

# Nepalese Linguistics

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to

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Kamaladi, Kathmandu, Nepal

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In this context, Nepal Academy has shown its generosity to collaborate in supporting and publishing this volume of NEPALESE LINGUISTICS, the annual journal of LSN, a premier organization devoted to the study of languages in general and the Nepalese languages in particular. Linguistic Society of Nepal extends its sincere gratitude and thankfulness to Nepal Academy for sponsoring the publication of the present issue of NEPALESE LINGUISTICS.

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THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS  
ABOUT AESTHETIC APPROACH TO LITERARY  
TRANSLATION

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This article is based on the data collected mainly from English translation of *Stories of Conflict and War* translated and edited by Govinda Raj Bhattarai. Also some pieces of evidence come from *Country is yours* translated by Manjushree Thapa. This article explores with examples how an aesthetic approach can be best employed to represent the translated language and its culture (here Nepali) in the translating language (here English). Similarly, how literalness in translation can play a significant role to allow minor languages like Nepali to resist dominant languages like English.

## 1 Introduction

Literary translation in the true sense of the word is an act of cultural representation. True or undistorted representation should be against any form of discrimination and it obviously calls for the acknowledgement of cultural differences. Translation has its life only because of differences (both linguistic and cultural) and hence the success of literary translators depends on the extent to which they have been able to represent the translated culture in the translating one without frustrating the target readership. In other words, the real challenge is to maintain a balance between ethics of difference and textual intelligibility, and this balance requires an aesthetic approach to and resistant strategies of translation.

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<sup>1</sup> This article is a revised version of the paper presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Linguistics Society of Nepal held in Kathmandu, 26-27 November, 2009.

To write metaphorically, to translate any literary text is to uproot cultural elements from one culture and to transplant them into another alien culture. The chances of their survival are subject to various socio-cultural and political factors, and the target readership as well as the translation approach and procedures adopted by the translator.

Recent translation theories take translation as cultural practice, an agent and product of cross-cultural communication. Much focus has been laid on cultural visibility of the translated language in the translating one by means of representation on the one hand, and cultural enrichment of the translating language by importing unique entities from the translated one on the other. In both cases, the cultural entities which are unique to and hence different from the translated and translating languages respectively are the prime concern of this actual act of cultural representation and cultural enrichment.

## 2 Aesthetic approach

The aesthetic approach to translation is concerned with what Tirumalesh calls "the twin problems of allowing differences and disallowing discriminations" ([www.uiowa.edu/~iwp/EVEN/documents/Dialogue-Tirumalesh](http://www.uiowa.edu/~iwp/EVEN/documents/Dialogue-Tirumalesh)). Conventionally cultural differences are regarded untranslatable nuisances---the source of unbridgeable chasms between languages which, when imported and retained in the translating language, are believed to distort intelligibility, impair fluency and frustrate textual readability. This is a negative approach to translation. The translator swayed by this approach (also called a popular approach), practises discrimination and disallow differences by resorting to translation procedures, such as erasure, manipulation, camouflage, substitution and so on. Drawing on the work of Sharma (1990a), Bhattarai (2000:83) writes "Nepali scholars have expressed their deep sense of anguish to see the poems of Mahakavi Laxmiprasad Devkota

mistranslated in Rubin". Similarly, Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore, who won the Nobel Prize for his translated version of *Gitanjali*, is often blamed for adopting the popular approach and resorting to submissive strategies while translating his own literary works into English.

Tagore and Rubin seem to have stressed on oppression, simplification and erasure of cultural differences in contrary to what Venuti calls " 'the aesthetic approach' which stresses on the notions that translation is characterized by 'differences' and therefore cultural differences must be respected and preserved in translation. This approach ultimately leads to 'textual multilingualism' or Gustavo Perez-fimat's 'transculturation' or Tirumalesh's 'Literature-3' or Bhabha's 'cultural hybridity'" (Adhikari, 2009:24).

### 3 The ethics of difference and intelligibility

When a literary text written in one language is hurled into a different culture by means of translation, there are three possibilities: translation assimilation, translation alienation, translation autonomy.

In translation assimilation the translated text assimilates into the target culture losing its status as a translation. This happens when the translator disregards cultural differences in the interest of serving the target readership only. This is the result of translation procedures such as deletion, addition, substitution and paraphrasing. These procedures lead to a high degree of manipulation and distortion.

In translation alienation the translated text remains as the 'other' under the domination of the target culture. This happens when the translator is slanted towards source cultural properties, disregarding the target readership. The frequently adopted translation procedures are borrowing without a footnote, word-for-word translation, literal translation without a footnote or contextual meaning and so on. This makes the

translation communicatively too heavy and very obscure. The target readership may not welcome and accept the translation. As a result the translated text may suffer diasporic alienation and displacement.

In translation autonomy the translated text remains as a literature of its own, occupying a status which is different from source and target languages both. This is possible only when there is a balance between ethics of differences and textual intelligibility. The mostly adopted translation procedures are borrowing of unique cultural elements, often combined with a footnote and explanation given in the text itself; borrowing accompanied by literal translation or explanation in the form of a footnote; borrowing-cum-literal translation, and literal translation. These procedures show a close affinity to resistant strategies.

### 4 Resistant strategies

The aesthetic approach to translation calls for a strategy of resistance to the dominant target language so as to preserve source cultural elements in the translated text. Consider the following expression:

"Don't you have whey, baje? If you have, bring some!"

[Stories of Conflict and War: 131]

The English translation retains the term of address *baje* preserving the difference, which has been accompanied by a footnote, a term of address for a Brahmin man (also to any elderly man). Here, the source term of address, which is unique to Nepali culture, has been retained along with a footnote. This borrowing-cum-footnote has eschewed the fallacy of transparency. It is an example of importation of source cultural features into the target language. It does not frustrate the target readership either, because the translator has provided cultural information in the form of a footnote. The same strategy is evident in the translation of the following:

Are you in a mood for getting and setting in this place mukunde?

[Stories of Conflict and War: 56]

Here the proper noun *mukunde* goes with a footnote. This is the requirement of the context in which this proper noun occurs. In the Nepali language most of the first names can be made informal or even derogatory by adding the vowel *-e* at the end. This unique feature is absent from the English language. The translator has used a footnote to give the information about this feature as too informal or derogatory form of *mukunda* becomes *mukunde* in Nepali.

Borrowing-cum-paraphrase can be employed to maintain a balance between differences and intelligibility. Consider the following:

*dilmaya* picks up a big sickle lying nearby and hurls at them with it, like *raṅacandī*.

[Story of Conflict and War: 29]

The ferocious image associated with the female character *dilmaya* has been imported into English by borrowing the source term *raṅacandī*, which is combined with a footnote as a form of war-goddess in Hindu mythology. Here borrowing preserves the difference and the footnote gives accurate information associated with the source term.

The ethics of difference require the translator to be more slanted towards the source culture. The translator's attempt is to make the source text, its unique properties and even its structure, evident in the translation. However, too much inclination towards the source culture without taking account of intelligibility often frustrates the target readership, while the undue focus on transparency and fluency fails to acknowledge the value of the differences that deserve and are to be reflected in the translation. This means the translator has to balance these two forces, one pulling the other in the

reverse direction, to preserve source cultural properties on the one hand and to facilitate the target readership on the other.

##### 5 The notion of an aesthetic distance in literary translation

Literary translation functions on pleasure principle. Surely enough, like the source writer, the translator has to move away from 'habitualisation', which is possible only when the translator, like the source writer, shuns the fallacy of simplification, smoothness, transparency and fluency, and creates an aesthetic distance, so as to challenge the target readership by serving them with some properties which seem unusual, both linguistically and culturally. Differences create an aesthetic distance between readers and a text.

##### 6 Linguistic and cultural hybridity in translated text

Retention of differences results in linguistic and cultural hybridity in the translated text. Such a text can be regarded as a bi/multilingual community in miniature that prizes multiple voices and identities. Hybridity is a locus of multiple voices, a dynamic space, where two or more cultural and linguistic forces come together and interact with each other. According to Wolfreys and Robins, "hybridity foregrounds the work of difference in identity resistant to imposition of fixed, unitary identification" (cited in Adhikari, 2009:26). Consider the following extract from a poem:

Here... there is great difficulty

In keeping our culture alive

There are no Shilee dancers for the Tosi puja

There are no Risiwa singers

There is no one to recite veda and mundhum texts

Also so... will you come back to the village

Before the Knaling language of Knaling is lost

Before the mundhum vedas of Khaling are forgotten....

[The country is yours: 111]

(Rai/Khaling, Sanskrit/Nepali and English in a single text)

This can be an example of textual multilingualism where the words from four different languages, namely Sanskrit (vedas), Nepali (puja), Khaling (Mundhum, Risiwa, Shilee) and English have co-existed in harmony.

Hybridity prizes cultural differences and focuses on the aesthetic approach and resistant strategies. According to Venuti, "The translation project motivated by the ethics of difference alters the reproduction of the ideologies and institutions of the dominant target culture that provide a partial representation of source culture. The translator of such a project, contrary to the notion of loyalty, is prepared to be disloyal to the target dominant cultural norms" (1998:56).

#### 7 Literalness

Literalness should not be mistaken for word-for-word translation or clumsy reproduction of the source text by adhering to the surface aspects of the message. Rather, it should be regarded as the mode of expression which, to the extent possible, follows the source text both semantically and pragmatically without losing its purchase on the target culture and its readership. It is probably the most secure way to represent the source culture by transporting its unique properties which in the long run enriches the target culture as well. Consider the following:

One among them said—Hurry up, there's a mouse running in my belly. There were mice running in everyone's bellies. ... Me, the mouse isn't just running, it's started jumping in my belly.

[The country is yours: 18]

The idiom *petma musa dauḍanu* has been translated literally as 'there is a mouse running in my stomach', rather than being substituted by the possible English equivalent: 'I'm so hungry my stomach's rumbling'. Here the translator has retained the images implied in the source idiom, and the translation is meaningful in the given context. Similarly, *kalo bhut jasto madhya rat thiyō* has been translated literally as:

The midnight was pitch dark like a ghost.

[Stories of Conflict and War: 110]

The colour imagery associated with the ghost in Nepali is different from the one associated with the ghost in English. In Nepali the ghost evokes the colour black and the use of the ghost to describe the dark and eerie midnight is quite common in Nepalese culture, whereas this is not the case in English because English culture associates the colour white or pale with the ghost. Despite such cultural differences the translator has resorted to literal translation to preserve the source cultural image in the target language, and it is the context that ensures the intelligibility of this metaphoric expression.

#### 8 Conclusion

Literary translation is a major activity of cultural exchange. To translate a cultural element from one language into another is more than the mere replacement of the source cultural term. Rather it is an act of importation of the whole system and values implied in that term. Hence literary translation is concerned with the twin goals of source culture representation and target culture enrichment. For these goals to materialize, the translator has to be open to aesthetic values of cultural differences and act against discriminations. He has to admit, welcome and register the foreignness of the foreign text. This is possible only when the translator is guided by an aesthetic approach and adopts resistant strategies to allow the

source text to come through in the translation, without frustrating the target readership. Thus the literary translator has to act like 'Janus-face'--- looking towards two different directions at the same time ---, and has to bear equal responsibilities towards both cultures.

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## DATA COLLECTION IN AN ENDANGERED LANGUAGE: EXPERIENCES FROM THE LEDBL PROJECT

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Collecting data for a specific purpose is not as easy as some people think. The conventional method of text collections may be improved by making the fieldwork planned and systematic. The task of data collection becomes more challenging and even frustrating if a specific community does not use it in natural settings. We are retelling the experiences of Linguistic and Ethnographic Documentation of the Baram Language (LEDBL) team's field work on Baram. Baram is a Tibeto-Burman language spoken in the central-western part of Gorkha district, in western Nepal.

### 1 Introduction

LEDBL has been supported by Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP), School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. The recent census reports that there are 342 speakers of the Baram language (Yadava 2001: 84). However, our sociolinguistic survey shows that the number of active Baram speakers is below fifty.

### 2 Data collection

Keeping in mind the objectives of LEDBL as the focus, we tried to capture varied and representative corpus. Our purpose therefore is to record as many communicative events as possible based on Himmelmann (1998). The communicative events or the manner people communicate in their language may vary from one speech community to another. As Himmelmann notes, the events are cultural-specific and the

linguists working on the documentation of a language should capture all possible speech genres. He proposes the parameters of communicative events based on spontaneity.

The speech events from 'planned' to/and 'unplanned' form a continuum rather than distinct antonymic pairs. Unplanned represents the pole of a continuum of spontaneity along which particular communicative events may be placed. Exclamation, for instance, is an unplanned communicative event. On the other hand, the rituals are performed after rehearsing several times before it is performed. In a sense, these communicative events stand at poles apart in terms of 'planning of communication' and spontaneity.

Since our aim is to, "to develop the resources such as lexicon, sketch grammar, ethnographic profile, orthography, and primer" we need to document a list of communicative events. At the outset, we were not sure whether there are any speakers who could speak fluently for a long time. We tried to expand the different topics that we would like to capture. The ethnographic topics based on Franchetto (189) were expanded and the whole cycle of ethnographic topics was listed. This included annual cycle of festivals, cultural rituals from menstruation to death. Capturing the ethnographic topics covered has multiple advantages: first, they cover the texts for preparing the ethnographic sketch, and second, they provide special kinds of texts for the language documentation. On its close observation, we noticed that the speech genres can be expanded by personal stories, reminiscences, and historical events and so on. Lupke's (2003) inventory of speech genres helped us to identify the existing speech genres, and those which are indeed very rare in the Baram community. We adopted a rather general idea of genre rather than being very specific. We have followed Lupke (2003) in identifying and making use of genres. In addition to this, we consulted some grammars in order to plan the texts based on grammatical

structures and topics. These grammatical topics were immensely useful to obtain specific language structures.

We expanded the genres and communicative events primarily for two reasons. Firstly, we are also making use of the genres in a very broad sense focusing mainly on the language documentation. Instead of discussing whether this can be a narrative or a travelogue, or to assign it any specific category, we are using genres in a broad sense. Secondly, we have elicited various sessions aimed to elicit data for language use and structure. They mainly consist of several grammatical features like prohibition, conditional clauses, request, question and answer and so on. For example, we give them a hypothetical situation like, "If you got Rs. 50,000, what will you do?" and they would speak for some minutes. In addition to the texts used for the language documentation, they provide us specific language structures. We collected these sessions based on Leech and Svartvik (1995). These diverse communicative events, genres and grammatical sessions as a whole form our inventory of communicative events.

### 3 Inventory of communicative events

We have expanded the communicative events proposed by Himmelmann (1998) and prepared an as presented in Table (1). This helps us capture the texts traditionally attested but also those related to diverse grammatical structures. Secondly, some speech genres need to be specific as they have several categories within a single genre. For instance, narrative is a universally common genre. This can further be categorized as 'historical narrative', 'personal narrative', 'reminiscences' and so on.

### 4 Speakers

Data of good quality depends upon the fluent language consultants of particular languages. We have considered ideal language speakers (Newell 1995:29), and talked about good

speakers of a language to be chosen for a particular kind of work. However, in a speech community with a handful of language consultants, we did not have manifold options regarding the selection of the language consultants. At the beginning of the field work, we were not sure whether we would be fortunate to have fluent speakers who could speak for an hour.

Grinevald (2003:64) presents the spectrum of language speakers and classifies the speakers of endangered languages into four categories (a) native fluent speakers (b) semi-speakers (c) terminal speakers and (d) rememberers.

Baram communities do not consist of the speakers of the first category. We do not have the speakers who are monolingual in the language, and whose dominant language is Baram. We therefore have to rely on the semi-speakers. The language consultants we are working with are bilingual whose dominant language is Nepali although they are fluent in Baram. They do not use the language regularly and naturally. One of the language speakers commented that she was happy to talk with her sister in Baram at an interval of a few months. However, they are capable of producing 'the best texts' ever existed in the language, which otherwise are likely to be lost permanently.

We have the speakers of the third and the fourth categories as well, namely terminal speakers and rememberers. On the basis of their mastery of the language, and mastery of the different genres, we rely heavily on the texts produced by the speakers of the second category. We involved the speakers of the second category, but not the others except for a few sessions because that is the best option we had.

