Translation of English Prepositions into Hindi Postpositions

(Short Communication)

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Discussion

Since case inflection plays a crucial role in determining the semantics of Hindi syntax, it has been given a separate attention instead of discussing it as a part of nominal inflection. A subject in Hindi may bear nominative, ergative, dative, instrumental, locative, or genitive case. The object is usually in accusative form. It is noteworthy that English does not have special form for each case in Hindi. For example, there is no special form for the ergative /ne/ case marker in English. For the purpose of judging translatability, only five case markers have been taken into account. They are /ne/, /ko/, /se/, /mẽ/, and /par/. Of these five, only /ne/ and /ko/ have been purely tested in terms of additional inflections.

A
(i) Ram/The boy read the book. *rām / laṛke ne pustak padhī*
(ii) Ram (brought, forgot) the book   *rām pustak lāyā (bhulā)*
(iii) Sita (brought, forgot) the book   *sītā pustak lāyī (bhuli)*
(iv) Vijay sneezed   *vijay ne chĩnkā*

B
(i) Someone saw a boy.   *kisī ne laṛke ko dekhā.*
(ii) Ram will have to go.   *rām ko jānā hogā*
(iii) Vijay is getting late.   *vijay ko der ho rahī hē*

C
(i) Ram asks Krishn a question   *rām kriSN se ek praʃn puchtā hē*
(ii) Uddhav told the gopis.   *uddhav ne gopiyõ se kahā*
(iii) He married my sister   *usne merī bahan **se** shādī kī*
(iv) She resembles you   *vah tuj**hse** miltī jultī hē*

Contrastive knowledge base:

If the English transitive verb is in perfective form (i.e. in V2 or V3 form), the nominal or pronominal subjects in Hindi are followed by ergative case marker /ne/ as in (Ai). But (Aii) and (Aiii) suggest that /ne/ should not come after the verbs like (bring lānā, forget bhulanā) etc. even after being transitive. Unlike the case of (Ai), the examples under (Aiv) and (Av) suggest that /ne/ may occur also in the case of intransitive verbs like chhinkanā, nahānā, bolanā, etc. as in (Aiv) and (Av).

The inflection of case marker /ko/ can be viewed after both nominnative and accusative under certain conditions. The examples in block B show different conditions for the use of accusative case marker /ko/. For example, (Bi) says that accusative case marker /ko/ will be used if the verb is transitive and in perfective aspect. It is imperative to add here one important fact with respect to (Bi) that case markers, in Hindi, do not come with the <u>direct or main object 'mukhya karm'</u> of ditransitive verb 'dwikarmak dhatu', rather with <u>indirect object 'gaun karm'</u> standing for **animate being**. (Bii) shows the use of /ko/ if the verb is preceded by deontic semi auxiliaries like (has, have, had, will have + to) + main verb. (Ci), (Cii), (Ciii), and (Civ) show that verbs like (ask, say, meet, etc.) usually take <u>**se**</u> after an indirect object.

Unlike the inflection of case markers, the following are some of the examples in terms of equivalence of English prepositions. In such case English prepositions stand for Hindi postposition. The translatability of such equivalence has been found unsatisfactory especially by the machine translation systems.

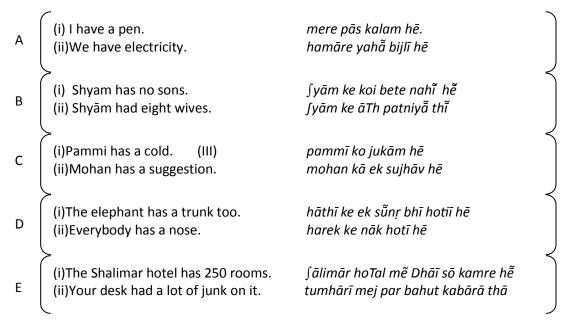|		
A	(i) What is the reason **of** Ram's bewilderment?	*rām **kī** ghabrāhaT kā kyā kāraN hē*
	(ii)India is proud **of** her patriots.	*bhārat apne deʃbhaktõ **par** garv kartī hē*
	(iii) She is afraid **of** waves.	*use laharon **se** dar lagata hai*
B	(i) Sita went <u>with</u> lord Ram.	*sītā bhagwān rām <u>ke sāth</u> gayī*
	(ii) I ate ice cream <u>with</u> my spoon.	*mẽne **cammac se** āīskrīm khāyā .*
	(iii) She wants a shirt with pocket	*use ek jebvālī ka,ïj cāhiye*

With respect to the primary translation of "of" and "with" as in (Ai) and (Bii) respectively, they are most often equated with other postpositions as in (Aii,) (Aiii), (Bii) and (Biii). The conditions for such secondary functions of the postpositions have not been precisely defined. Besides the case of equivalence, there is another problematic case (termed as phrasal skewing) in which English preposition is omitted as an equivalent in Hindi.

A	(i) I will go <u>to</u> the bank.	*mẽ bẽnk jāũgā*
	(ii) I want a cup <u>of</u> tea.	*mujhe ek kap cāy cāhiye*

Such a phenomenon of omitting the equivalence of English prepositions like "to" and "of" as in (Ai) and (Aii) becomes a difficult task for the machine translating system for the lack of appropriate linguistic conditions. The contrastive knowledge base for such skewing still requires deeper study to reach a valid condition.

Possession:

Related to the issues of case inflection, the following examples try to examine an important phenomenon of skewing called possession. There is no verb of possession in Hindi, parallel to English *have* (Tara Mohnan, 1994).

A	(i) I have a pen.	*mere pās kalam hē.*
	(ii)We have electricity.	*hamāre yahã bijlī hē*
B	(i) Shyam has no sons.	*ʃyām ke koi bete nahĩ hẽ*
	(ii) Shyām had eight wives.	*ʃyām ke āTh patniyã thĩ*
C	(i)Pammi has a cold. (III)	*pammī ko jukām hē*
	(ii)Mohan has a suggestion.	*mohan kā ek sujhāv hē*
D	(i)The elephant has a trunk too.	*hāthī ke ek sũṇṛ bhī hotī hē*
	(ii)Everybody has a nose.	*harek ke nāk hotī hē*
E	(i)The Shalimar hotel has 250 rooms.	*ʃālimār hoTal mẽ Dhāī sō kamre hẽ*
	(ii)Your desk had a lot of junk on it.	*tumhārī mej par bahut kabārā thā*

Contrastive knowledge base:

The contrastive knowledge base for (Ai) says that possession of tangible movable objects in Hindi is expressed by the postposition /*ke pas*/ as in (Ai). If the objects have permanent establishments, /*ke yahan*/ may also be used as in (Aii). For inalienable possession in terms of blood or very close relation, the possessive postposition /*ka, ke,* or *ki*/ is used depending on the gender and number of the possessed noun as in (Bi) and (Bii). Physical Experiencer possession takes the postposition **ko** as in (Ci), whereas mental experiencer possession takes the postposition **kā** as in (Cii). The possession of generic type is usually expressed by /*ke/ or /ko*/ and the corresponding verb in Hindi inflects for habitual aspect (i.e. –*tā hei, -ti hei, -ta hei*, etc) as in (Di) and (Dii). Possession of concrete containment in terms of whole-part is expressed with locative case marker *mẽ* or *par* as in (Ei) and (Eii). It should be noted that the above-mentioned description of possession has been made for limited corpus. Therefore, it is possible that one may find some deviation in the assumptions made above.

References

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