

Case Suffixes in Dravidian: A Comparative Study

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Contents:

1. The Nominative Case
2. The Genitive Case
3. The Accusative Case
4. The Dative Case
5. The Objective Case
6. The Comitative Case
7. The Instrumental Case
8. The Comitative-Instrumental Case
9. The Ablative Case
10. The Instrumental-Ablative Case
11. The Locative Case
12. The Instrumental-(Ablative-)Locative Case
13. The Ablative-Locative Case
14. The Lative, Adessive, Terminative, and Allative Cases
15. The Etymology of Case Suffixes
16. Vocative Forms

In all the Dravidian languages case forms are built by means of adding special suffixes to nominal bases. The number of case forms varies in separate languages considerably. Thus, all the languages without exception possess the Nominative and the Genitive cases. As regards the Accusative and the Dative, their forms coincide in one common Objective case in Naiki, some Gondi dialects (Betul Gondi, Chanda Gondi, Adilabad Gondi, Muria Gondi), as well as in Konda, Pengo and Brahui; Adilabad Gondi and Brahui possess a separate Dative form along with the Objective, whereas Chanda Gondi has all the three cases – the Accusative, the Dative and the Objective. In other languages the Accusative and the Dative are used for denoting direct and indirect objects respectively. The Comitative case, used to express a concomitant, is to be found in Tamil, Literary Malayalam, Kota, Toda, some Kannada dialects (Badaga, Madurai Kannada), Classical Telugu, Mardia Gondi, Muria Gondi, Malto and Brahui. Besides, Tulu, Parji and Gadaba possess a common Comitative-Instrumental case. The Ablative case is attested in Kollimalai Tamil,