These language consultants are the best contributors we have for language documentation. They are all bilingual, learned Baram as their mother tongue, but now gradually shifted to

Nepali as a language for day to day communication. Although they are 'semi-speakers', they possess the best features of the Baram language. Once these speakers die, the language will go to oblivion.

Only one language consultant has passed grade three among all the speakers, whereas our remaining language consultants are either illiterate or hardly literate. This makes the task of transcribing and translating more difficult and elicitation of grammatical items and preparation of paradigms even more challenging.

## 5 Methods

If you are working on an endangered language, it is difficult to obtain the kinds of data you try to capture without preparation. For example, all our speakers can contribute to some extent to the 'personal narratives' or 'reminiscences' but we find it difficult to obtain data on specific topics like 'prohibition' or 'hortative' and so on. It is even more difficult to get specific paradigms unless some necessary preparations are made. The followings are some of the techniques we used during our fieldwork.

### 5.1 Direct elicitation

This is the technique we use for preparing glossaries, making paradigms, and data for specific topic while writing a grammar. Some speakers are capable of this whereas others are not. One speaker can tell us the paradigm very easily but may not be sure of some linguistic knowledge. The person who knows better cannot understand what we are trying to do. A group of language informants seated together and eliciting the glossaries and paradigms is extremely useful instead of working with a single speaker. Some features of the language are not well probed unless we work with multiple speakers. We hope to continue this process till the end of the project until a sketch grammar is written and a dictionary is prepared.

We realize that a person who has some formal education is extremely useful for this kind of elicitation.

### 5.2 Narration

In a general sense everyone is a storyteller. All people tell stories and thus narration is a skill all people are familiar with. This is the main method we used for collecting large amount of texts. The language consultants tell us about their personal narratives, or reminiscences, or travelogues. We tried to correct, advice, or orient them if the texts they produce deviate in content. No sooner we realize that the speakers deviate from the theme, we immediately stop them. We rehearsed somehow to make them tell the stories in the manner we intend. Sometimes, we tell them about describing incidents, telling personal reminiscences, and so on before they actually produce the texts. The speakers were trained in this way when they worked with us for some weeks.

"Could you tell us about ...." "How is wine prepared?" or "How did you travel from Dandagaun to Gorkha?...." Several texts were obtained using this technique. Although we were not sure whether we could collect the data we intended, we were very successful by using this technique.

### 5.3 Role play and simulation

A large number of speech genres can not be obtained simply by narration. We therefore tried to obtain the corpus by role play and simulation. The data related to specific grammatical items are difficult to obtain. In order to obtain these kinds of data, we advise the speakers to be involved in role play/simulation. For example, we have a session where a speaker asks permission of his elder brother to visit his relatives. His brother replies that this is the season of farming, and he should not go now.

Using these techniques, we got specific grammatical items. Imperative sentences may be elicited but if they are obtained through role play and simulation we get repeated structures. If the same structures or constructions are repeated again and again, it is easy to be certain about specific grammatical constructions. We have several recordings obtained through role play and simulation. Several dialogues were recorded using this technique. We intended to use this method to construct specific grammatical structures. In fact, there are no contexts where Baram speakers ever make a speech. However, we have some speeches. Similarly, there are neither riddles nor proverbs in Baram of their own! However, we asked them to tell us some and made recordings related to such expressions.

#### 5.4 Stimuli used

It was necessary to use stimuli in the process of data collection. Some kinds of structures are related to certain kinds of activities, or objects. People can easily describe the things they see. For example, we found that the pictures can be used to elicit structures like, 'This is ....on/in/back/forward' or 'There is a stone on ....'. We have sessions related to postpositions, and adverbs. If one intends to obtain structures like these, or the use of postpositions, or general descriptive texts, the use of stimuli is very effective. We describe below the various ways of using stimuli in data collection.

- (a) We showed them the documentary films and later asked them what happened in the film. Several speakers described the film as they understood it.
- (b) We showed them the songs and later asked them what the song clips are about. They then describe what happened in it.
- (c) We showed them the pictures of objects and asked them what they are used for, how something is prepared and

so on. We had sessions like 'Use of Bamboo' by showing them the picture of bamboo and bamboo objects.

- (d) Questions were shown and displayed on a lap top. One reads the questions (asks the question to the target language consultants and the target speaker gives the answer). They were very useful to obtain certain kinds of structures, i.e. purposive clause, answer of 'wh-question', and so on. These kinds of structures are very specific.

These sessions were rather short in terms of duration but were very useful.

Table 1: Stimuli used

S.N.	Stimuli used	Session names
1	Photographs	PhotoDes
2	Documentary/ Films/ Songs clips	VideoRem
3	Questions (Typed on Laptop)	Howmuch1

#### 6 Problems

During the annotating period we had a number of problems which can be listed as follows:

- i. It is difficult to get fluent and cooperative speakers. Some language speakers are good speakers but are unwilling to work. There is an aged woman who could tell good texts but her articulation is not clear. She has her front teeth missing! Some speakers are useful but the language they retain is not very good.
- ii. Several texts have no coherence at all. This causes difficulties in translation and annotation is more difficult. We realize that we are unable to say why such irrelevant utterances occur throughout the texts. We also need to

notice that lack of coherence is related to particular language consultants.

- iii. Such texts also lack richness of linguistic features. In the discourse data the language seems to be merely the translation of 'Nepali texts' into the Baram language rather than Baram texts *per se*. Therefore, the richness in terms of 'native features' and 'linguistic richness' should be assessed before we continue to record the texts.
- iv. Sometimes, fieldwork is hampered by equipments. We encountered several problems with the video recordings. It is therefore a good idea to purchase good quality equipments like video camera, still camera, microphone and laptops for the fieldwork.
- v. Since fieldwork is related to language documentation, and this is also associated with the kinds of facilities they receive, the facilities given to the language informants should be clearly mentioned before they are employed. It is natural that the dealing with language consultants must be settled very fairly and honestly.

## 7 Conclusion and recommendation

All the texts we have collected are extemporaneous and oral texts. Our corpus basically lacks very formal genres like speeches, announcements, and so on although we have some texts obtained through simulation. Collection of quality data is really a challenging task when we work with minority and endangered languages. It is even more difficult if the speakers do not use the language in natural setting. In our case, all data we obtained were by the speakers who have stopped speaking their language in natural settings. Although we became desperate in the earlier phase of our field work, we finally recorded and made the data representative. Sometimes we were happy to record the sessions which ran for a long period of time but the quality of linguistic contents in such sessions

was not rich. An analysis of the linguistic features of each speaker leads us to further confirmation that the speakers are worth working with. We like to conclude this paper with a few suggestions for the field linguists:

- i. Make an inventory of different genres, communicative events and ethnographic topics before beginning the fieldwork. This helps you capture diverse sessions with different uses of the language. The objectives of the research also determine the method of collecting data.
- ii. Work with different speakers. One may be good at narrating stories, another at giving instructions and another perhaps at data elicitation for making paradigms. As a field worker, we need to be aware of the capability of different speakers.
- iii. Make a proper analysis of data you have collected before you record texts for several hours! You will be surprised to see that the linguistic contents of the speaker who speaks for a long time is perhaps worthless! A sample analysis of each informant you are working with will suffice to determine whether the text one contributes has coherence, unnecessary repetitions, hesitation markers, unusual pauses, unusual breathing and so on. We find that one of the speakers we worked with always clears his throat at the interval of a few sentences!
- iv. Make your sessions of moderate length. If they are very long, i.e. for an hour, the data may be difficult to handle in some computer software like ELAN, Toolbox, Audacity when these files are edited and annotated. In our long files, the speakers deviate from the topics they speak on. If your sessions are very short, there may be innumerable files but they can neither increase the size of the corpus nor the total duration.

- v. Record some sessions which are directly related to the grammar, i.e. 'conditional clause', 'purposive clause', etc. This will be a better way of obtaining a specific structure rather than to ask them to translate the constructed texts.
- vi. The language speakers should be properly trained before recording some sessions. The language speakers should be properly oriented while recording these specific topics.
- vii. Dealing with the language consultants is a key factor during the data collection period if a documentation project runs for a few years. They should be honestly and fairly treated.

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## THE COMPARISON IMPACT OF WORD-MEANING AND GUESS TECHNIQUES ON WORD-MEANING AND FILL-IN-THE-BLANK TESTS PROCEDURES FOR SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM RETENTION OF VOCABULARY ITEMS

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The purpose of research described in the current study is to investigate comparison of impact of Word-meaning and Guess techniques on word-meaning and fill-in-the blank tests regarding both short-term and long-term retention of vocabulary items in the condition that the learners are not allowed to use Guess technique.

### 1 Introduction

The basic foundation of language learning is vocabulary acquisition which is a crucial and in some sense, the central component in successful a second/foreign language acquisition. Development of lexical knowledge occupies an important position in the learners' struggle to master a second language (Atay and Ozubulung, 2007).

Schmitt and Nation argue that Vocabulary acquisition is indeed a very complex issue (as cited in Fuente, 2006) and it cannot be assumed that acquisition of a word's basic meaning will imply acquisition of formal aspects of words.

Second language acquisition has come under strong criticism from a number of sources for a little attention it has paid to lexical acquisition (Scafaru and Tofan, 2006) and Levert and Mear mention that recently vocabulary acquisition has been one of the most actively researched in second language acquisition due mainly to the impact vocabulary has on successful communication (as cited in Nikolova, 2004). Nowadays, it is widely accepted that vocabulary teaching should be part of the syllabus and taught on a well-planned and regular basis but there still remains an enormous amount of research to be done in the area, and Paribakht and Weche argue that it is still far from clear how learners acquire (as cited in Browne, 2003)

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which due to the controversial problem to be arisen along types of tests to score the vocabulary knowledge, their correlation and their procedures on short-term and long-term retention of vocabulary items.

The vocabulary assistance during reading (through word-meaning) as a first technique, and guess plus vocabulary assistance as a second technique are applied in the current study to test if there is any significant effect of Guess technique to answer word-meaning and fill-in-the blanks tests of vocabulary on short-term and long-term retention of vocabulary items in the condition that the learners are not allowed to use guess technique or randomly answer the questions.

It should be mentioned that firstly, before the current study, the students were taught to practice their lessons productively and they should not answer the questions without a reason as they were asked to do for the tests. In fact, such strategy was applied for them to avoid guess and randomly to answer the questions. Secondly, in word meaning test and fill-in-the-blank test, as the core meaning sense of words were in the text, as Carter argued (as cited in Schmitt, 2000), were suggested to be as the answer.

### 2 Methodology

#### 2.1 Participants

The population for subject recruitment was all undergraduate students from second semester at a large University in Iran in academic year 2008-2009 that were volunteered to participate in this study. The participants were 64 (both male and female) that were told this study would not affect the final results of their course. Randomly they were divided into two groups that were same number of members. The first group is taught through Word-meaning technique (here, it is called as a word-meaning group includes 16 male and 16 female) and the second group is taught through Guess technique plus word-meaning technique (here, it is called as a guess-using group includes 17 male and

15 female). The range of all participants' age was varied from 19 to 32 years old, and the mean of their age was 23.7.

## 2.2 Instrumentation

The following instruments were used in the current study:

- i. Questionnaire elicited information regarding demographic profile of the respondents (e.g. age.),
- ii. Materials which are prepared for the treatment phase,
- iii. Materials which are developed as pre-test and post-test that related to materials of treatment and in order to test learners' performance on vocabulary retention,
- iv. Michigan Test of English Language Proficiency (MTELP) 2007, in order to homogenize recruitment of the population of learners regarding their English language knowledge.

## 2.3 Procedure

### 2.3.1 Questionnaire

The questionnaires were distributed two weeks before the treatment in order to elicit information regarding demographic profile of the respondents. The students completed answering the questionnaires in the class and returned the forms to the lecturer. The needed details regarding questionnaire, were explained by the lecturer.

### 2.3.2 Proficiency test

Michigan Test of English language proficiency was used to determine the level of the students' English proficiency one week before the treatment. The mentioned proficiency test was studied in pilot study to find out its' reliability that it was estimated 7.

### 2.3.3 Pre-testing

Sixty printed words on single paper were given to 90 students and the students were asked to write the meaning of any word in Persian as L1 (mother tongue) in that paper if they know, and

then returned the paper to the lecturer. 15 out of 60 words that were completely unknown to the students were chosen. These fifteen words include nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs and they were again reprinted.

Regarding fifteen chosen words, fifteen unseen sentences to the students were developed that in each of them, one lexical item was lost, which should be completed with one of unknown vocabularies that in fact it would be fill-in-the-blank test. These fifteen sentences were printed on single paper. The meaning of all English words in L1 in the bottom of that page (except 15 unknown words) and the structure of all fifteen sentences was so easy to be understood to the students.

The students who were asked to participate in the pilot study in order to choose 15 out of 60 vocabularies, to estimate reliability of word meaning and fill-in-the-blank tests, were as same as academic year, university and grouping majors of the experimental group. The order administration of pre-test was first, the word-meaning test second and then fill-in-the-blank test last.

The word meaning test and the fill-in-the-blank test in the aforementioned order were taken by the students. In word meaning test, the students were asked to write the meaning of English words in L1 and after collecting the test papers, the fill-in-the-blank test papers were distributed. For this test, the students were asked to complete any one of the fifteen sentences with one of fifteen given words and also they were asked to write the meaning of the sentence in L1 after completion to show that they do not use Guess technique or randomly answer the questions.

### 2.3.4 Treatment

In the current study, immediately after pre-test, the printed text on single paper that includes those fifteen unknown words was given to the students. The first group, word-meaning group, is taught through Word-meaning technique. However, all words



are included in text (except, 15 unknown words) were so easy to be understood semantically, their meanings were retold with the focus on the meaning of 15 unknown words. Enough time and needed help was provided that the students understand all the text well. The second group, guess-using group, firstly, was asked to use Guess technique to guess the meaning of fifteen unknown words in the text. As Nation and Meara argue the unknown word to be guessed has to have plenty of comprehensible supporting context (as cited in Mohseni-Far, 2007); hence, all the words included in text, are so easy to be understood semantically and it was to guess the meanings of fifteen unknown words easily. Enough time and needed help was provided in order to have successful guess, secondly, the meaning of words were told to the students for guess-using group. In both guess-step and word meaning step, the focus was on fifteen un-known words. Same as word-meaning group, enough time and needed help to word meaning understanding was provided. Enough time was given to practice text and if the students have any question to ask.

### 2.3.5 Post-testing (immediate and delayed tests)

In post-testing the same tests in pre-testing and in the same order were administered, but such administration occurred in two steps. The first step, immediately after finishing treatment (as an immediate post test) and the second step was two weeks later (as a delayed post test). The students were not aware about immediate and delayed post tests.

### 3 Data analysis

In the word-meaning test, each of correct answer is scored as one point and in the fill-in-the-blank test, each correct answer that has the meaning of the sentence in L1, is scored as one point, otherwise as the probable effect of guess or random factor, even the answer is correct, the answer is not accepted and scored, as was told to the student before the beginning the tests.

In this study, analysis of obtained data was performed using the SPSS software version 16, T-test was used to test the research through the vocabulary gain score of the sample.

### 4 Results and findings

Table 1 display Mean, Std. Deviation and Std. Error Mean of pre-testing and post-testing (immediate and delayed post tests) of both the word-meaning and the fill-in-the blank tests for both groups i.e. the word-meaning group and the guess-using group.

Table 1: Mean, standard deviation and standard error mean of pre-testing and post-testing

	teaching strategies	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
pretest vocabulary meaning	Word-meaning technique	32	.0000	.00000 <sup>a</sup>	.00000
	Guess technique + Word-meaning technique	32	.0000	.00000 <sup>a</sup>	.00000
pretest fill-in-the-blank	Word-meaning technique	32	.0000	.00000 <sup>a</sup>	.00000
	Guess technique + Word-meaning technique	32	.0000	.00000 <sup>a</sup>	.00000
Immediate post test vocabulary meaning	Word-meaning technique	32	5.8750	2.48544	.43937
	Guess technique + Word-meaning technique	32	5.0625	2.31318	.40892
Immediate post test fill-in-the-blank	Word-meaning technique	32	1.5938	1.75719	.31063
	Guess technique + Word-meaning technique	32	1.0625	1.50134	.26540
Delayed posttest	Word-meaning technique	32	2.0625	1.60518	.28376

vocabulary meaning	Guess technique + Word-meaning technique	32	2.0625	1.62516	.28729
Delayed posttest fill-in-the-blank	Word-meaning technique	32	1.2812	1.65070	.29180
	Guess technique + Word-meaning technique	32	.5312	1.07716	.19042
a. t cannot be computed because the standard deviations of both groups are 0.					

