

Basics of Language Science
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Lecture 16
Components of a Sentence

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Sentence


- How do we make a sentence?
- Are sentences random collection of words?
- If not, what are the required components of a sentence?



How do we make a sentence? Are sentences a collection of random words? If not, what are the required components of a sentence? So, in order to answer these questions, we saw, we are still looking at how to make a sentence, but we definitely saw that sentences are not a random collection of words, it requires words very carefully. So, we were looking at required components of a sentence and then we are still looking at how they all play a role in making a sentence, in the making of a sentence.

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Gender and Agreement

1. raajuu ne caay pii
Raju-**M** erg tea-**F** drank-**F**
'Raju drank tea.'
2. siimaa ne seb khaaye
Sima-**F** ERG apple-**M-Pl** ate-**M-Pl**
 'Sima ate apples.'

And the components of agreement that we looked at were number, person and gender. And then we talked about various things about them. And we sort of established that there must be an agreement between a noun and a verb and the noun that really agrees with the verb is a subject of the sentence, this is what we established yesterday. Sometimes what we may think is a subject in a sentence may not be grammatically the subject of the sentence.

And these two examples in one and two clearly show us that Raju and Sima, these two nouns are not subjects that have these two sentences. There is no change in these two sentences since yesterday. Whereas, according to the requirement of the agreement, the following noun agrees with the verb and therefore, is the subject of the sentence in both of them.

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Categories

- Lexical Categories
 - Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Prepositions
 - Open class and Closed class
- Functional Categories
 - Phi Features
 - Tense
 - Aspects
 - Agreement



Moving on, we want to look at the categories and the abstract parts, which play a huge role in a sentence.

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So, once again, if you look at this sentence, the words that you see, such as Raju, chae and what is the verb there in sentence number one, verb with piina, pii, Sima seb khana. The words that you see in these sentences are called lexical items, they belong to the group that is called lexical categories. And the things that we do not see clearly, that is the elements that are responsible for agreement and some other stuff, they are called functional categories. They belong to a category, which is labeled as functional categories.

Many times, they are going to be visible, many times, they are not going to be visible. Many times, such things are visible, many times such things, by such things, I mean, functional categories are not visible in a sentence. Is this point making sense to you? When we say visible and not visible. This makes sense. So, going back to the sentence again is what is visible and what is not visible. Raju chae piina, the lexical categories are going to be visible all the time.

We are talking about functional categories. When we look at the components of agreement, is gender visible in the word Raju? Yes or no, no. We know it is masculine, but it is not visible. Likewise, it is not visible on the word Sima. So, the masculine and feminine gender of the two nouns respectively are not visible. However, and not however, likewise, the feminine gender of the noun chae, is that visible? It is not visible. Masculine gender of the word seb, is that visible? Not visible.

Plural marker on the verb seb, is that visible? A couple of days ago we have looked at plural markers, is this plural marker visible in this word? Not visible. This is what I meant, when I said a lot of times these things are not going to be visible. We need to see them carefully when we look at the whole sentence only then we see. Now, they are not visible with naked eyes, however they play a great role in the sentence.

Without them, without a proper matching between these things, that is elements of functional categories visible or not visible on lexical categories, without a matching, proper matching, which we call agreement, sentence is not possible. Therefore, we need to take into account the categories that are not visible. And here onwards, we are going to see a lot of underlying things that are not ordinarily visible in a sentence. Now, do you see any gender marker visible on the verb in the first sentence?

Piina pii, do you see that visible? Do you see the gender marker visible on the second word? Yes. Is this plural marker visible on the verb khana? Yes. And singular marker on the verb Pina. That is not visible. Now, the point is a lot of things are not visible, sometimes they may surface, sometimes you may be able to see them, a lot of times they are not visible. Elements that are not really visible many times are called functional categories.

Or to put it the other way around, elements of functional categories are not many times visible in sentences. So, we looked at five features. What about tense? What is the tense in these two sentences? In the first one, what is the sentence, what is the tense?

Student: Past tense.

Professor: Past tense. Do you see it visible anywhere? What part of this sentence tells you this is past tense? And of course, this question is only for people who can figure out some of the things of Hindi.

Student: Pii.

