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SPATIAL EXPRESSIONS IN SINHALA:
Appearance of Verb Forms

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Abstract: Most of the studies done on locative constructions in many languages show the relationship between the figure and the ground in terms of geometrical and/or topological terms. This paper shows that in Sinhala the locative expressions answer the question not only 'Where is the object X?' but also 'How the figure is oriented in relation to the ground?'. Also it is shown that the verb forms appearing in Sinhala locative expressions, are sensitive to the animate/inanimate distinction.

Introduction

Sinhala (also called Sinhalese) is the language of the majority of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka is an island in the Indian Ocean 22 miles southeast of India. Sinhala belongs to the Indo European language family. At early stages Sinhala was influenced by Sanskrit and Pali, which belong to the same language family. The earliest influence of Tamil, which is a Dravidian language, has been traced back to the 11th century A. D. Tamil has been

I would like to express my gratitude to Professor C. Pye for his valuable comments for the improvement of this paper.

a contact language for many centuries since then. Later, from the 16th century to the 20th century there were Portuguese, Dutch, and English people in the country. The effect of these languages can be mainly seen in the lexicon. Since Sinhala did not have close contacts with other sister languages such as Hindi, Urdu or Bengali, it has developed many characteristics of its own.

The Goal of the Study

The major goal of this study is to show how the equivalents of English spatial prepositional expressions are constructed in Sinhala and how they differ from spatial expressions in English.

I will first describe how Sinhala expresses spatial relations and secondly compare spatial expressions in English and Sinhala. The structural differences between the two languages reveal interesting facts about language in general. However, this paper deals mainly with structural differences and will not concentrate on the semantic differences between the two languages. Semantic aspects will be discussed only when it is necessary to clarify structural differences.

Various labels have been assigned to the two noun phrases associated with the spatial prepositions. In the present study, I will use the terms spatial entity and the localizer, following Weinsberg (1973) and Ceinko (1989).

An Overview of the Sinhala Grammar and the Spatial Relations

Sinhala grammarians distinguish three types of words. They are the nouns, verbs, and particles. The third category is described as consisting of words which come before, after, and in between nouns and verbs and change the meanings of words. All the words which do not belong to nouns and verbs such as conjunctions, question words, locatives, emphatic words etc. fall into this category. I will examine below which category of lexical items in Sinhala represents the equivalent meanings of prepositions in English.

The major difficulty in finding translation equivalents in Sinhala for English prepositions is that there is no one category of lexical items in Sinhala, which represents the equivalent meanings of prepositions in English. First, I would like to explore some of the difficulties that would arise in finding translation equivalents of English prepositions in Sinhala by briefly looking into the case system in Sinhala, and examining which use types of English prepositions are presented by means of the case system.

Case system in Sinhala: The Sinhala language distinguishes nine cases. They are the nominative, accusative, instrumental, auxiliary, dative, ablative, genitive, locative and vocative cases. Among these, Sinhala uses the ablative and locative cases to mark spatial relations.

Ceinki (1989) defines ablative spatial behavior as indicating the increase of the distance between the spatial entity and the localizer. Cumaratunga (1983) defines the ablative case as "the initial margin of the verb". This is similar to the spatial sense of the English expressions such as 'away from' and 'out of' which indicate the initiation of the distance between the spatial entity and the localizer. The following example shows that Sinhala uses the suffix -en for this purpose.

(1) a. kurulla ku:duwen iwətə pijæ:ɓuwe:jə
 kurull-a: ku:duw-ə-en iwətə pijæ:ɓuwe:jə
 bird+the cage+the+from outof flew
 The bird flew out of the cage.

b. kurulla: ku:duwen pijæ:ɓuwe:jə
 kurull-a: ku:duw-ə-en pijæ:ɓuwe:jə
 bird+the cage+the+from flew
 The bird flew from the cage.

The locative spatial expressions, are used to show the spatial entity in the place identified by the prepositional place.

(2) a. jane:ləjəhi sitinə mæssa:
 jane:ləj-ə-əhi sitinə mæss-a:
 window+the+in staying fly+the
 the fly on the window

- b. *si:limɛhi* *sitiɲə* *makuluwa:*
 si:lim-ə-ɛhi *sitiɲə* *makuluw-a*
 ceiling+the+in staying spider+the
 the spider on the ceiling

The Sinhala term for this case 'a:ɗha:rə' means the 'support' provided by the localizer. The suffixes *a*, *ɛ*, *ɛhi*, *hi* are the singular noun markers for this case. The following examples of the locative case are taken from Perera (1960).

