CHAPTER V
VERB - TYPES

Verbs can be classified into three groups:

1. 'Be' verbs

2. those which take only the negative suffixes.
   These are generally termed as 'defective verbs'.

3. Those which take tense and negative suffixes.
   Majority of the verbs come under this group. 'Be' verbs: the verb 'be' is expressed through the following forms:

   i. 'be' (copula) aanu (M) copula is unmarked in T in the affirmative Ss.

   ii. 'be' (existential) untu(M): un-(T) 'exist'

5.1. 'Be' copula verb: the copula verb aanu in M is a variant of the verb aak- 'to become' aanu is the present tense form while aak- can be conjugated like other regular verbs. aakunnu (pres) aayi (past) aakum (fut).

5.1.1. A copular verb is not generally used in T except in the negative sentences:

   Eg: (1) M- itu viitu aanu
   this house is

   T- idi illu
   this house

   (this is a house)

   (2) M- itu viitu alla
   this house not

   T- idi illu kaadu
   this house not
   (this is not a house)
Sentences (1) and (2) are of equational type.

In adjectival constructions copula is used in T also.
Ss(i) can be adjectivised to yield (ii).

(i) M- raaman mitukkan aanu
    Rama bright/smart be

T- raamudu buddhi saali
    Rama bright/intelligent.

(ii) M- mitukkan aaya raaman
    bright be-R.p. Rama

T- buddhi saali ayina raamudu
    bright be R.P. Ramā

(Rama who is intelligent)

5.1.2. However there are other sentences in T where a verb
is not available corresponding to the verb aana in M.

Eg: (3)

M- avalkku istam aanu
    she-dat. liking is

T- aameku istam
    she-dat liking
    (She likes)

The subject in these types of sentences is in the
dative case and the S has the structure - NP-dat + NP
(abstract)+ aanu.
5.1.3. In addition to this, \textit{aanu} is used in Malayalam to give emphasis to a particular constituent (focussing) in a sentence. In T the emphatic marker is \underline{ee}.

Eg. (4)

\begin{align*}
\text{M-} & \quad \text{atü ŋan kantu} \\
& \quad \text{it I saw}
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
\text{T-} & \quad \text{daanni neenu cuuśaanu} \\
& \quad \text{that(acc) I saw}
\end{align*}

(I saw it)

\textbf{Focus:Subject}

\begin{align*}
(5) & \quad \text{M- ŋan aanu atu kantatu/ atu kantatu ŋan} \\
& \quad \text{I is that saw-it that saw it I be}
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
\text{T-} & \quad \text{neense daanni cuuśaanu/daanni cuusëndi} \\
& \quad \text{I(emph) that(acc) saw that(acc) saw neenu} \\
& \quad \text{(It is I who saw it) I}
\end{align*}

5.1.4. \textit{M aanu} gets a correspondence \underline{undi 'is'} (T) in the following types of sentences. Consider.

\textbf{Spatial}

\begin{align*}
(6) & \quad \text{M- keeralam bhaaratattil aanu (ulla tu)} \\
& \quad \text{Kerala India-loc is}
\end{align*}

\begin{align*}
\text{T-} & \quad \text{keeralal bhaaratadësëamloo undi} \\
& \quad \text{Kerala India loc be}
\end{align*}

(Kerala is in India)
Temporal

(7) M - miittingu rantu manikkku aanu (ullatu)
     meeting 2'oclock is

T - miittingu rendu gantalaku undi
     meeting two o'clock be

(The meeting is at 2'o clock).

The T sentences in (6) and (7) have the existential verb undi. In M too the existential Vb untu can occur in these sentences.

i.e. (8) M- keeralam bhaaratattil untu
       Kerala India-loc be(exist)

T- keeralam bhaaratadesamlooo undi
       Kerala India loc be(exist)

(There is (a place called) Kerala in India)

(9) M- miittingu rantu manikkku untu
     meeting 2'o clock exist

T- miittingu rendu gantalaku undi
     meeting two o'clock be

(There is a meeting at 2'0 clock)

The difference between these two sets (6,7 and 8,9) is that, Sentences (8) and (9) establishes the existence of 'Kerala' and 'meeting' whereas in (6) and (7) presupposes the existence of 'Kerala' and the 'conduct of the meeting'.
(6) and (7) particularly refers to the 'place' (of existence) and 'time' (of conduct of the meeting).

5.1.5. There are a set of 'attributive sentences', where aanu (M) corresponds to -gaa+undi (T). An 'attributive' sentence is one in which an attributive (adjective) phrase complements the 'be' verb. i.e., the sentence may constitute. NP + attributive phrase + be(copula).

