td>
<td>Exx. 11, 12</td>
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3. Findings

2. Semi-transitive/ingestive, exx. 13-17 (see appendix)

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<tr>
<td>Uyghur</td>
<td>I heard the tape beforehand.</td>
<td>Exx. 15-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marathi</td>
<td>I drank a lot of tea so as not to fall asleep later.</td>
<td>Exx. 15-17</td>
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3. Findings

3. Reflexive, exx. 18-20 and 23 (see appendix)

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<td>Telugu</td>
<td>I did not want to live long.</td>
<td>Exx. 21, 22, 24-31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mongolian</td>
<td>It’s a long journey hence let us sit.</td>
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4. Unergative, exx. 21, 22, 24-31 (see appendix)

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5. Unaccusative, ex. 32 (see appendix)

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Exx. 13, 14: [LISTEN+ KEEP/PUT], [LOOK/SEE+ KEEP/PUT]: variation across languages

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- The results of the study show that all the languages under discussion behave alike with regard to the concatenation of PUT/KEEP with canonical transitive V1.
- As for the combination of the same verb acting as V1 as well as V2 (KEEP+KEEP) differences are observed. Northeast and Central Asian languages allow such combinations while South Asian languages do not.

4. Summary & Conclusions

- The results of the study show that all the languages under discussion behave alike with regard to the concatenation of PUT/KEEP with canonical transitive V1.
- As for the combination of the same verb acting as V1 as well as V2 (KEEP+KEEP) differences are observed. Northeast and Central Asian languages allow such combinations while South Asian languages do not.

- With regard to ingestive verbs, very few languages barring Japanese and Korean permit concatenation with PUT/KEEP. The same trend is found for the reflexive and unergative verbs.
- Finally, as for unaccusative, only Japanese allow concatenation with PUT/KEEP. The vector PUT/KEEP in Japanese (oku), unlike its Korean counterparts, also undergoes phonetic attrition.

- From these facts, I conclude that on the continuum of grammaticalization of the vector PUT/KEEP Japanese occupies the higher end and South Asian languages the lower one. Korean and the Central Asian languages fall mid-way between these two poles.
- A more fine-grained analysis (involving elicitation from multiple no. of speakers, attested examples etc.) is required.
Thank you very much !!!

- Comments, criticisms, suggestions welcome !!
- Acknowledgement

The research reported here is supported in part by grants from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (#18520314, 18520290)
- Contact e-mail address: prashantpardeshi@gmail.com

Selected references


Appendix: English translation of the questionnaire in Japanese

1. He/She kept the book on the table.
2. Since the guests are going to come tomorrow I cleaned the room beforehand.
3. Since the guests were to come soon I switched on the light beforehand.
4. Since I was going return home late today I prepared dinner beforehand.
5. I wrote the telephone number on the paper so as not to forget it.
6. Since I was to go on a trip from tomorrow I washed the clothes beforehand.
7. Mother hid the chocolates beforehand so as not to be found by the kids.
8. I booked the ticket beforehand.
9. I will think about it beforehand.
11. Since the examination is tomorrow I listened to the 2 to 3 times tape beforehand.
12. When I had been to Japan I should have seen Mt. Fuji.
13. It is better to drink medicine before getting sick.
14. I drank a lot of tea beforehand so as not to fall asleep later.
15. Today I may not be able to take lunch hence I ate/had a heavy breakfast beforehand.
16. I wanted to go out I took shower beforehand.
17. In order to eat food I washed my hands.
18. I do not want to live long. It is best to die when people around regret your death.

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19. In order to eat food I washed my hands.
20. In order to do makeup I washed my face.
21. I cannot swim tomorrow hence I will swim today in advance.
22. If you swim in the swimming pool in the morning you can spend even the hot summer cool.
24. After reaching there I have start the work immediately hence I took enough sleep in the plane beforehand.
25. Hide yourself so as not be found by him.
26. I felt danger hence I decided to run away.
27. It looks like it is going to rain later hence I will jog/run in the morning.
28. It is better to run the distance more than one required to be run in the race while doing practice.
29. Those who want to ask questions should stand (line up) in front of the microphone.
30. If it is a long journey hence I should better sit.
31. It is important to sit when one can sit.
32. I do not want to live long. It is best to die when people around regret your death.

Memo