Professor: Pii, but somebody said that is the marker of feminine gender Ne and pii, so ne is the tense marker indicates is not important. I understand what you are trying to say. That probably only in these types of sentences you see ne therefore ne may be indicating some kind of past tense. That is not what we are talking about. That even though that is independently true, that is not the point.

The point is do we see past tense marker anywhere? No. So that is also not visible. And then there are a couple of other things which I have not discussed, for example, aspects. One right place to discuss aspects is these two sentences. But I will bring these two sentences back again and discuss that particular thing with you. Have you heard about these two words, these two terms tense and aspect, tense, everybody? What are the tenses in languages?

Student: Past, present and future.

Professor: Past, present, future. And aspects? Have you heard or not? Honestly.

Student: Continuous past.

Professor: So, continuous or perfect are the examples of aspects. Now, let me repeat this thing to a lot of you. If someone says continuous, past continuous does that make, what sense does this make to you, past continuous?

Student: The action was happening at that particular time, it was happening.

Professor: It was happening, that is, it was in the process it was under progress, had already started but not finished. The element that talks about time, that gives you a sense of time is called tense. The element that gives you sense of time is called tense and the element which gives you extra information, like this something started but not finished. That is an example of an aspect which is continuous aspect. There could be a more, perfective aspect. What would be an example of a perfective aspect? Perfect aspect what does it mean?

Student: He had finished the report.

Professor: He had finished the report. That is for sure, the action of finishing we know that it has, it is over not just because it is past tense. Something else is there in a sentence, which tells us that this is over. In many languages, including English, we can have perfect aspect even in the present tense. What was your example that you gave, he had finished? Can you say he has finished? He has finished reports. We can say that, right? What is the difference between he had finished and he has finished?

Student: We are talking about past tense.

Professor: Sure, hold on. So, we are definitely talking about something which not only happened in the past, the reason why it sounds like the past is because the process of report is over. In both the sentences, the report writing or doing or anything is over. What is it that causes the difference between has and had between these two sentences? So, had refers to past tense and has refers to present tense. So, there is a possibility where we can say present perfect and past perfect.

To underline this thing once more, what is the actual difference between the two? We decided one is past the other is present, both are perfect. But what is the difference in terms of their meanings?

Student: One he has just finished the report.

Professor: Just finish the report and the other one?

Student: He has finished the report sometime ago.

Professor: long time ago? Sure. You are right, you are right, too. So, you are saying long time, some time ago, he is saying a long time. And the other one is just finished. So, what is the, can you reformulate your sentence? You are right. Can you reformulate it? Is the question clear to everybody? No.

Student: ((??)) (14:11).

Professor: No, no. Do not confuse me with everything else. My question is pretty simple. Is my question not simple? All I am saying in both cases is that the eating lunch is over. I want to know if you said I had eaten my lunch and the other is I have eaten my lunch. In both the

cases eating is over. The first one is past, which one person says long time ago, the other is just finished.

All I want when I say reformulate, the all I want to say just now and a long time are relative difference in time, compared to just now, a long time could be anything after a little while. Hope you understand, if we are referring to let us say two hours from now, I have eaten my lunch. If it means at 12:30, I had eaten my lunch refers to anything before that 12:30, it could be yesterday, it could be five years. So, that is the difference between present perfect and past perfect.

Now, all these things play a huge role not only in formation of sentences, but how we talk about different things. That is, there is a way to indicate not only time in the sentence, that is, in terms of present, past and future, but also we can indicate different aspects on the verb, different manners in which action, whether finished, in progress and a couple of other things about them. The elements of sentences that talk about such things like perfection and continuation are called aspects. So, I am glad we covered that too.

