

Typological Features Template for Telugu

by Sree Ganesh

Feature	Description																																										
Phonological Features	In the following fields I describe the phonological inventory of Telugu (Krishnamurti.BH, 1985) ^[1]																																										
Vowel inventory	<p>Telugu has twelve oral vowels: a aa i ii u uu e ee ai o oo au. The symbols `ai` and `au` represent diphthongs. The table below shows an overview of the vowels in the language (Sastry, J. V, 1972) ^[2].</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Articulation</th> <th>Front short</th> <th>Front long</th> <th>Back short</th> <th>Back long</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Front</td> <td>i</td> <td>ii</td> <td>u</td> <td>uu</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mid</td> <td>e</td> <td>ee</td> <td>o</td> <td>oo</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Back</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>a</td> <td>aa</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Articulation	Front short	Front long	Back short	Back long	Front	i	ii	u	uu	Mid	e	ee	o	oo	Back			a	aa																						
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Vowel harmony	<p>In Telugu vowels in inflectional suffixes are harmonised with the vowels of the preceding syllable (Kelley, G.1963). ^[3]</p> <p>There are many rules to describe the vowel harmony (Balavyakaranam). For example sequences of two vowels occur in the orthography but are always reduced to one in speech.</p> <p>eg1: rAmudu awadu → rAmudawadu</p>																																										
Consonant inventory	<p>Telugu has 33 consonant symbols. According to traditional practice they are pronounced and written with an inherent vowel. That means Ś `ka` refers to the pure consonant `k` and not to the sequence `k` plus `a`.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Articulation</th> <th>Labial</th> <th>Denti-alveolar</th> <th>Retroflex</th> <th>Palatal</th> <th>Velar</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Stops:+voice -voice</td> <td>p, ph b, bh</td> <td>t, th d, dh</td> <td>T, Th D, Dh</td> <td>c, ch j, jh</td> <td>k, kh g, gh</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fricative</td> <td>f</td> <td>s</td> <td>sh</td> <td>S</td> <td>h</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nasal</td> <td>m</td> <td>n</td> <td>N</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lateral</td> <td></td> <td>l</td> <td>L</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flap</td> <td></td> <td>r</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Semivowel</td> <td>w</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>y</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Articulation	Labial	Denti-alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Stops:+voice -voice	p, ph b, bh	t, th d, dh	T, Th D, Dh	c, ch j, jh	k, kh g, gh	Fricative	f	s	sh	S	h	Nasal	m	n	N			Lateral		l	L			Flap		r				Semivowel	w				y
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	<p>`ca` has two varieties of pronunciation, `ca` and `ts` depending on what vowel follows. If it is followed by i, ii, e, ee, ai (front vowels) it is pronounced as `ca` like the english `ch` in `chair`. When it is followed by the back vowels a, aa, u, uu, o, oo its pronunciation is `ts`.</p> <p>eg2: cinna (small) - `ca` pronunciation caduvu (study) - `ts` pronunciation</p> <p>`ja` also has two pronunciations. When follows front vowels the pronunciation is `j` and `dz` before back vowels.</p> <p>eg3. jila (itch) - `j` pronunciation jaagu (delay) - `dz` pronunciation</p> <p>Many people pronounce `j` like `z` between vowels when the following vowel is `u` or `uu`.</p> <p>eg4. rooju (day) - `z` pronunciation</p> <p>Retroflex `L` and `N` never occurs at the beginning of Telugu word. `M` anusvaara is a covered symbol for n, N and m in different positions with the following phonetic values. Before `k` and `g` it is pronounced as English `ng` in `sing` or the `n` in `sink`.</p> <p>eg5. jiMka/jinka (deer), saMgati/sangati (matter)</p> <p>Before `c` and `j` with a following front vowel, it is pronounced like english `n` in `punch`.</p> <p>eg6. maMci/manci (good)</p> <p>Before `c` and `j` with following back vowel it is like `n` as in `pant` pronunciation. Before `T` and `D` it is pronounced like `N`.</p> <p>eg7. paMTa/paNta (crop)</p> <p>Before p, b it is pronounced like `m` at the beginning of a word.</p> <p>eg8. pampu (send)</p> <p>At the end of word and also before w, S, s and h it is pronounced like `m` occurring between vowels.</p> <p>eg9. simham/siwhaw (lion)</p>
<p>Syllable Structure</p>	<p>Syllable structure in Telugu is as follows. Telugu syllable structure represented as C*VC* in most of Indian languages (Krishnamurti, Bh.1961)^[4]. The syllables in Telugu language can exist as vowel alone or as CV, VC, CVC. CCVC.</p> <p>1. When nasals such as `mz` (half pronounced `m` sound) succeed a vowel immediately, they are treated as a part of the vowel and the same syllable. For example, `mz` in samzsakrit (language) will be a part of syllable containing `sa`.</p> <p>2. Whenever there are three or more consonants between two consecutive vowels, the first consonant would be a part of the coda of the previous syllable while the remaining consonants would be onset of the next syllable. Applying these rules to `samzsakrit`, the obtained syllable sequence would be:</p> <p>eg10. `samzs` - `krit`.</p> <p>3. When there are exactly two consonants between two vowels, the first consonant would be part of coda of previous syllable and the second would be onset of the next syllable.</p> <p>eg11. `dharti` (earth)</p> <p>would be split as it `dhar` - `ti`. Exceptions for this rule are the following cases. When the second consonant is a member of the set { /r/ /s/ /sh/ /shz/ }, both the consonants would be a part of onset of the next syllable.</p> <p>eg12. `yaatra` (tour) would be split as `yaa` - `tra`.</p>
<p>Morpho-syntactic Features</p>	<p>In the following fields I describe some of the basic morpho-syntactic parameters of Telugu.</p>

