INTRODUCTION
INTRODUCTION

The present work is a syntactic analysis of the case system of the Malayalam language within the framework of Case Grammar. The proposed analysis required a large body of data from Malayalam both by elicitation and by introspection. For this, an extensive list of sentences was prepared from both colloquial and standard variety of Malayalam. An extensive list of verbs in Malayalam was also prepared so that wherever necessary, sentences which consists such verbs can be constructed to facilitate suitable illustration of the theoretical points involved in the discussion. So sentences are prepared based on the different meanings of each verb. Those sentences are taken as the data for the analysis.

Malayalam language

Malayalam is a member of the South Dravidian family of languages. Among the four major South Dravidian languages, Malayalam is closely related to Tamil and it has a rich literary tradition.
dating from the 10th century A.D. Malayalam is one of the rapidly growing languages of India. In the early times, the word 'Malayalam' denoted the land itself and it is believed to be the result of the combination of mala meaning 'mountain' and alam meaning 'land'.

Malayalam is spoken in Kerala and also in Lakshadweep Islands. The 1971 census of India reveals that 219 lakhs of people speak Malayalam. Sanskrit was one of the early sources from which Malayalam borrowed. A large percentage of the literary variety is Sanskritic.

**Grammatical tradition in Malayalam**

The Malayalam language has a grammatical tradition dating back to the 14th century A.D. Liilaatilakam is considered to be the earliest among Malayalam Grammars, which was written at the end of the 14th century.

After Liilaatilakam, at the end of the 19th century, Dr. Hermann Gundert and Rev. George Mathen published their works. After that many European missionaries had done some works in Malayalam.
Dr. Angelos Francis, an Italian writer, wrote a grammar for spoken Malayalam at the beginning of the 18th century.

Arnos Paadri, a Polish missionary, wrote a grammar of the literary language called "Grandhabhaasayute vyaakaranam". Then, Paulinus, Fares Mooppan and Bishop Ildafanse also wrote Malayalam grammars.


Dr. Gundert's "Malayaalabhaasaavyaakaranam" came out in 1851. It is very popular even now, and it can be said to be one of the best grammar in Malayalam. At the same time, Garthwaite's, "The Essence of Malayalam Grammar derived from the sentence" or "Malayaalabhaasaavyaakaranasaangraham" (1877), A.J. Arbuthnot's, "Malayalam
selections with Translations, Grammatical analysis and Vocabulary" (1864), Collin's "A Short Grammar and Analysis of the Malayalam Language" (1864) are also worth mentioning.

In 1863, Rev. George Mathen's Grammar, "Malayalmayute vyaakaranam" came out and "keeralabhaasaavyaakaranam" by Pachu Moothathu (1816) and "keerala kaumudi" by Kovunni Nedungadi (1878) are also published.10

A.R.Raja Raja Varma (Kerala Paanini) published his famous book "keeralal paaniniiyam" in 1895. It is the most and very important book in Malayalam which is written in Paaniniiyam model. Varma's book is very useful for Malayalam Scholars. L.J. Frohnmeyer's "A Progressive Grammar of the Malayalam Language for Europeans" appeared in 1889 and Prabhu's "Vyaakaranamitram" was published in 1904.

Recent works in Malayalam Grammar

Following are some of the recent works in Malayalam:

1. "Keeralabhaasaav vijnanaaniiyam" by K. Godavarma (1951)
2. "Keeralabhaasyute vikaasaparinaamaanyal" by Ilakulam Kunjan Pillai (1952).

In recent times a number of works in Descriptive Linguistics and a few works in Transformational Grammar are available. Some of the works on spoken dialects of Malayalam are given below:
2. "Cochin Dialect of Malayalam" by M.V.Sreedhar.


Analysis of the data

The first step in the analysis is organization of the data. The data consist of a set
of sentences for each verb illustrating the various contrasting case configurations for a single verb.