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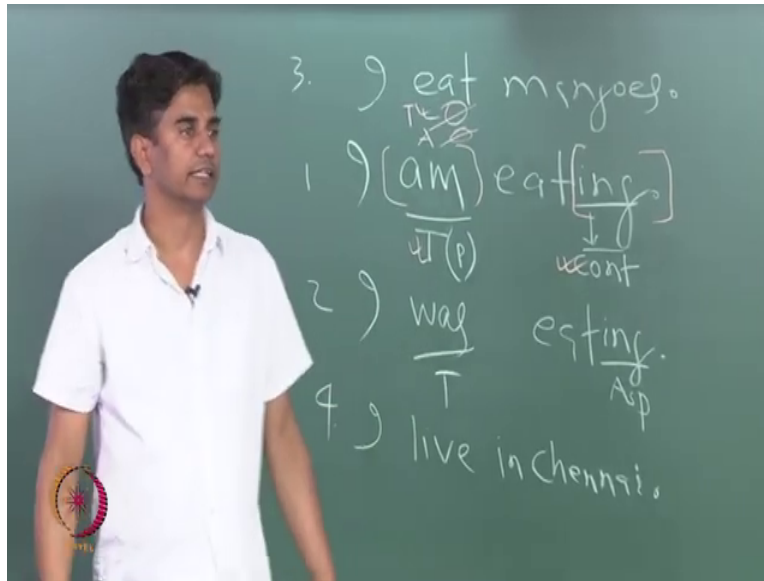
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Now, these are the things, sometimes they are going to be visible. So how do we say I am, when I say I am eating? What indicates continuation in this sentence?

Student: Ing.

Professor: Ing where, on the verb.

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So, if that indicates continuation, then this is not an invisible category. If I say, let us say this full sentence, I am eating. So, this is a continuous aspect marker. What is the tense marker in this sentence? First of all, which tense is this sentence in?

Student: Present tense.

Professor: Everybody knows this thing, present tense. Now, what is the aspect? What is the element in this sentence, which denotes tense?

Student: Am.

Professor: Sure, I will just take your word for that, this is the marker of tense, which is, let us say present, because we can say the same thing I was eating. Now, you know these things, all I am trying to do is to underline these categories in a sentence. So, again, when we say I was eating, this is an aspect marker and this is a tense marker. The two things are not going to be the same thing. They are two different elements in a sentence. As a matter of coincidence, in this case, both tense marker and aspect markers are visible.

Can we see both of them? They are visible. In some cases, they are not going to be visible. At least tense markers are not going to be visible. When we say this sentence. What is the sentence? I eat mangoes or for that matter, I want to say I live in Chennai. So, 1, 2, 3 and 4. Let us talk about sentence 3 and 4. What is the tense in 3, present tense and tense in 4?

Student: Present.

Professor: Which part of the sentence talks about in this tense?

Student: Verb.

Professor: True. Verb talks about, verb is the place where you would ideally look for a marker of tense, but which part, where is that? So, this verb is telling us about, so why is this one not telling us? Is my question making sense to you? Do not worry about the answer. Also, I suggest this has no bearing on your knowing English or not, as you can see, we are not talking about learning English or learning Hindi or any other language, we are talking about these categories. We are talking about functional categories involved in making of a sentence.

My question is, if this indicates tense, then why is this one not indicating tense? I do not think we can come up with simpler sentences in English. Am I right? These are pretty simple sentences. So, how will we resolve this problem? I cannot say you are wrong completely. But at the same time, you know that you are not right either. Am I right about that? That is a verb, that is a word. And in that word, there is nothing else visible, not even ing.

And if I am yet to talk about aspects, what is the aspect in this sentence? It is not that there is no aspect, for sure there is some aspect here.

Student: Simple present.

Professor: Simple present, well simple is not an aspect, but there is something else, think about that. What does this sentence tell us?

Student: Continuous.

Professor: Is this talking about continuous? So, if I say I am living in Chennai, then? That will be continuous. If I say I live in Chennai, what is the difference between I live in Chennai and I am living in Chennai. Forget about tense, both are present tense. I live in Chennai and I am living in Chennai, both are present tense sentences. Besides that, what is the difference between the two in terms of their meaning? Yeah, go ahead.

Student: ((??)) (22:57).

Professor: So, when I say I am living, so we are talking about, let us say a certain stretch of time, in which I am in Chennai. If I say I live in Chennai, what sense does this give to you?

Student: ((??)) (23:31).

Professor: Not just usually, until no specification given, it is just that I am, I without giving any indication of time that or without giving continuation, it tells you about a habitual routine thing that I am, I live in Chennai. It does not tell you when I am going to discontinue living there right or anything else. Similarly, when I say I eat mangoes, it says, I mean, I do not have a problem. I can say, I mean we can remove mangoes and put other things as well. It talks about not continuity, it talks about in a sense, it gives you indefinite reading, at the same time it gives you habitual reading.

