A Comparative Study of Word Order in Spoken Sinhala and English at the Clause Level

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Abstract

This comparative study focuses on the word order in Sinhalese and in English particularly at the clause level. A clause is a word or a group of words ordinarily consisting of a subject and a predicate, although in some languages and in some types of clauses, the subject may not appear explicitly. (This is especially common in null subject languages). The most basic kind of sentence consists of a single clause; more complicated sentences may contain multiple clauses. Indeed, it is possible for one clause to contain another. Though the comparative study of word order in Sinhala and English is so important in the path of understanding the universal features of two languages, hardly any research effort has so far been taken in the field of linguistics. However, a great deal of researches is found involving English word order and several European and Asian Languages but there is no such a study concerning Sinhala and English and also the importance of such a study.

In the present study the word order of both languages has been analyzed separately and compared throughout.The data for spoken Sinhala presented here is drawn form several native speakers. Being a non-native speaker of English, the researcher of this survey have drawn examples for English from native samples.

The findings of the study indicate that the word order within the clauses in both languages is rigid. But it is always not true in the order of clauses at the sentence level.

This study will serve to bring out the peculiarities of the two languages. Further it will show us better equipments for establishing translation rules between English and Sinhala. This comparison will definitely uplifts the knowledge in two languages and more importantly contribute to the field of translation where two languages are involved is therefore going to be of some practical use.

Key words: Comparative Study, Word order,Spoken sinhalh, Clause level

Introduction

This is a comparative study which focuses on the word order in Sinhalese and in English particularly at the clause level. Sinhala pronounced /sɪŋhələ/

one of the two official languages the other being Tamil and the mother tongue of the majority (about 70%) in Sri Lanka, is an Indo Aryan language spoken mainly in Sri Lanka.

According to Katre (1964), the term Indo-Aryan represents the language stream brought in by the invading Aryans towards the beginning or early half of the second millennium B.C into India.

Rathanajothi(1975) has explained the genesis of Indo-Aryan branch. The older stage of Indo-Aryan is represented by Vedic Sanskrit, which belongs to about 1500 B.C, and the classical Sanskrit beginning about the 4th Century B.C. The second stage of Indo-Aryan which goes back to about the 6th century B.C is represented by Pa:li, Maha:ra:stri, Saurase:ni:, Magadi:, Ardamagadi:, Paisa:ci:, Popular Sanskrit, Apabramsa and the language of the Asoken inscription. The stage called Modern Indo-Aryan began about the 11th century A.D.; it includes Hindi, Marathi, Gujarathi, Benga:li and Sinhalese

Sinhala has two main varieties: literary and spoken which differ from each other in important ways. Literary Sinhala is the language of virtually all written materials not just literature in the specific sense. It is characteristically written and read, and on those relatively rare occasions when it is heard, it is generally read aloud from a previously prepared text. Spoken Sinhala, setting aside some formal sub- varieties heard primarily in lectures and seminars, is basically the language used by everyone at all social and educational levels, for all face to face discourse and it is this colloquial variety of Sinhala that is mostly represented in the present study.

Sinhala belongs, as mentioned earlier, to the family of languages usually called Indo-Aryan, the other members of which are found primarily in the North of India and include Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarathi, Rajasthani, Panjabi, Kashmiri, Oriya and Sindhi. Another member of the family is **Maldivian** spoken in the Maldives islands and is closer to Sinhala than the others.

The syntactic structure of Sinhala in relation to the other Indo-Aryan languages is SOV. The subject (S) comes in the initial position, then, the object (O) and the verb (V) comes at the end position of the sentence.

Like Sinhala, English is an Indo-European language. While English can be traced back to the Germanic roots, Sinhala derives itself from Indo-Aryan branch.

Weerakoon highlights the roots of two languages as follows.

"Sinhala and English both belong to the same Indo-European language family. Sinhala is a member of the Indo-Iranian sub-family and English a

member of the Germanic sub-family" (Weerakoon, 1982).

English is the language of Britain, Ireland, North America, Australia and other countries.

According to Baugh and Cable (1993) in number of speakers as well as in its users for international communication, English is one of the most important languages of the world. Spoken by more than 370 million people as a first language in the United Kingdom, the United States, and the former British Empire, it is the largest of the occidental languages.

As far as the linguistic categories of languages in the world are concerned, English is placed under the SVO language category since its normal word order appears as subject, verb and object. As Dryer (2005) observes, English is neither verb-final nor verb-initial, since the subject precedes the verb while the object follows it. SVO languages are the second most widespread word order type among the languages of the world, more common than verb-initial, but less widespread than verb-final languages.

The word order is the arrangement of words in a phrase, clause or sentence in order to show their relationship to one another. The word order is essentially concerned with the way of distribution of words specifying which words, phrase or clause can appear in which position in a sentence.

"The word order refers to the order in which words appear in sentences across different languages" (Verma, 1996). It can be identified in different levels such as phrase level, clause level and also sentence level.

Clauses are often contrasted with phrases. Traditionally, a clause was said to have both a finite verb and its subject, whereas a phrase either contained a finite verb but not its subject (in which case it is a verb phrase) or did not contain a finite verb. Hence, in the sentence "I did not know that the dog ran through the yard", "that the dog ran through the yard" is a clause, as is the sentence as a whole, while" the yard", "through the yard", "ran through the yard" and "the dog" are all phrases. Modern linguists do not draw quite the same distinction, however, the main difference being that modern linguists accept the idea of a non-finite clause, a clause that is organized around a non-finite verb.

"When a phrase or group of words includes a verb it is known as a clause. A clause needs to have a main verb that is the verb included should not be a verbal noun or an adjective" (Wijesinghe, 2002).

Aims and Objectives of the Study

- To understand the different properties in the two languages in respect of word order at the clause level.

- To identify the similarities and differences of the two languages in respect to the word order at the clause level, thereby make efforts to minimize the problems faced by the translator or interpreter who is involved in translating or interpreting from Sinhala to English and vice versa.