Eg: (10)

M - lata sundari aanu
   Latha beautiful be

T - lata andamgaa undi
   Latha beautiful be

   (Latha is beautiful)

5.1.5.1. A gerund or cognate noun can function as the subject in an attributive sentence.

(11)

M - niñanalute varavu nannaayi
   you(gen) coming good became

T - ni nii raaka bagaa undi/
   nuvvu raavadam mancidayyindi
   your coming good became

   (your coming is nice)
5.1.5.2. A conditional clause can function as the subject in an attribute sentence.

(12) M- aval paatiyaaal namayirikkum she sing-if good+be+state+future
T- aame paaditee baagaa untundi she sing-if good will be

(It will be good if she sings)

5.1.5.3. The attributive can denote the role of the subject (subject-N is + person)

(13) M- remees maaneesjar aanu
  Ramesh manager be

T- remees maaneesjarugaa unnaadu
  Ramesh manager (advb) be

(Ramesh is the manager)

The adverbial suffix -gaa in T limits the duration of the 'state' expressed by the Vb in certain cases. i.e., S(13) has the meaning 'Ramesh is the acting manager or manager-in-charge'). Deletion of the adverbial suffix + be (-gaa + undi) convert the sentence into an 'equational type'.

5.1.5.4. A comparative phrase can occur with the subject.

(14) M- rema ennekkaal mitukki aanu
  Rema I-than bright/smart is

T- rama naakante buddhisaaali
  Rema I than intelligent more intelligent

(Rema is smarter/than I)
(15) **M-remayum raadhaye poole sundari aanu**
Rema-also Radha-(acc)similar-to beautiful is

T- ramakuudaa raadhalaagaa andamgaa untundi
Rema also Radha like beautiful

(Like Radha, Rema is also beautiful)

5.1.5.5. A manner adverb can precede the 'be' verb.

(16) **M- ayaal ippool deesyyattil deesyyappettiri- kkuka aanu**
he now angry state is

T- atanu ippudu koopamgaa unnaadu
he now angry(advb) be

(He is angry now)

The following correspondences are available in M and T.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vb 'Be' (copula)</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>T</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>equational S</td>
<td>aanu</td>
<td>unmarked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot; neg</td>
<td>alla</td>
<td>kaadu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dative -subject</td>
<td>aanu</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(i.e. NP-dat.+N(abstract) +be</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to 'focus'</td>
<td>aanu</td>
<td>-ee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>locative(place, time)</td>
<td>aanu</td>
<td>undi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attributive</td>
<td>aanu</td>
<td>-gaa + undi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.2. 'Be' (existential) untu (M): un- (T) 'to exist'.

The existential verbs in the two languages show formal similarity also. The existential verb occurs in the following types of sentences:

5.2.1. Absolute existential: Subject-N denotes absolute existence of abstract entities like God, Truth. The 'be' verb does not have a complement. i.e. S has the structure N + be (exts). Eg:

(17) M - satyam untu
    truth exists

T - satyam undi
    truth exists

5.2.2. Temporal existential: A temporal phrase complements the verb.

(18) M - innu skuul untu
    today school is

T - ivaala badi undi
    (Today there is school)

5.2.3. Locative existential: A locative phrase complements the 'be' verb.

(19) M - acchan viittil untu
    father house-loc.is

T - naannagaaru intloo unnaaru
    father house-in be
    (Father is at home)
5.2.4. With dative: The 'be' verb untu, occurring with the dative subject denotes possession. Possession can be of a concrete object or an abstract entity.

(20) M - avarkku viitu untu
    they-dat house be

    T - vaariki illu undi
    they-dat house be

(They have a house)

(21) M - ayalkku santoosam untu
    she-dat happiness be

    T - aame sardaagaa undi
    she happy be

(She is happy)

In (21) untu (M) has a correspondence - \(gaa+undi(T)\), which has regular correspondence with aanu (Ref. 5.1.5)

The following are the correspondences in M and T for the be(exis) verb.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>'Be' existential Vb</th>
<th>M</th>
<th>T</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Absolute exist</td>
<td>untu</td>
<td>undi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporal exist.</td>
<td>untu</td>
<td>undi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locative exist</td>
<td>(gaa+undi)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>With dative subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NP-dat + N-Concrete + Vb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NP-dat + N-abstract + Vb</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5.3. The existential verb **undi** (T) has a few other parallels in M, in addition to those discussed above, i.e., stative verbs like **irikkuka** 'to sit', **nilkkuka** 'to stand', **kitakkuka** 'to lie down', in M show semantic correspondence to the verb **undi** in T. Consider the following sentences.