<p>morphological classification (1)</p>	<p>Telugu is an agglutinative (SOV) language. Telugu nouns can be divided into 3 classes (Lisker, 1963).^[5]. Proper- and common nouns, pronouns and a special group of nouns such as adverbial nouns, verbal nouns etc..</p> <p>There is no definite or indefinite article in Telugu, Common nouns can be divided into count and non-count nouns. Count nouns can be singular or plural. Non-count nouns can be either singular or plural but not both. In contrast to English mass nouns are plural in Telugu. All nominal root forms can function as nominative singular. `lu` is the plural suffix which can be instantiated as `LLu, ru, Ø` (zero affix) reflecting morpho-phonemic changes (Krishnamurti.BH, 1985). Here an example:</p> <p>All stems ending in `di, du, ru` and for stems of more than two syllables ending in `li` and `ri`, the final syllable becomes `L` before `Lu`.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">eg13: baDi - baLLu school(s) paMdiri - paMdiLLu</p>															
<p>morphological classification (2)</p>	<p>Telugu has two genders, masculine and non-masculine. There is no feminine gender as such. Nouns denoting female persons and neuter things are treated as non-masculine in singular, but in plural they are treated as masculine.</p> <p>Consequently, demonstrative pronouns have two forms in the singular, one for a male person</p> <p style="text-align: center;">eg. VADu - he</p> <p>one for female person person and for things</p> <p style="text-align: center;">eg. Adi - she/it</p> <p>and two forms in the plural, one for male and female persons</p> <p style="text-align: center;">eg. VALLu - they/those</p> <p>and one for things</p> <p style="text-align: center;">eg. Avi - they/those.</p> <p>In addition suffixes are used to denote the difference between the male and female.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Example: snEhituDu - male friend snEhiturAlu - female friend</p> <p>Case: Telugu has seven cases, these are: nominative, accusative, instrumental, ablative, genitive, dative and locative. At morpho-syntactic level the accusative is part of the genitive.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="277 1279 1321 1518"> <thead> <tr> <th>Case</th> <th>Telugu example</th> <th>English</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ablative</td> <td>rAmudinuMcI = rAmuDu + nuMcI (from)</td> <td>"from" Rama</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Genitive</td> <td>rAmuni = rAmu + ni (`s)</td> <td>"generic reference to" Rama</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dative</td> <td>rAmuniki = rAmu + ni + ki (for)</td> <td>specifically referring something "about" referring to Rama)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Instrumental</td> <td>rAmunithO = rAamu + ni + thO (with)</td> <td>specifically referring something "with" Rama</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Case	Telugu example	English	Ablative	rAmudinuMcI = rAmuDu + nuMcI (from)	"from" Rama	Genitive	rAmuni = rAmu + ni (`s)	"generic reference to" Rama	Dative	rAmuniki = rAmu + ni + ki (for)	specifically referring something "about" referring to Rama)	Instrumental	rAmunithO = rAamu + ni + thO (with)	specifically referring something "with" Rama
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<p>nominal modification and specification</p>	<p>In this field I indicate the basic types of nominal modifiers (adjectives, relative clauses, adpositions...) as well as the use of demonstratives (deixis), numerals, quantifiers in Telugu.</p>															
<p>possession</p>	<p>In Telugu possession is expressed based on the root endings.</p> <p>If root ends with '-a' possession marker is `ø`. else where `i` is the possession marker. If possessor is plural then it takes `a` prefix to indicate the possession.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">eg. -----</p>															
<p>pronominal system</p>	<p>In this field i will describe Telugu pronoun forms, grammatical function (object versus subject pronouns), pronoun doubling and reflexives expressed by pronouns (Subbarao.K, 2000)^[6].</p>															
<p>Verbal Phrases</p>	<p>In the following fields serve for the description of some of the basic morpho-syntactic properties of verbal constituents.</p>															
<p>word order</p>	<p>Telugu is verbal ending (SOV) language.(Krishnamurti, Bh.1961)^[7].</p>															