Problem of the Research

Do Sinhala and English Languages constitute (dis) similarities with respect to the word order at the clause level?

Methodology

Word order of both languages at the clause level was analyzed separately and compared throughout. Primary data for Spoken Sinhala were collected in the Sabaragamuwa Province. Being a non-native speaker of English the researcher of this survey has drawn examples from native speaking analysts.

Results and Discussion

Clauses are generally classified as either dependent or independent. An independent clause can stand alone as a complete simple sentence, whereas a dependent clause must be connected to or part of another clause. The dependent clause is then described as subordinate to a main clause, or (if it is part of a larger clause) as embedded in a matrix clause.

Examples in English include the following:

a. I went to the doctor (Independent clause)

b. because I was ill   (dependent clause).

Adverbial subordinators occur at the beginning of the subordinate   clause in English, as illustrated by the adverbial subordinator **because** in example

because I was tired

But in Sinhalese the word order within the subordinate clause is contradictory to that of in English as it is indicated in the following examples, in Sinhalese the postpositions /**nisa:**/ and **hinda/** (because) occur at the end of the clause.

a.maʈə   mahansi   nisa:
    | | |
I –Dat   tired   because- Pop
    because I am tired

maʈə   mahnsi   hinda
  | | |
I –Dat   tired   because-Pop
  because I am tired

So, it is clear in any language though it is with a high degree of flexibility or inflexibility, there may be some peculiarities where Sinhala and English is also a case in point.

### The Comparison of the Major Clause Types in Sinhala and English

Though Sinhala is known as a SOV language, it has a number of other word order characteristics which are typical of verb final languages. According to Quirk et al., (1985) there are seven clause types in English.

<u>Type</u>   -   <u>Examples</u>

Type l: SV   -   **Λʊʊruddə**   uda:ʋenəʋa
                    | |
            the new year- S   dawn-V
             The new year dawns
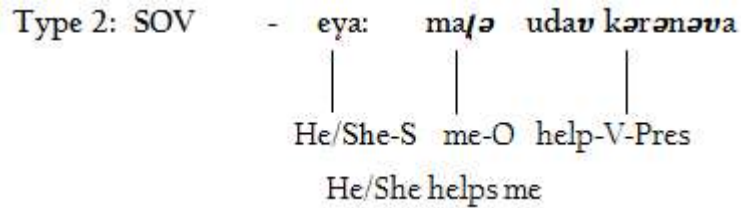
The structure of **Type l** has the following marked word order.

i. VS   -   uda:ʋenəʋa   Λʊʊruddə
                  | |
           dawn - V   the new year- S
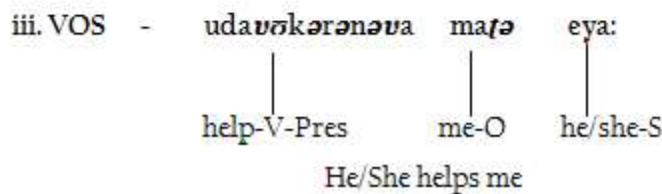   The New Year dawn

In English, the unmarked word order of **Type 1** is SV and VS variation is used in spoken English.

(1) SV -   Rishi   came down
              | |
              S   V

      VS - Down came Rishi
               | |
               V   S
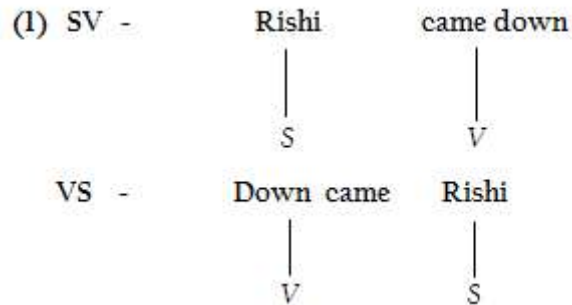
In Sinhala, the unmarked word order of the **Type 2** -SOV has the following variation.

Type 2: SOV   -   eya: maʈə   udaʋ kərənəva
                     | | |
                  He/She-S me-O help-V-Pres

                  He/She helps me

The **Type 2** has word order variations as **VSO**, **OVS** and **VOS** frequently used in Sinhala.

i. VSO -   udaʋə kərənəva   eya: maʈə
                  | | |
               help-V   he/she-S   me-O

                  He/She helps me

ii. OVS -   maʈə   udaʋəkərənəva   eya:
               | | |
             me-O   help-V-Pres   he/she-S

                  He/She helps me

iii. VOS -   udaʋəkərənəva   maʈə   eya:
                  | | |
             help-V-Pres   me-O   he/she-S

                  He/She helps me
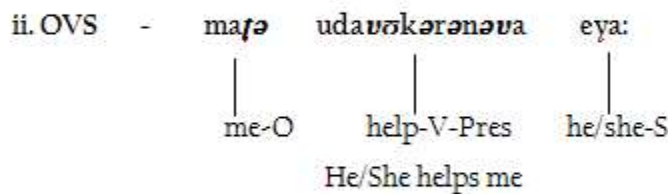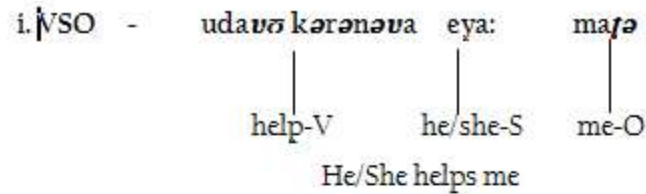
The **SVO** order is also used in Sinhala similar to English.

iv. SVO   -   eya: udaʋɐkərənəʋa   maʈə

                 he/she   help-V-Pres   me-O

                           He/She helps me
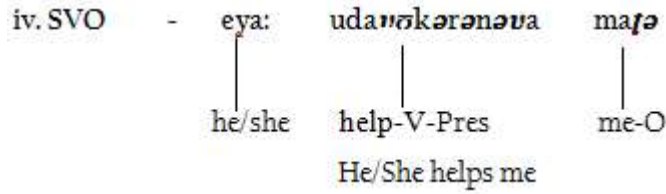
In English, the unmarked word order of **Type 2** is **SVO**.