Therefore, sometimes this aspect is called either habitual aspect or indefinite aspect. See this thing. Now, this is just for you to see. More than that, I want you to be convinced that each one of you is convinced that there is a difference between the meaning of these two sentences. I live in Chennai and I am living in Chennai. I live in Chennai and I am living in Chennai, you do not see the difference.

Student: Yeah, literally there is something.

Professor: That is all I mean literally there is a difference in the meaning. That is in the, what verb indicates causes the difference. Get this thing. Therefore, living is a continuous aspect, you have already seen the perfective aspect, this is another one, habitual or indefinite. So, besides this one has an aspect too which is not visible. That is unlike this where ing is the marker of this continuity, there is no such marker here of aspect.

At the same time, the way this thing marks tense, there is no marker of tense either. That is zero marker for tense, zero marker for aspect.

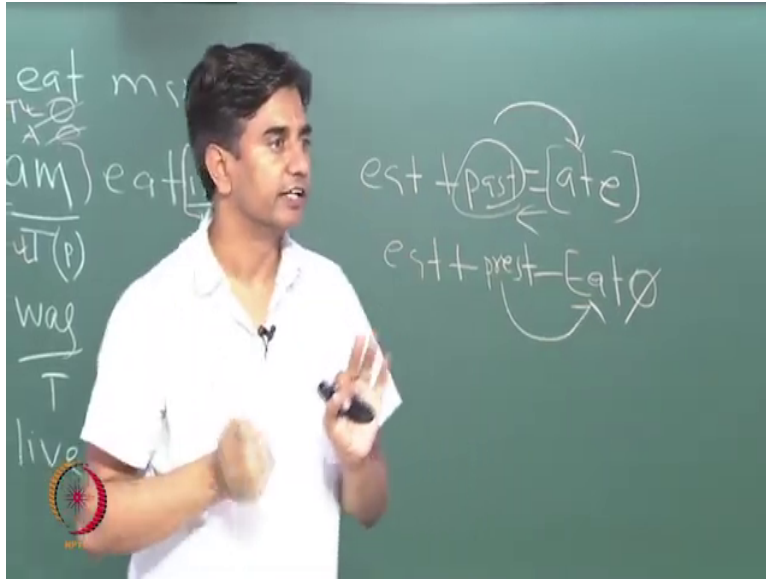
Student: There is a marker for tense.

Professor: Which is.

Student: Past tense of eat is ate. So, we can say since eat is given, it is present tense.

Professor: That is right. I am also saying the same thing. I am saying when you say sure, I am saying, you are right. What I am saying when you say ate there you see the change in the form of the verb.

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And you can say eat plus past becomes ate. Or we can say ate is eat plus past whereas, eat is eat plus present, which is this past at least has some change in the form of the verb and this present has got no change. Formally speaking, there is absolutely no change in the form of the word, that is what we mean when we say zero marker in tense. Remember and I want your careful attention here, we are not saying there is no tense, there is tense which is present tense.

So, all we are saying is it is not visible, because it has no obvious marker on it. And even more than that, what I want you to know is a lot of elements of functional categories are sometimes going to be visible, sometimes going to be not visible. And this is not language specific, within the same language, sometimes they are going to surface, sometimes they are not going to surface. Are you with me? Making sense? Now, if someone asks you what is the marker of tense in English?

Or let us say more specifically, what is the marker of present tense in English? We can say like you said am is the marker of present tense. Is marker of present tense, are marker of present tense, they are all together called verb B, let us see they are all markers of present tense. But when we say is, are, am are markers of present tense are we giving the complete picture? The answer is no. Because a lot of times there is no marker of present tense.

In examples like I eat mangoes, I live in Chennai. So, the same category, present tense, sometimes visible, sometimes not visible. This is all I want you to keep in mind with all these examples. Before I move, any problem, confusion? Are we clear about tense and aspect? Trust me, these are underlying stuff and I am very happy that you can see it fast and some of

you have prior ideas or knowledge about these things. It takes a long time to get used to these terms, to see these terms.

