

## **The Structure of the Verb Phrase in Spoken Sinhalese: A Linguistics Study**

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According to structural linguistics, the structure of a language can be studied as sounds, words, sentences, and meanings. Sentences of all languages have both a deep structure, which gives the meaning of the sentence and a surface structure, which gives the form of the sentence as it is used in communication. The deep structure turns into the surface structure by using transformational rules. Hence, Phrase structure analysis is very essential for recognizing the structure of certain phrases and ascertaining inter-structural patterns of certain languages. The objective of the research was to recognize the structure of the verb phrase in spoken Sinhalese. The data is gathered from the book of “Kelani Paalama” written by R.R. Samarakoon. Accordingly, verb phrases were recognized from collected data by using phrase structure rules. The methodology of this research is analyzing the structure of the verb phrase by applying generative grammar. The findings of this study revealed that the verb in which the head of the verb phrase appears as various forms such as finite verbs, infinitive verbs, volitive verbs, involve verbs, transitive verbs, intransitive verbs, helping verbs and main verbs. Verbs behave in the form of reports, commands in a verb phrase, and emphasize and phrase focus happens in abundance in the verb phrase. Word order of the verb phrase of Sinhalese can be seen as free word order. When deep structure turns into surface structure simple sentences have no changes and complex sentences have some changes due to transformational rules. Sinhalese verb phrase has so many structures Moreover linguistics units such as nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, determiners, compliments, and sentences are included in the verb phrase in spoken Sinhalese.

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