Type (2) : SOV -   He   likes   mutton

                          S   V   O
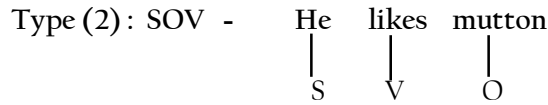
However, the following variation in English is used when the **O** is thereby emphasized.

OSV -   <u>Mutton</u>   he   likes

              O   S   V

Type 3: SCV - mage: mitrəya   guruʋərəyek

              my   friend - S   teacher - C   V

                 My friend is a teacher
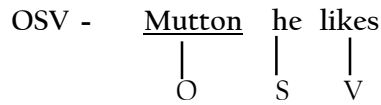
In Sinhala, since the *'be'* verbs are totally absent, the particle /**ek/ak**/ are suffixed to the complement as below. Consequently, the English learners of Sinhala (L₂ learners) have tendency to neglect *'be'* verbs[1].

The following variation of the constituent order of **Type 3** is largely used in spoken Sinhala.

i. CVS   guruʋərəyek   mage: mitrəya

              teacher-C V   my   friend-S

                 My friend is a teacher
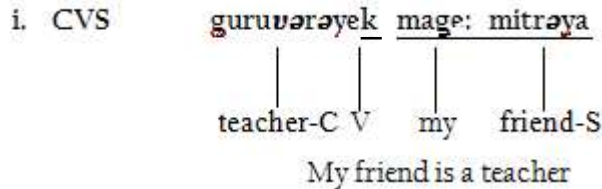
But in English the unmarked constituent order is **SVC**.

(3)   SVC   She   seems   happy

                  S   V   C

Type 4: SAV -   mamə   gedərə   innəva

                     I -S   at home-A   stay-V

                     I   stay at home

The following variations of **Type 4** are commonly used in Sinhala.

i. ASV   -   gedərə   mamə innəva

                    at home-A   I -S   stay-V-Pres

                      I   stay at   home

ii. VSA   -   innəva   mamə   gedərə

                    stay -V-Pres   I -S   at home-A

                      I   stay at   home

iii. SV A   -   mamə   innəva   gedərə

                    I -S   stay-V-Pres   at home

                     I   stay at   home

iv. A V S   -   gedərə   innəva   mamə

                    at home-A stay-V-Pres I -S

                     I   stay   home

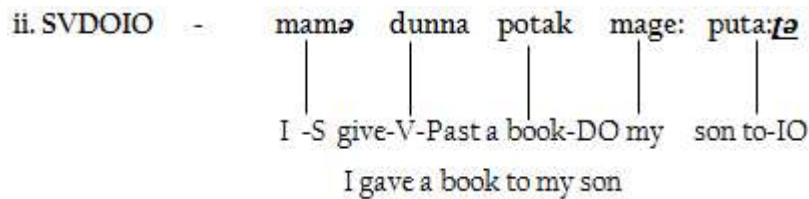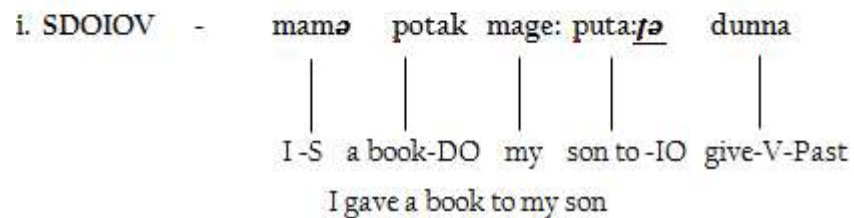In English the unmarked word order in **Type 4** is SVA.

Type (4): SVA -   The children play in the garden

<div align="center">

S   V   A

</div>
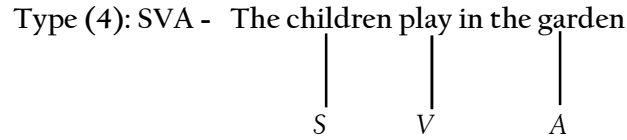
The following marked constituent order is also acceptable in English.

ASV -   In the garden the children play

<div align="center">

A   S   V

</div>
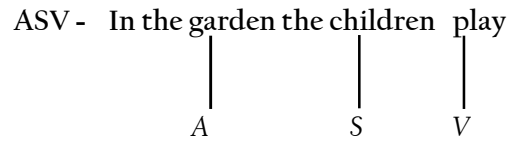
In Sinhala in clause Type **5,** the indirect object is inflected whereas in English instead the preposition is used. This phenomenon is considered as a big difference between inflected and uninflected languages.

Type 5: SVOO -   mamə mage: puṭa:ʈə potak   dunna

<div align="center">

I - S   my son to -IO a book-DO give-V-Past

I gave my son a book

</div>
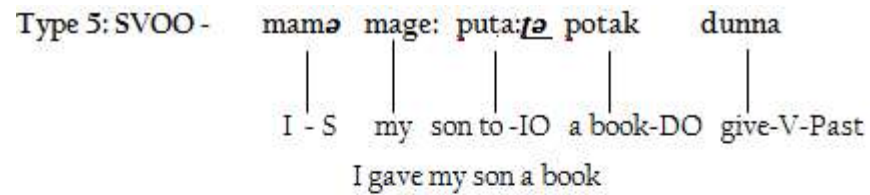
The following variations are also predominantly used in spoken Sinhala.

