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Topics in the Syntax of the Modern Indo-Aryan Languages

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The Indo-Aryan languages are a sub-branch of the Indo-European family, spoken mainly in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Maldives. We will primarily focus on the Modern Indo-Aryan languages: Kashmiri, Punjabi, Hindi, Nepali, Gujarati, Marathi, Oriya, Bengali, and Assamese. The area where Hindi is officially spoken is also home to a vast number of languages that are quite different from Standard Hindi e.g. Garhwali, Kumaoni, Marwari, Mewari, Bundelkhandi, Bhojpuri, Magahi, and Maithili. We will attempt to bring in data from these languages wherever possible.

As the title suggests, the topics under discussion will be related primarily to the structural aspects i.e. syntactic/semantic aspects of these languages. This, however, still leaves us with a vast number of potential topics. Some of these are listed below along with associated readings.

Case and Agreement :

Agreement : Davison (1988), Mahajan (1989), Mahajan (1990a), Davison (1991), Butt (1995), Subbarao (2001), Deo and Sharma (2002), Bhatt (2003b)

Ergativity : Verma (1976), Pandharipande and Kachru (1977), Pandharipande (1978), Mahajan (1994a), Mahajan (1997b), Davison (2003)

Oblique Subjects : Verma and Mohanan (1990), Mohanan (1995a), Asudeh (2001), Davison (2003)

Pronominal Enclitics in Kashmiri : Hook and Koul (1984b), Sharma (2001)

Argument Structure :

Passivization : Davison (1980), Davison (1982), Rosen and Wali (1989), Mahajan (1995)

Causativization : Balachandran (1973), Masica (1976), Saksena (1980), Saksena (1982), Hook and Koul (1984a), Bhatt and Embick (2003)

Complex Predicates : Butt (1995)

The Correlative Structure :

Correlatives and Free Relatives : Srivastav (1991b), Dayal (1995), Dayal (1996), Mahajan (2000), Bhatt (2003a)

Comparatives

Conditionals

until clauses : Hook (1974)

Word Order :

Scrambling : Mahajan (1990a), Mahajan (1994b), Bhatt and Anagnostopoulou (1996)

Rightward Movement and Extraposition : Subbarao (1984), Mahajan (1997a)

Verb Second : Hook (1976), Hook and Manaster-Ramer (1985), Bhatt (1999b)

Issues of Interpretation :

Scrambling and Scope : Mahajan (1990a), Mahajan (1994b), Dayal (2002a)

Question Formation : Mahajan (1990a), Srivastav (1991a), Dayal (1996)

Existential Constructions and Indefinites : Freeze (1992)

Bare NPs : Dayal (1992), Mohanan (1995b), Dayal (1999), Dayal (2002a), Dayal (2002b)

NPIs : Mahajan (1990b), Lahiri (1995), Lahiri (1996), Lahiri (1998)

Specificity : Butt (1993), Singh (1994)

Tense, Aspect, Mood, and Modality :

Complex Verbs : Hook (1974)

Modal Verbs : Hook and Koul (1985), Bhatt (1999a)

Obligational Construction : Masica (1990), Bhatt (1997)

Tense and Aspect Marking

Text: *The Modern Indo-Aryan Languages*, Colin Masica, Cambridge University Press

Masica's text will serve as a handbook. In addition, readings will be assigned depending upon the topic under discussion. Some of the relevant readings and classic texts are listed below.

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