TAM	<p>Every Telugu verb has a finite and non-finite form. In Telugu a finite form can stand as the main verb of a sentence and occur before a final pause. Finite verb carry gender-number-person suffixes.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">eg. unnaNu (`is` - 1st person singular) can be analyzed in to: verb root (un) + tense suffix (nA) + personal suffix (nu)</p> <p>In Telugu there are eight suffixes for different persons and numbers (Lisker, 1963):</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Person</th> <th>Singular</th> <th>Plural</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1st person</td> <td>nu</td> <td>mu</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd person</td> <td>vu</td> <td>ru</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd person(m.)</td> <td>Du</td> <td>ru</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd person(f.n)</td> <td>di</td> <td>yi</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>In colloquial speech the final syllable `nu` is sometimes omitted in the 1st person singular of the verb and in the pronoun `neenu (I)`.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">eg. rUpAyI istA rupee will give (I will give a rupee)</p> <p>In Telugu there are six inflectional types of finite verb which involve tense-mode distinctions are constructed in this way:</p> <p>Affirmative: past, future habitual, imperative, hortative</p> <p>Negative: future-habitual, imperative</p> <p>Past tense and feature-habitual formation principles:(Subrahmanyam, P.S, 1974)^[8]</p> <p>1.A stem final short vowel is lost before a vowel which begins a word or suffix.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">eg. Ammu (stem) + A (past tense) +Du (agr.) = ammADu</p> <p>2.A short vowel `u` occurring in basic stem of the form (c)vcv(c) becomes `i` when followed by a front vowel in the next syllable</p> <p style="text-align: center;">eg. aDugu (stem) + A (past tense) + Du (agr.) = aDug + Du (by rule 1) and aDigADu (by rule 2)</p> <p>3.A short vowel is lost between `n` and one of the consonants `d, r, D`. That short vowel may be followed or preceded by a morpheme boundary</p> <p style="text-align: center;">eg. amm (stem) + ina (past tense) + di (agr.) = ammindi (She sold)</p> <p>Negation: Special feature of Telugu is the formation of a verb paradigm in the negative tense rather than use of a separate word. Bellow are the principles for negative tense formation (Lisker,1963):</p> <p>1.Negative tense is formed by adding to the basic stem the negative suffix `a` followed by the personal suffix.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">eg. ammu (sell-root) + a (neg.suffix) + nu(per.su) = ammanu (I don't sell/I will not sell)</p> <p>2.middle `u` of basic stem having two or three syllables of the shape (c)vc-u-c(u) change to `a` when followed by the negative suffix `a` in the next syllable.</p> <p>3.A large number of basic stems ending in `c` and `s` replace these consonants by `v/y` in the negative.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">eg. pilcu (call-root) + a (neg.s) + Du (per.su) = pilvaDu (he don't call/ he will not call)</p> <p>Imperative:</p>	Person	Singular	Plural	1st person	nu	mu	2nd person	vu	ru	3rd person(m.)	Du	ru	3rd person(f.n)	di	yi
Person	Singular	Plural														
1st person	nu	mu														
2nd person	vu	ru														
3rd person(m.)	Du	ru														
3rd person(f.n)	di	yi														

The imperative forms are used when a speaker in the 1st person address a hearer in the second person. Therefore they carry two suffixes: 2nd person singular and 2nd person plural. In the negative imperative 2nd person suffixes are to the negative stem consisting of a verb stem + `ak` (neg.) (Subrahmanyam, P.S, 1974).