i. SDOIOV   -   mamə   potak mage: puṭa:ʈə   dunna

<div align="center">

I -S a book-DO   my   son to -IO give-V-Past

I gave a book to my son

</div>

ii. SVDOIO   -   mamə   dunna potak   mage: puṭa:ʈə

<div align="center">

I -S give-V-Past a book-DO my   son to-IO

I gave a book to my son

</div>

iii. SVIODO - mamə dunna mage: puta:ʈə potak

I -S give-V- my son to -IO a book-DO

I gave my son a book

iv. VSIODO - dunna mamə mage: puta:ʈə potak

give- V- Past I -S my son to- IO a book- DO

I gave my son a book

v. VSDOIO - dunna mamə potak mage puta:ʈə

give- V- Past I - S a book- DO my son to - IO

I gave a book to my son

vi. IODOSV - mage: puta:ʈə potak mamə dunna

my son to -IO a book-DO I -S give-V-Past

I gave a book to my son

The following variation is less dominant in Sinhala.

vii. DOIOSV - potak mage: puta:ʈə mamə dunna

a book-DO my to son -IO I -S give-V-Past

I gave a book to my son

In English the unmarked word order of clause **Type 5** is SVOO.

Type 5: SVOO - I gave a book to my son

S V DO IO

The following variation is largely in English.

SVIODO - I   gave   my son a book

　　　　　　　S   V   IO   DO

Type 6: SOCV - mamə mage: puta: dostərə-kenek kərənəva

　　　　　　　I-S   my son-O a doctor -C   will make-V

I will make my son a doctor

The following variations are largely used in spoken Sinhala.

i. CVSO -   **dostərə-kenek**   **kərənəva** mamə mage: puta:

　　　　　　a doctor-C   will make-V I -S   my   son - O

I will make my son a doctor

ii. OCVS -   mage: puta: **dostərə-kenek**   **kərənəva**   mamə

　　　　　　my   son- O   a doctor-C   will make-V   I-S
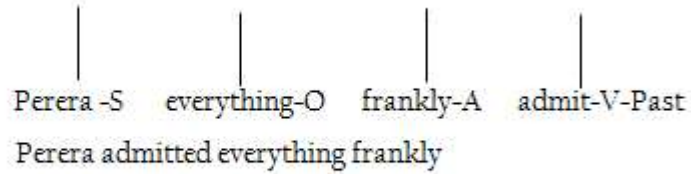
I will make my son a doctor

But the constituent order in English of **Type 6** is fixed as exemplified below.

But the constituent order in English of **Type 6** is fixed as exemplified below.

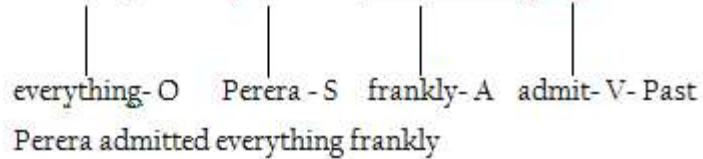Type (6): SVOC -   I   found   her very helpful

　　　　　　　S   V   O   C

The unmarked word order of clause **Type 7** in Sinhala would be as:

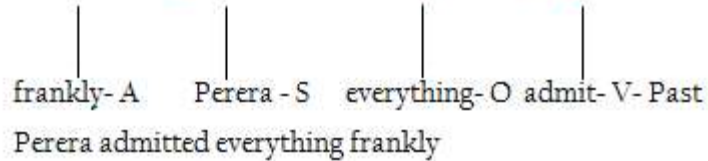Type 7: SOAV - pere:ra   hæmədeyakmə   a*ua*kə*uə*mə   piligatta

Perera -S   everything-O   frankly-A   admit-V-Past

Perera admitted everything frankly

The following variations are predominantly used in spoken Sinhala.

i. OSAV0 -   hæmədeyakmə pere:ra   a*ua*kə*uə*mə piligatta

everything- O   Perera - S   frankly- A   admit- V- Past

Perera admitted everything frankly

ii. ASOV -   a*ua*kə*uə*mə pere:ra   hæmədeyakmə piligatta

frankly- A   Perera - S   everything- O   admit- V- Past

Perera admitted everything frankly

iii. AOSV -   a*ua*kə*uə*mə hæmədeyakmə   pere:ra piligatta

frankly-A   everything-O   Perera -S   admit-V-Past

Perera admitted everything frankly

iv. AOVS - a*ua*kə*uə*mə hæmədeyakmə   piligatta pere:ra

frankly-A   everything-O   admit-V-Past Perera - S

Perera admitted everything frankly

v. OAVS - hæmədeyakmə <u>avaŋkavəmə</u> piligatta pere:ra

everything-O frankly-A admit-V-Past Perera -S

Perera admitted everything frankly
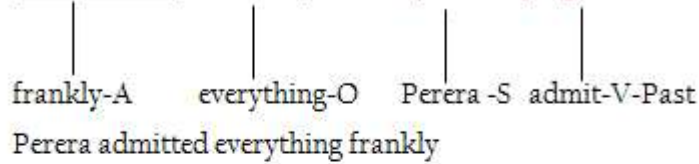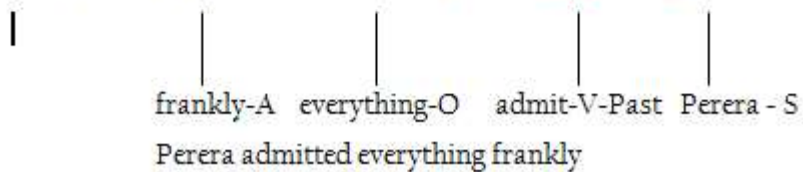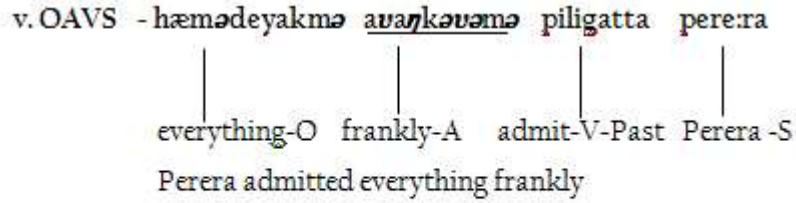
The basic word order of clause Type 7 in English would be as:

Type (7): SVOA - He took him into the hotel

S V O A
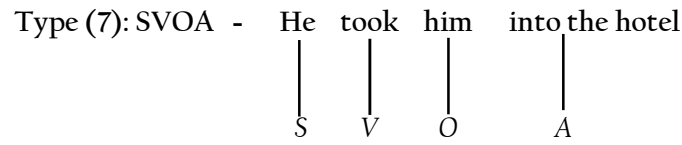
The following marked word order is possible in spoken English so as the adverbial is thereby emphasized.