- (3) a. *gasə* *mudunɛhi* *wɛsɛɲə* *kurullo*
 gas-ə *mudun-a-ɛhi* *wɛsɛɲə* *kurull-o:*
 tree+the top+the+in living birds+the
 the birds that live on top of the tree
- b. *pa:sælɛhi* (*æti*) *kɛlipitiyə*
 pa:sæl-ə-ɛhi (*æti*) *kɛlipitiy-ə*
 school+the+in (has) playground+the
 the playground of the school
- c. *gamɛhi* (*wɛsɛɲə*) *gæhænu*
 gam-ə-ɛhi (*wɛsɛɲə*) *gæhæn-u*
 village+the+in (living) women+the
 the women in the village
 (inclusion, boundary)
- d. *putuwɛhi* *sitiɲə* *minisa:*
 putuw-ə-ɛhi *sitiɲə* *minis-a:*
 chair+the+in staying man+the
 the man on the chair.

Structural Differences between the Two Languages

Examples in 3. a-d show, that Sinhala expresses spatial relations using suffixes. Sinhala also uses postpositions to express locative relations of support:

- (4) balla: pæɖurə udə siti.
 ball-a: pæɖur-ə udə siti.
 dog+the mat+the on staying.
 The dog is on the mat.

The postposition 'udə' in Sinhala expresses an equivalent meaning of English preposition 'on' as shown in the following example.

- (5) pæɖurə udə
 pæɖur-ə udə
 mat+the on
 on the mat

The example below illustrates the placement of the localizers, spatial entities and the postpositions in a more complex spatial construction.

- (6)
 ka:mərəjəhi æt̪i me:səjə udə æti malləhi æt̪i pot̪ə
 ka:mərəj-ə-əhi æti me:səj-ə udə æti mall-ə-əhi æti pot̪ə
 room+the+in has table+the on has bag+the+in has book+the
 the book in the bag on the table in the room

Use of suffixes and postpositions: It was shown above that Sinhala uses both suffixes and postpositions to show spatial relations. In some cases, where English uses the same preposition Sinhala may use either a postposition or a suffix depending on which sense of the preposition the speaker wants to convey. The following two examples illustrate the occurrence of the postposition and the suffix in place of the English preposition on.

- (7) galə udə sitinə monəra:
 gal-ə udə sitinə monər-a:
 rock+the on staying peacock+the
 the peacock on the rock

The postposition udə, which is the only locative marker in the phrase, conveys the equivalent meaning of the preposition on in this example. The following is another example where on occurs.

- (8) dænwi:m puwəruwəhi
 dænwi:m puwəruw-ə-əhi
 bulletin board+the+on
 on the bulletin board

In this example, the suffix -əhi in puwəruwəhi is the locative case maker, which indicates the equivalent meaning of the English preposition on in English.

What we have seen in surface structures of Sinhala and English are the realizations of the same underlying elements.

Where English uses prepositions, Sinhala uses postpositions and suffixes instead.

One goal of this study will be to examine when Sinhala would use suffixes and when it would use postpositions in representing the meaning equivalents of the English prepositions selected for this study. To illustrate the difference between the suffixes and the postpositions, it is necessary to look into some semantic aspects of the postpositions. I will use one of the most frequent postpositions, to illustrate that the use of the suffix or the postposition depends on semantic aspects.

The postposition uḍa and the suffix -chi represent different senses of the English preposition on. The preposition on has different senses with regard to its locative aspect. Linguists such as Herskovits (1986) and Ceinki (1989) have given a central, core meaning for this preposition, which they label as the ideal meaning. The variations of the core meaning are given as use types.

Ceinki (1989: 63) gives three semantic conditions, support, contact with boundary, and attachment for the use of the preposition on. Of the above three, the semantic condition of support, can occur in various contexts.