Table 2: Levene's test and T-test, results regarding the existing data

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means						
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
									Lower	Upper
Immediate post test vocabulary meaning	Equal variances assumed	.021	.885	1.354	62	.181	.81250	.60021	-.38731	2.01231
	Equal variances not assumed			1.354	61.683	.181	.81250	.60021	-.38743	2.01243
Immediate post test fill-in-the-blank	Equal variances assumed	1.328	.254	1.300	62	.198	.53125	.40857	-.28547	1.34797
	Equal variances not assumed			1.300	60.526	.198	.53125	.40857	-.28587	1.34837
Delayed posttest vocabulary meaning	Equal variances assumed	.041	.840	.000	62	1.000	.00000	.40380	-.80718	.80718
	Equal variances not assumed			.000	61.991	1.000	.00000	.40380	-.80719	.80719
Delayed posttest fill-in-the-blank	Equal variances assumed	3.923	.052	2.152	62	.035	.75000	.34844	.05348	1.44652
	Equal variances not assumed			2.152	53.349	.036	.75000	.34844	.05123	1.44877

## 5 Discussion and conclusion

It should be mentioned that firstly, before the current study, the students were taught to practice their lessons productively and they should not answer the questions without a reason as they were asked to do for the tests. In fact, such strategy was applied for them to avoid guess and answer the questions randomly. Secondly, in the word meaning test and the fill-in-the-blank test, as the core meaning sense of words were in the text, as

Carter argued (as cited in Schmitt, 2000), were suggested to be as answer.

The analysis of the data indicates the following results:

- i. In vocabulary teaching and learning, there is no significant difference along the impact of Word-meaning technique and Guess technique in meaningful learning regarding the word-meaning test and fill-in-the blank test procedures on short-term and long-term retention of vocabulary items,
- ii. In testing, it should prevent the students to use Guess technique or answer the questions randomly, because the real scale of vocabulary knowledge are estimated through this factor,
- iii. In meaningful learning, Guess technique cannot help the students to retain the lexical items in testing situations of the fill-in-the blanks test,
- iv. It is difficult to suggest the Guess technique as learning technique for vocabulary that it is one of the strategies often discussed in the literature (Mohseni-Far, 2007),
- v. Word meaning knowing only, cannot help the students to answer the fill-in-the-blank test and some other knowledge is essential to be applied. Such knowledge is dominate to answer the fill-in-the-blank test. Learning a word in isolation does not enable the learners to use it adequately as words it might need other particular words to company them (Suberviola and Mendez, 2002). And as it was shown in Table one, we can see there is big difference between the word-meaning test and the fill-in-the-blank test.
- vi. Memorization of meaning of vocabularies could not increase the results when the base is meaningful learning,
- viii. In meaningful learning to answer the fill-in-the-blank test, it is necessary to learn the essential meaning of words; and guess cannot be successful and meaningful technique to

answer; in other words, one should avoid guess. Because guess cannot be real and meaningful learning type and also in testing, such factor should be applied to evaluate and score the answers of the learners.

The current study suggests that the type of pedagogical approach of the L2 vocabularies learning may have an impact on retention of new L2 vocabularies. The findings clearly demonstrates some results that can be applied in the preparation of teacher training programs, curriculum development, material preparation, syllabus design and the importance of type of the test which is administered to learners in order to score their knowledge of vocabulary as achievement test. If it will be comparison among the learners' aspects of vocabulary size, depth of processing and degree of organization with their pre- and post- levels, the conclusion appears to be well supported.

It should be high correlation as much as possible along techniques and person's knowledge of vocabulary in teaching and testing of vocabulary, that hereby the investigator aims to test if there is any significant impact of the Guess technique compare to the Word-meaning technique regarding both types of tests procedures for short-term and long-term retention of lexical items, that the results do not show any positive support for Guess technique.

Implications for vocabulary learning from this study include the following:

Firstly, in vocabulary teaching and learning, it should not consider the Guess strategy as the headway of teaching and learning of vocabulary as it is considered somewhere. Guess technique may help in the understanding of what one text includes such as vocabularies and phrases or even find the answer in the fill-in-the blank test type but such technique is as guess using and it does not mean than the learner sure about his answer weather it is really correct or wrong answer semantically and he does not have any support for his answer semantically. In this situation, the teacher cannot claim that the

learner knows the word or examiner sure that the learner knows the words' formal aspects, and sometimes even the meaning of words; in other words, guess-using is not learning and it should not be considered as learning is. Secondly, in language testing it should be applied some strategies to show that the learners do not answer through the guess-using or randomly, otherwise, there is not any positive support for the choice of the answer, and we cannot claim that the learners because of learning they answer the test.

Although this study, clearly contributes to our understanding of impact of the Word-meaning and the Guess techniques on the word-meaning and the fill-in-the blank tests procedures for short-term and long-term retention of vocabulary items but there are some limitations. Firstly, the focus of the study was on language testing for statistical significance. Future research should consider mixed design or studies for that examine qualitative aspects of the topic. Secondly, the frequency of the vocabularies is another area. Several of the limitations to this study are ones common in the literature, the needs for a large n-size; need to conduct similar experiments with different population and proficiency levels and so on. At last, further research is needed to better determine the strength of the association among other strategies regarding such study. A future agenda for vocabulary learning researchers should specifically and thoroughly address to the methods and techniques to be applied to teach and assess the vocabulary knowledge better and help the learners that better retention will take place.

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## LAMJUNG YOLMO: A DIALECT OF YOLMO, ALSO KNOWN AS HELAMBU SHERPA<sup>1</sup>

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This article is a brief introduction to the previously undocumented language Lamjung Yolmo. This article will present basic ethnographic information about the community and an initial comparison of Lamjung Yolmo and closely related languages will be made. The documentation work that is being undertaken will also be outlined.

### 1 Introduction

Lamjung Yolmo is a Tibeto-Burman language spoken in Lamjung district of Nepal. It is most likely a dialect of Yolmo (also referred to as Helambu Sherpa), which is spoken in and around the Helambu valley northeast of Kathmandu. It is also closely related to Kagate. This paper is the product of an initial field investigation into Lamjung Yolmo conducted September-December 2009. This paper will provide ethnographic information about the speakers of Lamjung Yolmo. An initial comparison between Lamjung Yolmo and closely related languages will be made. Finally, the work being undertaken to document this language will be outlined.

### 2 Lamjung Yolmo: the Language and its speakers

Lamjung Yolmo originates in four culturally homogeneous villages 3 hours walk northwest of Besisahar in the Lamjung district of Nepal. Lamjung Yolmo speakers are homogeneously Tibetan Buddhist and many speakers take the surname Lama.

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<sup>1</sup> This is the revised version of the paper presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Linguistic Society of Nepal held at Kathmandu, 26-27 November, 2009.

Lamjung Yolmo speakers generally agree that their community originates in the migration of a group of Yolmo people from the Sindhupalchok and Nuwakot districts of Nepal, some 200 kilometres to the east, around the Helambu valley. This migration is said to have taken place around five to six generations ago, although there is no definitive date. While Thurgood (2003:5) notes that it is dangerous to rely on folklore when working with any Sino-Tibetan language, the similarity between the language and culture of the two groups lends sufficient weight to the Lamjung Yolmo speakers' claims.

Lamjung Yolmo speakers are occasionally referred to as 'Kagate', although they should not be confused with the Kagate of Ramechhap, with whom they share this name as well as a common origin (see §3 below). This is a reference to the profession of paper making that Lamjung Yolmo speakers undertake. Papermaking is considered to be a low caste occupation in the strict Hindu caste system that exists in Nepal. It seems that while the Yolmo in the Helambu area are of a relatively high social standing (Clarke, 1980b; 1990), those who left the area do not hold a similar social standing in their new environments. Whether this reflects their historic social position within the Helambu society, or came about as a result of travelling has not been established.

The area Lamjung Yolmo speakers now live in is heavily agricultural, with rice and potatoes being primary crops. Surrounding villages are populated by Gurungs, Tamangs, Chetri, Brahmin and, increasingly, retired soldiers of the UK Gurka regiment. Lamjung Yolmo speakers do not use their language with outsiders, instead resorting to Nepali, and occasionally Gurung.

Gauging speaker numbers is a difficult task. There has been a lack of population retention in the villages in Lamjung in recent years. Many have left to seek employment

opportunities in larger cities of Nepal, such as Besisahar, Pokhara and Kathmandu, or overseas, with Israel and various Arab countries being popular destinations. Others have moved to the Terai, further south in Nepal, where farming is easier and the weather is less harsh. Community members do not always leave as family units, quite often the male will leave to find employment leaving his wife and children in the village, which results in the majority of those still resident in the home villages being predominantly female. This is a pattern found in many of the villages in the area according to data from the 2001 census extracted by Digital Himalaya (2010). To give one example of the effect of migration on village life, one village that had a population of 64 families 30 years ago now has 4 families remaining, only one of those with children. Another one of the four villages has suffered a similar fate, however the two remaining villages are in a stronger position with some 20-30 families between them, and strong evidence of language transmission to children.

In regards to language use, as Desjarlais (2003:14) also notes for Yolmo spoken in Helambu, speakers frequently switch between Yolmo and Nepali. More frequently, Nepali is also more commonly being used in the home and with children. This appears to be especially true of those that have moved away from Yolmo-speaking villages.

Given the population movement and reduction of domains in which Lamjung Yolmo is being used the best we can do is establish a speaker population of anywhere from 500-1500 speakers. This figure is largely dependent on whether those who have left their villages still use their mother tongue, and the level of intergeneration transmission.

There is no known previous documentation of the Lamjung Yolmo. There has been work done with the main body of Yolmo speakers in the Sindhupalchok and Nuwakot districts, with a dictionary (Hari and Lama, 2004) and forthcoming

grammar (Hari n.d.). There was also work undertaken on Kagate in the 1970s with work being published on the phonology and discourse of the language (Höhlig and Hari 1976 and Höhlig 1978 respectively).

### 3 Comparison of Lamjung Yolmo and related languages

Lamjung Yolmo is most closely related to Yolmo (also known as Helambu Sherpa, Ethnologue code SCP) and Kagate (Ethnologue code SYW). There are estimated to be between 10,000 to 50,000 speakers of Yolmo (Hari and Lama, 2004:702-03), and around 1000 speakers of Kagate (Höhlig and Hari, 1976).

The oral history of the migration of Lamjung Yolmo speakers from the Helambu area is reflected in that of the Kagate of the Ramechhap district (Höhlig and Hari, 1976). Their stories are almost identical, except that while the focus language community of this paper moved about 200 kilometers west of the Helambu valley, the Kagate moved almost the same distance to the east, and settled in the Ramechhap district. Both groups left at around the same time (5-6 generations ago).

Given their common history, we would expect a strong level of similarity between the Yolmo of the Helambu area and the diaspora communities that have developed in Ramechhap and Lamjung. Ethnologue (Lewis, 2009) states on the Helambu Sherpa information page that the language is not mutually intelligible with Kagate, however Hari (n.d.:1), who has worked extensively with both languages, argues that 'to quite a large extent they are mutually intelligible dialects.'

Impressionistically, there appears to be a high level of lexical and syntactic similarity. One clear difference between Lamjung Yolmo and the main community of Yolmo speakers is the lack of alternating verb stems (Hari and Lama,

2004:830) in the Lamjung variety. There are also some variations in the copular system of the two groups of speakers.

A small-scale lexical survey has been undertaken, following the method outlined in Blair (1990:26-34) to allow for a stronger quantitative understanding of the degree of lexical similarity. This survey technique involves lexical level comparison where words are assessed as being ‘similar’ or ‘different’ based on their degree of phonological similarity. The 100-word Swadesh list was used for data. Lamjung Yolmo data was collected during the primary field trip, the Yolmo data was taken from the Yolmo dictionary (Hari and Lama, 2004) and the Kagate data was from an elicitation session with a speaker undertaken by myself and supplemented by the data in Höhlig and Hari (1976).

The lexical similarity between the three languages (Yolmo, Lamjung Yolmo and Kagate) is shown below, ordered from least to most similar.

Table1: Lexical similarity (shown in percentages)

Languages compared	Lexical similarity
Yolmo and Kagate	79%
Yolmo and Lamjung Yolmo	85%
Lamjung Yolmo and Kagate	88%

The first thing to note is that all three have a very high lexical similarity. This is evident compared to other Tibeto-Burman languages that Yolmo is often discussed as being similar to; according to Ethnologue (Lewis, 2009) Yolmo has a lexical similarity of 65% with Lhasa Tibetan and 61% with Sherpa. Also interesting to note is that Kagate and Lamjung Yolmo have a higher lexical affinity with each other than with the main body of Yolmo speakers, which may lend weight to the folk history of their con-current migration.

There are, of course, some limitations to this data. Firstly, this project is focused on Lamjung Yolmo, and so the data for the other languages was less easy to access and validate. Secondly, this is only a small-scale manual analysis of the cross-linguistic lexical variability and thus may not be a strong measure of the mutual intelligibility of these languages.

Given the high level of lexical similarity between Lamjung Yolmo and the main group of Yolmo and the oral history of the Lamjung community, it is likely more correct to say that Lamjung Yolmo is a dialect of the major group of Yolmo speakers, rather than a separate language. This appears to also be likely true for Kagate based on the above data, however it is often referred to as a separate language due to its different name and prior attention in linguistic publication. In regards to speaker attitudes, Lamjung Yolmo speakers I have met so far generally consider themselves to speak a variety of Yolmo, or a variety of Lama Bhasa – that is, the language of Tibetan Buddhist people. There appears to be no general attitude that they speak a different language, but rather that they speak a dialect of some larger body of languages

As a side note, recent fieldwork carried out by students of Tribhuvaun University as part of the Nepal Linguistic Survey and presented at the LSN annual conference in 2009 indicates there is also a pocket of Yolmo speakers living in the Ilam district in the very far east corner of Nepal (Thokar, 2009). Thus the spread of this language through isolated diaspora communities appears to not have been a one-off event.

#### 4 Documentation of Lamjung Yolmo

The documentation of Lamjung Yolmo is currently being undertaken as part of the author’s PhD. This project consists of the production of a short grammar of the language, and more detailed focus on the copular system of the language, which, like in related Bodic languages such as Sherpa (Kelly,

2004) and Lhasa Tibetan (Tournarde and Dorje, 2003) is the source of much epistemic modal information. Community materials, including the production of a small dictionary, are also being made at the community's request.

### 5 Conclusion

This paper has been a brief introduction to the Tibeto-Burman language Lamjung Yolmo. This small group of speakers is a timely reminder that Nepal's rich tapestry of languages is made more complex by the movement of people and the establishment of independent diaspora communities.

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## NEOLOGISATION OF TERMS IN BANGLA: THE SOCIO-LINGUISTIC APPROACH IN BANGLADESH

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Suitable terms in Bangla have been a major concern of the Linguists. This paper attempts to take up the issue from the view point of socio-linguistic approach that has been thought to be prime aid. The writer tries to come up with an accommodative strategy which can linguistically be viable and optimal.

### 1 Background

Addressing the problem of suitable terms in Bangla Language has been a major concern for the language 'Pundits' and Linguists let alone of the common scholars. Efforts to an effective use of proper terms in Bangla dates back to the turn of 18<sup>th</sup> century, while some workable prescripts could not be developed, for the educated gentry's practicing, even after Bangla language gained its momentum during the silver age of 19<sup>th</sup> century. Nonetheless, with the advancements of Bangla language and culture this vibrating language had assimilated quite a good number of terms for varied use in different fields catering the needs of pragmatic use.

Of the plausible practice 'neologisation' had played a role in combating the problem of proper terms in Bangla.

Neologism has been described in dictionary as 'creating or using new words'. We take the advantage of using the term "Neologisation (not generally found in dictionary) as the process or the activities regarding creating new words/terms or coining some lexical item that are necessary for fortifying any live language. In this presentation we would hold not to words as such, but new uses in the light of terminology practice and dissemination.

Bangla language with its unique feature of assimilating elements from other languages has been going through the vintage of Lexical Expansion for quite some times from during the turn of the modern age. This will be the base of our forthcoming discussion.

