FINITE VERB FORMATION IN KUI

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ABSTRACT

Finite Verb Formation in Kui contains both inflectional and non inflectional morphemes, Inflectional morphemes stands for Tense -Aspect-mood, Person-Number- Gender etc. There are also used some stem formation depending upon the preceding verbal base and following inflectional Morpheme, but all the grammatical rules of Kui are not much productive.

The second thing that may be pointed out that this language seems to be at a first rate of simplification, since some complex features of its phonology and semantics are losing their ground perhaps due to less frequent use and due to the influence of neighboring languages. This is evident from the difficulties and inconsistency in determining the proper meaning of some non-inflection morphemes. The case may be due to the rapid change of socio-economic, socio-political, educational and cultural values of Kondas because of their exposure to the modern Civilization. No doubt Kui is a very beautiful language.

KEYWORDS: Finite Verb, Tense- Aspect- Mood, Inflection, Phonology, Inflectional Morphemes, Person-Number-Gender Etc

INTRODUCTION

Kui is a Dravidian language spoken by the Kondh tribes. Kondhs or Konds resid in the mountainous and jungle-covered territories of Southern Odisha, mainly in the districts of Kandhamal and Koraput, extending from the valley of river Mahanadi to the Srikakulam of Andhra Pradesh. The mother-tongue of Kondhs of Kondhamal is Kui and they call themselves as Kuinga or Kui-Kond. Those of Rayagada are known as Kuvinga or Kuvi-Kond and their mother tongue is Kuvi. The intermediary region between Rayagada and Kondhamal is inhabited by Kutiya Kondhas and they speak a dialect of Kui. Thus, Kui has two major dialects viz.

- Kondhamal District : Kondhamal, G. Udayagiri

- Kuitiya-Kandha dialect.

Kui has a script culled Kui-Lipi but has no literature of its own. However, now-a-days Odia script in used for writing, particularly some translated work related to missionary activities.

About the origin of the term Kui, scholars believe that it is derived from the word Kū which means hill and KūI meaning people staying on hill. Kūi gradually pronounced as kui.

The number of Kui speakers and its percentage of total population of Orissa and the position among the languages of the state according to the year 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 census is given bellow:

Table 1

Year	1961	1971	1981	1991	2001
No. of speakers	5,12,161	3,50,303	5,07,528	641662	916222
% of total population of Orissa	2.91%	1.60%	1.94%	2.02%	2.5%
Position among languages	Second	Fourth	Fifth	NA	Third

Persons who returned the language as their mother tongue and its decadal percentage increase of the state according to the 1971, 1981, 1991 and 2001 census are as follows:

Table 2

Language	Persons Who Returned The Language As Their Mother Tongue				Decadal Percentage Growth		
	1971	1981	1991	2001	1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001
Kui	351,017	521,585	641,662	916,222	48.59%	23.02%	42.79%
Oriya	19,863,198	23,021,528	28,061,313	33,017,446	15.90%	21.89%	17.66%

According to the traditional classification of Dravidian languages, which was used by Caldwell (1974) and taken up by Grierson (1927) in linguistic Survey of India, Kui belongs to the central group along with Kuvi, Gondi and Parji-Kalami group.

The most recent research has provided grounds for postulating closer genetic links between Telugu and Gondi=Kui group than between Telugu and the Southern languages: Tamil, etc. Krishnamurthy (1972) adheres to this fact and includes Gondi-Kui with Telugu under a subgroup of Southern group.

Andronov (1978) provides the most detailed genetic ordering which distinguishes seven groups.

- Southern (Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada, Kodagu, Kota, Toda)

- South-western (Tulu, Belari and Koraga)

- South-eastern (Telugu)

- Central (Kolami, Naiki, Parji, Gadaba)

- Gondwana (Gondi, Konda, Pengo, Manda, Kui, Kovi)

- North-Eastern (Kurukh, Malto)

- North-western (Brahui)

Thus, Kui belongs to the Gondwana group of Dravidian family of languages.

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the present paper is to study how finite verbs in Kui are formed and what type of morphemes is used for inflection.