(22) M - pustakam meeșappuRattu iriykkunnu/untu
    book table-above +state

    T - pustakam teebilumiida undi
    (the book is there on the table)

(23) M - avan veRute nilkkunnu
    he simply +state

    T - vaadu uurake (intloo) unnaadu
    he simply house-in be

    (He is not doing anything/He has no job)

(24) M - pensil avite kitakkunnu
    pencil there +state

    T - pensil akkada (padi) undi
    pencil there lying be

    (Pencil is there)

The corresponding verbs in T (i.e. **kuurcu** 'to sit', **nilcu** 'to stand', **padu** 'to lie down') cannot be used in these contexts.
Among these (iriykk-, nilkk-, kitakk-), the verbs iriykk- and kitakk- co-occur with a subject noun expressing (-animate) feature (and gives the meaning (+state)). nilkk- does not occur with an inanimate noun as the subject.

In M the phrases veRute iriykkuka, veRute nilkkuka, viittil iriykkuka and viittil nilkkuka have idiomatic usage and it gives the meaning 'jobless state' or 'having no work'. These always occur with a subject noun denoting human beings. The Verb kitakkuka can also occur with a subject non (+ human) in the following context: Consider.

(25) M - avar avite/viittil kitannu valakku kuutunnu
they there/house-loc +state quarrelling

(Remaining there/home, they are quarrelling)

Here a locative precedes the verb (kitakk-) and the following verb expresses 'unpleasant' feeling of the speaker.

Negation and the verb 'be'

In M the verbs aanu and untu are negated by alla and illa respectively. In T equational sentences are negated by kaadu and existential sentences by leedu.
undi (T) is negated by leedu. -gaa+ undi in 'Role' type sentence (Ref. 5.1.5.3) will be negated by kaadu and elsewhere by leedu. kaadu (T) corresponds to alla (M) and leedu (T) to illa(M). illa(M) and leedu (T) can negate other verbs also (i.e. Verbs other than 'be'). The (+state) verbs (M) (Ref: 5.3) can be negated either by alla or illa. Generally, when occurring with Subj-N (+human) the negative is alla and the elsewhere it is illa. The following sentences will explain the negative forms.

(26) M - itu pustakam alla this book not

T - idi pustakam kaadu this book not

(This is not a book)

(27) M - amma avite illa mother there no

T - amma akkada leedu mother there no

(Mother is not there)

(28) M -avan (verute) viittil nilkkuka alla he (simply) house-in + state no

T - vaadu uurakee intiloo undadam leedu he simply house-in + state no

i.e. (He has some work)
(29) M- peena avite iriykkunnu  
Pen is there  

Neg- peena avite illa  

T - pennu akkada undi  
Pen is there  

Neg - pennu akkada leedu  
Pen is not there  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>be(cop)</td>
<td>aanu</td>
<td>alla</td>
<td>unmarked</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>be(exist)</td>
<td>untu</td>
<td>illa</td>
<td>undi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iriykk-</td>
<td></td>
<td>alla/</td>
<td>undi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+stat</td>
<td>undi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>nilkk-</td>
<td>illa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>kitakk-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.5. **Defective verbs:** There are a few verbs in M which does not take tense markers but takes only the negative participial suffixes. For these set of verbs correspondences are not found in T.

e.g. (30) M - aval vall-sat-e pasticcu  
she  neg-V.P frightenened  

T - aame caalaa bhayapedindi  
she very frightened  

(She was frightened very much)
(31) M - avan vall-aatt-a dustan aanu
    he  neg -R.P  bad fellow be

    T - vaadu caalaa durmaargudu
    he  very  bad fellow

    (He is such a bad man)

(32) M - aval vayy-aat-e kitakkunnu
    she  able neg-vp lying

    T - aameku baagu leedu
    she-dat well  not

    (She is not well)

(33) M - atu vayyaatta aal aanu
    that able-not RP person be

    (He is an ailing man)
    He is a weakling)

(34) M - atu avarkku veent-aat-e pooyi
    that they-dat want neg-v.p. aux

    (they don't want that)

(35) M - atu avarkku veent-aatt-a panam aanu
    that they-dat want-neg-R.P.money be

    (they don't care about that money)

5.6. Verbs which take tense and negative suffixes:

    Majority of the verbs come under this category.
    These verbs can further be classified as follows:

    (1) Verbs which are inherently intransitive:

        e.g.

        (36) M - cirikk
            T - navvu  'to laugh'
(ii) verbs which are inherently transitive

eg.

(37) M - vilkk- 'to sell'
      T - ammu

(iii) Transitives derived from intransitives.

eg.