Academicians (theorist for that matter) would hold that terminology does not grow "naturally" but has to be implied to specific institutions that define fields of work, creation procedure, interests, normative values and educational system which allow people to acquire knowledge and skill in different areas and consequently their corresponding terminology. This may be labeled as "cultivated terminology".

Since there is no organized way of receiving foreign terminologies and spreading those through our language community, present social, economical (political as well) and scientific influences determine terminology adaptation.

#### 1.1 Two kinds of terminologies

Here comes by a 'phenomenon' which we can call "practical terminology" as against "cultivated terminology". The first one mentioned above appears in school books, scientific and technical works, translations from English or other foreign languages and spread among cultivated people : professors, researchers and all practitioners. But the second one, not contained in books and high variety of language, develops "naturally" from common people -- may be : technicians of "low skills, advertisers, employees of different jobs of rank and file. The difference between "high" and "low" jobs is, of course, a socially conditioned distinction appearing at least in Bangladesh context.

#### 1.2 Basic facts

Terminologists, translators and linguists have been paying attention to cultivated terminology, while the practical one is

usually considered as 'jargons'. Some basic facts about practical terminology can be put forth. (a) How does it work? (b) From where does it proceed? (c) How does it communicate?

Rest of the presentation attempts to relate these questions altogether.

Since there is no organized way for receiving foreign terminologies and spreading those throughout our language community, present social, political, economic and scientific influences determine, as indicated above, terminological adaptation. The linguistic problem always has a solution, but the best of it will be of no use if it does not consider social and political variables.

In our present context it is implied that, one can create new terms in Bangla, recycle old words with new meaning, borrow from our common Sanskrit roots, adapt foreign language terms, borrow them, create acronyms etc., but one always has to pay attention to such preconditions like language attitude, social differences, political and economic dependency, etc.

## 2 Need of terms in Bangla

Bangla, besides being the state language of Bangladesh, is the general medium of education, the prime language of daily life (let alone a strong base for a rich literary heritage and vibrant culture), is at a brisk need of coping with the speed of digital age. Term innovation and adaptation has thus become a vital factor for the language 'care-takers' and the users-on-the-ground.

But terminology planners of Bangla users from the very beginning have been searching for a viable technique, coupled with problems of dissemination and acceptability.

### 2.1 How to go about it

Several different views and techniques were advocated and practiced as experiments, but with little acceptability. Some of the views may be recalled for our present reference:

- European terms should be transferred as they were, without any formal change except for script.
- Except for names, objects, equipments, apparatus and binomial names, all other technical terms should be translated into the language (Choudhury, 1975).
- Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century there was a persistent demand to avoid as far as possible the crude transfer of expressions in accordance with graphical equivalence.
- Deliberateness of term innovation was stressed on the plea that "if one courageously introduced a term, it would somehow gain currency. (Trivedi, 1894).
- The necessity of terminological innovation in language and viewing of terminology were from the vantage point of lexical borrowing. It was argued that the nature of term innovation depended on the characteristics of the language concerned. (Chatterji, 1953).
- Three principles and techniques of coining terms in Bangla were taken well: borrowing, loan translation and word-building (innovation). One of the most favoured source of expression forms for Bangla was 'indigenous' one. (Ray, 1972). In Bangladesh, Muhammad Enamul Haque (1973), an active organizer of a number of language planning agencies, himself a term innovator, enunciated two principle: (1) Translation and (2) Assimilation. He advocated most the 'Folk creativity' for the adaptation of exogenous words (though he proposed that if a term is found to be used in six languages without any change, then the term should be considered as

international and there should be no need for coining a new form for the term).

### 3 The nomenclature

The general masses of the country are, as we understand, not closely involved with these technical things. They are used to creating their own terms and eulogizing which are in most cases Folk-etymological in nature (This is what we mentioned as ‘neologisation’). This process continues: folk-etymologies are created by the half-educated masses of the country according to either the principle of assimilation or the principle of translation.

How do they go about it?

#### 3.1 Principle of assimilation

A strong oral tradition gives uneducated people a real capacity for adapting foreign words. They transfer a foreign word by transference of the sound-segment in the word into a sound of their own language. Examples:

*bomb* বোমা [boma]; *life-buoy* বয়া [boya]; *burge* বজরা [bəzra];  
ইসকুরূপ [iskurup]; *bolt* বল্টু [boltu]

These terms are created out of their own enthusiasm for innovation and their immediate need to communicate. We must note that, the capabilities of the masses to adopt foreign terminologies in their own ways are not commonly found in the so-called sophisticated technical people.

The principal objective of a term, as we understand it, is to inspire or illuminate, express or signify one or more than one thing, mood or act to the mind of the listener/reader. But in most cases, it is difficult to find terminology parallel to foreign term. Consider, for example, the following term:

Latin: *Alma mate* “cherishing or fostering mother”

the school, college or the university one has attended.

A parallel Bangla term can be coined for this- মাতৃকল্প বিদ্যায়তন meaning “the educational institution that is like a mother”.

But for a term like Japanese *Tsunami* there is no other way than to retain the main phonological structure and accept the nearest possible one “সুনামী” [sunami]. That is how English *Kala azar* a chronic, (usually fatal disease that used to occur in Asia, especially in the Indian subcontinent) was derived from Hindi काला आज़र [kala-azar] meaning *black disease*. And Bangla, being genealogically close to Hindi, adopted “কালাস্বর” [kala:ʃər] meaning *black fever*.

#### 3.1.2 Translation principle

The second consideration can be as follows:

Most of the people responsible for introducing and making new words/terms widely usable hold that the original foreign one are made to express certain connotations, clearly and vividly, which Bangla terms will lack. But the nature, versatility and power of assimilation by Bangla can take well care of these problems. Example:

<u>English terminology</u>	<u>Translated wrongly</u>	<u>Correct version</u>
<i>economic function</i>	অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ড (economic variety)	অর্থনৈতিক কর্মধার
<i>heart transplantation</i>	হৃদয় বদল (exchange of heart)	হৃৎপিণ্ড সংযোজন

### 4 The social aspect

From the examples presented above we would now shift to our locus where neologisation can be viewed as social aspect as it is. At the age of digital device and time Bangla has to tackle with flow of global input of new lexical items. A classic

example can be the “*mobile phone*” that has taken the urban as well as rural lives over. Now the very ‘word’ mobile has lost its original semantic value indicating some think that is movable or can go around. The grammatical category of the word ‘mobile’ (an adjective) has taken a new dimension with the coined term ‘mobile phone’-- some times only ‘a mobile’ being changed to the noun category. The smart Bangla society has radiantly neologised it to the name of “মুঠাফোন” [muthofon] conversely meaning ‘a phone set that is held within the palm grip’.

This very term mobile has already drifted to another dimension, having expression like ‘mobile’ being used as a verb : ওনাকে মোবাইল করো [onake mobail koro] --- “make him a call through a mobile phone”.

#### 4.1 The commoners' technique

There are some classical examples of neologizing by the commoners in catering the social need.

(a) *Shallow* is an English word becoming a particular term in Bangladesh meaning “a typical mechanized country boat -- powered by a motor-engine that is used in agriculture power tiller”. Power tiller motor being the most easily available was fitted in shallow water tube-wells, consequently powering country boat by indigenous technology in the 80’s. That instantly gave the notion to the commoners to call the converted boats with a neat name of *shallow*.

(b) The innovative indigenous technicians went further to use this motor-engine for powering yet another typical country-vehicle, a three wheeler, neologizing that by even more a sarcastic term “*nosimon*” নসিমন [nosimən]. No folk-tale or etymological explanation or background can be had of except that it denotes “a kind of three wheeled country transport vehicle, run by power tiller motor-engine, which can carry a

load of some 2 tons or 12 passengers”. The social acceptance does not care about the linguistic error or proto-type semantic values, but vintage is the gain of the game. We take all these along the whole gamut per. se.

#### 5 Conclusion

Term coining had never been a prime concern of Language Planners in Bangla. There has not been great deal written in the Bangla morphological literature about ‘new terms’ either, despite the fundamental importance of this topic with its striking phenomenon suitable for many / diverse analysis. Bangla being the 5<sup>th</sup> Language of the present world is highly enriched by very many reasons with its versatility and linguistic features. As a member of the largest language family of the world (Indo-European), Bangla is unique and markedly advanced due to its “Sound System” and adaptation of lexical items from any language. Further, being genetically related to Sanskrit, its etymological compatibilities are no less capable of handling and organizing morpho-phonemic process quite amicably in diversified situations. Socio-cultural mosaic then becomes as one important contribution to this area that may lead us to newer attributes to lexical expansion.

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SOCIAL STATUS AND INTIMACY IN  
THE CHARACTERS OF SHAKESPEARE

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*Thee* is generally used in Shakespeare by a master to a servant. Being the appropriate address to a servant, it is used in confidential and good-humoured utterances. *You* was received by a master. Hindi *tu* and *aap* express roughly the same social meanings as English *thou/thee* and *you* used to express respectively.

### 1 Introduction

The pronouns *thou*, *thee* and *you* have been reduced to *you* whereas in Hindi we still have all the three pronouns: *aap*, *tum* and *tu*. It reveals that our society has not yet reached the unidimensional solidarity semantics toward which the present European pronominal usage seems to be moving.

"Farewell to *you*; and *you*; and *you*, Volumnius,  
Farewell to *thee*, too, Strato".

[Julius Caesar. V.5.33]

The difference between *thee* and *you* is well illustrated by the farewell address of Brutus to his schoolfellow Volumnius and his servant Strato. *Thou/thee* is generally used in Shakespeare by a master to a servant. Being the appropriate address to a servant, it is used in confidential and good-humoured utterances. During Elizabethan age, pronoun *you* and *ye* were considered as honorific pronoun used to address to a single person in reverence and polite distance and pronoun *thou* and *thee* were nonhonorific- used by a superior to his inferior.

Pronouns are linguistic reflections of human relationships. "They indicate systematically a person's social status in terms of class, age, sex, education and so on. Their use also seems to be geared to a complex of attitudes, sentiments, and traditions and reveals a deeper cognitive and emotional aspect of the interlocutor's personality. Pronouns serve not merely as a bridge between the individuals but also as a kind of "Emotional capital" which can be invested and manipulated in order to achieve a specific result. The differential usage of pronouns has been institutionalized as a means of defining and affirming both the identity and the status of the speaker and the person addressed. In fact, a good deal of information regarding the social structure and psychological make-up of the addressing dyad can be inferred from an examination of these verbal art forms in their two indispensable and interrelated dimensions-linguistic and sociological. Friedrich's work on the pronouns of nineteenth century Russian literature has led "to the inference of a relational system of positional slots in the status system and of other culturally specific categories" (1966:252).

Brown and Gilman (1960:253) who studied the use of *tu* and *vous* among the Parsian students at university in Boston affirm that "a man's consistent pronoun style gives away his class status and his political views". They also maintain that "society is now changing rapidly and, consistent with that change, the norms of pronouns usage are also changing". Some other linguists have identified Brown and Gilman's 'power' and 'solidarity' dimensions as formality and informality (Beidelmen, 1963; Pride, 1971; and politeness levels (Martin, 1964), confidence and respect (Moles, 1973), and 'socially remote', 'socially close'.

A sociolinguistic description of pronouns will describe not only the forms that occur but also how their choice is affected

by the contexts in which they occur. In normal usage a speaker may use one pronoun for a person, but in his use of non-normal pronoun he encodes some additional information he wants to convey in that particular context. The two dimensional analysis of Brown and Gilman in terms of 'power' and 'solidarity' is valuable for the study of the pronominal usage of marginalized characters of Shakespeare with a view to determine and analyze their normal and contextual meaning. It is in this framework that we have studied the pronouns used in English (*thou, thee ye, you*) and compared it with Hindi pronouns ('*tu*', '*tum*' and '*aap*') with a view to determine and analyze their normal and contextual meanings. Let us discuss the formal features of pronouns and their usage in different contexts.

In modern English we have only one second person pronoun, *You*, used both as singular and plural, whereas in Hindi we have pronouns *tu, tum* and *aap*. The Hindi pronominal system makes a distinction between honorific, non-honorific and general uses, but English does not make such distinctions.

In Middle English, it was still possible to express the idea of number in personal pronouns. As the singular of the second person pronoun *thou* was used as subject and *thee* as dative and accusative object, while in the plural *ye* served as subject and *you* as dative and accusative object. These grammatical functions *ye* and *you* were widely observed until the middle of the sixteenth century, and survived in the Biblical language. In the fourteenth century, however, the form *you*, with reference to one or more, sometimes replaced *ye* in the usual intercourse and later, during the sixteenth century, became more common than *ye*. In the Biblical language *ye* was uniformly employed as nominative and *you* as dative and accusative, as can be seen in the present version of the king James' version of the Bible.

Shakespeare's : *thou, thee* and *you* vs. Hindi: '*tu*', '*tum*', and '*aap*'

Like Hindi, *aap, tum* and *tu* Shakespearean English has second person singular (*thou/thee*) and plural (*ye/you*) pronouns. But in the thirteenth century, under the influence of French, the plural form became a mark of politeness in general and was used in speaking to an equal as well as to a superior. The new polite form of addressing one person by the plural *ye* and *you* did not at once displace the older usage of employing *thou* and *thee*.

## 1.2 Thou

*Thou* is the nominative singular second person pronoun derived from old English *þu* (cf. Old Teutonic *þu*, Latin *tu*, and Sanskrit *twam*). The paradigms of *thou* in modern English are as follows:

	Singular	Plural
Nom.	thou	ye, you
Dat./Acc	thee	you
Poss. (absol.)	thine	yours
(adj.)	thy	your

*Thou* and its transforms, *thee, thine* and *thy*, were in Old English (OE) used in ordinary speech; in Middle English they were gradually superseded by the plural forms, *ye, you, your* and *yours*, in addressing a superior, and (later) an equal, but were long retained in addressing an inferior. *Thou* is also used in addressing God or Christ, in homiletic language and in poetry, apostrophe, and elevated prose. *Thou* was also used in familiar intercourse, and *you* was employed as a polite form in formal relations.

*Thou* in Shakespeare's time was, not unlike *du* in German, the pronoun of: (i) affection towards friends; (ii) good-humoured superiority to servants; and (iii) contempt or anger to strangers. It has, however, already fallen into disuse, though it is seen occasionally in a higher poetic style and in the language of solemn prayer.

In *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Valentine and Proteus in the first twenty lines of earnest dialogue use nothing but *thou*. But as soon as they begin to jest, "thou art" is found too seriously ponderous and we have, "you are over boots in love" (I.i.25) while the lighter *thee* is not discarded in "it boots thee not" (I.i.28). So in the word-fencing *you* and *your* are preferred, but an affectionate farewell brings them back again to *thou*.

*Thou* is generally used in Shakespeare by a master to a servant. Being the appropriate address to a servant, it is used in confidential and good-humoured utterances. The master, however, finding fault, may often resort to the unfamiliar *you*, (To the newly-engaged servant, Julia says: "I'll do what I can", Proteus blandly replies: "I hope *thou* wilt. (To Launce) How now, *you* whoreson peasant, where have *you* been these days loitering?")

[*Two Gentlemen of Verona*. iv.4.48.]

During the Elizabethan period, *thou* towards strangers who were not inferiors was an insult, "If *thou* *thouest* him some thrice, it shall not be amiss" (*Twelfth Night*. III.ii.48) is the advice given to Sir Andrew Aguecheek when he is on the point of writing a challenge. In present times, however, the pronoun *thou* is reserved for prayers and naive poetry, which was the form of familiar address to a single person in the past.

### 1.3 Thee

*Thee* is the accusative and dative singular second person pronoun, which was derived from: (i) OE accusative *dec*, *deh*. later *de* (cf. Latin *te*); (ii) OE dative *de*, *þe*. *Thee* is also used as nominative instead of *thou*. The Elizabethans reduced *thou* to thee.

"Hear thee, Gratiano !" (*The Merchant of Venice*. II.ii.189)  
We have gone further and rejected it altogether.

### 1.4 Ye

*Ye* is the nominative plural (singular) second person pronoun, which was derived from OE *Ze* (cf. O. Teutonic *jus*, *juz*; Skt. *yuyam*). In ordinary use it is replaced by *you*. The first uses of *ye* as a reverential singular occurred in the thirteenth century (Kennedy, A.G. 1915) and seem to have been copied from the French nobility. When *you* displaced it as the ordinary nominative, it came to be used as objective singular and plural.