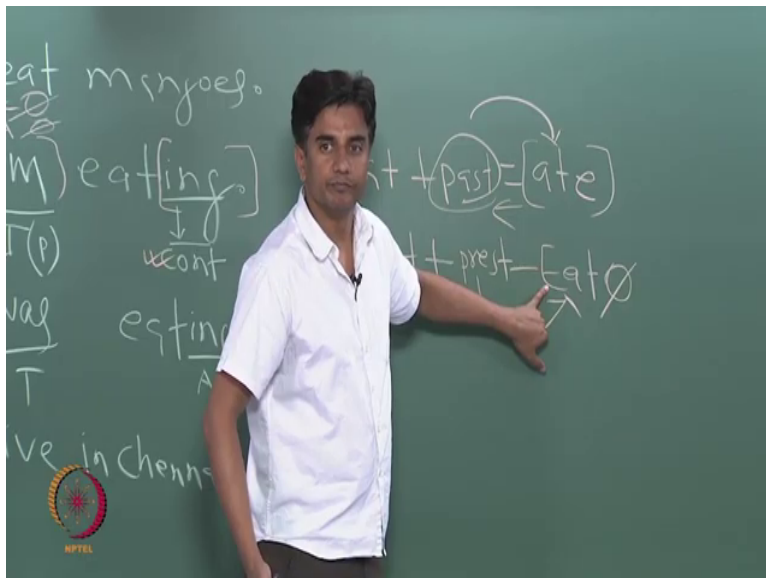

Not that we do not know them, we know. But then before we see these things, and we really see they are functioning, it takes time. So, are we clear about the distinction between tense and aspect? No questions? Alright.

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Request and Order

3. mujh-se kal milo
I-Dat tomorrow meet-imp
'See me tomorrow.' (Informal)

4. mujhse kal miliye
I-Dat tomorrow meet-imp
'Please see me tomorrow.' (Formal)



Now, in the next sentence, clear everybody? Even non-speakers of Hindi can figure out the meaning of these sentences, 3 and 4. You know the meaning you know the words, all that. My question is what is the tense in this sentence? I purposely did not talk about past tense so far, because I assume you know, and the story of past tense is similar to present, past tense could be more visible. In these cases, also it is going to be visible. Present tense sometimes is not very, very much visible.

Student: Present tense is not visible because we are taking the present ((???) (31:24).

Professor: So, that is one way of saying it, you are right. And I do not mean to contradict that. But all I am saying is on the word, what you are saying is a reference point, there is no

marker indicating tense. We are used to seeing things in markers. There is no marker indicating tense. However, the past tense marker on this, when you add past tense, you get something else. I will show you there is a way to, you may have heard when you, have you heard about physical reactions and chemical reactions, physical properties of reactions and chemical properties of reactions.

In one of them, when two things are mixed, it is almost impossible to do, to separate them. There is a way to separate tense from past tense. And the moment you separate past tense, it comes in the bare form. And then you will not be able to say that this is a reference point. Hang in for a moment, I will show you that. You add something else in the sentence, past tense immediately comes out. And then you cannot use the past form of the word.

Give me a moment. I will show you that. Meanwhile, please tell me therefore I did not talk much about past tense. Meanwhile, please tell me the tense in these two sentences. You think so or you know so? So, what tells you about present tense in these sentences?

Student: ((??)) (33:18).

Professor: Now he is bringing in third one, another one. So, what tells you about present tense in these two sentences?

Student: ((??)) (33:36).

Professor: So, he is just saying kal milo. Which part of it? Does it even indicate meaning wise any time in it? Do you see any sense of time in it?

Student: Kal.

Professor: Forget kal also, simply say milo. Mujh se milo, let us forget time, I think kal is the word which is giving you a sense of the future. Fine, let us drop that one. Mujh se milo. In this sentence, is there any reference of time?

Student: It is like booking an appointment in the future.

Professor: We are not very clear about that. We are not saying that do not meet today. We could very well mean aaj or future.

Student: ((??)) (34:33).

Professor: Seeing, exactly this. I am asking you what is it?

Student: We are not clear.

Professor: You are not clear?

Student: It is present.