The second step in the analysis is assignment of cases. The sentence is broken into phrases and a case label is assigned to every phrase except the verb phrase. The sentence is broken simultaneously into subject, predicate, objects and adjuncts. Objects may be further defined as direct object and indirect object.

Once the sentence is broken into parts, a case label is given to each noun phrase in the sentence. The case labels are like A, Bf, I, O, L, T etc.

As a third step in the analysis, case frame for each sentence are proposed and then collated this information into a single conflated case frame.

Then deep structures are proposed for each sentence. These deep structures are related to surface structures by various transformational rules.
Importance of the study of case

Case is a very important grammatical category in a language. Consistent work on case has been done by many grammarians from very early time onwards.

The Traditional Sanskrit Grammarian Paṇini (1891) had given a detailed study of case and case relations (kaarakas). He defined kaarakas as, "anything which helps towards the accomplishment of an action" (p.177). Paṇini defines and describes the seven kaarakas – karta, karma, karana, sampradaana, apaadaana, sambandham and adhikaranam – very clearly and elaborately so that we get a clear picture about cases and kaarakas.

Traditional Malayalam Grammarians regard cases as inflexional affixes on nouns. They gave importance to case affixes rather than case relations. All of them classified the cases on the basis of the form of the suffixes, without considering meaning.
The Descriptive Grammarians have given the description and distribution of the case suffixes. They only list the case suffixes and give their environments of occurrence.\textsuperscript{13}

In Transformational Generative Grammar, case is said to be present in surface structure, introduced by transformational rules. Chomsky argues that case is not present in deep structure but it is introduced in surface structure by different kinds of transformational rules.\textsuperscript{14} According to him the notions subject, object etc. are present in deep structure as syntactic relations or functions.\textsuperscript{15}

Charles J. Fillmore questions Chomsky's arguments and proposes a new theory called 'Case Grammar' in which he discusses about case relations, that is, the relations between the verb and the different NPs present in a sentence.\textsuperscript{16} According to him subject, object etc. are not deep structure notions but only surface structure phenomena. No semantically relevant relations, he says, resides in the surface structure relation. All semantically relevant relations between NPs
and verb occur in the deep structure in the form of 'case relations'. According to him, case relations are very important, not the form of the case suffixes. In other words, case uses are important than case forms and case relations are deep structure relations and the notions subject and object are only surface structure phenomena.

Fillmore (1968a) defines case relations as, "the semantically relevant syntactic relationships involving nouns and the structures that contain them" (p. 5).

Fillmore (1971) modified this definition as, "the propositional core of a simple sentence consists of a predicator (verb, adjective or noun) in construction with one or more entities, each of these related to the predicator in one of the semantic functions known as (deep structure) cases" (p. 37).

He named, defined and described the following cases.
a. Agentive
b. Instrumental
c. Dative (Experiencer)
d. Factitive
e. Locative
f. Objective
g. Source
h. Goal

He argues that a sentence in its base structure consists of a verb and one or more noun phrases, each NP associated with the verb in a case relationship and each case relationship occurs only once in a simple sentence and when occurs more than once the sentence will be complex.

The constituents of a sentence are Modality (M) which consists of negation, tense, mood, aspect etc. and Proposition (P) which is a tenseless set of relationship between verbs and nouns and embedded sentences if there are any.

According to Fillmore, the first base rule is as follows:
Sentence  \[\rightarrow\] Modality + Proposition

\[S \rightarrow M + P\]

Proposition is expanded as a verb and one or more noun phrases.

\[P \rightarrow V + C_1 + C_2 + \ldots + C_n\]

\[P\] may be \(V + A\), \(V + O + A\), \(V + D\), \(V + O + D + A\) etc.