As the nominative or vocative plural of *thou*, OE *ye* was used in addressing a number of persons. In Middle English *ye* was used, instead of *thou*, in addressing a single person in order to show respect or deference. It was also used instead of *you* as objective singular or plural in 1449 (cf.OED).

The use of *ye* is found in the Bible but was disregarded by Elizabethan authors by whom it seems to have been generally used in questions, entreaties and rhetorical appeals. Ben Jonson said: "The second person plural is for reverence sake to some singular thing". He quotes from Gower:



"O good father dear,  
Why make ye this heavy cheer?"

A similar use is found in Shakespeare:

"Therein, ye gods, you make the weak most strong".  
[Julius Caesar. III.i.91]

### 1.5 You

*You* is an objective (nominative), plural (singular), second person pronoun, which was derived from OE accusative and dative plural *eow*. Originally restricted to accusative and dative plural uses, *you* gradually replaced *ye* as nominative plural in 14th- 15th centuries and also by extension of the deferential plural came into general use for *thou* and *thee*. *You* is now, in ordinary use, the second person pronoun for any number and case.

The singular *you* is used in addressing a person (or thing) in reverence and polite distance.

(At last) in the thirteenth century, under the influence of French, the plural form became a mark of politeness in general and was used in speaking to an equal as well as to a superior. In the Standard English prose of the eighteenth century, *thou* and *thee* were entirely replaced by *you*, so that the form of polite address became general in the common intercourse.

## 2. Pronouns in Hindi

### 2.1 Tu

Skt. *tvaya* > Prakrit *tuam* > Apbhransha *tuham* > Hindi *tu*.

Children use it obligatorily for each other. Parents normally teach their children not to use pronoun *tu* for each other. Quite a few children reported that they did not say or did not like to say *tu*, but it just slipped out of the mouth. An attitude of shame and self-hatred connected with *tu* makes it an 'undesirable' pronoun.

The use of *tu* for superiors like parents, teachers, boss, etc., is one of the few prohibited usages of Hindi. Probably on account of the connotation of disrespect and insult associated with it, *tu* has become one of the most stigmatized words in the Hindi language.

### 2.2 Tum

*Tum* is derived from the Sanskrit pronoun *tvam* : Skt. *tvam* > Prakrit *tumha* > Apbhransha *tumhai* > Hindi *tum*. *Tum* is the most common form of the nominative plural of the second person, which has arisen from skt. Nominative singular *tvam*. Hindi *tum* is like English plural pronoun *you*.

The contexts in which *tum* is marked are less than those of *tu* and *aap*. It can be said that marked usage of an alternate is in inverse proportion to its normal usage. The greater the contexts of normal usage, the less the contexts of marked usage and vice versa. *Tum* tends to co-vary either both *tu* and *aap* in unmarked contexts. As a result, it loses its markedness in frequency as well as in intensity. That may be one reason why it is the most favoured of all pronouns. The relationships where *tum* is marked are parents-children, brother and sister, school friends and master-servant.

### 2.3 Aap

Aap has descended from Skt. *aatman:*, *aatman* > Prakrit *appo* > Hindi *aap* (Vajpei, 1966:255).

It is an 'honorific' pronoun used instead of *tu* or *tum* whenever it is intended to show respect to the person addressed. Like *tum*, *aap* is also a plural pronoun used for singular to express more respect.

Among all the pronouns, *aap* shows maximum social distance between the speakers and the addressee. It is a pronoun of high respect and, whenever such respect is due to the addressee, *aap* is used for him. Brown and Ford (1961:377), while analyzing the address system in American English, have suggested that "it is to be expected in a society whose values are more strongly linked to achieved personal attributes than to ascribed attributes... that occupation would prevail over age in the determination of deference". In the traditional Yiddish community, however, where values are at least as strongly linked to ascribed personal attributes such as age, family history, learning, inherited wealth, etc., age prevails over occupation in the determination of deference (Slobin, 1963).

The process of personal interaction in a given society and its pronominal usage and address forms indicate differences of dominance, intimacy of distance, equality or differential status of the addresser and the addressee. The nature of the relationship between linguistic structures and social and cultural patterns is a central issue in sociolinguistics. Palkornkul's (1957:27) study of the Thai pronominal system has revealed that "A choice of a pronominal variant is not made arbitrarily. On the contrary, there are systematic variant rules to guide and govern the speaker's choice". Paul Friedrich's (1972:273) work on the Russian pronoun also

points the same fact. His announced purpose is to demonstrate "how speech usage is determined by cultural principles" by positing a new set of semantic categories. Friedrich has supplemented Brown and Gilman's (1960) two dimensional (i.e. Power and Solidarity) analyses with an additional eight-fold system of his own, comprising topic of discourse, contexts of the speech event, age, generation, sex, kinship status, direct spoken, and group membership. Relative jural and political authority and emotional solidarity are also features of Friedrich's system. He asserts that the ten discrimination and their patterns of combinations account for nearly all the variability in his corpus.

### 3 Conclusion

Thus Hindi *tu* and *aap* express roughly the same social meanings as Shakespeare's *thou* and *you* used to express respectively. Like Hindi pronouns, Old English and Middle English used to make the distinctions between honorific (*ye*, *you*) and non-honorific (*thou*, *thee*), general and specific uses of pronouns. A pronoun of intimacy is observed among friends, family, colleague of same age group and other familiar persons etc. People of higher status use lower pronoun to the people of lower status as to younger children or subordinate. Modern English does not make such distinctions and uses *you* in singular as well as in plural contexts. The pronouns *thou*, *thee* and *you* have been reduced to *you* whereas in Hindi we still have all the three pronouns - *aap*, *tum* and *tu*. It reveals that our society has not yet reached the unidimensional solidarity semantics toward which the present European pronominal usage seems to be moving.

The semantic system of modern English is quite different from that of the Elizabethan English, so much so that we can no longer even follow the shifts which take place in the

personal relationship of Celia and Rosalind in *As You Like It*, indicated by their sensitive switching between *thou* and *you* (Mc Intosh, 1963).

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A CHUNK ALIGNMENT MODEL FOR STATISTICAL  
MACHINE TRANSLATION ON ENGLISH-NEPALI  
PARALLEL CORPUS

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The alignment model first performs tagging by using the TnT tagger and then does chunking of the both tagged sentences using the grammatical rules of bracketing the chunks. And finally it gives the alignment between the source chunks and target chunks using the statistical information gathered from bilingual sentence aligned corpus.

## 1 Introduction

Chunk alignment is the process of mapping the chunk correspondence between the source language text and the target language text which will further help on the other application of the NLP tasks including the Machine Translation. The alignment model consists of three steps: Tagging, Chunking and Alignment. Tagging of the test corpus is done by the famous TnT tagger and the chunking is done by using the grammatical rules of bracketing the chunks. And finally alignment is done between the source and target sentences. The IBM model-1 has been used for the alignment algorithm in which the total alignment probability only depends on the lexicon probability for the given sentence pair. The knowledge-base for statistical information in the alignment is generated by training the bilingual sentence aligned corpus using Expectation Maximization (EM) algorithm. Our alignment model relies on the information from tagging and chunking process of the given sentence pair. Hence the model accuracy not only depends on the alignment algorithm and the training corpus but also on the former two models tagger and the chunker. It has been observed that the

training corpus having the large quantity of high quality bilingual data and the sufficient chunking rules for bracketing the chunks of the given sentence pair will enhance the accuracy of the model.

### 1.1 Statistical machine translation

Statistical Machine Translation is an approach to the whole translation problem that is based on finding the most probable translation of a sentence, using data gathered from a bilingual corpus (Jurafsky and Martin 2006). The goal is the translation of a text given in some source language into a target language. We are given a source ('English') sentence  $e_1^m = e_1 \dots e_i \dots e_m$  which is to be translated into a target ('Nepali') sentence  $n_1^n = n_1 \dots n_j \dots n_n$ . Among all possible target sentences, we will choose the sentence with the highest probability:

$$\hat{n}_1^n = \arg \max_{n_1^n} \{P(n_1^n | e_1^m)\}$$

The argmax operation denotes the search problem, i.e. the generation of the output sentence in the target language.

In probabilistic model, the best target language (Nepali) sentence  $N = n_1^n = n_1 \dots n_j \dots n_n$  is the one whose probability

$P(N|E)$  is the highest, where  $E = e_1^m = e_1 \dots e_i \dots e_m$  is the source language (English) sentence. Where  $e_i$  is the  $i^{\text{th}}$  chunk of English sentence and  $n_j$  is the  $j^{\text{th}}$  chunk of Nepali sentence and  $m$  and  $n$  are the length of English and Nepali sentence respectively. The length is measured in terms of number of chunks present in a sentence. This can be expressed by the application of Bayes' rule:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Best-translation } \hat{N} &= \arg \max_N P(N | E) \\
 &= \arg \max_N \frac{P(E | N) * P(N)}{P(E)} \\
 &= \arg \max_N P(E | N) * P(N)
 \end{aligned}$$

This rule says we should consider all possible target language (Nepali) sentences  $N$  and choose the one that maximizes the product  $P(E | N) * P(N)$ .

We can ignore the denominator  $P(E)$  inside the  $\arg \max$  operation since we are choosing the best Nepali sentence for a fixed English sentence  $E$ , and hence  $P(E)$  is a constant.

The factor  $P(N)$  is the Language Model for Nepali language; it says how probable a given sentence is in Nepali.  $P(E|N)$  is the Translation Model; it says how probable an English sentence is as a translation, given a Nepali sentence.

## 1.2 Chunk alignment

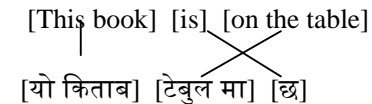
Chunk alignment can be viewed as an extended idea of word alignment, the process of mapping the chunk correspondence between the source language text and the target language text. Chunk is a group of related words which forms the meaningful constituent in sentence. It is a grammatical unit of a sentence.

According to Abney (1991), a typical chunk consists of a single content word surrounded by a constellation of function words. And Bharati et al. (n.d.) define the chunk as- "A minimal (non recursive) phrase (partial structure) consisting of correlated, inseparable words/entities, such that the intra chunk dependencies are not distorted".

Before aligning the chunks in the bitext, the first step is to divide the sentence in to the smaller units called chunks. The process is known as chunking. Chunking is sometimes called

shallow parsing which involves dividing the sentences in to non-overlapping elements on the basis of very superficial analysis. It includes discovering the main constituents of the sentence (NCH, VCH, ADJCH).

Example:



Detection of corresponding chunks between two sentences that are translations of each other is usually an intermediate step of SMT but also has been shown useful for other applications of bilingual lexicons (phrase level dictionary), and projection of resources and cross language information retrieval. In addition it is also used to solve the computational linguistics tasks such as disambiguation problems.

## 2 Problem definition

A key issue in modeling the sentence translation probability  $P(E|N)$  is the question of how we define the correspondence between the words of Nepali sentence and the words of English sentence. The idea here is extended to the chunk level. Chunk alignment lies between word alignment and sentence alignment. When a person speed-reads through a text, he or she looks for key phrases rather than fully parse the sentence and the stress falls either in the beginning of the chunk or at the end of the chunk. And one of the psycholinguistic evidence is; while the human translator translates the sentence from one language to other he/she pick the chunk of a source sentence at a time in his/her mind and translate it to the target language. And another thing of bracketing the sentence at the chunk level reduces the length of the sentence and hence reduces the complexity of the alignment. Hence the motivation is towards the chunk level alignment.

Formally, the following definition of alignment at chunk level is used:

We are given an English (source language) sentence  $E = e_1^m = e_1 \dots e_i \dots e_m$  and a Nepali (target language) sentence  $N = n_1^n = n_1 \dots n_j \dots n_n$  that have to be aligned. We define an alignment between the two sentences as a subset of the Cartesian product of the chunk position; that is, an alignment  $A$  is defined as:

$$A \subseteq \{ (i, j) : i = 1 \dots m; j = 1 \dots n \}$$

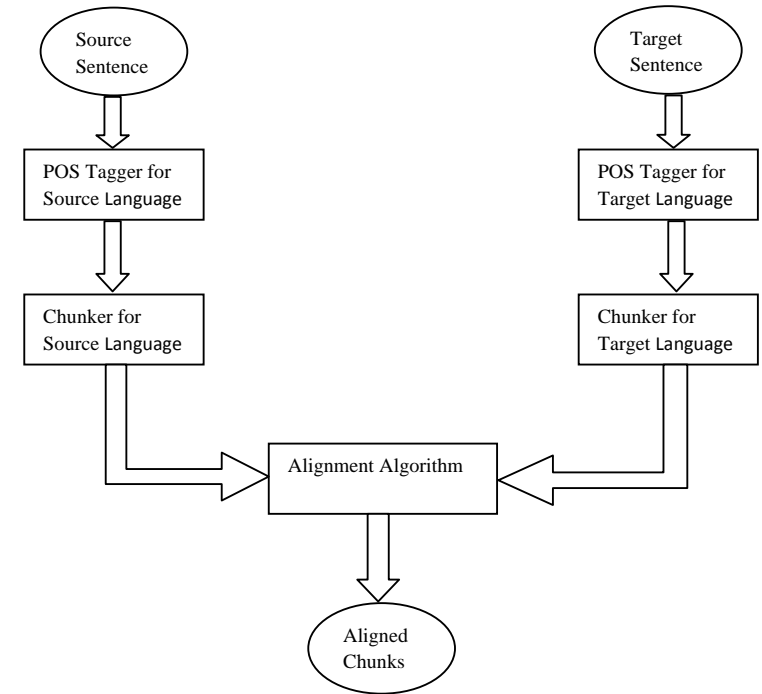
The alignment mapping consists of associations  $i \rightarrow j$ , which assigns a chunk  $e_i$  in position  $i$  to a chunk  $n_j$  in position  $j = a_i$ .

For a given sentence pair there is a large number of alignment, but the problem is to find out the best alignment:

$$\hat{a}_1^m = \arg \max_{a_1^m} P(e_1^m, a_1^m | n_1^n)$$

The alignment  $\hat{a}_1^m$  is also called the Viterbi Alignment of the sentence pair  $(e_1^m, n_1^n)$ . We propose to measure the quality of the alignment model using the quality of the Viterbi Alignment compared to a manually produced reference alignment.

### 3 Specification of the model



#### 3.1 Description of the model

The total work is mainly divided into the series of steps of tagging, chunking and alignment of the chunk annotated sentence pair. The model first takes a sentence pair on both languages and feeds into the tagger used by the model. Here TnT tagger (Thorsten n.d.) is used as a POS tagger for providing the part-of-speech category to the every words of the sentence. The chunker will then used for bracketing the words of a sentence and provide them a chunk category based on the chunk rules. The chunk rules are the regular

expressions in which, the symbols are POS tags of the words associated with the words of the sentence. The chunker here used is thus a regular expression based chunker. The aligner will then align the chunks of both sentences based on the knowledge gathered from the training of the bilingual corpus and the different heuristics of the linguistics.

#### 4 Alignment in SMT

Among the different alignment between the chunks of the given sentence pair, the best alignment will be obtained. The word translation probability table is found from running the training corpus by EM algorithm.

##### 4.1 Alignment algorithm

IBM model-1 is used to formulize the parameter of the model (Brown et al 1990).

$$\begin{aligned}
 \hat{a} &= \arg \max_a P(a | e, n) \\
 &= \arg \max_a P(a, e | n) \\
 &= \arg \max_a P(a | n) * P(e | a, n) \\
 &= \arg \max_a \frac{1}{n^m} * \prod_{j=1}^m P(e_j | n_{a_j}) \\
 &= \arg \max_{a_j} P(e_j | n_{a_j}), \quad 1 \leq j \leq m
 \end{aligned}$$

The advantage of IBM Model-1 is it does not need to iterate over all alignments. It is easy to figure out what the best alignment is for a pair of sentences (the one with the highest  $P(a | e, n)$  or  $P(a, e | n)$ ). This can be done without iterating over all alignments.

The lexicon probability (here in our model chunk translation probability) can be calculated in terms of lower level word translation probability.

$$P(e_c | n_c) = \arg \max_a \prod_{p=1}^K t(e'_p | n'_{a_p})$$

Where, K is the length of the English chunk in terms of number of words.

The word translation table is generated from the training of bilingual corpus by EM algorithm.