Type (7): ASVO - Into the hotel he took him

A S V O
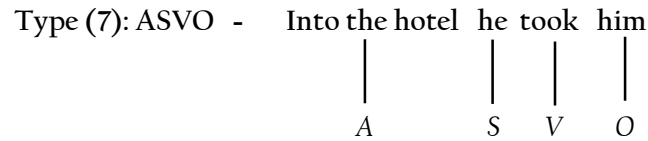
The nominal clause

There are five main types of nominal clauses in Sinhala namely:

i. The interrogative sub clause

ii. The nominal relative clause

iii. The nominal ˆ Y(to)- infinitive clause

iv. The participle clause

v. The nominal equational clause

In English also there are five main types of nominal clauses namely:

i .that clause

ii.interrogative sub clauses

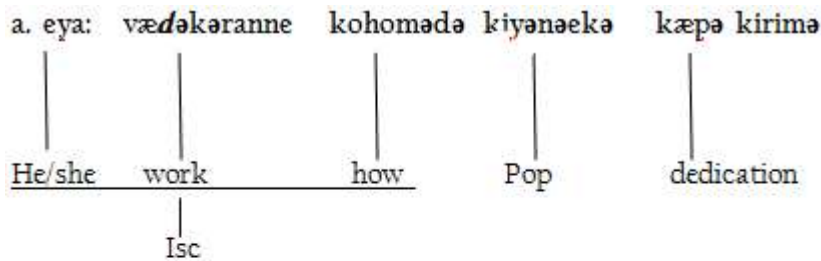iii.Nominal relative clause

iv. Nominal *to-* infinitive clause

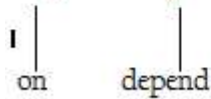v. Nominal *ing-* clause (Leech and Jan 2004).

The syntactic function

i.　The interrogative sub clause

The interrogative sub clauses are introduced by *wh- interrogative* words in both languages, including /kohomə də/ *(how)*.

　- *Wh* interrogative subclause as: **a subject:**

a. eya: væḍəkəranne kohomədə kiyənaekə kæpə kirimə

He/she　　work　　　　how　　Pop　　　　dedication

Isc

maʈə tiːrənəyəvenəva

on　　depend

How he/she works depends on dedication.

b. <u>How he/she works</u> depends on dedication

Nc

In nominal clauses of this kind the postposition /kiyəla/ kiyənaekə/ which bears no special meaning is used in order to fulfill the meaning of the sentence. Unlike in English, in Sinhala the word order of interrogative sub clause in a sentence is flexible.

c. kæpə kiriːmə matə tiːrənəyəvenəva eya: væḍəkəranne kohomədə

dedication　on　　depend　he/she　work　　how

kiyənaekə

Pop
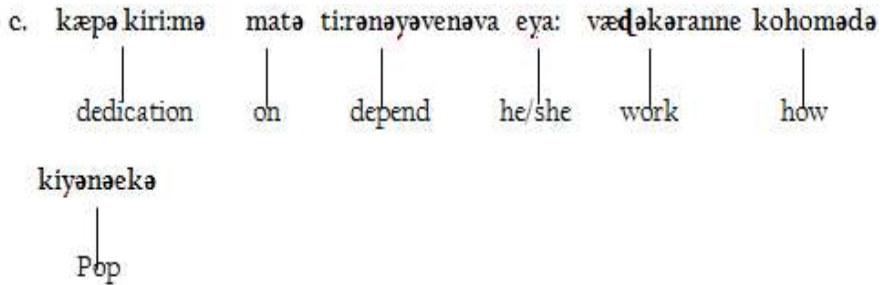
How he/she works depends on dedication

an object:

a. mama   danne   næ   eya:ge   vibha:ge kohomədə kiyələ
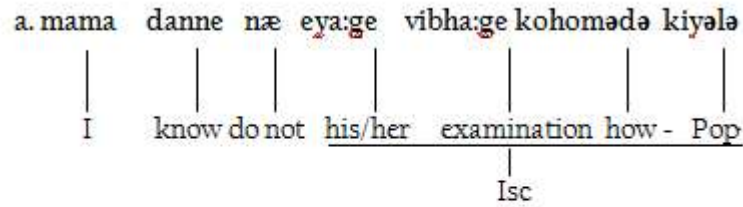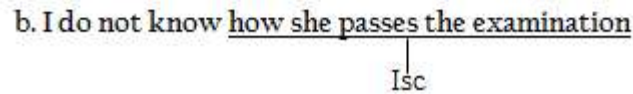
   I   know do not his/her examination how - Pop

                        Isc

I do not know how his/her examination is.

b. I do not know how she passes the examination

                 Isc

The word order of this nominal clause in itself as well as the sentence in English is very rigid. Contradictory to nominal clause in English, in Sinhala the postposition **/kiyələ/** follows the verb. However, in Spoken Sinhala for the purpose of emphasis the word order within the nominal clause and its position in the sentence can be changed.

