ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

The Structure of the Noun Phrase in English and Marathi

by

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This dissertation, in its overall presentation, seeks to give a comparative account of the structure of the noun phrase in English and Marathi. The comparison is carried out with the initial assumption of a substantive identification of the category – the noun phrase – in English and Marathi. The attempt has been to account for the comparative picture in terms of the categorical structures, the scope and nature of the transformational operations, and the overall characteristic tendencies in the two languages in manipulating the constituents of the noun phrase to obtain various kinds of strings.

The introductory chapter outlines the approach, aim and scope of the present study. It also discusses questions such
as the general theory of linguistics, contrastive linguistics and foreign/second language teaching, contrastive analysis and linguistic theory and the problem of the relationship of equivalence.

This is followed by a chapter on the English noun phrase. The categorical structure of the noun phrase in English and Marathi has been characterized by the following (and subsequent) base rule(s):

\[ NP \rightarrow \begin{cases} \text{NP} & S \\ \text{DET} & N \\ \text{S} \end{cases} \]

The constituents of the English noun phrase have been analysed under the heads Determiners, Noun, Adjectivization and Nominalization. The English Determiner-system has been further analysed as the Articles, Quantifiers, and Predeterminers. There have been suggested several proposals about the source of the Articles. The chapter on the Marathi noun phrase discusses the constituents of the category as analysed under the heads Determiners, Noun, Adjectivization, and Nominalization. The Marathi Determiner-system lacks the articles as well as the Neg determiner. The fourth chapter deals with the systematic comparison of the various constituents of the noun phrase in English and Marathi.
Of course, some comparison is already implied in the section on the Marathi noun phrase. The comparative analysis of the category noun phrase in the two languages has yielded several interesting and striking similarities as well as dissimilarities. The final chapter has enumerated all such similarities and differences.