THE CONTRASTIVE ANALYSIS OF THE USE OF ENGLISH ARTICLE AND THAT OF TELUGU ARTICLE FOR ESL –UNDERSTANDING

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Abstract

The apt use of Article is thought-out to be notoriously difficult for the ESL learner. it can be observed that the ESL avoids using the article where it is actually required and uses it where it is unnecessary the reason might be that the use of article in many languages can be optional, hence, the ESL can pass on this habitual pattern of their mother tongue (regional language) the same while writing or speaking the L2 (English). Therefore, it is thought that a contrastive analysis of L1 and L2 systems of Article can be helpful to understand these transfer errors and to infer the potential areas of ESL errors in this regard. Hence, the paper aims at analyzing the use of the article of L1 (Telugu) and L2 (English) in order to assess the possible areas of errors. Though it has taken the usage of Telugu article in specific for study, the strategic datum can be applicable to many regional languages.
Keywords: ESL, Contrastive analysis, L1 System, L2 system, ESL-Errors

Article (Determiner)

Introduction: Article is one of the determiner categories that the L2 system uses amply and observes meticulously since the existence and avoidance of this determiner causes semantic variations in the L2 system. The following taxonomy of article may explain the varied semantic functions it performs.
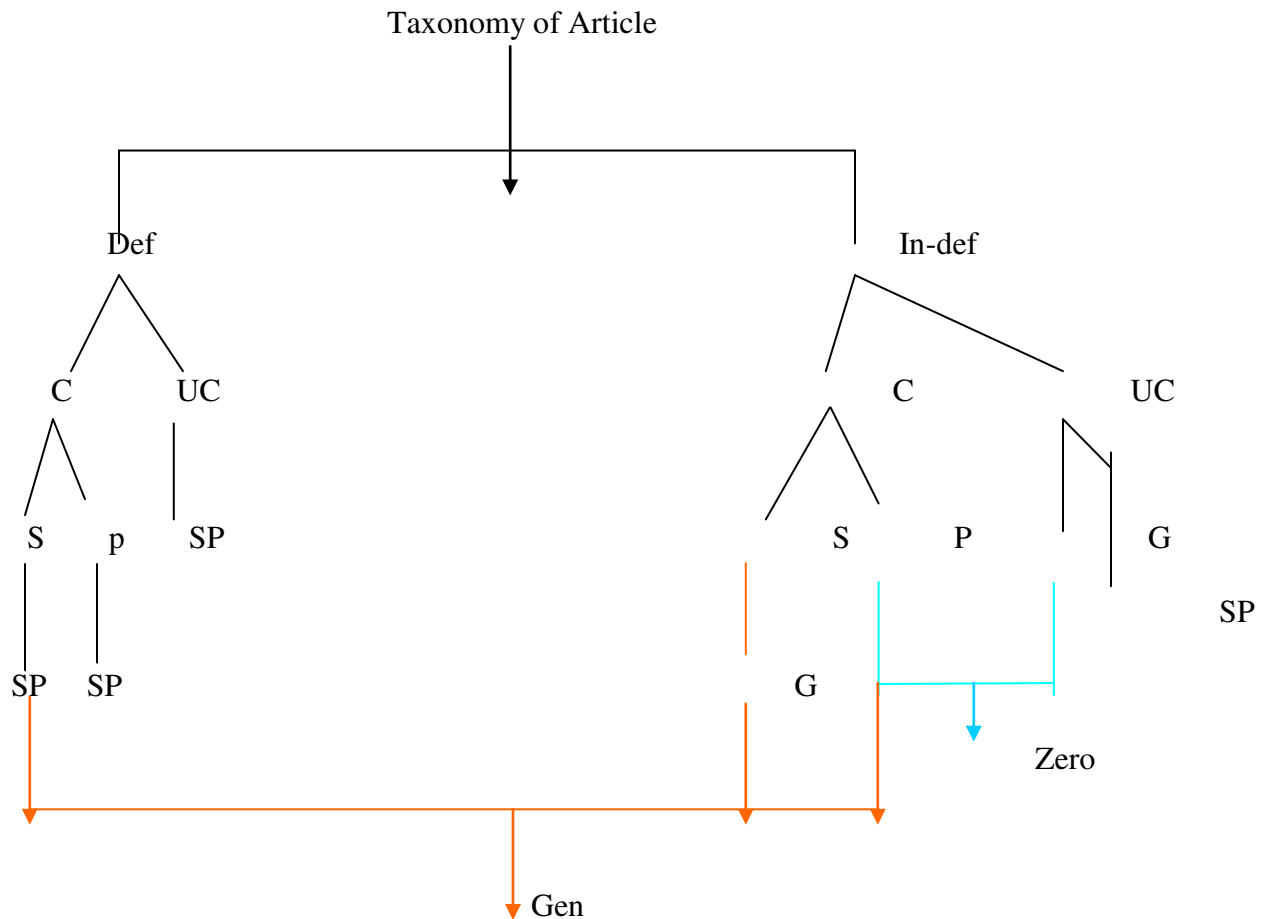