Professor: It is present. How? Because both the positions need to be justified. If it is not clear, why is it not clear? If it is present, why is it present?

Student: Because there are no markers on the verb, see there.

Professor: Because there is no marker on the verb see, therefore it should be present tense, because you have just seen something like that. That is not true.

Student: Because they are already meeting now and they are telling us we will meet ((??)) (35:15).

Professor: Do you see the confusions and contradictions?

Student: Sir, if we say mujh se mil.

Professor: Let us not talk about a lot of Hindi in this thing because everybody does not speak Hindi to follow you at that level and therefore, I am giving the glosses, proper glosses. Mil will not change anything it simply mujh se mil the reference is not tum. It is something else milliye is aap mujhse miliye, milo is tum mujhse milo and mujhse mil is more informal than that. Only the degree of formality changes mil, milo or miliye, nothing else changes.

The point I am trying to show you that in these sentences, there is no tense, absolutely no tense. It gives you a sense of tense tomorrow because of the word or because we know that definitely it is not past. When I ask you mujh se milo, we could not possibly be talking about the past we could either be talking about today or tomorrow or whenever. Therefore, it is restricted only to the present and future and more likely as you were right that because there is no marker, we would tend to believe this is present tense.

But actually, there is no sense of time in these two sentences, they are called imperative sentences. I do not want to throw in all kinds of words or terms the same day, but let me just cross check quickly. If you have heard this word mood, anybody mood? Not good mood or bad mood. No, that is all right. This is not a problem and not an issue. All I am, let us look at it the following way.

Some sentences, particularly imperative ones, which indicate request or formal informal distinctions, such sentences, verbs in such sentences indicate no tense, have got no tense. Clear.


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Negation

- Mainly two negative markers: **nahiiN** and **mat**:

5. raajuu skuul **nahiiN**/***mat** jaayegaa
Raju school neg go-FUT-M.S.
'Raju will not go to school.'

6. **mat**/**nahiiN** jaao
neg go-IMP
'Don't go (please).'



I need to introduce this thing to show you a little bit more on tense. Can you look at the screen, are you looking at the screen? What does sentence number 5 tell you?

Student: ((??)) (38:30)

Professor: It is a future tense sentence, right? It is a future tense sentence. Now there are two markers of negation in this sentence, one is nahi and the other is mat. And do you see a star marker on mat, that star mark tells you that mat tells you, that mat, if you use mat in this sentence, then the sentence is not good. So, we cannot say Raju school mat jayega. That is what that star tells you.

The idea is there are two major markers of negatives in Hindi, in a language like Hindi, they are mat and nahi. With me? In sentence number 5, only one is allowed. The other one which is mat is not allowed. When we say not allowed, it means if you try to use that one, then the sentence is bad. Check with anybody who speaks Hindi, they will tell you. Can we say that sentence, Raju school mat jayega, is that a good sentence? Not a good sentence.

Now why we are going to look at it, look at that in a moment. However, in the second sentence, that is number 6, we can use either one of the two. We can say nahi jaao, or mat jaao. Either way the sentence is good. The point that I am trying to make through these two


sentences is out of the two negative markers, one mat gets used in a sentence, only when there is no tense.

If you try to use this word mat, in any sentence which has tense, could be future, could be present, could be past, the sentence will not be right. The sentence will not be grammatical, the sentence will not be a good sentence. This is another proof to tell you that sentence number 6 has got no tense. Look at 3 and 4 again.

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Request and Order

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I-Dat tomorrow meet-imp
'See me tomorrow.' (Informal)


4. mujhse kal miliye
I-Dat tomorrow meet-imp
 'Please see me tomorrow.' (Formal)

Can we use mat in these two sentences? Mujh se mat milo, we can say that. Mujh se mat miliye, we can say that. Sentence 1 and 2.

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Gender and Agreement

1. raajuu ne caay pii
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'Raju drank tea.'

2. siimaa ne seb khaaye
Sima-F ERG apple-M-Pl ate-M-Pl
 'Sima ate apples.'