danne   næ   kohedə eya: yanne   kiyələ

know   no   where he   go   kiyələ-Pop

                   Nc
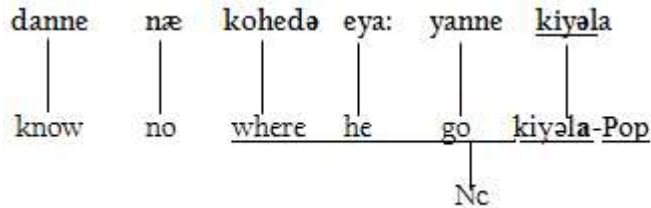
Where he is going is not known to me

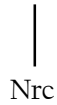The emphasis in this example lies on /**danne næ**/ with the change of its order in the sentence. Usage of this kind is named as the emphatic transformation (Gair, 1970).

ii. Nominal relative clause

Nominal relative clauses are also introduced by different *Wh-* words which in both languages can function as:

a. apəʃə   o:nə mokakdə vibha:gəyə pa:svennayi

  we-Dat want   what   examination pass-Fu

         Nrc
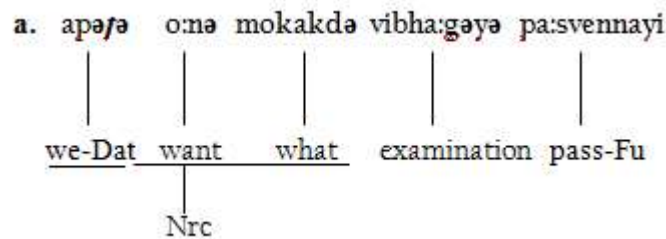
b.<u>What we need</u> is to pass the examination.

|
Nrc

b. an object

Nominal relative clause occurs as an object at the initial position of the sentence.

a. oya:ɟə o:nə mokakdə mamə hoyannaŋ

you-Dat want   what   I   find-Fu

Nrc
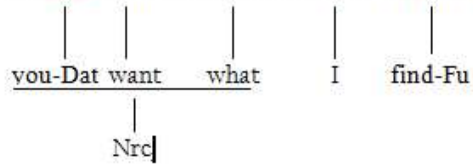
b. I will find <u>what you need</u>

|
Nrc

a subject compliment

The school is <u>where we started our education</u>

|
Nrc

a object compliment.

You can call me <u>whatever name you want</u>

|
Nrc

iii. The nominal ɟə or də(to)- infinitive clause

Nominal ɟə or də(to)- infinitive clause can function as:

a subject

In English Ic occurs as a subject.

<u>To go on foot</u> is difficult

|
Ic

But in Sinhala Ic occurs as an Adv where the dative subject is omitted.

pəyiŋ yan **də**   ama:rʋyi

on foot   to go   difficult

Ic
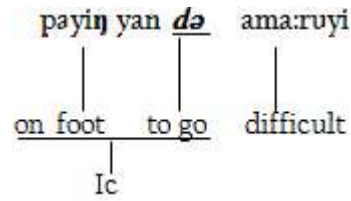
To go on foot is difficult

In **a** the particle /**yi**/ is suffixed to the Adj / **ama:ru+yi**/ in order to denote the sense of verb since there is no 'be' verbs in Sinhala.

a compliment of an adjective

a.   mamə   sɑtutu   davəsə   pura:mə   vædəkərannə

I   happy   the day   throughout   to work

Ic
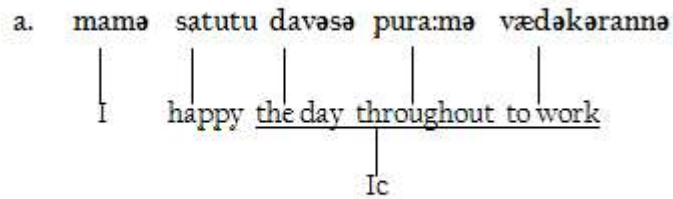
I am happy to work throughout the day

In English Ic occurs as a compliment of an adjective.

b. **I am happy** to work throughout the da

Ic
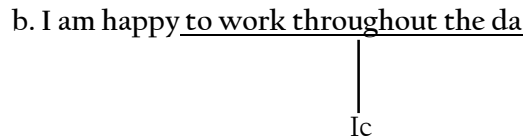
iv. The participle clause (Partc) : The participle clause can function as:

a subject

a. akuru   livi:mə   ama:rʋyi

letter   writing   is difficult

Partc
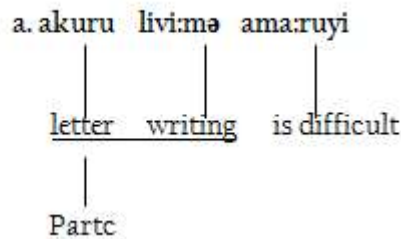
Writing letters is difficult

b. <u>Writing letters</u> is difficult

Partc

v. The Nominal Equational Clause

- Equational clause is a clause in which the subject and the complement refer to the same person or thing (Richards et al., 1985)

a. gunasiri mahattəya appe isko:le mulguruvərəya

Gunasiri gentleman _S our-Gen school- Loc head teacher-Com
Mr Gunasiri is the head teacher of our school (Gair and Paolillo, 1988).

b. Susan is the girl I was talking about

S   Com

In both languages the word order of the nominal equational clause is flexible.

c. appe isko:le mulguruvərəya gunasiri mahattəya

Our-Gen school-Loc head teacher-S Gunasiri gentleman -Com
The head teacher of our school is Mr Gunasiri.

d. <u>The girl I was talking about</u> is Susan

S   Com

-Equational type with indefinite NP predicate.

e. gunasiri mahattəya   əppe iskoːle   guruwərəyek

Gunasiri   gentleman _S   our-Gen school- Loc   teacher-Com-Ind
Mr Gunasiri is a teacher of our school.

d. appe   iskoole   guruvərəyek   gunasiri   mahattəya

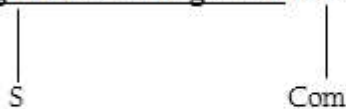our-Gen school-Lo teacher-S-IND gunasiri gentleman-Com
Mr Gunasiri is a teacher of our school.

e. Mr Gunasiri is a teacher of our school

          S   Com

The adjectival clause

A clause which functions as an adjective is called adjectival clause. In Sinhala it is named as / **naːmə viseːsənavaːchiː aturu væki/.**

According to Greenberg (1966) in languages with postpositions, the genitives, adjectives and relative clause precede nominal. Sinhala follows this pattern and the word order within the clause is very rigid.

a. sudu kamisəyak ændəgat miniha gedərə giya

a white shirt wearing person home went
            Ac

The man who is wearing a white shirt went home.