(38) M - kuump - 'to fold' (intrans)
      kuupp - " (trans)

M - tiirku 'to finish' (intrans)
      tiirkk " (trans)

In addition to the transitive and intransitive forms verbs can be causativised. Causativisation is possible with transitive and intransitive verbs. The following Ss (39), (40) and (41) are the causative forms of (36), (37) and (38) respectively.

(39) M - ciri-ppi-kk - 'to cause to laugh'
      T - nauv-incu

(40) M - vil-ppi-kk 'to cause to sell'
      T - amm-incu

(41) M - kuumpi-ppi-kk- 'to cause to fold'
      kuuppi-ppi-kk

Verbs are classified into transitive, intransitive and causative based on their syntactic function. In M as well as T, the intransitive, transitive and causative verb stems
are morphologically related. Parallel with the morphological contrasts there is syntactic difference between the sentences having intransitive transitive and causative predicates. An intransitive sentence will have only one NP (subject NP) as its constituent.

\[ \text{e.g. (42)} \quad M - \text{vellam tilaccu} \]

\[ T - \text{niillu kaagaay} \]

\[ \text{(water boiled)} \]

In a transitive sentence, two NPs (subject-NP and object NP) occur as constituents along with the verb.

\[ \text{e.g. (43)} \quad M - \text{kamala vellam tilappiccu} \]

\[ T - \text{kamala niillu kaacindi} \]

\[ \text{(Kamala boiled the water)} \]

\[ \text{Ss(42) and (43) show that the subject of the intransitive becomes the object of the transitive sentence (43).} \]

\[ \text{In S(43) the causative marker} - \text{ppi} - \text{occurs in M while the transitive marker} - \text{c} - \text{occurs in T, i.e. morphologically (43) can be analysed as a causative sentence in M while its corresponding sentence in T is transitive. A causative sentence necessarily requires two agents and an obligatory object or experiencer.} \]

\[ \text{e.g. (44)} \quad M - \text{ayaal kamalayekontu vellam tilappi(ppi)ccu} \]

\[ \text{he kamala-acc-by water boil caus past.} \]

\[ T - \text{atanu kamala ceeta niillu kaayincaaddu} \]

\[ \text{he kamala by water boil caus.} \]

\[ \text{(He caused Kamala boil the water)} \]
A transitive verb denotes the agent and the object
e.g.8(43), or it may give emphasis to the agent ('agent
orientation').

e.g.(45) M- kamala oru manikkur aayi vellam tilappiykkan
kamala one ' hour became water boil-caus-purp.
tutan'nyittu ennaal ituva're vellam tilaccilla
began-aux but till now water boil-not

e,(46) R- raama'n baaliye etra konni'ttum avan cattilla
Rama Bali(acc) how much kill-aux-fut he did

(* Though Rama killed Bali he did not die)

(M - caak - 'to die' is the suppletive intransitive
of koll 'to kill' (trans.)

However, a construction similar to that of (46) M is
possible in T.
e.g.(46) T- raamu'du vaalini enta campinaa vaadu caavaleedu
Rama Bali(acc) how much kill- he did not
eventhough
this may be due to the connotative meaning of the verb campu 'to kill' in T. This meaning is not possible in M and hence unacceptable. Moreover, the unacceptability of Ss like (46)M shows that the 'agent orientation', and 'object orientation' are clearly separated in M while it is not so in T where the meaning of S(46) T is understood as Ramatried to kill Bali but has not succeeded in bringing about his death' (Krishnamurthy, '71 p.27).

Causativity can also be expressed by the verb meaning 'to do'.

e.g. (47) M - kamala entu ceytttum vellam tilaccilla
Kamala what do-aux empath water boil-not

T - kamala eem ceesinaa niillu kaagaleedu
Kamala what did-though water boil not

(However much Kamala did(tried) the water did not boil)

In such sentences, substitution of the verb cees 'to do' by a transitive verb corresponding to the intransitive does not alter the meaning of the sentence in T.

e.g. (48) T - kamala enta kaacinaa niillu kaagaleedu
Kamala what boil-though water boil not.

The corresponding sentence in M is unacceptable.

e.g. (48) M - kamala etra tilappiccittum vellam tilaccilla
Kamala what boil-cause-aux water boil not.

emph.
Transitive Ss of the type (49)a can be paraphrased with the do verb in T as (49)b.

49(a) T - kamala niillu kaacindi
    kamala water boiled.

(b) T - kamala niillu kaagettu ceesindi
    kamala water boil did

(Kamala did such that the water boiled)

A construction similar to (49) b is not available in M.

i.e. (49)b - M - kamala vellam tilaykkaan ceytu
    kamala water boil -purp did

...