The semantic condition 'support' and the preposition on: The preposition on occurs in various contexts. Among them are the instances where the localizer provides various types of support to the spatial entity. The following are examples:

- (9)
- a. on the table as in the book on the table
 - b. on the mat as in the cat on the mat
 - c. on the roof as in the squirrel on the roof
 - d. & e. on my hand as in the ant running on my hand
 - f. on my hand as in the body of a mouse on my hand
 - g. on the lake as in the piece of wood floating on the lake
 - h. on the lake as in the boat sailing on the lake
 - i. on the lake as in the swan swimming on the lake
 - j. on the hook as in the umbrella on the hook
 - k. on the branch as in the dead leaves on the branch
 - l. on the head as in a hat on your head
 - m. on the clothes line as in the clothes on the clothes line
 - n. on a line as in a bird perched on a line
 - o. on the equator as in the countries on the equator
 - p. on the ceiling as in the spider on the ceiling
 - q. on the window as in the rain drops on the window
 - r. on the shirt as in the button on the shirt
 - s. on my finger as in the ring on my finger
 - t. on the lake as in a state on lake Michigan
 - u. on the border as in cities on the Mexican border

Of these various kinds of contexts when the localizer is a supporting upward facing surface, on which the spatial entity is located, the postposition udə is used. The postposition udə is the only locative marker of the following phrases.

- (9) a. me:səjə udə
 me:səj-ə udə
 table+the on
 on the table

b. pædurə udə
 pædur-ə udə
 mat+the on
 on the mat

c. wahalə udə
 wahal-ə udə
 roof+the on
 on the roof

Table, mat, roof all have an upward facing surface, and in the examples given the spatial entity is located on the upward facing surface of the localizer. The upward facing surface may be of any shape. For example, the shape of the roofs of buildings such as houses, temples and other types of buildings vary. Some roofs may be flat and others may have various types of slopes. Irrespective of its shape, a bird may sit on an upside down 'V' shape roof and the spatial relationship is lexicalized using the postposition 'udə' as in the example, 9. c.

Example 9. d- f. illustrate this fact further. Example 9. d could be used only when one stretches his hand so as to have an upward facing surface and shows that an ant is running on his hand, where as 9. e. the ant does not necessarily have to be seen as running on an upward facing surface of a hand. Example 9. f. shows when one shows a dead mouse kept on his palm.

- (9) d. mage: atə udə (ɔ̃wənə ku:βija:)
 mage: aṭ-ə udə (ɔ̃wənə ku:βij-a:)
 my hand+the on (running ant+the)
 on my hand
 (the ant running on my hand)
- e. mage: aṭɛhi (ɔ̃wənə ku:βija:)
 mage: aṭ-ə-ɛhi (ɔ̃wənə ku:βij-a:)
 my hand+on (running ant+the)
 on my hand (the ant running on my hand)
- f. mage: atə udə (æ̃ti mi:kunə)
 mage: aṭ-ə udə (æ̃ti mi:kun-ə)
 my hand+the on (has the dead body of a mouse)
 on my hand (has the dead body of a mouse)
 (the dead body of a mouse on my hand)

In the example 9. g. a) the piece of wood is conceived as floating on the surface of the water. It is equally acceptable to use 9. g. b) where the piece of wood is conceived as located within the boundaries of the lake. In examples, h. and i. the boat and the swan are seen as located within the boundaries of the lake. Since boats and swans are often seen within the boundaries of lakes, the use of the postposition 'udə' seems rather unusual. Therefore, in these examples, the volume of the water in the lake is conceived as a region with boundary rather than a supporting surface for the spatial entity.

(9) g. a) wæwə udə pa:wənə li:kotəjə
 wæw-ə udə pa:wənə li:kotəj-ə
 lake+the on floating piece of wood+the
 the piece of wood floating on the lake

b) wæwəhi pa:wənə li:kotəjə
 wæw-ə-əhi pa:wənə li:kotəj-ə
 lake+the on floating piece of wood+the
 the piece of wood floating on the lake

h. wæwəhi jənə oruwə
 wæw-ə-əhi jənə oruw-ə
 lake+the sailing boat+the
 the boat sailing on the lake

i. wæwəhi pi:nənə hansəja:
 wæw-ə-əhi pi:nənə hansəj-a:
 lake+the+on swimming swan+the
 the swan swimming on the lake

The following are examples, where the localizer provides support for the spatial entity, and the localizer is not conceived as having an upward facing surface. The suffix -əhi occurs in such instances.

(9) j. kəkəkəhi
 kəkək-ə-əhi
 hook+the+on
 on the hook

k. attεhi
 att-ə-εhi
 branch+the+on
 on the branch

l. hisεhi
 his-ə-εhi
 head+the+on
 on the head

When a real line or an imaginary line is involved, the localizer is not conceived as having an upward facing surface, the suffix -εhi is used as the locative case marker.