/**sudu kamisYyak ændYgat** / is the relative clause which modifies the N / **miniha/**(man). Transformational rules are applicable in order to derive the surface structure from the underlined structure as analysed in the sentence a: one is for predicate preposing /**sudu kamisəyak ændəgat miniha/.**

"in consistently verb-final languages such as Japanese and Dravadian

Languages , the complement occurs to the LEFT of the head and thus the DIRECTION of the government is to the LEFT"(Subbarao and Karumuri 1996).

But in English being a right –branching language, the relative clauses occur to the right of their heads with a very rigid word order.

In the sentence **"The man who is wearing a white shirt** went home" while **"who is wearing a white shirt"** does the work of a relative clause and **"The man"** is the modified noun.
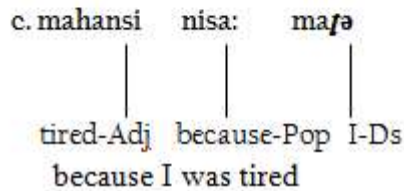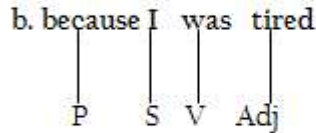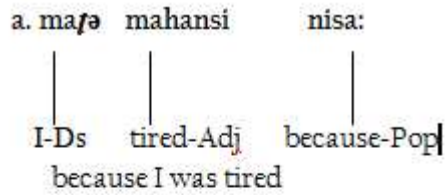
The Adverbial Clause

A clause which functions as an adverb is called adverbial clause (Richards,et al., 1985). In Sinhala it is named as / **krivise:sənəva:chi: aturu væki**/.The constituent order of an adverbial clause in both languages can be identified as follows.

(In the following Table 1 Sinhala adverbial clauses are translated into English in order to identify the similarities and differences in constituent order between them)

Table 1: Translation of Sinhala adverbial clauses in to English

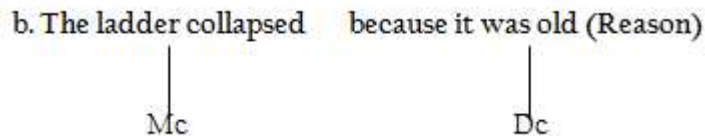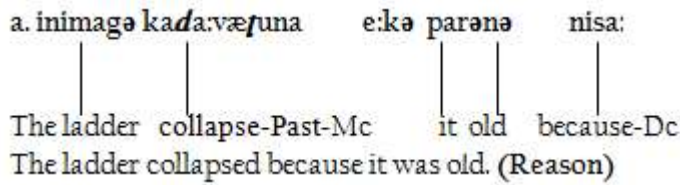| Language	Examples from both languages	The constituent order
Sinhala	**maʈə mahansi nisa:** I-Ds tired-Adj because-Pop	Ds+Adj+Pop
English	because I am tired	Co+S+V+Adj
Sinhala	**mamə gedərə yanəkoʈə** I home go when	S+O+V+Pa
English	when I go home	Co+S+V+O
Sinhala	**mamə kaka: innə vela:ve** I am eating while	S+V+Auxv+A
English	while I was eating	Co+S+Auxv+V
Sinhala	**mamə kanəva naŋ hodəʈə** I eat if well	S+V+Pa+A
English	If I eat well-	Co+S+Auxv+A

The significant difference is that the word order within some of the adverbial clauses in Sinhala is free whereas that of in English is totally inflexible.

a. ma**ɟ**ə   mahansi   nisa:

I-Ds   tired-Adj   because-Pop
  because I was tired

b. because I was tired

    P   S V Adj

c. mahansi   nisa: ma**ɟ**ə

  tired-Adj because-Pop I-Ds
   because I was tired

The function of the adverbial clauses as adjunct can be classified as follows and it indicates the function of adverbial clauses in both languages.

Causal

Causal adjuncts establish the reason for or purpose, of an action or state.

a. inimagə ka**d**a:væ**ɟ**una   e:kə parənə   nisa:

The ladder collapse-Past-Mc   it old because-Dc
The ladder collapsed because it was old. (Reason)

b. The ladder collapsed   because it was old (Reason)

         Mc   Dc

In the adverbial clause like /e:kə parənə nisa:/ (because it was old) the subject is usually dropped and it is used a /parənə nisa:/ (because it was old) whereas

c. eya: eliyəʈə giya   pa:ŋ gediyak gannə

she   out go-Past-Mc   bred   a loaf   to buy-Dc
She went out to buy a loaf bread. (Purpose)

d. She went out to buy a loaf bread (Purpose)

Mc   Dc

In both languages the order of adverbial clauses can be changed as follows.

pa:ŋ gediyak gannə   eya: eliyəʈə giya

bred   a loaf   to buy-Dc   she   out   go- Past-Mc
To buy a loaf bread. (Purpose) she went out

Concessive

The concessive adjuncts establish the contrary circumstances

b.   ey a: eliyəʈə giya   væssə   tibunat

he   out   go-Past -Mc   raining it was although-Dc
He went out although it was raining.

b. væssə tibunat   eya: eliyəʈə   giya

raining it was although-Dc he   out go-past -Mc

Although it was raining he went out

Apparently, the word order of clauses functions as causal and concessive is free.

