
CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSIONS

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The object of this study was to investigate the hypothesis that if-conditionals in Indian English deviate from SE in respect of the use of modals and sequence of tenses. This hypothesis was based on the conclusions of Mrs Katikar's study (1984) of the meanings of the modals in IE. While she had used only 35 texts out of the 500 in The Kolhapur Corpus of Indian English, we have used all the 500 texts in our study. For the purposes of analysing the IE usage we have used a model based on Declerck's study (1984). We also drew on well-known grammarians and researchers. However, we were not able to make a comparative study based on the other two Corpora LOB and Brown i.e., the British and the American. From this limited study we have arrived at some tentative conclusions.

Out of the total number of occurrences of if-constructions i.e., 1,655, 137 instances seem to be deviant that amounts to 8.27 per cent.

Within the deviant instances 23.35 per cent account for the use of past form of modals, possibly as markers of politeness.

Another big percentage of deviant forms occur in respect of sequences of tense. They account for 29.92 per cent.

From this it appears that there is a tendency in Indian

English in favour of the use of past modals in if-clauses.

It also appears that present and future forms of verbs tend to be used somewhat interchangeably in certain texts. We have not been able to make a systematic study of this aspect. The model chosen for the study is itself not fully elaborated. We found that there were many problems not only because of the choice of the model but also because this aspect of English structure and function is extremely complex. We have not been able to master it to any degree of certainty.

Therefore, much remains to be done and more comprehensive and subtle analysis of this aspect of Indian English needs to be investigated further.