

LIN 520 - Absolutes

The LOCATIVE ABSOLUTE has a [Subject Predicate] structure in which both Subject and Predicate are in the locative case; the Predicate is often a participle, but may also be a nominal expression of another sort (e.g. an ordinary adjective or a predicative noun). It is used to describe attendant circumstances, and is best translated with ‘when’ or ‘with’:

[*varṣaśate pūrṇe*] *muniḥ sagarāya varam prādāt.*

‘When the century was complete, the sage granted a wish to Sagara.’

‘With the century complete, the sage granted a wish to Sagara.’

Thus, this sentence can be equivalently expressed with an adverbial subordinate clause whose subject and predicate are nominative:

yadā varṣaśatam pūrṇam abhavat, tadā muniḥ sagarāya varam prādāt.

‘When the century was complete, the sage granted a wish to Sagara.’

The GENITIVE ABSOLUTE is similar in structure to the locative except that its forms are genitive. It is also used to describe attendant circumstances, often with a concessive or adversative interpretation:

[*paśyatas te*] *maṛiṣyāmi.*

‘Although you are watching, I shall die.’

Here, too, the sentence can be equivalently expressed with an adverbial subordinate clause whose subject and predicate are nominative:

yadyapi tvam paśyan, maṛiṣyāmi.

‘Although you are watching, I shall die.’