So far as finite verbs are concerned in this work we have considered only simple work

METHODOLOGY

The data is collected from an informant named Mr. Keshab Mallick (46 years) who is a native speaker of Kondhamal dialect of Kui. He is the resident of Retudi (Po-Kuminga Via-Kalinga) of Kondhamal district and is a

matriculate. He knows Odia, Hindi and also English to some extent. The study is based on structuralist model (Lyonds, 1968)

Kui verbs fall under (i) Simple, (ii) Derivatives and (iii) Complex. However, for the present work only simple verbs are taken for analysis.

Finite Verb in Kui

In finite verb construction in Kui, the verbal stem (simple or derived) is appear tense and person-number morphemes (indicating subject-verb agreement) which is lacking in the non finite verb. Also like other Kondh languages, as a unique morphological construction, some non-inflectional morphemes indicating personal-object reference and frequency, proximity, etc. may be incorporated into verb forms.

Inflectional Morphemes

The finite verbal forms in Kui may be arranged into two major structure types on the basis of substitution as the following:

Type I: Verb stem + Person-number suffix

- Imperative:

$$\text{Structure: (vs)} + \begin{Bmatrix} \text{-mu} \\ \text{-umu} \\ \text{IIsg} \end{Bmatrix} \Big/ \begin{Bmatrix} \text{-du} \\ \text{-ju} \\ \text{IIP} \end{Bmatrix}$$

Example:

Singular		**Plural**	
i:nu	gi-mu	i:ru	gi-du
You (sg)	do-Imp.IIsg	you (Pl)	do – Imp. IIpl
	'Do (you, sg)!'		'Do (you, pl)!'
i:nu	tin-mu	i:ru	tin-ju
You (sg)	eat-Imp.IIsg	you (pl)	eat-Imp. IIpl
'Eat (you, sg) !'		'Eat (you, pl.) !'	
i:nu	bes-umu	i:ru	bes-du
You (sg)	say-Imp.IIsg	you (pl)	say-Imp.IIpl
	'Say (you, sg)!'		'Say (you, pl)!'

Type II: VS + (SF) + (ASPECT) + TENSE –MOOD + PNG

General Structure

$$\{VS\} + \left(\begin{Bmatrix} \text{-p-} \\ \text{-j-} \end{Bmatrix}\right) + \left(\begin{Bmatrix} \text{-i-} \\ \text{-a-} \end{Bmatrix}\right) + \left(\begin{Bmatrix} \text{-t-,-s-} \\ \text{-Ø-,-n-,-d-} \end{Bmatrix}\right) + \begin{Bmatrix} \text{-i-,-e:} \\ \text{-amu-,-asu-,-a} \\ \text{-l} \\ \text{-eru} \\ \text{-enju} \\ \text{-e,-u,} \end{Bmatrix}$$

There May be Eight Sub-Types of the Structure

- **Simple Past: VS+TENSE +PNG**

  - a:nu   gi-t-e:

    I   do-Past-1sg   'I did'

  - a:mu   gi-t-amu

    We (excl)   -do-Past-Ipl (excl)   'we did'

  - a:ju   gi-t-asu

    We (Incl)   -do-Past-Ipl (excl)   'we did'

  The past tense Marker is /-t-/

- **Simple Future: VS + TENSE + PNG**

  - a:nu   gi-Ø-i

    I   do-future-Isg   'I will do'

  - a:mu   gi-n-amu

    We (Excl.)   do-future-Ipl (excl.)   'we will do'

  - i:nu   gi-d-eru

    You (pl)   do-future-IIpl   'you (pl) will do'

- **Present-Imperfective: VS+ (SF) +ASPECT +TENSE +(SF) + PMG**

  - a:mu   gi-p-i-nu-amu

    we (Excl.)   do-SF-Imper-Pres-Ipl(excl)   'we are doing'

  - i:ru   gi-p-i-n-j-eru

    you (pl)   do-SF-Imper-Press-SF-IIpl   'you are doing'

- **present-Perfective: VS+(SF) +ASPECT + (SF) +PNG**

  - a:mu   tin-j-a-n-amu

    we (excl.)   eat-SF-Perfect-Present- I pl (excl.)   'we have eaten'

  - ɔ:ri   tin-j-a-n-e

she   eat-SF-Perfect-Pres.-III sg (non-masc.)   'she has eaten'.