"	2nd person --singular--	2nd person --plural--
Affirmative	u/i	aMDi/anDi
Negative	aku	akaMDi/akanDi

Hortative:

Hortative is conveyed in Telugu by a finite verb which is formed by adding to the verb stem the hortative suffix `dA` followed by the 1st person plural suffix `mu/M`. Hortative forms in Telugu also have a future meaning involving two participant subjects.

Hortative formation principle is:

Root + dA + personal suffix `mu/M`
 eg. ammu (sell-root) + dA + mu = ammudAmu/M (let us sell)

Durative:

As in English Telugu doesn't formally distinguish the present, past and perfect continuous. This distinction is brought out by the use of an adverb of time or by the context of discourse. In Telugu in the absence of any time specifying clues a durative verb carries the present continuous meaning. Every durative verb is technically a compound verb. Durative formation principle is:

Root + t/T (durative suffix) + person eg. un (be-root) + t/T(durative suffix) + nu (person) = unTAnu (to be)

infinitival forms

In Telugu infinitive verb has 3 characteristics. (Krishnamurti.BH, 1961) 1.It doesn't carry PNG in agreement with the subject of the sentence 2.It is formed by adding the appropriate tense-mode suffix to a verb stem 3.It forms a subordinate clause

Infinitive verbs can be classified into:

1.Affirmative participles 1.1 past/perfective:Past participle is formed by adding the aspectual suffix `i` to the form of the stem.

stem + i
 eg. ammu + i = ammi (having sold)

1.2 Durative:Durative participle is formed by adding the suffix `tU/TU` to the stem.

stem + tU
 eg. ammu + tU = ammutU (while selling/selling)

1.3 Conditional:Conditional clauses in Telugu end in a non-finite form of the verb in which the suffix `tE, TE` is added to the stem.

stem + tE
 eg. ammu + tE=ammite (if one sells)

1.4 Concessive:Concessive id formed by adding the tense-mode suffix `inA` to the stem.

stem + inA
 eg. ammi + inA=amminA (although one sells)

Negative participle is formed by adding `aka/akuMDA` to the stem.

Infinitive in Telugu is not as common as in English.

It generally occurs: 1. before the noun 2. before the suffixes `E, gA, bTTi` 3. at the end of a sentence to form a special type of finite verb with an optative meaning and in compound verbs.

The infinitive suffix is `-an`. It is added to the stem which occurs in the negative tense. When the stem in the negative ends in a vowel, `an` becomes `n` (Krishnamurti.BH, 1961).

Root	Negative tense	Infinitive
tecc- (to bring)	tEnu	tEn
kOn (aux.verb)	kOnu	kOnlign="top"

verbal constructions

Most verbs in Telugu may occur intransitively or transitively. A few verbs can also occur as transitively. Passive constructions are rare in colloquial Telugu. Verbal nouns and verbal adjectives are most common in general usage. (Krishnamurti.BH, 1961)

Verbal noun:

The verbal noun is formed by adding the suffix `aTaM/aDaM` to the stem. When the stem final constituent ends in a long vowel `v` is inserted before `aTaM/aDaM`

eg.	Root	verbal noun
	ceppu (tell)	ceppu+aTaM = ceppaTaM/aDaM (telling)
	rA (come)	rA+aTaM = rAvaTaM/aDaM (coming)

Other verbs which lack tense marking and non-finite inflection can not be nominalized with `aTaM/aDaM`

eg. ceppAli (one must tell)	*ceppAli + aTaM = ceppAlaTaM/aDaM
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Whole clause is nominalized when the finite verb is replaced by the corresponding verbal noun.

eg. nuvvu SramapaDaTam bAgOLedu. (Your taking trouble is not good)
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Verbal adjectives:

In Telugu verbal adjectives are used in the formation of noun phrases which take the place of relative clauses in English.