Can we use mat in 1? Raju ne chae mat pii, no. Sima ne seb mat khaaye, can we say that? No. Now, if some of you speak Hindi, I am completely accepting your judgment about these sentences, by judgment meaning grammaticality judgment, which again, reflects things that I have told you earlier that these things are part of knowledge of language. You know about the ungrammaticality of these strings. But I am positive that you are looking at these sentences for the first time. Am I right?

It is your judgment that Raju ne chae mat pii is not a good sentence. Right? But did you think about the sentence before Raju ne chae mat pii? Now the reason why I am asking you this thing, not that there is anything wrong, that you did not see these sentences so far, how did you become 25-23 without looking at these sentences, that is not the point. The point is, as a speaker of language, we do not need to look at these things. Yet, we know these things.

These things have happened to us when we were figuring out rules, while acquiring language. If you want to learn a language with instruction, you need to be told these things, these differences. If you are doing things, if you are growing up with the language, you do not need to do this, yet, you know that. And if later on someone tells you like this sentence number 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 pretty simple sentences are going to look like magic to you.

They contain kinds of information that we never paid attention to; however, we use these things 100 times a day. Nowhere you are going to find a single speaker of Hindi, who will say Raju ne chae mat pii. Point taken? I have told you that I do want you to keep applying some of these things to other languages as well. These things are available in other languages too. And I can make that blanket statement on the basis of my understanding of generative facts. I just do not know the examples of them.

That also shows you the role of input that I can say that there must be two negative markers in Tamil also, there must be two negative markers in Malayalam also. But because I do not have Tamil or Malayalam input, so I do not know. Now there are going to be language internal differences too. In a language like Hindi, the negative marker is always going to be a word nahi or mat. In a language like Tamil, sometimes negative markers are merged together with the verb.

Same thing applies in Kannada, the same thing applies in Malayalam. Now these are language internal facts, language internal things. However, negative markers are going to be

there. Negative markers can only follow verbs. Is that true in Tamil negative markers follow verbs? So how do we say this one mat milo?

Student: ((??)) (46:01).

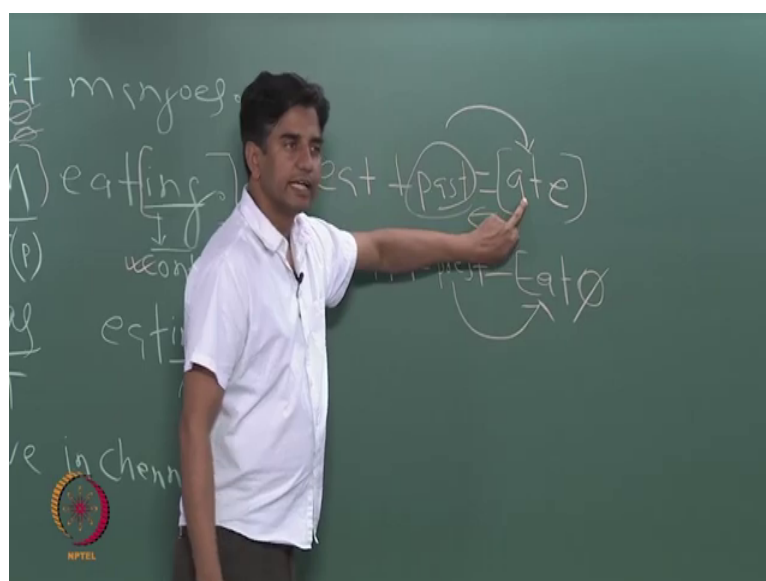
Professor: Okay, so what is the negative marker in that?