- **Past-Imperfective: VS + (SF) + ASPECT + TENSE + PNG**

  - a:nu   gi-p-i-s-e

    I   do-SF-Imper-Past-I sg   'I was doing'

  - ɔañju   tin-j-i-s-eñju

    He   eat-SF-Imper-Past-IIIsg (masc.)   'He was eating'.

  Here the past tense marker is /-s-/

- **Past-Perfective: VS+(SF)+ASPECT+TENSE+PNG**

  - a:nu   gi-a-s-e

    I   do-perfect-past-Isg   'I had done'.

  - ɔañju   tin-j-a-s-eñju   'He had eaten'.

- **Future-Imperfective: VS+(SF)+ASPECT+MOOD-TENSE+PNG**

  - a:nu   gi-p-i-duh-Ø-i

    I   do-SF-Imper-Mood-Future-Isg   'I shall be doing'.

  - i:nu   gi-p-i-duh-d-I   'You will be doing'.

  - ɔañju   gi-p-i-duh-n-eñju   'He will be doing'.

  Here /-duh-/ is the mood marker specific to future tense and /-Ø-/, /-d-/ and /-n-/ are future tense markers.

- **Future – Perfective: VS+ (SF)+ASPECT+MOOD-TENSE+PNG**

  - a:nu   gi-a-duh-/-Ø-i

    I   do-Perfect-Mood-Future-Isg   'I shall have done'.

  - i:nu   tin-j-a-duh-d-i

    You   eat-SF-Perfect-Mood-Future-IIsg   You will have eaten'.

Inflectional Classes

Aspect markers are **/-i-/** and **/-a-/** for imperfective and perfective respectively.

- ɔañju   tin- j-i-n- eñju   'He is eating'

  ɔañju   tin- j-a-n- eñju   ' He has eating'

Tense Markers

Past tense markers are /-t-/ and /-s-/, and Present-Future suffixes are /- Ø-/, /-n-/ and /-d-/

Person-Number Markers:

- I sg /-i-/ and /-e:-/

  gi-Ø-i   '(I) will do'

  gi-t-e   '(I) did'

- Ipl (excl.) /-amu/

  gi-t-amu   'we (excl.) did'

- Ipl (incl.)/-asu/ and /-a/

  gi-t-asu   'we (excl.) did.'

  gi-n-a   'we (incl.) will do'

- IIsg./-i/

  gi-t-i   (you, sg.) did.'

- IIpl /-eru/

  gi-t-eru   (you, pl.) did.'

- III (masculine) sg./- eñju/ and pl. /-eru/

  gi-t- eñju   (He) did.'

  gi-t-eru   (They, masc.) did'

- III (non-masculine) sg. /-e/ and pl. /-u/

  gi-t-e   (She) did.'

  gi-t-u   (They, feminine) did.'

Non-Inflectional Morphemes in Kui Verb

A number of special non-inflectional morphemes are found to be incorporated in verb forms in Kui. A finite verb may contain affixes relating to proximity-conformity, motion, frequency, personal-object reference (transition particle), etc.

Transition Particle (T):

In Kui, when a finite verb occurs with an object being a first or second person one, a transition particle (T) is incorporated into the verb form between the verb stem and tense morpheme. Same form of a transition particle is used for an object whether singular or plural, direct or indirect, first person or second person. The transition particle may be monosyllabic or disyllabic with the structures / - (c) a-/ and /-(c)ara-/ for affirmative and negative sentences respectively. But its form is determined by the underlying shape of the verb root. The most common morphemes,

- viz., /-a/, /-ara-/ and /-ta-/, /-a-/ and /-ara-/:

  - ɔañju ɔanii   si-t-eñju (VS-Tense-PNG)   'He gave him.'

- ɔañju ɔanii si: a-1-eñju (VS-Neg.–Tense–PNG)   'He did not give him.'

- ɔañju na:nge/ni:nge si-a-t-eñju (VS-T-Tense-PNG)   'He gave me / you.

- ɔañju na:nge/ni:nge si-ara-t-eñju (VS-T-Tense-PNG)   'He did not give me / you.