There are four kinds verbal adjectives (Krishnamurti.BH, 1961):

1.Past verbal adjective: It is formed by adding the `ina` suffix to the stem variant which occurs in the past tense.

eg. stem	past tense	past verbal adjective
ammu (to sell)	ammAnu	ammin
pilucu (to call)	pilicAnu	pilicina

2.Future-habitual verbal adjective: It is formed by adding the `E` suffix to the stem variant which occurs in the past tense.

eg. stem	past tense	futu. habitual adjective
ammu (to sell)	ammAnu	ammE
pilucu (to call)	pilicAnu	pilicE

3.Durative verbal adjective: It is formed by adding the suffix `tunna` or `Tunna` to the form of stem which occurs in the durative.

eg. stem	durative finite	durative verbal adjective
ammu (to sell)	ammutunnAnu	ammtunna
pilucu (to call)	piliustunnAnu	pilistunn

4.Negative verbal adjective: It is formed by adding the suffix `ani` to form of the root which occurs in the negative tense.

eg. stem	durative finite	durative verbal adjective
ammu (to sell)	ammanu	ammani
pilucu (to call)	pilavanu	pilavani

They correspond the past, future-habitual, durative and negative tense of the finite verb.

Any finite verb which also has non-finite inflection can be changed in to a nominal ending in `di`.

Inflectional categories of Verbs

Finite forms:

r = root; p = personal suffix

Grammatical name	Composition	Example	Meaning
past tense	r + A + p	amm-A-nu	i sold
future-habitual	r + tA +p	ammu-tA-nu	i (will) sell
negative (fut-hab)	r + a + p	amm-a-nu	I will not sell
Hortative	r + DA + mu/M	ammu-dA-mu/M	let us sell
imperative (sg.)	r + u/ø (2.sg.)	amm-u	sell
imperative (pl.)	r + aMDi(2.pl)	amm-aMDi	please sell
imperative negative	r + ak + u(2.sg) r + ak-aMDi(2.pl)	amm-a-ku amma-ak-aMDi	do not sell do not sell
durative	r + t + un-	ammu-t-unnAnu	i am selling

All the verb suffixes which combine with the root can be divided into 3 groups (Krishnamurti.BH, 1961):

Group 1. suffixes whose main variants begin with a consonant Group 2. Suffixes whose main variants begin with a front vowel Group 3. Suffixes whose main variants begin with a back vowel

Group 1

Grammatical category	Suffixes	Environment
Durative participle	tU/TU	before a comma
Durative	t/T	before un-
Future-habitual	tA/TA tun/Tun	before all personal suffixes except -di before 3 neu.sg.suffix -di
Conditional	tE/TE	after consonant ending roots
Hortative	dA	before -m (1st pl.)

Group 2

Grammatical category	Suffixes	Environment
Past participle	i	before a comma
Past tense	E in nA na DA Da	before all personal suffixes except -di before 3 neu.sg.suffix -di after final roots and before all personal suffixes except -di before 3 neu.sg.suffix -di after 'pad' (fall), 'ceD' (spoil) before all personal suf. except -di
Past verbal adjective	ina/na	before a noun or pronoun
Concessive	inA/nA	before a comma
Future-habitual v.adj	E	before a noun or pronoun
Conditional	aitE	after vowel ending roots

Group 3

Grammatical category	Suffixes	Environment
Infinitive	an/a/0 a/nu	before another verb in compound verb sentence finally as admonitive
Negative tense	a/0	before personal suffixes
Negative	aka/ka	before another verb
Neg.participle	akuMDA/kuMDA	before a comma
Neg. v.adj	ani/ni	before a noun or pronoun
neg.imperative	aku/ku	before a sentence final pause
Imperative plural	aMDi/nDi	before a sentence final pause
imperative singular	u/i/0	before a sentence final pause

Complementation In this field you describe complementation strategies. Does [your language] make use of complementizers?

Special Properties of [your language] In this field you should mention properties of [your language] which did not fit into any of the other categories mentioned in this template

Short Bibliography

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