The alignment algorithm described above can be summarized as:

Let  $e = e_{c_1} \dots e_{c_i} \dots e_{c_m}$  and  $n = n_{c_1} \dots n_{c_j} \dots n_{c_n}$ , where  $e_{c_i}$  is

English Chunk and  $n_{c_j}$  is Nepali chunk and assume,

$$\begin{aligned}
 e_{c_i} &= e_{w_1} \dots e_{w_p} \dots e_{w_K}, \\
 n_{c_j} &= n_{w_1} \dots n_{w_q} \dots n_{w_l}
 \end{aligned}$$

For each English chunk  $e_{c_i}$  of English sentence

For each Nepali chunk  $n_{c_j}$  of Nepali sentence

For each word  $e_{w_p}$  in English Chunk

For each word  $n_{w_q}$  in Nepali chunk

Find the most probable word pair with greatest probability  $t(e_{w_p} | n_{w_q})$

End For

End For

Find the most probable chunk pair with highest probability

$$P(e_{c_i} | n_{c_j}) = \prod_{p=1}^k t(e_{w_p} | n_{w_q})$$

End For

End For

### 5 Testing and analysis

The result is evaluated in terms of alignment precision and recall, as defined in the following:

$$\text{Alignment Precision} = \frac{\# \text{chunks correctly aligned}}{\# \text{chunks aligned}}$$

$$\text{Alignment Recall} = \frac{\# \text{chunks correctly aligned}}{\# \text{chunks should be aligned}}$$

*Precision* is the number of correct results divided by the number of all returned results and *Recall* is the number of correct results divided by the number of results that should have been returned. The  $F_1$  score can be interpreted as a weighted average of the precision and recall, where an  $F_1$  score reaches its best value at 1 and worst score at 0.

The F-measure (**F<sub>1</sub> score**) is the harmonic mean of precision and recall:

$$F - \text{measure} = \frac{2 \times \text{recall} \times \text{precision}}{\text{recall} + \text{precision}}$$

$$AER = 1 - F - \text{measure}$$

We have examined our implementation over a bilingual corpus containing 20 sentences. The result came to the following conclusion.

Precision= 75%

Recall= 80%

F-score = 77.4 %

AER=22.6%

The Precision rate gives the alignment accuracy when it is compared to the total alignment given by the model for the particular sentence where the Recall rate gives the accuracy of the alignment when it is compared to the actual alignment given by the human annotator. Here in our alignment model the Recall rate has been found greater than the Precision rate. i.e The model gives the better alignment accuracy against the human annotated alignment than the total alignment given by the model. The Alignment Error Rate (AER) is found to be 22.6%.

### 6 Conclusion

The alignment model first performs tagging by using the TnT tagger and then does chunking of the both tagged sentences using the grammatical rules of bracketing the chunks. And finally it gives the alignment between the source chunks and target chunks using the statistical information gathered from bilingual sentence aligned corpus. Our alignment model does rely on the information from tagging and chunking process of the given sentence pair. Hence the model accuracy not only depends on the alignment algorithm and the training corpus but also depends on the former two models tagger and the chunker. It has been observed that the model accuracy seems high for the sentences defined on the training corpus and the accuracy has been decreased for the sentences which are unknown to training corpus. So to obtain the better accuracy



of the model it is necessary to define training corpus having the large quantity of high quality bilingual data and the sufficient chunking rules for bracketing the chunks of the given sentence pair.

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## CASE MARKING IN TAPLEJUNGE LIMBU

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This paper tries to describe the case marking system in Taplejung Limbu, a dialect of the Limbu language. This study investigates some case markers with regard to different case roles of noun (nominal) in this language.

### 1 Introduction

The Limbu people designate themselves by the name Yakthumba and their language by the name Yakthungpan or Yakthumba pan. This language belongs to Kirati branch of Tibeto-Burman sub-group of the Sino-Tibetan language family. The origin of the Limbu language is in the eastern parts of Nepal, especially Panthar, Taplejung, Terhathum, Dhankuta, Sankhuwasabha, Illam, Jhapa and Sunsari districts. The mother tongue speakers of Limbu are about 3, 33,633 (CBS Report of Nepal, 2001).

Taplejung dialect is a variety of the Limbu language (i.e. Taplejung including Tamorkhole, Yangrupe and Maiwakhole), other dialects are Phedappe, Pachtare and Chhathare (Weidert and Subba, 1985; Van Driem, 1987 and Chemjong, 2002). But, the five dialects of the Limbu language are Yangwarake/ Yangrupe, Tammarkhole, Panthare, Chathare, Phedappe (Mabo, 2008). Mabo (2008) writes that Taplejung includes the Yangwarake/Yangruppe and Tammarkhole. So this study is concerned with Tammarkhole or Mewakhole Taplejung dialect of the Limbu language.

The majority of speakers of this dialect reside in the Tamor valley and Mewakhola area of Taplejung district in the Eastern Nepal.

### 2 Case marking

Regarding the case marking, some studies have been carried out in Limbu. Weidert and Subba (1985) have shown five cases such as ergative, absolutive, vocative, comitative and locative in Limbu. Van Driem (1987) has described thirteen types of cases such as absolutive, ergative, instrumental, genitive, vocative, locative, comitative, meditative, elative, allative, intrative, comparative, the loan *-la.gi* and the genitive infinitive in Phedappe Limbu. Tumbahang (2007) has given twelve types of cases such as absolutive, ergative, instrumental, genitive, vocative, locative, comitative, meditative, ablative, allative, directive and comparative in Chhathare Limbu. Limbu (2007) has described nine types of cases such as absolutive, ergative, instrumental, genitive, comitative, locative, ablative, dative and vocative in Panthare Limbu. But, the case system of Taplejung Limbu has not been studied yet.

#### 2.1 Ergative

It takes ergative case when the NP is subject of the transitive verb in the past tense. There are two ergative markers such as <-re> in (1a) and <-le> in (b). But both markers can be used to denote the same ergative case.

- (1) a. mohən-re sapla-ø ni-ru  
Mohan-ERG book-ABS read-PT  
'Mohan read a book.'
- b. ram-re/le tək-ø cə-o  
Ram-ERG rice-ABS eat-PT  
'Ram ate rice.'

2.2 Absolutive<sup>1</sup>

There is not found absolutive case marker. The subject of the intransitive verb and object of the transitive verb are not marked.

- (2) a. k<sup>h</sup>une-φ keŋ-e  
 he-ABS fall-PST  
 'He fell down.'
- b. mənə-φ- n se  
 man- ABS- DEF die.PT  
 'The man died.' [Definite: The man died but not others.]
- c. mənə-φ se  
 man-ABS die.PT  
 'A man died.' [Indefinite: Any man died.]

In (2a), there is absolutive case but not absolutive case marker. In (2b), <-n> is not absolutive case marker but the marker of 'definiteness'.

## 2.3 Locative

The suffix <-mu> occurs as a locative marker which denotes the spatial meaning.

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<sup>1</sup> In spite of the gloss 'ABS' in Van Driem's grammar of Limbu, there is no absolutive case marker in Kirati languages. The Limbu suffix <-in> is a marker of definiteness (Ebert, 1994: footnote-6). My study also shows that there is definite marker but not the absolutive case marker in Taplejung Limbu.

- (3) a. him-mu a-mma wa?  
 home- LOC PNM mother be-NPT  
 'My mother is at home.'
- b. bəzar-e-mu jərik mana-ha me-wa-je  
 market- LOC many man-PL PL-be-PT  
 'There were many people in the market.'

## 2.4 Genitive (possessive)

Two suffixes <-re> and <-le> are used to employ the genitive case in Limbu.

- (4) a. ram-re kump<sup>h</sup>u-n tə-e  
 Ram-GEN brother- DEF come-PT  
 'Ram's brother came.'
- b. ram-le ku-him maŋ<sup>h</sup>a wa  
 Ram-GEN DEF-house far be.NPT  
 'Ram's house is far.'

## 2.5 Comitative

The suffix <-nu> (meaning 'with' is used to mark comitative case.

- (5) səmaz-nu təŋ-ma-aŋ juŋ-ma po-ŋ  
 society- COM adjust-INF live-INF be-NPT  
 'We should adjust with the society.'

## 2.6 Instrumental

Two suffixes <-le> and <-lle> are the instrumental case markers in Limbu.

- (6) a. ram-le cəmca-le tək co cə-wa  
 Ram-ERG spoon-INST rice eat-NPT  
 'Ram ate rice with the spoon.'

- b. cukwa-hukki-lle tək cə-e  
 right hand-INST rice eat-IMP  
 'Eat rice with the right hand.'

### 2.7 Mediative

The suffix <-lam> is used to denote the meditative sense (i.e. to achieve something by doing this) in Limbu.

- (7) iŋga kanc<sup>h</sup>a-le huk-lam saman p<sup>h</sup>ett<sup>h</sup>-uŋ  
 1SG brother-GEN hand-MED luggage bring-PT  
 'I brought the luggage from the youngest brother's hand.'

In (7), the subject gets something (i.e. bag or luggage) after the work done by others' hand.

### 2.8 Ablative

Two suffixes <-mu> and <-munu> are used to denote the ablative case in Limbu.

- (8) a. aŋga a-him-mu je-aŋ  
 1SG PNM-house-ABL come -PT  
 'I came from my house.'
- b. aŋga<sup>?</sup> nalbo gabisə-munu p<sup>h</sup>er-aŋ  
 1SG Nalbo VDC-ABL come-PT  
 'I came from Nalbo VDC.'
- c. siŋbuŋe-munu p<sup>h</sup>uŋ mut<sup>h</sup>e  
 tree -ABL flower fall-PT  
 'The flower fell down from the tree.'

In (8a-b), there is ablative case marker <-mu> but in (8c), there is ablative case marker <-munu>.

### 2.9 Comparative

The suffix <-nulle> is a comparative case marker since it is a composite of the comitative suffix <-nu> and genitive suffix <-le>.

- (9) a. k<sup>h</sup>une<sup>?</sup> aŋga-nulle-aŋ keleba co-k  
 3SG 1SG COMR-PRT clever be-NPT  
 'He is clever than I am.'
- b. krisnə kusik/hekke iŋga pim-ma me-suk-nan  
 3SG COMR 1SG jump-INF NEG-can-NPT  
 'I can't jump as much as Krishna does.'

The suffixes <-nulle> in (9a) and <-kusik/-hekke> in (9b) employ the comparative case.

### 2.10 Vocative

The suffix <-e> marks vocative case in Limbu.

- (10) a. ansuwa-e etna p<sup>h</sup>er-e  
 brother (younger)-VOC here come-IMP  
 'Brother (younger)! Come here.'
- b. anne-e him-mu pe  
 elder sister-VOC home-LOC go-IMP  
 'Sister (elder)! Go to home.'

### 3 Conclusion

In Taplejung Limbu ten types of cases such as <re/le>, <nu>, <lam> etc. are found in this language. Even if Limbu has absolute case; there is not absolute case marker. Same case markers can have different case roles.

## Abbreviations

1SG	first person singular
2SG	second person singular
3 SG	third person singular
ABS	absolutive
ABL	ablative
COM	comitative
COMR	comparative
DEF	definite
ERG	ergative
GEN	genitive(possesive)
INST	instrumental
INF	infinitive
IMP	Imperative
LOC	locative
NEG	negation
NPT	non-past
MED	mediative
PRN	pronominal
PT	past
PNM	pronominal
PRT	particle
VDC	Village Development Committee
VOC	vocative

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## RELATIVIZATION IN BHOJPURI

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Though Ojha (1915), Shukla (1981), Tripathi (1987), Awadhut (1994), and Sharma & Ashka (2007) have written Bhojpuri Grammars and shed light on the relative clauses; they all have described the phenomenon either traditionally or structurally. This paper will try to discuss the morphosyntax of relativization in Bhojpuri with Functional-Typological perspective.

## 1 Introduction

Ojha (1915), Shukla (1981), Tripathi (1987), Awadhut (1994), and Sharma & Ashka (2007) have written Bhojpuri Grammars and shed light on the relative clauses. Shukla and Tripathi have discussed relative clauses in Bhojpuri but structurally and the others look exactly traditional. Thus relativization in Bhojpuri has not yet been studied with a perspective of Functional-Typology. This paper will try to discuss the morphosyntax of relativization in Bhojpuri with this new perspective. It will follow the following three parameters (Payne, 1997):

- (i) The position of the relative clause vis-à-vis its head;
- (ii) The mode of expression of the relativized noun phrase, and;
- (iii) The very grammatical relations that can be relativized: Givón (1990/2001).

The paper is organized into four sections. Section 2 presents the general phenomena of relativization in Bhojpuri. In the third section, the relative clauses are analyzed from the typological perception. The fourth, and the last, section summarizes the findings of the paper.

## 2 The Phenomena

- (1) a. k<sup>h</sup>ʌtʃɑ pʌr bəi<sup>h</sup>-ʌl ɑdmi  
cot LOC sit-PP man  
'The man who is sitting on the cot'
- b. mʌŋʌru ke kin-ʌl fɪʌsua  
Mangaru GEN buy-PP sickle  
'The sickle that Mangaru bought'
- c. [jʌon fɪʌsua mʌŋʌru kin-ʌk<sup>h</sup>] u fɪʌsua  
which sickle Mangaru buy-PT that sickle  
  
tej ba  
sharp be-NPT  
'The sickle that Mangaru bought is sharp.'
- d. [jekʌr kes ujjʌr bɑ] u ɑdmi fɪʌmʌr baba  
whose hair white be-NPT that man my grand-father  
hʌʌʌn  
be-NPT.3.H  
'The man whose hair is white is my grand-father.'

The clauses in (1a) and (1b) are considered non-finite participial relative clauses as the verb in each clause is inflected with participial marker suffix *-ʌl*. They either restrict or modify the head noun. But the clauses in brackets in (1c) and (1d) are initiated by correlative relative clauses like *jʌon* and *jekʌr*, so, they are considered finite relative clauses. As in both the cases the relative clauses modify the head noun, non-finite or participial and finite or correlative relative clauses are nominal modifiers in Bhojpuri.

## 3 Typological parameters of the relative clauses

In this section, the relative clauses are analyzed in terms of the typological parameters (Payne, 1997):

- i. The position of the relative clause vis-à-vis its head;
- ii. The mode of expression of the relativized NP, and;
- iii. The very grammatical relations that can be relativized.

### 3.1 The position of the relative clause vis-à-vis its head

In Bhojpuri, there are three types of relative clauses in terms of their positions with respect to the head noun: externally headed, internally headed and headless.

#### 3.1.1 Externally headed relative clause

In Bhojpuri, there are two types of externally headed relative clauses: pre-nominal and post-nominal relative clauses.

##### 3.1.1.1 Pre-nominal relative clause

The pre-nominal relative clause precedes the head noun:

- (2) [jekra se fiam rasta puc<sup>h</sup>-ni] u fiamar  
 whom DAT I way ask-PT that my  
 sari fia  
 sister-in-law be-NPT.3S.nH  
 'The woman whom I asked the way is my sister-in-law.'

The clause in brackets that is placed before the head noun and 'normally' modifies *u* and restricts the head NP *u fiamar sari* is a correlative relative clause.

##### 3.1.1.2 Post-nominal relative clause

In Bhojpuri, the correlative relative clause can also succeed the head NP:

- (3) u sab ke b<sup>h</sup>awela [je mit<sup>h</sup> bolela]  
 that all GEN like-Pass.NPT.3S.M who sweet speak-  
 NPT.3S.M  
 'All like the man who speaks sweetly.'

The clause in brackets that is placed after the head noun and has 'nominally' modified and restricted the head NP *u* is a correlative relative clause.

#### 3.1.2 Internally headed relative clause

The head noun can also occur within the relative clause in Bhojpuri:

- (4) [jetna log pahile rAh-e] Ab<sup>h</sup>in nAik<sup>h</sup>e  
 as many people before be-PT now be-NPT.NEG  
 'There are not as many people as they were before.'

In this example, the head noun *log* is within the relative clause.

#### 3.1.3 Headless relative clause

We also find some relative clauses in Bhojpuri, which themselves refer to the noun that they modify. They are considered headless Bhojpuri relative clauses, e. g.

- (5) a. [je niyAm toṭ-i] piṭ-ai  
 whoever rule break-3.NPT beat-PASS.3.NPT  
 'Whoever breaks the rule will be beaten.'
- b. [je rAfi-i] rAfi-o  
 whoever live-3.NPT live-3.IMP  
 'Whoever will live here, let him live.'  
 'Whoever will be here, let him be here.'

