GRAMMAR OF THE IMPERATIVE SENTENCES IN SINHALESE

Daya Wickramasingha

A sentence in any language is a string of words which is constructed by a set of basic structural patterns. For example, consider the following sentences that exemplify different sentence patterns:

1. daruva aṇḍhāva
   ‘The child cries’
2. piṅgaṁo biṁdenāva
   ‘The plate breaks’
3. lamōya pōta kiyavānāva
   ‘The child reads the book’
4. amma daruvaṭa bat denāva
   ‘Mother feeds the child rice’
5. eya: guruvaraṇayek
   ‘He is a teacher’
6. kamāla lassanāyi
   ‘Kamala is beautiful’

S. 1 above contains a [+ animate] noun + verb and S. 2 a [- animate] noun + verb, and both belong to the intransitive