Fig: 1 Taxonomy of Article

Def = The	Indef = A /An	G = General
C = Countable	UC = Uncountable	Gen = Generic use
S = Singular	P = Plural	SP = Specific

1. Taxonomy of Articles explained:

A. Def:
a) Def + Sing NP = specific / generic   E.g. the book
b) Def + Plural NP = specific   E.g. the books
c) Def + UN NP = specific   E.g. the noise

B. Indef:
a) Indef + sing NP = general / generic   E.g. a book

b) Indef + * plural NP = general / generic   E.g. * books   (* = Zero Article)
 c) Indef + * UN NP = general   E.g. Noise
 d) (When UN becomes C) Indef UN+ Sing NP = specific   E.g. a / the noise

C. Generic:
a) Def sing + NP   E.g. the book
b) Indef sing + NP   E.g. a book
c) Indef * plural NP   E.g. * books

2. The semantic use of the definite and the indefinite in reference to the similar segments of the NL:
A) NL: * principal (garu) nannu pilichi, * / Oka manchi English pustakam immannaru.
    TL: the principal called me and asked for a good English book.
B) NL : Ninna nenu chadivina * /a pustakam , pade pade chadavadagindhi.
    TL: The book that I read yesterday is worthy of many readings.
It can be inferred from the given examples (A and B) that the article as it is existed in the TL is a non-equivalent feature to that of the NL. Yet, as a similar feature to the TL article, the NL uses some other determiners that display a lot of functional contrast with the TL article.

   3. **The Indefinite**: The TL uses indefinite A /An when the sense of 'general or generic' is required whereas NL uses numeral one / Oka / in its place and very frequently its use is optional. (Shown in above a and b examples)
TL indefinite = a / an + NP
NL indefinite = * / one + NP

   3.1. **The Definite**: The TL uses the definite article when the sense of specification is required whereas the NL uses the other determiner category / ee / (this), / aa / (that), / ade or ide/ or /ave or ive (the same / very) and it is also optional in many cases like indefinite.
The TL definite = The + NP
The NL definite = This / That / The same + NP

   4. **The Major uses of the Definite**: The four major uses of the definite article of the TL and their relevance to the NL use.
A. The anaphoric direct and indirect:
a) The anaphoric direct:
E.g.   The TL: He has a son and a daughter. The daughter is very honest but the son is not so.
The NL: Ataniki * / Oka (one) abbai mariyu * / Oka   ammai vunnaru. * /aa (that) ammai chalanijaithiparuralu kani * / aa abbai alantivadu kadu
b) The Anaphoric indirect:
E.g. the TL: she bought a washing machine and a fridge. Owing to malfunctioning, she returned the Fridge.
The NL: Ame * / Oka washing machine mariyu * / Oka fridge konnadi. Sariga panicheyaka,   * / aa (That) Fridge tirigi ichesindi.
In the above cases also, the NL use of the definite is quite optional.
B. The unique use of the definite: the TL uses the definite with the unique objects or what is referred to is understood to be unique.

E.g. TL: "we have a delicious dish today"
"Where is the dish?"
"In the kitchen"
NL: "Eroju manaku * / Oka manchi ruchikaramyna padardam vundi"
"Ekkada vundi * / aa padardam"
"* kitchen lo" (kitchen means in the kitchen of the house)
In this context also NL does not use any determiner.
C. The conventional use of the definite:
E.g. TL: 1) they traveled by the train.
          2) He reads the paper early in the morning.
    NL: 1) vallu * train lo prayanam chesaru.
          2) Atanu udayanne * paper chaduvutadu.
Again, it can be understood from the above examples, NL does not use any determiner in this reference as well.
D. The Generic use of the Definite:
The TL uses The / A / * plural for the generic reference whereas the NL avoids useing of any determiner for the same purpose.

        TL generic = a / the / * + NP   E.g. A / The Tiger or * Tigers
        NL generic = * + NP   E.g. * Tiger.

5. **The Use of the Zero Article**: the retention and the avoidance of the definite with some specific words related to space and language makes semantic distinctions in the TL. This feature is very strange to the NL, who optionally uses determiners. For the NL, Grasp of this area factually poses difficulty.
E.g.   1a. Her brother is in prison.
1b. Her brother is in the prison
2a. He is studying English
2b. He is studying the English
3a. They are going to university
3b.They are going to the university
Hence, the ESL of Telugu, for that matter the speakers of regional languages, should be careful to use the article because in many a case, Regional Language uses the article optionally whereas English uses the article compulsorily as it is mostly a semantic unit.

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