

A Contrastive Study of the Meanings of Korean Main Verbs ‘kada(go)/oda(come)’ and Hindi Main Verbs ‘jaanaa(go)/aanaa(come)’

Introduction: The objective of this study is to explore the semantic similarities and differences among Korean main verbs ‘kada(go)/oda(come)’ and Hindi main verbs ‘jaanaa(go)/aanaa(come)’ by comparing and contrasting their meanings. There is few existing research on Korean language education and syntactic components of Korean and Hindi languages. However, till now there is no specific research investigating semantic aspects of Korean and Hindi languages. Not only that, it is also very difficult to find any comparative and contrastive study examining the interpretations of Hindi ‘jaana/aanaa’ with respect to other languages. So, the proposed study is the first of its kind highlighting the interpretations of Hindi ‘jaana/aanaa’ in comparison to another language.

Method: To achieve this goal, first, I studied the interpretations of ‘kada(go)/oda(come)’ and ‘jaanaa(go)/aanaa(come)’ from some of the dictionaries. In case of ‘kada/oda’, I have studied and analyzed the interpretations presented in Korean Standard Dictionary¹. For ‘jaanaa/aanaa’, I have studied and analyzed the interpretations of five different dictionaries², because unlike Korean, interpretations of ‘jaanaa/aanaa’ are not clear in any of the dictionaries. Choi Ho-cheol (1996) and Nam Gyeong-wan (2008) are representative studies that discuss methods for systematically analyzing the meaning of polysemous words. I have employed these methods to analyze and recompose the interpretations of ‘kada/oda’ and ‘jaanaa/aanaa’. After analyzing and recomposing the monosemy of ‘kada/oda’ and ‘jaanaa/aanaa’, arranged them according to the concreteness and abstractness of subjects while investigating their condition of realization³. Based on concreteness and abstractness of subjects and objects, the distribution pattern of the analyzed monosemy is explored⁴. Next, the semantic similarities and differences have been elaborated based on the analyzed meanings of Korean ‘kada/oda’ and Hindi ‘jaana/aana’, and then compared with respect to the distribution of meanings on a graph. There are many interpretations of Hindi ‘jaanaa’ and ‘aanaa’ which are not indexed in dictionaries. Therefore, this study also expounded and analyzed the different interpretations and usages of ‘jaanaa’ and ‘aanaa’, through the interpretations and usages of Korean ‘kada’ and ‘oda’ and compiled all the interpretations of Hindi ‘jaanaa’ and ‘aanaa’. After that, all the interpretations of ‘jaanaa’ and ‘aanaa’, including the canonical meanings, have been organized according to the concreteness and abstractness of subjects. Correspondingly, their conditions of realization are revealed, and then mapped according to the distribution of meanings on a graph. Next, there is again a comparison based on all the interpretations of Hindi ‘jaanaa/aanaa’ and the interpretations of Korean ‘kada/oda’, whereby the actual semantic similarities and differences between both the languages are identified, and then compared through the distribution of their meanings on a graph.

Result: Korean ‘kada(go)/oda(come)’ and Hindi ‘jaanaa(go)/aanaa(come)’ have various interpretations from the perspective of concreteness and abstractness of subjects and objects. In

¹ <https://stdict.korean.go.kr/main/main.do>

² These are dictionaries I have used to analyze the interpretations of Hindi ‘jaanaa/aanaa’: Shabdsagar, Vardha Hindi ShabdKosh, Hindi Oxford Living Dictionaries, Siksarthi Hindi-Angrejhi, Sabdakosa, Wiktionary: The Free Dictionary, Sanchhipt Hindi Shabdsagar.

³ The reason why the meaning of a word changes is because the characteristics of the word being aired are different from it. Heine (1991: 48) and Lim Ji-ryong (1996) presented the following principle of expansion in the study of the polysemous meanings: OBJECT> SPACE> TIME> QUALITY.

⁴ To explore the semantic distributions of ‘kada/oda’ and ‘jaanaa/aanaa’, I employed Bai Fang (2019: 39~40). It’s a doctoral dissertation written in Korean language.

both 'kada/oda', and 'jaanaa/aanaa' interpretations vary due to change of subject, object and both subject and object, but such interpretative variations are relatively more in Korean. However, Korean 'kada' is relatively used in more contexts than its Hindi counterpart 'jaanaa', while Hindi 'aanaa' is relatively used in more contexts than its Korean counterpart 'oda'. In addition, it is also discovered that in both Korean and Hindi, 'kada' and 'jaana' are used more in negative contexts, while 'oda' and 'aanaa' are used more in positive contexts. study Apart from this, there exist various semantic differences between both the languages that reflect the unique diversity of two countries such as culture, history, geography, way of thinking etc.

Conclusion: In this study, from the perspective of contrastive linguistics, the meanings of Korean main verbs 'kada(go)/oda(come)' and the Hindi main verbs 'jaanaa(go)/aanaa(go)' are analyzed, and then monosemies are reestablished. Subsequently, monosemies are arranged based on the abstractness of subjects while revealing their conditions of realization. After this, meanings of 'kada(go)/oda(come)' and 'jaanaa/aanaa' have been mapped on a graph. Consequently, semantic similarities and differences between 'kada(go)/oda(come)' and 'jaanaa(go)/aanaa(go)' have been revealed. More details can be found in the above sections. I am looking forward to presenting this paper and further develop after receiving insightful comments/feedbacks.

In any language, semantic exploration occupies a very important position because regardless of phonetic, phonological, morphological, syntactical, and lexicological specification, every unit of linguistic analysis comes with a certain interpretation. Nothing exists without interpretation in this universe. Therefore, to profoundly grasp any language, to comprehend its linguistic attributes, to effectively use the language according to contexts, and to know the contextual meaning without any ambiguity, semantic study is crucial. Also, if a language user possesses impressive command over the interpretations and nuances, it goes a long way in understanding the associated culture, literature, history, world view, etc., of that speech community.

Contrastive study is an important and essential pedagogical approach to master a language. It explores the synchronicity of more than one language and illustrates the similarities and differences of two languages. This approach also contributes to the understanding of linguistic features and intricacies of two languages. A word comes with various interpretations. So, this becomes a challenge for foreign learners of that language. Native speakers of a language can appropriately and spontaneously use the polysemous word in sentences, but foreign learners of that language face difficulties to freely and accurately apply the right interpretation of the word in the right context. Therefore, this study also aims to address these issues of Hindi learners of Korean and Korean learners of Hindi.

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