(9) m. rεdiwælεhi
 rεdi-wæl-ə-εhi
 clothes+line+the+on
 on the clothes line

n. wælεhi
 wæl-ə-εhi
 line+the+on
 on a line

o. saməkəjεhi
 saməkəj-ə-εhi
 equator+the+on
 on the equator

The Semantic Condition Attachment: The following are the examples of attachment and their Sinhala translations.

- (9) p. si:limɛhi
 si:lim-ə-ɛhi
 ceiling+the+on
 on the ceiling
- q. ĵane:ləjɛhi
 ĵane:ləj-ə-ɛhi
 window+the+on
 on the window
- r. kamisəjɛhi
 kamisəj-ə-ɛhi
 shirt+the+on
 on the shirt

The phrases 9 d. and e. above compared with the phrase 9. s. below show, how Sinhala represents a moving object as the spatial entity in 'the ant running on my hand', compared with a spatial entity which is not moving or has restricted movements as in 'the ring on my finger'.

- (9) s. mage: æḡillɛhi (æti muḡuwə)
 mage: æḡill-ə-ɛhi (æti muḡuwə)
 my finger+the+on (has ring+the)
 on my finger (the ring on my finger)

The suffix -ɛhi, attached to the localizer in Sinhala is used to express the meaning equivalent of attachment expressed by the preposition on in English.

The Semantic Condition Contact with Boundary: The semantic condition contact with the boundary is expressed in the examples 9. t. and u. These are translated using the suffix -ɛhi in Sinhala.

(9) t. wæwə ajinehi
 wæwə ajin-ə-ɛhi
 lake+the edge+the+in
 on the lake
 (at the edge of the lake)

u. ma:jimehi
 ma:jim-ə-ɛhi
 border+the+in
 on the border

The above examples 9. a-u show that of the various senses expressed by the English preposition on, the postposition udə is only used when a spatial entity is located on an upward facing surface of a localizer. In all other instances the suffix -ɛhi is used.

It is worth mentioning here that both locative markers, the postposition udə and the suffix -ɛhi cannot be used together with the same noun to indicate the localizer. For example,

- (10) a. *mage: aṭēhi udə
 my hand on
 on my hand
- b. *gaḷēhi udə
 rock+the+on on
 on the rock

are not acceptable to Sinhala speakers because of its apparent redundancy. The correct usage is given in examples, (9) d. and (6) respectively.

Metaphorical uses

One of the areas that linguists find difficult to analyze are metaphors. The literal translation of a metaphor (word to word) may not give the same meaning in another language. Therefore, when considering metaphors it is important to translate the intended meaning rather than the literal meaning. Here are some metaphorical uses of on in English.

- (11) a. on you as in Do you have money on you?
 b. on your mind as in What's on your mind?
 c. on this occasion as in a speech on this occasion

The Sinhala translations of the above are:

- (11) a. obə laḡə
 you near
 near/with you

or

obe: aṭɛhi
 obe: aṭ-ə-ɛhi
 your hand+the+in
 in your hand

b. obe: siṭɛhi
 obe: siṭ-ə-ɛhi
 your mind+the+on
 on your mind

c. me: awaṣṭa:wɛhi
 me: awaṣṭa:w-ə-ɛhi
 this occasion+the+on
 on this occasion

Translation equivalents of Sinhala shows that the embodiment of English expressions can be quite different in Sinhala. For example, (11) a. shows that a person can have money in his hand or near/with him. But the examples, b. and c. seems to be similar to that of English. As indicated above linguists find it difficult to stipulate any rules regarding the metaphorical uses of any language or their translation equivalents.

Appearance of the verb form in Sinhala constructions

Now I will consider some more constructions that could appear in English. First, I will look at the stative expression, There is a book on the mat.

- (12) pæɖurə udə pɔɭak æɭə
 pæɖur-ə udə pɔɭa-k æɭə
 mat+the on book+a lying
 There is a book on the mat.

The same idea can be expressed in English as a noun phrase containing a prepositional phrase. The stative verb disappears in the English noun phrase, the book on the mat. The translation equivalent of this type of a simple phrase shows that the stative verb does not disappear in the Sinhala constructions.