Fillmore mentions about case frames. In a sentence, there will be a verb and one, two or more NPs. Each NP will be in a case relation with the verb. The array of cases (Case relations) attached to the verb is called the case frame. We can classify the whole verbs of a language based on the case frame into which they are inserted.\(^{18}\)

The case category \(C\) will be expanded as,

\[C \rightarrow K + NP\]

\[NP \rightarrow (\text{Det}) + N + (s)\]

See the deep structure diagram of Fillmore:
This is the structure of the sentence.

Revi beat Gopi

Fillmore mentions about hierarchy of cases, that is, the ranking order of cases which can occur as subject of the sentence. The case hierarchy determines which noun phrase has the higher priority in the subject selection process. Fillmore (1971) gives the case hierarchy of English as: A E I O S G L T. 19

The deep structures are converted into surface structures by applying various transformational
rules like Subjectivization, Objectivization, Selection of overt case forms, Registration of particular elements in the verb, Nominalization, Passivization, Causativization, Topicalization etc.

Case Grammar and the present work

Eventhough the present work is based on Fillmore's Case Grammar, it deals with a number of problems in the analysis of Malayalam sentences. It also presents a number of suggestions for the analysis of Malayalam. The work gives opportunity to examine how far the Case Grammar proposed for English can be applied well to describe a Dravidian language like Malayalam.

Organization of the present thesis

The general organization of the present dissertation is this: There are five Chapters and an Appendix. Chapter I discusses the views of Traditional Malayalam Grammarians regarding cases and case relationships and also the Descri-
ative Grammarians' views about cases. Chapter II attempts to give a detailed description about the origin and development of Fillmore's Case Grammar. Chapter III makes an attempt to define each case in Malayalam. In Chapter IV the case frames of Malayalam verbs is given. Chapter V discusses the deep structure of Malayalam sentences, the hierarchy of Malayalam cases and the various transformational rules which are applied in order to convert the deep structures into the surface structures of sentences. The Appendix consists of the verbs in Malayalam with their case frames and the different sentences for each verb.
FOOTNOTES

1. The Case Grammar was proposed by Charles J. Fillmore. By indicating various defects of Chomsky's Generative Grammar, Fillmore put-forward a new theory called 'Case Grammar' in which case relations, that is, the relation between the NPs and verbs in the different sentences in a language is described.

2. Most of the sentences were collected from investigator's own speech. Others were collected from informants (Colloquial - for purposes of comparison).

3. The verbs are collected from the following dictionaries.

i. 'Sabadthaaraavali' by Sreekanteswaran G. Padmanabha Pillai (1923), N.B.S., Kottayam.

ii. 'Malayalam English Dictionary' by Hermann Gundert (1872), N.B.S., Kottayam.

iii. 'Malayalam English Dictionary' by C. Madhavan Pillai (1976), N.B.S., Kottayam.


4. Some verbs have so many meanings from which different types of sentences can be prepared.

5. Liilaatilakam cannot be taken as a real grammar. It was written as an aid for the writers of Manipravaalam poetry. But it is a very valuable work.

6. The works they done were meant for the use of western missionaries, not for the Malayalam Language.

7. Angelos Francis was the Arch Bishop (Metropolita) of Vaaraappuzha. His work is suitable for the study of the colloquial language only and not for the literary language, mixed with Sanskrit.

8. Among them, Bishop Ildafanse's work exists in the Borgia Library and nothing is known about the other books.

9. It is written for the benefit of Europeans, to help the East India Company Officers.

10. Kovunni Nedungadi incorporated portions of
Sanskrit Grammar also in his work.

11. He published Baalavyakaranam, Madhyama Vyakaranam and Sabdasoodhini also for the use of elementary, middle and secondary school students respectively.

12. A detailed study of the cases in Traditional Malayalam Grammars is given in Chapter I.

13. Refer Chapter I for details.


16. For details, see Chapter II.

17. Refer Chapter II.

18. See Chapter IV for details.

19. For details refer Chapter V.

20. A detailed discussion of the various transformations in Malayalam is given in Chapter V.