

13400 Direct Verb Constructions, RM

In Direct Verb Constructions, the subject of the sentence (whether expressed or unexpressed) is in the **nominative case** (e.g. मैं, वह, राज, दुकान etc.) and the verb “agrees” with the subject in terms of gender, number, degree of respect etc. Most of the sentences we have encountered so far have been Direct Verb Constructions. The ‘logical’ subject (at least from the perspective of the English speaker) is the same in both the Hindi and English sentences. Here are a few examples from “Balloons”.

मैं तुम्हारे लिए रंगबिरंगे गुब्बारे लाया हूँ।	I have brought colorful balloons for you.
बहादुर राज और मार्को को गुब्बारे पकड़ाता है।	Bahadur hands the balloons to Raj and Marco.

The Direct Verb sentences so far encountered where this agreement has been less obvious include

मेरा भी एक बेटा है।	I too have a son.
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It’s easy to see in this example that the difficulty we experience stems from a difference in the concept of ‘possession’ or ‘having’ as expressed in the two languages. The subject of the Hindi sentence is बेटा (son) and the verb is है (is /exists). The subject of the English sentence is ‘I’ and the verb is ‘have’.

You will find that very often the things that English speakers find difficult or ‘illogical’ arise out of similar mis-matches between the way an idea is expressed in Hindi versus English.