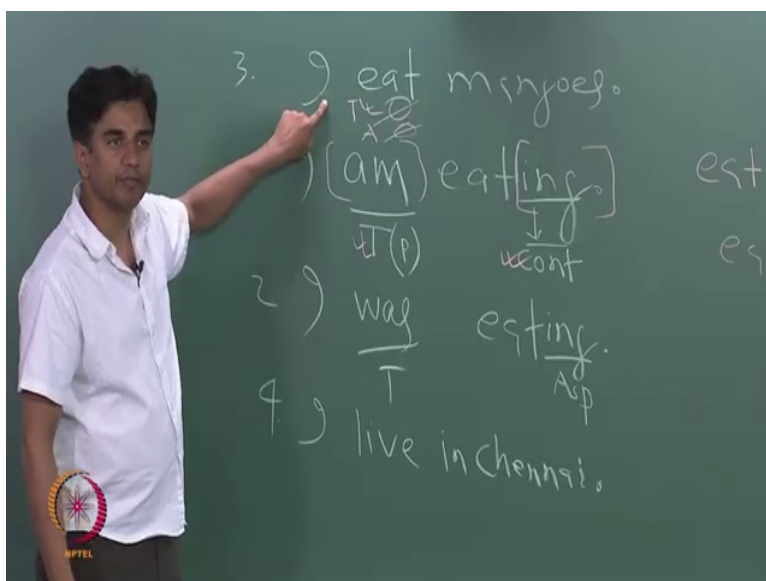
Student: ((??)) (46:19).

Professor: So, a negative marker is following the verb. See this thing. Negative markers may be preceding in Tamil too. I think if you say a sentence like this, Raju school nahi jayega, in these sentences, you will need to use the negative marker illa. Am I right? So, a similar distinction exists that if we are talking about tenseless sentences, you have to use a different negative marker. A different negative marker. If we are using a tense, sentences with tense you need to use a different negative marker.

Can we use the word illa in the previous one, mujhse, do not meet with me or meet with me? When we say do not meet with me, can we use illa? No. Do you see the distinction that I am trying that I am talking about? The distinction that exists between mat and nahi is the distinction that exists in Tamil. Now, for every sentence, we do not have either time, or we do not need to do this thing. This is where I request you, I suggest you please keep thinking about the languages that you speak, that you grew up. Keep applying these things and then you will be able to see that. Now the final point that I make and then we will stop. I will come to that later.

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Now look at this in English, so, let us say this thing in past tense. How do I say this sentence number 3 in past tense? I ate mangoes. Everybody, I do not need to write this sentence. But now I ask you to negate that sentence.

Student: I will not eat mangoes.

Professor: Say it again.

Student: I will not eat mangoes.

Professor: I did not eat mangoes. Do you see what is going on? Hold on, hold on. Slow, slow, slow. I know you guys are very intelligent but keeping slow, keeping the speed under control limit always helps. The moment you introduce negative the tense marker is going to get dissociated with the verb. Is going to get dissociated with the verb and then you see the verb in the bare form. What is that? We say I did not eat. So, did not eat. We cannot say I not ate.

So much so that it makes you laugh. Neither do we say I ate not. We need to say I did not eat. The use of negative markers in a language like English separates these two are from past tense. So, the past tense becomes, this indicates the past tense. And then we have to put not. And then the verb comes in zero form, which has got no tense. So, if this is the form of the verb, which has no tense marker, then this is the form of the verb, which we say it has tense, but the marker is zero.

If you can see this thing that I am showing you something absolutely abstract and invisible. Trust me, there is no microscope for this. Do you see this thing? Do you see or not?

Student: ((??)) (50:59).

Professor: That is true, my dear, but I am saying something else. I am saying after *did* is removed from the verb, this verb is bare form, this does not have any tense marker on it, the tense is here. Because this is a zero form, therefore this is a zero form and the marker is zero. There is tense, but the marker of tense on this verb in this sentence is zero. So, the introduction of negative helps you separate tense and verb in a language like English and then you can see the bare form.

Now, as we move on, further, please remember this example. These are the examples that are not coming just like that. These are the examples that we are talking about, we are talking about these examples purposely. I want you to understand, or I will bring you to this point again that when we say tense marker comes before the verb or after the verb, that is a very trivial and superficial discussion. What actually happens is tense marker, when it, when you see them around the verb. Actually, it is not around the verb, it is around tense. And it happens that tense is found around verbs. So, the negative marker is associated with tense, which itself is an invisible category.

Negative markers are not invisible categories, negative markers you can see clearly in many languages. They get attracted to verbs, because tenses are hosted on verbs. I will talk about the subject and predicate some other time. Therefore, verbs become the most significant aspect of a sentence. Therefore, sometimes, it is also said that verbs are the powerhouse of a sentence. All kinds of information about agreement, number, person, gender, tense, aspect, you can see in or around verbs. Hope some of this makes sense. Yes. Then I think we need to stop.