- (13) pæɖurə udə æɭi pɔɭə
 pæɖur-ə udə æɭi pɔɭ-ə
 mat+the on lying book+the.
 the book on the mat

The above example and the examples below, further illustrate the fact that the Sinhala constructions require a verb form which does not appear in the English translations. Consider the following:

- (14) a. gɛjə pitupasə æɭi maduwə
 gɛj-ə pitupasə æɭi maduw-ə
 house+the behind has shed-the
 the shed behind the house

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- b. liðehi æti waḷura
lið-ə-ehi æti waḷur-ə
well+the+in has water+the
the water in the well
- c. me:səjətə udin æti pahanə
me:səjət-ə udin æti pahan-ə
table+the above has lamp+the
the light above the table
- d. pansələ iḡiripasə æti bo:gasə
pansəl-ə iḡiripasə æti bo:gas-ə
temple in front of has bo tree+the
the bo tree in front of the temple
- e. gasə jatə sitinə le:nə:
gas-ə jatə sitinə le:n-a:
tree+the under staying squirrel+the
the squirrel under the tree
- f. pælæ:ti mæðə æti walpələ
pælæ:ti mæðə æti walpəl-ə
weeds the in between has weeds+the
the weeds in between the plants
- g. me:səjə laḡə sitinə gæhæniʝə
me:səj-ə laḡə sitinə gæhæniʝ-ə
table+the near staying woman+the
the woman at the table

- h. muhudu ma:jimɛn pahatə æʈi idam
 muhudu ma:jim-ə-ɛn pahatə æʈi idam
 sea level+the+from down has land+the
 the land below the sea level

The relationship between the spatial entity and the localizer has been described by linguists such as Talmy (1980: 233, 1983: p.258-259) in terms of geometric components. In English, the preposition of a spatial expression encodes a great deal about the geometry of the localizer, and all the semantic load is carried out by the preposition. But the preposition encodes little or none about the geometry of the spatial entity. As opposed to English, Sinhala spatial expressions carry information about the spatial entity. The verb form that occurs in the Sinhala spatial expressions tells us whether the spatial entity is animate or inanimate, whether it is moving or static and in some cases gives information about its orientation. First, I will discuss the animate inanimate distinction encoded in the verb form.

Significance of the animacy of the spatial entity: The distinction between animate and inanimate spatial entities affects the verb form of the Sinhala constructions. This sensitivity of the verb form in Sinhala spatial expressions is illustrated in the following examples.

- (15) a. pəɖurə udə sitinə balla
 pəɖur-ə udə sitinə ball-a
 mat+the on staying dog+the
 the dog on the mat

- b. pæɖurə udə ætʃi potə
 pæɖur-ə udə ætʃi pot-ə
 mat+the on lying book+the
 the book on the mat

These examples show that if the spatial entity is inanimate then the verb 'æti' is used and if the spatial entity is animate then the verb 'sitinə' is used.

The general rules of animacy apply in selection of verbs corresponding to the animacy of the spatial entity. For example, if the speaker is referring to a dead body, then the verb æti is used. If the speaker conceives the spatial entity as animate, then the verb sitinə is used.

- (16) a. juɖə pitijehi sitinə solda:ɖuwa:
 juɖə pitijehi sitinə solda:ɖuw-a:
 war field staying soldier+the
 the soldier on the war field
- b. juɖə pitijehi ætʃi malə sirurə
 juɖə pitijehi ætʃi malə sirur-ə
 war field has dead body+the
 the dead body on the war field
- or
- c. juɖə pitijehi ætʃi solda:ɖuwa:ge: malə sirurə
 juɖə pitijehi ætʃi solda:ɖuw-a:-ge: malə sirur-ə
 war field has soldier+the+#pos. dead body+the
 the dead body of the soldier on the war field

possessive marker

As it is in English, Sinhala represents a body of a person as an inanimate entity and hence the use of the verb *ælj*.

Occurance of verb forms other than stative verbs

Following are some of the verbs that express the spatial relations in Sinhala. In Sinhala constructions, the occurrence of the verb denoting an action and the stative verb that follows it represent a resultative state. The speaker conceives the state of the spatial entity as a result of the action of the verb. For example, in 17.a the Sinhala equivalent of 'the cat hiding under the table' shows that the cat is located under the table as a consequence of its action of hiding under the table.

