CHAPTER II

WORD AND COMPOUND
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I. SANSKRIT WORD MARKER

Meaningful sequences other than verbal roots and inflections are termed praśtipadikas\(^1\) (stem) by the Sanskrit grammarians. Some 'praśtipadikas' may contain the primary suffix (krt) or the secondary suffix (taddhita). Some times, two or more roots may constitute a praśtipadika.\(^2\) All these praśtipadikas take the case-suffix, and then only they are recognised as words. Since addition of the case-suffix is recognised as a word-marker, those forms which may be used as words without the marker are supposed to have taken the marker and dropped the same. Indeclinables like vihaya, katham, and declinables like marut, vaṣri, gaurī; \(\) have the privileges of words without the marker viz. the case suffix. Accordingly, Pāṇini defines the word as a unit with a nominal or verbal inflection.\(^3\)

II. ABSENCE OF WORD-MARKER IN TELUGU

In Telugu many of the nominal stems without the case-suffix have the privilege of occurrence in the nominative and

1. Arthavadadhastu praprayaṣah prāśtipadikam. A.A. 1-2-45
2. Ektaddhitasamaśca. A.A. 1-2-46
3. Suptihantam padam '... 1-4-24
may be regarded as words. In fact, most of the Telugu stems can be regarded as words of this kind. According to Palmer a word is the smallest possible unit having the privilege of free occurrence. In Sanskrit, either the nominal or the verbal inflection generally appears as the word-marker. There is no word marker in Telugu.

The definition of a word in a language is dependent upon the structure of that language. Therefore, there cannot be a universal definition of the 'word', applicable to all languages, since languages differ structurally from one another.

In Telugu and in the other Dravidian languages, there are certain sub-classes of the noun in which each number has at least two stems in declension. The first stem which is un-inflected is confined to the nominative case only and the second (inflected) stem occurs in the oblique cases. In the formation of the inflected stems, a class of suffixes intervenes between the stem and the case-marker. In a few cases the second (inflected) stem may be formed with the zero allomorph. However both these features are strictly limited to the singular number only. All the second inflected stems denoting the plural number do take la, ra, ru, (with -a) in between the stem and

4. I.I.L., P. 79
5. T.V.B., P. 259
the case-marker. The second (inflected) stem is very important in Telugu. It occurs not only in declensions of the oblique cases, but also initially in the formation of compounds. The second inflected stem cannot occur in the final position of a compound since it is only a stem. In Telugu and in the other Dravidian languages the singular second (inflected) stem is different from its corresponding plural stem. This difference is not found in Sanskrit. The same stem without any change of form may be used to denote all the three numbers in Sanskrit. In Sanskrit the nominal inflection marks not only the case but also the number. Hence in Sanskrit, there are twenty one recognised case-suffixes (7 x 3). If the case-indicator is dropped in the formation of the Sanskrit compound the number-indicator is also automatically dropped. This feature is not found in Telugu. The suffixes intervening between the stem and the case-marker are retained in Telugu. (Special attention has been paid to this fact by some of the Telugu grammarians. In fact, B.S. 6 goes to the extent of recognising compounds in which the second-stem stands initially, as sama; sa of the 'Aluk' 7 type. He cites as examples compounds such as Ràsmuni- ba:pamulu 'Rama's arrows' and Ra:ju:la-sabha 'kings' conference' in which the number-markers 'ni' and 'la' are present). The

6. B.S., P. 247
7. Aluk compounds are those in which the case-suffixes are retained.
second (inflected) stem so formed cannot be used by itself. It is always followed by the appropriate case-suffixes. Hence it is a stem without free occurrence. It stands as the first constituent in a compound and hence it may be regarded as a word.

The Telugu word contains at least a single root. Anna 'elder brother' may be taken as an example. It may take one or more suffixes and we can have forms annaku 'to the elder brother' ammalaku 'to the elder brothers'. Adjectives which may generally be identified by their position (preceding the respective substantives) may be regarded as words since they contain the root.

III. DEFINITION OF COMPOUND:

The very term 'compound' means combination of two or more constituents. Constructions of two constituents may be regarded as compounds, provided either of the constituents are having the privileges of head and the construction functions as a noun. Co-ordinate constructions in which both the constituents are heads may be regarded as compounds whether they function as nouns or otherwise. vaidi-maśta 8 'sharp word' is a compound in which the final constituent is head. In compounds like anna-dammulu 9 'brothers' both the constituents are heads.

8. B.V. sem. 5
9. B.V. sem. 7
Such constructions may be regarded as compounds. Constructions like a:, y, i, 'that and this', in which both the members are heads may be regarded as compounds though a: or i cannot be used as nouns, severally or jointly.

Exocentric constructions like mu-l-lo:kam¹² 'the three worlds', mu-k-kant³ 'three-eyed one' are of attributives substantive type of constructions. In mu:(du)-lo:kamulu and mu:(du)-kamulu, the final constituents are heads. They have become exocentric by adding one more layer: the addition of inflection - i - and the change of the final n to t and dropping of the plural lu in the case of mu-k-kant³. In the case of mu-l-lo:kamulu the plural lu is dropped. Both these constructions are having the privileges of a noun before the exocentric formatives are added. Hence these may be regarded as compounds.