The clauses *je niyAm toṭi* in (5a) and *je rAfi* in (5b) are the headless relative clauses.

### 3.2 The mode of expression of the relativized NP

The grammatical role of the relativized noun phrase can be different from the role of its head noun within the relative clause. Such role can be identified in a natural language by

using different syntactic strategies. In this sub-section, the main strategies that can be used in Bhojpuri relative clauses will be discussed. They include gap, pronoun retention and the use of different correlative pronouns.

### 3.2.1 The gap strategy

The relativized noun phrase can be left out in a relative clause or we can say, there can be a 'gap' after the correlative pronoun in a relative clause. This strategy helps identify the grammatical relation of the 'left out' noun phrase within the relative clause:

- (6) u ʌoɾʌt [je hakim ke piṭ-lak<sup>h</sup>] pʌkʌɾ-ai  
 that woman who officer-DAT beat-3S.PT.nH catch-  
 3S.PASS.NPT.nH  
 'The woman who beat the officer was caught.'

A gap is created after the relativizer *je* for the relativized NP *u ʌoɾʌt*. The grammatical role of this NP is the subject.

### 3.2.2 The pronoun retention strategy

In this strategy, a pronoun that explicitly references the grammatical relation of the relativized NP by its position, its form, or both is retained within the relative clause:

- (7) u uhe ʌika hʌ [je hʌm okʌɾ cehra kʌhio nʌ bisʌɾ-em]  
 that the same boy is who I his face when NEG forget-NPT  
 'That is the boy whose face I can never forget.'

The relative clause in the brackets has retained the possessive pronoun *okʌɾ*. This pronoun indicates the grammatical relation of the relativized NP. However, this type of strategy is not very frequently used in Bhojpuri.

### 3.2.3 The correlative pronoun strategy

The correlative relativizer *je/ʌon* (human singular), *jekʌni* (human plural) and *je/ʌt<sup>h</sup>i* (non-human) are used in the relative clauses in Bhojpuri:

- (8) a. [ʌone hʌɾʌgʌni] tʌone b<sup>h</sup>ʌnsia  
 who eats in the cooking pot s/he cook  
 'The wo/man who eats in the cooking pot is the cook.'
- b. [je log kal<sup>h</sup> b<sup>h</sup>ēɾ-ʌl rʌh-e] se sʌb<sup>h</sup>ekehu  
 who people yesterday meet-PP be-PT that all  
 b<sup>h</sup>ʌsasastri rʌh-e  
 linguist be-PT  
 'The people who met yesterday were all linguists.'
- c. [je/ʌt<sup>h</sup>i k<sup>h</sup>a-eke mʌn lage] se/tʌt<sup>h</sup>i k<sup>h</sup>aĩ  
 whatever eat-INF wish that eat-IMP.H  
 'Whatever you like, please eat.'

The relativizer *ʌone* in (8a) presents the grammatical role of the relativized NP as the subject (human singular). Similarly in (8b) the relativizer *je* shows the relativized NP is the subject (human plural) and in (8c) *je/ʌt<sup>h</sup>i* is the direct object of the honorific imperative verb *k<sup>h</sup>aĩ*.

## 3.3 Grammatical relations that can be relativized

Most of the grammatical relations such as subject, object (direct and indirect), oblique, possessive, instrument, source and locative can be relativized in Bhojpuri.

### 3.3.1 Subject

The NP in the subject position can be relativized:



- (9) [je kʌr-i] se kʰɑi  
 who do-3S.NPT s/he eat-3S.NPT  
 'The one who works gets benefited.'

The relativized NP is *je* placed in the subject position.

### 3.3.2 Direct object

The NP in the direct object position can be relativized:

- (10) [je-ke hʌm ɑrʌn bujʰ-ʌni] u hʌme birʌn bujʰ-lʌkʰ  
 whom-DAT I my own think-PT s/he me-DAT  
 unfamiliar consider-3S.PT.nH  
 'The one who I believed ignored me.'

The NP *je-ke* is relativized in the direct object position.

### 3.3.3 Indirect object

The NP in the indirect object position can be relativized:

- (11) [je-ke tu hʌsua de-lʌ] o-ke hʌm hʌtʰʌuʀi de-ni  
 whom-DAT you sickle give-2.PT s/he-DAT I hammer  
 give-PT  
 'Who you gave a sickle; I gave him/her a hammer.'

The NP *je-ke* is relativized in the indirect object position.

### 3.3.4 Oblique

The NP in oblique position can be relativized in Bhojpuri:

- (12) [je be-kʌh-ʌle kursi pʌr bʌiʰ-elʌ] se  
 who without-speak-PP chair LOC sit-3S.NPT.nH.M he  
  
 hʌmʀɑ mʌn nɑ pʌre  
 I-POSS like-NEG  
 'I don't like the one who sits on the chair without  
 information.'

The NP *je be-kʌhʌle kursi pʌr* is in the oblique case and is relativized.

### 3.3.5 Possessive

The NP in the possessive position can be relativized in Bhojpuri:

- (13) [jekʌr kes ʌmʌhʌr bɑ] se hʌm-rɑ nimʌn ʌg-eli  
 whose hair long is s/he/it-DAT I-DAT nice feel-  
 3S.NPT.F  
 'I like her whose hair is long.'

The NP *jekʌr kes* is in the possessive position and is relativized.

### 3.3.6 Instrument

The NP in the case of instrument can be relativized:

- (14) [jʌtʰi se kɑʃ-ae] tʌtʰi se kɑʃ  
 what INS cut-OPT that INS cut-IMP.nH  
 'Cut it with whatever it can be.'

The NP *jʌtʰi se* is relativized in the position of instrument.

### 3.3.7 Source

The NP in the case of source can be relativized:

- (15) [jʌhʌ se ɑ-il] oʌhʌẽ jɑ-i  
 where from come-3.PT.nH there go-3.NPT.OPT.nH  
 'Where it came from will go there.'

The NP *jʌhʌ se* is in in the case of source and is relativized.

### 3.3.8 Locative

The NP in the locative case can be relativized in Bhojpuri.

- (16) [jʌfī cɑfī] tafī rafī  
 where will there way  
 'Where there is will, there is a way.'

The NP *jʌfī cɑfī* is in the locative case and is relativized.

#### 4 Summary

The analysis of the process of relativization in Bhojpuri sheds light on a number of features of typological interests. There are two types of relative clauses presented in section 2: non-finite (participialized) like *k<sup>h</sup>ʌtʃa pʌr bəit<sup>h</sup>-ʌl admi* and finite (correlative) like *jʌon fīʌsua mʌŋʌru kin-lʌk<sup>h</sup>*, although, they function in the same way as a nominal modifier of the head NP. The relativization in Bhojpuri has been analyzed in section 3 with relation to its three typological parameters: its position with respect to its head NP i. e. *the position of the relative clause vis-à-vis its head; the mode of expression of the relativized NP and the very grammatical relations that can be relativized*. The paper also reveals position of the relative clauses: pre-nominal [*jekra se fīʌm rasta puc<sup>h</sup>-ni*] *u fīʌmʌr sari fīʌ*, post-nominal *u sʌb ke b<sup>h</sup>awela [je mi<sup>h</sup> bolela]*, internally headed [*jetna log pʌhile rʌh-e*] *ʌb<sup>h</sup>in nʌik<sup>h</sup>e* and headless [*je rʌfī-i*] *rʌfī-o*. It discusses the gap strategy *u ʌorʌt [je hakim ke pi<sup>h</sup>-lʌk<sup>h</sup>] pʌkʌt-ʌil*, pronoun retention strategy *u uhe ʌika hʌ [je hʌm okʌr cehra kʌhio na bisʌr-em]* and use of correlative pronouns [*jʌone fīʌtʃʌgʌni*] *tʌone b<sup>h</sup>ʌnsiʌ*. At last but not the least, the paper sheds light on the grammatical relations such as subject, object (direct & indirect), oblique, possessive, instrument, source and locative that can be relativized in Bhojpuri. The feature of relativization in Bhojpuri is typologically similar to Maithili, Nepali and Hindi. Some relativizers in the three languages are as follows:

Bhojpuri	Maithili	Nepali	Hindi	English
<i>jekra</i>	<i>jekra</i>	<i>jʌs/jo</i>	<i>jin/jis</i>	whom
<i>je</i>	<i>je</i>	<i>jʌs/jo</i>	<i>jo</i>	who
<i>jetna</i>	<i>jatek</i>	<i>jati</i>	<i>jitna</i>	as much
<i>jʌon</i>	<i>jʌon</i>	<i>jo</i>	<i>jo</i>	who
<i>jʌthi</i>	<i>jʌthi</i>	<i>je</i>	<i>jo</i>	which

Abbreviations used:

DAT	Dative	F	Feminine
GEN	Genitive	H	Honorific
IMP	Imperative	INF	Infinitive
INS	Instrument	LOC	Locative
M	Masculine	NEG	Negative
nH	Non-honorific	NP	Noun Phrase
NPT	Non-past	OPT	Optative
PASS	Passive	POSS	Possessive
PP	Past Participle	PT	Past
3	Third Person	3S	Third Person Singular

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## PRONOMINALIZATION IN SANTHALI

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This paper discusses the pronominalization in Santhali, a Austro-Asiatic language of Nepal. Santhali exhibits both subject and object pronominalization. The parts of personal pronouns are not only affixed to the verb but to the objects. The suffixes are based on hierarchy of the participants.

### 1 Background

The Santhali language is a part of the Austro-Asiatic family. The history of Santhals may be traced to Africa from where started the human migration. It was found that humans from Africa started to migrate towards the eastern part of the world or Asia. In this way Santhals were migrated to India, Nepal and Bangladesh. According to the 2001 census, Santhali speakers are 40,260 which is the 0.18% of the total population of Nepal. Santhali has different alternate names like Satar, Santhali, Santhal, Sonthal, Sangtal, Santal, Sentali, Sainti, Har, and Hor. But the native speakers in Nepal prefer to call it 'Santhali language' as they are of Santhal ethnic group. They have also been called as a sub-group speaking a language belonging to the Munda family. Santhals belong to the North Munda of Austro-Asiatic family. The Austro-Asiatic language family comprises two languages in Nepal viz. Santhali of the north Munda group and Khariya of the southern Munda group.

### 2 Pronominalization

Pronominalization is the process of copying full or part of the phonetic form of pronouns with different case roles by the head of a sentence or phrase. It was Brian Hodgson (1856), who made the first mention of verb pronominalization, or pronominalized languages (in Nishi, 1994). Half a century

later, Sten Konow (1909), through the contrastive use of 'pronominalized and non-pronominalized' referred to the non-Tibetan TB languages spoken in the Himalayas.

Konow suggested the influence of a Munda substratum on the development of pronominalization, together with other features, peculiar to Himalayan languages (1909:179). According to Grierson and Konov (1909), pronominalization refers to the use of pronominal suffixes for indicating the person and number of the subject (and sometimes the object as well) among the Himalayan Languages. Pronominalization has to do with the affixation of pronouns-like formatives to the root verb to indicate agreement to the subject and object (Kansakar, 1993)

Santhali is a complex pronominalized language in which the personal pronoun representing the subject and also object can be affixed to the verb. Santhali has very unique type of pronominalization where subject pronoun is not only copied to the verb but also to the object of the sentence. It has person hierarchy system also. Santhali has 12 personal pronouns system having three persons, namely first, second, third and three numbers, i.e. singular, dual and plural.

The following is the list of personal pronouns in Santhali language regarding its person, number, honorificity, inclusive/exclusive, proximal/distal .

Table: 1 Personal pronouns in Santhali

Number Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup>	ijɲ	alaɲ (inclusive) ɭijɲ (exclusive)	abu (inclusive) ale (exclusive)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	am abin(hon.)	aben	ape

3 <sup>rd</sup>	uni (S/he)	akin	aku
	uni (far)	unkin (far)	unku (far)
	h <sub>Λ</sub> ni (very far)	h <sub>Λ</sub> nkin (very far)	h <sub>Λ</sub> nku (very far)
	nui (very near)	nuking (verynear)	nuku (verynear)

### 3 Subject pronominalization

Santhali shows pronominalization process with each personal pronoun in present tense and in past tense. Examples are in given in (1).

(1) a. i<sub>ɲ</sub> daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>mai<sub>ɲ</sub>

i<sub>ɲ</sub> daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>m-a-i<sub>ɲ</sub>  
1SG rice eat-PRS-1SG  
'I eat rice.'

b. <sub>Λ</sub>li<sub>ɲ</sub> ul dz<sub>Λ</sub>ma<sub>li</sub><sub>ɲ</sub>

<sub>Λ</sub>li<sub>ɲ</sub> ul dz<sub>Λ</sub>m-a-li<sub>ɲ</sub>  
1DU.EXCL mango eat-PRS-1DU.EXCL  
'Two of us (excluding the listener) eat mango.'

The pronominalization process with past tense sentences can be seen in (2).

(2) a. i<sub>ɲ</sub> daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>ma<sub>ki</sub><sub>ɲ</sub>

i<sub>ɲ</sub> daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>m-kida-i<sub>ɲ</sub>  
1SG rice eat-PST-1SG  
'I ate rice.'

b. <sub>Λ</sub>li<sub>ɲ</sub> daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>ma<sub>ki</sub><sub>ɲ</sub>

<sub>Λ</sub>li<sub>ɲ</sub> daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>m-kida-li<sub>ɲ</sub>  
1DU.EXCL rice eat-PST-1DU.EXCL  
'Two of us (excluding listener) ate rice.'

c. ala<sub>ɲ</sub> daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>ma<sub>ki</sub><sub>ɲ</sub>

ala<sub>ɲ</sub> daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>m-kida-la<sub>ɲ</sub>  
1DU.INCL rice eat-PST-1DU.INCL  
'Two of us (including listener) ate rice.'

d. abu daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>ma<sub>ki</sub><sub>abu</sub>

abu daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>m-kida-bu  
1PL.INCL rice eat-PST-1PL.INCL  
'We (including listener) ate rice.'

e. ale daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>ma<sub>ki</sub><sub>ale</sub>

ale daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>m-kida-le  
1PL.EXCL rice eat-PST-1PL.EXCL  
'We (excluding listener) ate rice.'

f. am daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>ma<sub>ki</sub><sub>am</sub>

am daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>m-kida-m  
2SG. rice eat-PST-2SG  
'You ate rice.'

g. abin daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>ma<sub>ki</sub><sub>abin</sub>

abin daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>m-kida-bin  
2SG.H rice eat-PST-2SG.H  
'You ate rice.'

h. aben daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>ma<sub>ki</sub><sub>aben</sub>

aben daka dz<sub>Λ</sub>m-kida-ben  
2DU rice eat-PST-2DU  
'Two of you ate rice.'

i. ape daka dΛmkidape  
 ape daka dΛm-kida-pe  
 2PL rice eat-PST-2PL  
 'You ate rice.'

j. uni daka dzΛmkidai  
 uni daka dzΛm-kida-i  
 3SG rice eat-PST]-3SG  
 'S/he ate rice.'

k. unkin daka dzΛmkidakin  
 unkin daka dzΛm-kida-kin  
 3DU rice eat-PST-3DU  
 'Two of them ate rice.'

l. unku daka dzΛmkidaku  
 unku daka dzΛm-kida-ku  
 3PL rice eat-PST-3PL  
 'They ate rice.'

In the examples (2a-1), the subject pronouns *ijn*, *Λijn*, *ijn*, *lijn*, *n*, *lanj*, *bu*, *le*, *m*, *bin*, *ben*, *pe*, *i*, *kin* and *ku* are pronominalized to the verbs.

In Santhali, pronominalization process is optional. Here the subject pronoun may be copied either to the verb or to the object of the sentence. It depends upon the speakers own desire or style. These following examples can clarify it.