- (17) a. *me:səjə jatə hæḡi: sitinə baləla:*
 me:səj-ə jatə hæḡi: sitinə baləl-a:
 table+the under hiding staying cat+the
 the cat hiding under the table
- b. *oluwen sitəgenə sitinə minisa:*
 oluw-ə-ən sitəgenə sitinə minis-a:
 head+the+with standing staying man+the
 the man standing on his head
- c. *æðə udə niḡa:genə sitinə laḡəruwa:*
 æð-ə udə niḡa:genə sitinə laḡəruw-a:
 bed+the on sleeping staying child+the
 the baby sleeping on the bed

- d. pahan atərə æti itipandəmə
 pahan+⁰ atərə æti itipandəmə
 lamps+the in between has candle+the
 the candle in between the lamps
- e. gasəhi ɛti: æti wələ
 gas-ə-əhi ɛti: æti wələ
 tree+the+in twined has vine+the
 the vine twined on the tree
- f. me:səjə asələ jaɾuru lijəmin sitinə gəhənijə
 me:səj-ə asələ jaɾuru lijəmin sitinə gəhənij-ə
 table+the near key writing staying woman+the
 the woman typing at the table
- g. atɕhi ɛlli: sitinə wawula:
 atɕ-ə-əhi ɛlli: sitinə wawul-a:
 branch+the+in hanging staying bat+the
 the bat hanging on the branch
- h. nil kamisəjə hæðə sitinə laməja:
 nil kamisəj-ə hæðə sitinə laməj-a:
 blue shirt+the has worn staying child+the
 the child in blue shirt
- i. wələhi ɛlla æti rɛɖi
 wəl-ə-əhi ɛlla æti rɛɖi+⁰
 line+the+in hanging has clothes+the
 the clothes on the line

- j. ḡamwælen bæðə sitinə balla:
 ḡamwæl-ə-en bæðə sitinə ball-a:
 leash+the+with tied staying dog+the
 the dog on the leash
- k. putuwə udə hiðəgenə sitinə minisa:
 putuw-ə udə hiðəgenə sitinə minis-a:
 chair+the on sitting staying man+the
 the man on the chair

All these examples present resultative states in Sinhala. For example, in 17. j. the verb hæðə sitinə indicates the consequence of wearing the shirt. In 17. k. ella æti indicates that the speaker conceives the clothes as a result of somebody's hanging them on the line and in 17. l. bæðə sitinə is a resultative state of somebody's tying the dog. All these give information about the orientation (i. e. what action has caused the spatial entity to be in that state) of the spatial entity.

It is worth mentioning here the difference between the examples ³.d and 17.k. The difference between these two seems purely pragmatic. If a speaker wants to emphasise the action that caused the location of the spatial entity, then he may choose ¹⁷.k. If he is referring just to the locality of the spatial entity then he would prefer the example ³.d.

As indicated earlier, the location of the spatial entity in relation to the localizer is expressed using either a postposition or a suffix in Sinhala. The special feature in Sinhala spatial

expressions is that Sinhala also shows how the spatial entity is oriented in relation to the localizer.

Lative spatial expressions in Sinhala

The embodiment of information in lative expressions are different compared with the locative constructions in Sinhala. Lative spatial expressions indicate a movement of the spatial entity in relation to the localizer. Following are some examples of lative spatial constructions in Sinhala.

- (18) a. attə d̥ige: d̥uwənə le:nə:
 att-ə d̥ige: d̥uwənə le:n-a:
 branch-the along running squirrel+the
 the squirrel running along the branch
- b. pa:rə d̥ige: æwid̥inə laməja:
 pa:r-ə d̥ige: æwid̥inə laməj-a:
 road+the along walking child+the
 the children walking along the road
- c. me:səjə udətə pənnə baləla:
 me:səj-ə udətə pənnə baləl-a:
 table+the onto jumped cat+the
 the cat jumped onto the table
- d. liḍə æṭulətə wətunu le:nə:
 liḍ-ə æṭulətə wətunu le:n-a:
 well+the into fell squirrel+the
 the squirrel fell into the well