When the adjunct clauses are introduced by the temporal complimentizer 'before(perə/*kalin*) 'when' (vela:ve/koʈə) and 'after'(**passe**), the word order is free since they can be adjoined on either side of the main clause.

a.poli:siyə ennə kalin   eya: magæ:rəla gihilla tibuṇa

the police come-Past Before-Dc he had escaped-Mc
Before the police came he had escaped
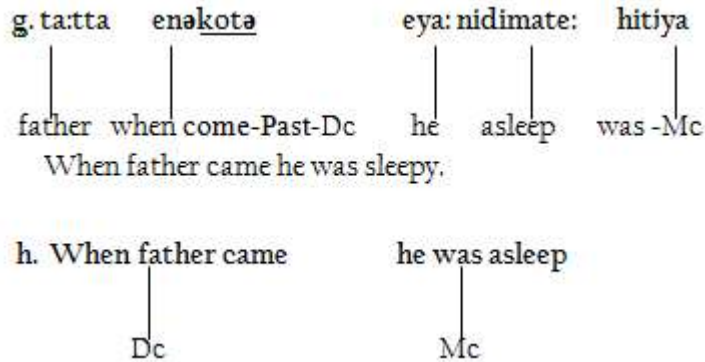
b. Before the police came   he had escaped

            Dc   Mc

c.eya: magæ:rəla gihilla tibuna poli:siyə ennə   kalin

    he   had escaped-Mc   the police come-past- before-Dc
 He had escaped before the police came

d. He had escaped   before the police came

        Mc   Dc

e. eya: nidimate: hiʃiya   ta:ṭṭa enəkoʈə

  he sleepy   was - Mc   father when come- Past-Dc.
    He was sleepy when father came

f. He was sleepy when father came

        Mc   Dc

g. taːtta   enəkotə   eyaː nidimateː   hitiya

father when come-Past-Dc   he   asleep   was -Mc
   When father came he was sleepy.

h. When father came   he was asleep

          Dc   Mc

It is also worth examining the relationship between the position of adverbial subordinators and the position of adpositions. We might expect a stronger correlation here because of their semantic similarity; adverbial subordinators indicate semantic relationships between an adverbial clause and the main clause while adpositions indicate semantic relationships between a noun phrase and a verb. In many languages, the set of adverbial subordinators overlaps with the set of adpositions. In English, for example, the words '*after*' and '*before*' function either as adverbial subordinators or as prepositions, as illustrated in (a) for after.

a. John went home *after* he had watched the game.

b. John went home *after* the game.

Furthermore, the two-word preposition in English 'because of' is similar in form to the adverbial subordinator because, and they have essentially the same meaning, as in (a).

a. *Because it was raining*, the picnic was canceled.

b. Because of the rain, the picnic was canceled.

However, the internal structure of these clauses is fairly straightforward and they are headed by the temporal complimentizer which takes tense compliment. Significant difference is that this kind of temporal complimentizer in English is placed at the initial position of the adverbial clause whereas in Sinhala particles like **kotə**(when),**nam,ot**(if) and postposition like **nisaː**(because) ‹elaːe (when, while) **kalin** (before)**passe**(after) /**unat**(though, although) occur at the end of the clause as in the examples **a,b, ,c** and **d,e,f g** and **h**.

"By an adverbial subordinator, a word that marks an adverbial subordinate clause for its semantic relation to the main clause. In English, this includes such words as while, when, after, because, although, and if.3 In some

languages, such meanings are expressed by words that occur at the end of the clause, rather than the beginning of the clause the way they do in English and most other European languages"(Dryer, 2005).

However, the noteworthy similarity is that all those complimentizer, particles and postposition in both languages embody a very rigid order.

a. poli:siyə giya:ɽə passe|

the police had left after - Dc
   after the police had left

b. after the police had left. -Dc

Consequence of mixing the order of conjunctions in Sinhala with that of in English, the English learners of Sinhala tend to make mistakes like misplacing conjunctions.

Conclusions

In considering the word order in clauses in English it is obvious that within the clause the word order is very rigid which is not always true with that of in Sinhala. The changes of the order of noun clauses in sentences embody different meaning whereas the order of adverbial clauses can be changed without changing the meaning. However, in both languages the word order within the clause is rigid.

End Notes

[1]"The university life *(is)* important for us because after the A/L examination we *(are)* selected to the university. It is very happy for us. Some students *(are)* very close to us. University students *(are)* important for the country. We can be the good citizen in the country. So university life **(is) very** signifiant in our lives.

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Abbreviations

S-Subject
V-Verb
O-Object
Adj-Adjective
Pred- Predicate

Nrc-Nominal relative clause

SVO -Subject+ Verb+ Object

SOV- Subject+ Object + Verb

VSO- Verb+ Subject+ Object

OSV-Object + Subject+ Verb

Dat-Dative case

Com-Compliment

Isc. -Interrogative sub clause

Pop-Postposition

POP-Post Positional Phrase

Auxv -Auxiliary verb

Ac-Adjectival clause

Gen-Genative case

Loc-Locative case

P-Preposition

C-Complimentizer

Co-Conjunction

Ds-Dative case

Pa-Particle

Mc-Metric clause

Dc-Dependent clause

Oc-Object Compliment

DAO-Dative object

A-Adverbial

Adv-Adverb

DO-Direct Object

IO-Indirect object

Ic-Independent clause

Fu- Future tense

Nc-Nominal clause

Partc-Particle clause

Ind-Indefinite

Transliteration

In the transcription words in Sinhala, Gandhari Unicode system which is similar to IPA with a few exceptions is used. The following symbols are used in Sinhala examples:

– Long vowel are indicated by the symbol   : (as in æ:)

ə - Schwa

a - open short vowel a

o - Gutturolabials short vowel

ɭ - Linguals or Cerabrals Consonant

ʈ - Linguals or Cerabrals Consonant

æ - mid front short vowel (as in cat)

ŋ - velar nasal