Here the transition particles are /-a-/ and /-ara-/ for affirmative and negative respectively which are used in case of First or second person object as in (32) but not in (31) for Third person. /-ta- / and /-tara-/ :

- hɔri   ɔaniki   meh-t-eñju   (VS-Tense-PNG)

  'Hari saw him.'

- hɔri   ɔaniki   meh-a-t-eñju (VS-Neg-Tense-PNG)

  'Hari did not see him'.

- hɔri na:nge /ni:nge   meh-ta-t- eñju

   'Hari did not see me / you'.   (VS-T-Tense-PNG)

- hɔri na:nge /ni:nge   meh-tara-t- eñju

   'Hari did not see me / you'   (VS-T-Tense-PG)

Here transition particles, /-ta/ (affirmative) and /-tara-/ (negative) are used for first or second person in (34) but not in Third Person in (33).

A few others (/-ja-, -da-, -na-/) may be pointed out, but not illustrated in this work.

Motion Particle (M):

Finite verbs in Kui may affix a morpheme that indicates motion relative to the action denoted by the main verb.

- i:nu   kɔɖi-d-i   'You will buy'.

   i:nu   kɔɖi-ka-d-i   (VS-M-Tense-PN)   'You will go and buy'.

- meh-mu. (See – Imperative)   'See !'

   meh- ka- mu (VS-M- (Imperative)-PN) 'Go and See !'

- a:ju   pla:mu   gi-n-a   'We (incl.) will hunt.'

   a:ju   pla:mu   gi-ka-n-asu   (vs-M-Tese-PNG)

   'We (incl.) will go and hunt.'

When 35(a), 36(a), 37 (a) are contrasted with 35 (b), 36 (b) and 37(b), only motion particle /-ka-/ is found as the difference.

Frequency Particle (F):

When a work is done many times, Kui uses a type of morpheme in between verb stem and tense suffix to indicate it. Since this is associated with the frequency of the action represented by the verb, it may be named as frequency particle.

- -añju tɔreka sɔrɔ biteñju   <bip-t-eñju

   He once arrow shoot – Past- III sg 'He shot once'

- -añju antɔ   tɔrɔ kɔrɔ sɔrɔńga   bip-ki-t-eñju

   He many times arrows   shoot-F-Past-Illsg ' He shot for many times'

   Here /-ki-/ is the frequency particle.

Conformity –Proximity Particle

A morpheme /-ma-/ occurs in between the aspect marker and tense marker in the verb which is an optional one. It is associated with the conformity of the performance of the action. e.g.

- mĩ:da   saji-n-e   'The child is going'

   mĩ:da   saji-ma-n-e

   'The child is going- (when the speaker finds the child going in front of him.)'

- ɔari   tinji-n-e 'She is eating'

   ɔari tinji-ma-ne   'She is eating (confirmation).'

- kɔ: ḍi   saja-n-e   'The cow has gone'.

   kɔ:ḍi   saja-ma-ne   'The cow has gone (in front of the speaker).'

The speaker uses /-ma-/ in the verb when the action is seen by him, as in case of 39(b), 40 (b) and 41 (b).

Many other such type of particles may be present in this language. But in this constrained work of limited data and fixed time-period I have not encountered others.

CONCLUSIONS

To conclude it can be said that for its finite verb formation Kui contains both inflectional and non-inflectional morphemes. Inflectional morphemes stand for aspect, tense-mood, person-number-gender etc. There are stem formatives depending upon the preceding verbal base and following inflectional morpheme. But all the grammatical rules of Kui are not much productive.

Another thing may be pointed out that this language seems to be at a fast rate of simplification, since some simplex features of its phonology and semantics are losing their ground perhaps due to less frequent use and due to the influence of neighbouring languages, mainly Odia and some Munda languages. This is evident from the difficulties and inconsistency in determining the proper meaning of some non-inflectional (optional) morphemes. The cause may be (probably) due to the rapid change of socio-economic and cultural values of Kondh as because of their exposure to the modern civilization.

LIMITATION OF THIS STUDY

It is to confess that this tentative work admits any type of fallibility in both analysis and collection of data. The work in not an exhaustive one: So there is no claim of perfection at any degree. It is based controlled data collected from a

single informant within a limited time-period.

SUGGESTIONS

Findings are not the ultimatum, many more findings may be possible if further research done in such areas of study.

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