- e. ku:duwen iwəɬətə pijæ:ɸu: kurulla:
ku:duw-ə-ən iwəɬətə pijæ:ɸu: kurull-a:
cage+the+from out of flew bird+the
the bird flew out of the cage
- f. nuwərə sitə ənə basəjə
nuwərə sitə ənə basəj-ə
kandy from coming bus-the
the bus coming from Kandy
- g. nuwərin pitatwənə basəjə
nuwərə-in pitatwənə basəj-ə
Kandy-from leaving bus+the
the bus leaving Kandy
- h. nuwərətə jənə basəjə
nuwərə-tə jənə basəj-ə
kandy-to going bus+the
the bus going to Kandy
- i. ɬattuwen iwəɬətə wætunu potə
tattuw-ə-ən iwəɬətə wætunu pot-ə
shelf+the+from off fell book+the
the book fell off the shelf
- j. wæwə harəha: pi:nu: hansəja:
wæw-ə harəha: pi:nu: hansəj-a:
lake+the across swam swan+the
the swan swam across the lake

- k. wæwətə udin pijæ:βu: kurullo:
 wæw-ə-tə udin pijæ:βu: kurull-o:
 lake+the+to above flew birds+the
 the birds flew above the lake

Since these examples express a movement of the spatial entity they do not contain a stative verb. The spatial relations between the two entities are expressed in terms of spatial verbs and either a case marker (example g.) or a postposition (example f.).

Constraints on the verb form

The following examples illustrate the constraints on using the verb forms in locative constructions in Sinhala. Both of the following phrases could be used and are grammatical in Sinhala.

- (19) nil kamisəyɛhi æti pəlləmə
 nil kamisəy-ə-ɛhi æti pəlləmə-ə
 blue shirt+the+in has stain+the
 the stain on the blue shirt.

- (20) nil kamisəyɛhi pəlləmə
 nil kamisəy-ə-ɛhi pəlləmə-ə
 blue shirt+the+in stain+the
 the stain on the blue shirt

but again,

- (21) *nil kamisəjəhi minisa
 nil kamisəj-ə-əhi minisa
 blue shirt+the+in the man
 the man in the blue shirt

would be unacceptable. Also look at the following examples.

- (22) me:səjə udə æt̪i pot̪ə
 me:səj-ə udə æt̪i pot̪-ə
 table+the on has book+the
 the book on the table

- (23) me:səjə udə sitinə baləla:
 me:səj-ə udə sitinə baləl-a:
 table+the on has cat+the
 the cat on the table

The acceptability of the following constructions, as locative noun phrases, without the verb is questionable.

- (24) a) *me:səjə udə pot̪ə
 b) *me:səjə udə baləla:

The unacceptability of the constructions in (24) seems to be due to their incompleteness (i.e. omission of the verb).

The spatial entity pəlləmə (the stain) is seen as an inseparable part of kamisəjəhi (in the shirt). When a part whole relationship is expressed, Sinhala has the choice of

omitting the verb form. The following examples illustrate this fact further.

- (25) a. aɫɛhi æɫi æḡili
 aɫ-ə-ɛhi æɫi æḡil-i
 hand+the+in has fingers+the
 the fingers in the hand

or

- b. aɫɛhi æḡili
 aɫ-ə-ɛhi æḡil-i
 hand+the+in fingers+the
 the fingers in the hand

- c. me:səjɛhi æɫi kakul
 me:səj-ə-ɛhi æɫi kakul-⁰
 table+the+in has legs+the
 the legs of the table

or

- d. me:səjɛhi kakul
 me:səj-ə-ɛhi kakul-⁰
 table+the+in legs+the
 the legs of the table

- e. obe: hisɛhi (æɫi) kɛs
 obe: his-ə-ɛhi (æɫi) kɛs-⁰
 your head+the+on (has) hair
 the hair on your head

Therefore, when the relationship between the spatial entity and the localizer is seen as a part whole relationship in

a locative construction the verb is optional as in the example (19) above.

Summary

This discussion shows that the equivalent expressions of prepositional spatial constructions in English are constructed in Sinhala using suffixes or postpositions depending on the meaning that the speaker wants to convey. In English spatial prepositional expressions, the spatial entity is described in relation to the localizer in a projected space. It was shown that in Sinhala, in addition to the description of the location of the spatial entity, the orientation of the spatial entity too is shown with reference to the localizer in the projected space. Also it was shown that this is done by means of a stative verb. These stative verbs are sensitive to animate/inanimate, part/whole, and resultative distinctions.

In conclusion, spatial expressions in Sinhala show that what Sinhala speakers conceive and conceptualize are not only the relation of the spatial entity to the localizer, but also the states, events and actions which are involved in originating those schematizations.

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