In the case of compounds of more than two constituents a definite constructional order is involved.¹⁵ A three-word

10. P.V. Sans. 17
11. mu-l-lo:kamulu is a dvigu and mu-k-kant³ is a bahuvri:hi compound as per the traditional grammarians. These two compounds are on the pattern of the respective Sanskrit compounds tri-lo:ki: and tri-ne:trah. According to Bloomfield (L., pp. 235-237) both these compounds are exocentric type of constructions. The Telugu equivalent also may be regarded as an exocentric type of construction.
12. P.V. Sans
13. B.V. Sans 6
14. S.L., P. 214
15. L., P. 227
compound like maga-rai-patakamu 'a chain of diamonds' does not consist, say, of the three members maga, ra:, and patakamu—severally and simultaneously and not of members maga and ra-patakamu but of the members maga-ra: and patakamu. The set maga-ra: is immediately entering into a meaningful combination. maga-rā literally means male-stone. In this connection, it means 'clear stone — 'diamond'. ra: is an alternation of the morpheme 'word ras:yi 'stone'. The set maga-ra: (yi) is of the attributive-substantive type of construction. maga which is a noun-stem functioning as an adjective by being placed before the the noun ras:yi. In the construction maga-ra:yi the final constituent is head. The combination functions as a single noun. This combination in its turn functions as an attribute being prefixed to the noun patakamu. The compound-form maga-rai-patakamu as a unit functions as one noun.

IV COMPOUND AND PHRASES

Those of the constructions of three or more constituents whose sets of pertinent (immediately entering into any meaningful combination) environments are not having the privileges of noun may be regarded as phrases rather than as compounds. Kempunan-bodamina-celuvamu 'beauty born out of reddishness' is a construction of three constituents whose constituent elements

16. B.V., Ac. 21
17. L., P. 209
18. So 137
(entering into meaningful combination) are kempunan-boḍamina/-celuvama. Kempunan-boḍamina is a construction in which the final constituent is a head which cannot function as noun. Hence the three word construction (kempunan-boḍamina/-celuvama) need not be regarded as a compound.

All co-ordinate constructions may be regarded as compounds whether they can be used as nouns or not. Those of the attributive-substantive constructions which can function as nouns may be regarded as compounds. pọṣyi-vinna 'heard (after) having gone' is a phrase and not a compound and vinnamaṭa 'heard word' is a compound for the simple reason that the former cannot be used as a noun whereas the latter can be used as one.

V. FEATURES OF TELUGU COMPOUNDS:

P.V. records the possible features of the formation of Telugu compounds in a suitra. It says that in the formation of compounds in which both the constituents are of pure-Telugu, changes like dropping, substitution, increment, take place. Some of the features are optional and some others compulsory. He illustrates this suitra with a number of examples and in no instance does dropping of the case termination come into operation. The constituents of the compounds given are all simple

19. P.V. Sam 36
stems functioning as words. Of course, there are some examples in which the initial constituent ending in mu drops it in the formation of the compound (e.g. nāqummu-resyuī = naq'u-resyuī). 20

Here μ is not a termination since it occurs in cases other than the nominative singular to which this suffix is assigned.

VI. ADOPTION OF SANSKRIT CLASSIFICATION:

Having classified the Telugu compounds from the Sanskritic point of view, the traditional grammarians found themselves at a disadvantage, since all types which are recognisable in Sanskrit cannot be traced in Telugu. Accordingly they created some new types of compounds by a literal translation of each of the constituents of the Sanskrit compound. Such combinations formed out of the Telugu equivalents cannot convey the meaning of the original (Sanskrit) compounds. As an example, 21 uli-tunuka and the corresponding Sanskrit compound sankula-khandā may be taken. The Sanskrit compound sankula-khandā implies instrumental case relation. It means a piece cut by sankula 'chisel'. The corresponding Telugu form is not capable of representing this case relation and it represents the possessive case relation. That is, uli-tunuka means a piece of uli.

This fact is recognised by AB. 23 Under any circumstance, the Telugu tatpurusa is not capable of representing the instrumental case meaning.

20. P.V. Sam 36
21. A.B., P. 542
23. A.B., P. 542
VII. TYPES OF TELUGU COMPOUNDS:

Telugu compounds may be divided into two main divisions taking the function of the initial constituent as the basis. These types are attributive and non-attributive. The attributive compound has got two sub-types: (1) those in which the initial constituent is the second stem (2) those in which it is the first stem. The majority of compounds are of the attributive type. The second stem of the attributive generally means the possessive case relation. In a few cases, it may mean the locative or any other case relations. Some of the nouns may function as the first as well as the second stems. 

munu at the end of words becomes pu and the word so formed functions as the first stem. Such occurrence is strictly limited to compounds only. In a few usages pu endings may function as the second stem, sangarapu-talapu is an example of it.

Of the non-attributive compounds, the co-ordinate compound with a compensatory lengthening at the end of the first constituent anna:dammulu 'elder brother and younger brother' is a noteworthy feature.