

Analyzing bare nouns in Marathi

Shravani Patil (University Bielefeld, CRC1646 A03)

Previous theories on bare nouns in articleless languages have lacked empirical support. Liu et al. (2023) empirically tested these theories for Hindi, Russian, and Mandarin, which are typologically distant languages, and found that all articleless languages do not function similarly. However, it is unclear if these differences are due to typology.

In this study, we use translation mining methodology to investigate how bare nouns function in Marathi, which is an understudied, traditionally articleless language. We found that typology and case are factors influencing bare noun distribution in Marathi. Our results indicate that bare nouns with a case marker in Marathi are usually definite and caseless bare nouns are pseudo-incorporated to receive an indefinite reading. Additionally, Marathi uses ‘numeral one’ as an article for indefinite nouns.