(3) a. *ijn* dakaj dzΛmkida  
*ijn* daka-j dzΛm-kida  
 1SG rice-1SG eat-PST  
 'I ate rice.'

b. *Λijn* dakalijn dzΛmkida

*Λijn* daka-lijn dzΛm-kida  
 1DU.EXCL rice-1DU.EXCL eat-PST  
 'Two of us (excluding listener) ate rice.'

c. *abu* dakabu dzΛmkida  
*abu* daka-bu dzΛm-kida  
 1PL.INCL rice-1PL.INCL eat-PST  
 'We (including listener) ate rice.'

d. *am* dakam dzΛmkida  
*am* daka-m dzΛm-kida  
 2SG. rice -2SG eat-PST  
 'You ate rice.'

e. *aben* dakaben dzΛmkida  
*aben* daka-ben dzΛm-kida  
 2DU rice-2DU eat-PST  
 'Two of you ate rice.'

f. *ape* dakape dΛmkida  
*ape* daka-pe dΛm-kida  
 2PL rice-2PL eat-PST  
 'You ate rice.'

g. *uni* dakai dzΛmkida  
*uni* daka-i dzΛm-kida  
 3SG rice -3SG eat-PST  
 'S/he ate rice.'

h. *unkin* dakakin dzΛmkida  
*unkin* daka-kin dzΛm-kida  
 3DU rice-3DU eat-PST  
 'Two of them ate rice.'

- i. unku dakaku dzΛmkida  
 unku daka-ku dzΛm-kida  
 3PL rice-3PL eat-PST  
 ‘They ate rice.’
- j. ij̄n dakaŋ dzΛma  
 ij̄n kaka-ŋ dzΛm-a  
 1SG rice-1SG eat-PRS  
 ‘I eat rice.’

Here, in the above sentences from (3a-j) subject pronouns *ij̄n*, *Λlij̄n*, *alaŋ*, *abu*, *ale*, *am*, *abin*, *aben*, *ape*, *uni*, *unkin*, *unku* are pronominalized to the objects of the sentences whether the sentence is in present tense or in past tense.

#### 4 Object pronominalization

Santhali has a complex pronominalization system because not only its subject but also its object agrees with its verbs. It has another characteristic that is person hierarchy system. e.g.,

- (4) a. uni ij̄n pΛtΛbe imadij̄ja  
 uni ij̄n pΛtΛbe imad-ij̄n-ija  
 3SG 1SG book-3SG.AN give-1SG- PST  
 ‘He gave me a book.’
- b. ij̄n uni pΛtΛb imadij̄ja  
 ij̄n uni pΛtΛb imad-ij̄n-ija  
 1SG 3SG book give-1SG-PST  
 ‘I gave him a book.’
- c. am ij̄n pΛtΛbem imadij̄ja  
 am ij̄n pΛtΛb-em imad-ij̄n-ija  
 2SG 1SGbook-2SG give-1SG-PST

- ‘You gave me a book.’
- d. am uni pΛtΛb imamija  
 am uni pΛtΛb imad-m-ija  
 2SG 3SG book give-2SG-PST  
 ‘You gave him a book.’
- e. uni am pΛtΛbe imamija  
 uni am pΛtΛb-e imad-m-ija  
 3SG 2SG book-3SG.AN give-2SG-PST  
 ‘He gave you a book.’

In examples from (4a-e) the objects *ij̄n*, *em*, *m* are copied to its verb to show its agreement to object. Regarding person hierarchy, we see that if there is first person in subject or in object position it dominates the 2nd and 3rd person and it attached to its verb, if 2nd person is in subject or object position and 3rd person in subject or object position again it dominates 3rd person and it is attached to the verb. Though there is 3rd person in subject position and 1st or 2nd person in object position it is dominated by those 1st or 2nd person and higher pronoun (1st, 2nd) copied to the verb and 3rd person copied to the object of sentence as in examples (2a,c,e).

#### 5 Pronominalization with intransitives verbs

With the intransitive verbs the subject pronoun is copied to either verb or to the complement or adjunct of the sentence. e.g.,

- (5) a. unku gitidzinaku  
 unku gitidz-ina-ku  
 3PL sleep-PST-3PL  
 ‘They slept.’

- b. *ij̄ ŋaʔij̄ tsalauina*  
*ij̄ ŋaʔ-ij̄ tsalau-ina*  
 1SG house-1SG go-PST  
 'I went home.'
- c. *ʌij̄ landakidalij̄*  
*ʌij̄ landa -kida-lij̄*  
 1DU EXCL laugh-PST-1DU EXCL  
 'Two of us (excluding listener) laughed.'
- d. *ape gitidzinape*  
*ape gitidz-ina-pe*  
 2PL sleep-PST-2PL  
 'You slept.'

Here, in the sentences (5a, c, and d) the subject pronouns are copied to the verbs. But in the sentences (5b) it is copied to the complement *ŋaʔ* 'house'.

Sometimes if the subject pronoun is not copied to the verb and the complement or adjunct is absent then the subject itself is reduplicated. e.g.

- (6) a. *ij̄ij̄ landakida*  
*ij̄-ij̄ landa-kida*  
 1SG -1SG laung-PST  
 'I laughed.'
- b. *unkinkin gitidzina*  
*unkin-kin gitidz-ina*  
 3DU-3DU sleep-PST  
 'Two of them slept.'

- c. *alaŋlaŋ landakida*  
*alaŋ-laŋ landa-kida*  
 1DU.INCL- 1DU.INCL laugh-PST  
 'Two of us (including listener) laughed.'
- d. *abenben gitidzina*  
*aben-ben gitiz-ina*  
 2DU-2DU sleep-PST  
 'Two of you slept.'

Here in the sentences (6a-d) the subject pronouns are not copied to the verbs but they themselves are reduplicated.

#### 6 Conclusion

Santhali is rich regarding its pronoun and its pronominalization system. It has varieties of ways for the affixation of pronouns with the verb. Personal pronouns are affixed to its verb whether the sentences are in present tense or in past tense. It has optional affixation system where the pronoun may be copied to its verb or to its object. Its hierarchy system is very wonderful where 1st person dominates the 2nd and 3rd person and 2nd person dominates the 3rd person. But if the 2nd or 3rd person is in subject position and 1st person in object position in ditransitive verb, 2nd or 3rd person copied to the object of the sentence and 1st person pronoun affixed to the verb of that sentence.

#### Abbreviations

1	First person	2	Second person
3	Third person	H	Honorific
SG	Singular	PL	Plural
DU	Dual	PST	Past
INCL	Inclusive	EXCL	Exclusive
AN	Animate	PRE	Present



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## COPULAR VERBS: EVIDENCES FROM THE DURA LANGUAGE

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This paper is based on a preliminary description of form, functions and basic clause patterns of copular verbs in the Dura language spoken mainly in southern Lamjung.

The people who speak this language refer their mother tongue as tandrange b<sup>h</sup>u in southern Lamjung, western Tanahun and eastern part of Kaski. The Dura is classified as the seriously endangered Bodish languages (Driem, 2001:811; Noonan, 2007; Lewis, 2009) spoken in southern Lamjung in west Nepal. There are no recorded and written literature of the language. The literacy activities are lacking. The language is verb final, agglutinative (prefixing and suffixing), and has both head marking and dependent marking morphology. There are no agreement patterns of the number, gender, person the verb in this language.

Crystal (2008:116) has defined the copular verbs as linking verb and whose main function is to relate other elements of clause structure, especially subject and complement. The copular verb has multiple functions to perform in various types of constructions in the different languages of the world. They are of course different in terms of their constructions. The most important of them are the predictions of identification, existence, general or universal truth, prediction of possession and some other uses which are described in the subsequent paragraph. Copular verbs in the Dura language are defined as those forms which can take the directional prefixes, the negative prefix i.e <mo-> <muni-> <ma->, and causative prefix <ha->. The Dura has two types of verbs corresponding to English be. They are <po> for existence and

attribution and <le> for identification. The existential copular verb <po> is also used as equational copular whereas <le> as locational copular verb in this language. However, the absence of copular is very frequent in colloquial discourse. The main objective of this article is to describe and examine the Dura words equivalent to be verbs in English so that the following situation is illustrated respectively.

### 1 Existential copular <po>

There is one existential copular verb in the Dura language, <po>. It serves all existential functions. It is found to be optional in the Dura language in the sense it does not occur in all nominative and attributive clauses.

- (1) mami tato po  
sun hot EXIT.COP.NPT  
'(The) sun is hot.'
- (2) mami tato muni  
sun hot NEG.NPT  
'(The) sun is not hot.'
- (3) mami tato po-una  
sun hot EXIT.COP.PT  
'(The) sun was hot (yesterday).'
- (4) mai tato muni-una.  
sun hot NEG.EXIT.COP.PT  
'(The) sun was not hot (yesterday).'

In the copular clause (1) <po> is the existential copular verb that is used to denote general existential for the people and animal. In the sentence (2) the <muni> is negative marker of the copular <po> in negativization. In the sentence (3) the <-una> is suffixed to the copular verb <po> to mark past tense whereas muni-<una> is the past negative marker of the po-una in the sentence (4).

## 2 Identificational copular verb &lt;le&gt;

There is one identificational copular verb in the Dura language i.e that function to identify the complement of the clauses.

Examples are given in (5-8).

- (5) i kini re le  
I my daughter EXIT.COP.NPT  
'This is my daughter.'
- (6) i kini re ma-pi  
This my daughter NEG-COP. NPT  
'This is not my daughter'
- (7) i kini re po-una  
This my son COP.EXIT.PT  
'This was my son'.
- (8) i kini re muni-una.  
This my son NEG.PT  
'This was not my son.'

In the clause (5) the <le> is the identificational copular verb whereas *ma-pi* is the negative form of the verb <po> in example (6). Similarly, the suffix <-una> is suffixed to the copular verb <po> the sentence (7). The sentence (8) shows the example of negation of the past copular verb <po-una> in the Dura language .

## 3 Possession/ predicate of possession

- (9) gusa-ni duḍa sono po  
Cow -Gen two horn EXIT. COP. NPT  
'A cow has two horns.'
- (10) gusa-ni duḍa sono ma-pi  
cow -Gen two horn NEG.EXIT.COP. NPT  
'A cow has no two horns.'

- (11) nakju-ni čarwoda sepe le  
dog four foot. IDENT. COP. NPT  
'A dog has four feet.'

In examples (9-11), <po> is the copular verb and the case <ni> is genitive that is mostly used to denote possession in the language. Of course dative case <la> is also used if there is a transfer or attribution of the possession but genitive case is commonly used to express possession.

## 4 Attribution

Attribution is generally done with adjectives which function as adjectives which function as intransitive predicates as in (12) but for a slightly different rhetorical effect an adjective can be nominalized and then take the copula as in (13)

- (12) gusa-ni busi c<sup>h</sup>abli po.  
cow -GEN baby red EXIT.COP.NPST  
'The baby cow is red'.
- (13) no mastər le.  
you teacher IDENT.COP.NPAST  
'You are a teacher'

## 5. Multiple existential verbs

In my preliminary analysis of the data, I find the a pattern of multiple existential or locative verb with reference to between them being, if there are only two as in the in Idu (Sun 1983: 72) a difference between an animate and inanimate referent. La Polla (2003:33) has remarked that a language may have as many as seven different verbs with distinction between the verbs being of the type animate vs inanimate, abstract vs concrete locational within a container vs location on a plane, and others. With same token, the Dura language has this feature like Tamang and other Tibeto-

Burman languages. Examples (14-23) illustrate the cases in the language.

The following sentences illustrate this clearly.

- (14) *ŋi hamro le*  
I Gurung IDENT.COP.NPT (animate)  
'I am (a) Gurung.'
- (15) *ŋero bro-domo le.*  
we man-Pl IDENT.COP.NPT  
'We are men.'
- (16) *kini kiu damauli le* (Inanimate)  
my house Damauli Ident.Cop.Npt.  
'My house is (in) Damauli.'
- (17) *ŋi ila po.* (Locative/directional)  
I here.-Loc. Exit. Cop.Npt  
'I am here.'
- (18) *i kini dai le bhai mapi.* (Animate)  
this my elder brother Ident. Cop.Npt. younger  
brother. Neg. Exist.Cop.Pt  
'This is my elder brother but not younger brother.'
- (19) *hui-la nakju le* (Animate)  
There-Loc dog. COP.NPT  
'There is a dog'
- (20) *i kiu kat<sup>h</sup>e le* (Animate)  
This house big. Cop. npt  
'This house is big'
- (21) *b<sup>h</sup>roŋ-la gusa po.* (Animate)  
cowshed -Loc cow Exit. COP. Npt  
'A cow is in cowshed'

(22) *b<sup>h</sup>roŋla gusa po -una*  
cowshed -Loc cow EXIT.COP.PT  
'(A) cow was in cowshed.'

(23) *i gumi le.* (Inanimate)  
'This. money' IDENT.COP.NPT  
'It is money.'

## 6 Summary and conclusion

From this analysis of the Dura copular verbs, our finding is that the copular verbs <po> and <le> are equivalent to the English 'be' verb. They have multiple functions like other Tibeto-Burman languages of Nepal. An intensive research is needed for further analysis of the critically endangered language of Nepal.

## Abbreviations

Exit	Existential Copular verb
Iden	Identificational Copular
Npt	Non Past Tense
Pt	Past Tense
Pl	Plural
Neg	Negative
Loc	Locative
Gen	Genitive

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## SOCIOLINGUISTIC PROFILE OF THE GHALE LANGUAGE<sup>1</sup>

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This paper attempts to present a sociolinguistic profile of Ghale language spoken mainly in the Barpak village of Gorkha district of Nepal. More specifically, this paper presents a sketch of language name, genetic affiliation, population, resources, multilingualism, language uses, endangerment, code mixing, attitude and appreciate inquiry.

### 1 Language name

The language which is called *lilə ke* 'Ghale language' by its native speakers and *ghəle bhasa* 'Ghale language' by other people. Both language names- autoglotonym *lilə ke* and hetroglotonym *ghəle bhasa* are derived from same ethnic-group. Sometimes, the language is named as Ghale Gurung because the language is used by both Ghale and Gurung.

### 2 Genetic affiliation

Genetically, the Ghale language belongs to the Tibeto-Burman family of Sino-Tibetan phylum. Ethnologue (2009) reports that this language is related with the Tamangic sub-branch of Tibetic subgroup in Tibeto-Kanauri branch within the Himalayish group of Tibeto-Burman family.

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<sup>1</sup> This is the revised version of the paper presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Linguistic Society of Nepal held at Kathmandu, 26-27 November, 2009.

### 3 Population

According to the Census of 2001 the total mother tongue speakers of the language is 1649. Although the Census does not include any population in Barpak village, the Barpaki Society has estimated the ethnic population to be more than 9,000 in Barpak. In my field study, the people reported that the number of total population of Ghale in Barpak village is around 5700.

### 4 Setting of the Barpak village

There are four castes in Barpak village viz. Ghale, Gurung, Dalit (traditionally so called Kami and Damai). Ghale and Gurung people speak the language commonly as mother tongue and other castes have learned Nepali as first language and Ghale as the second language. Therefore, the Ghale language in this locality is only in contact with Nepali speaking areas, where the other languages in neighboring villages are Gurung and Tamang.

### 5 The dialects

There are three geographical variations of the language. The varieties spoken in Mandre, Barpak, and Pokhari villages are more or less similar. And the varieties spoken in Laprak, Uhiya, Sirdibas, Lapu, Isinan, Gumda, Singla, Yaye and Sorapani villages are a little bit different. Similarly, the varieties spoken in Lamjung, Swara and Swarpani are more different from each other. The people in Barpak find themselves difficult to understand the varieties. Most of the speakers suggest that the variety spoken in Barpak, Laprak and Gumda might be taken as a standard variety.

### 6 Language resources

Only some oral literature like religious literature is available in the Ghale language. Yadava and Shakya (2008) has also shown the lack of language resources on Ghale. It is reported

that the language is not used in newspapers, magazines, journals, learning materials, poems, plays, fictions (short story/novel), folk songs (CD/Cassette), tele-films, and films.

## 7 Multilingualism

### 7.1 The languages spoken in the Barpak village

The Ghale language is the first language and Nepali the second language of all the Ghale people who live in Barpak. Most of the speakers can't read and write in the Ghale language because of the lack of script. The Ghale people learn Nepali language at home, in village and in school. They learn English in school.

### 7.2 Familiar scripts

Devanagari is the most familiar script for most of the speakers in Ghale communities but educated people are also familiar with Roman script as well. However, there are some speakers who do not know about the script.

### 7.2 Languages they can translate

Nepali is one and only language from which or to which 95%, in my sample, Ghale speakers can translate into or from other languages. There are 5% speakers who know English.

## 8 Domains of language use

Both Ghale and Nepali languages are often used in daily life communication. The Ghale people use the Nepali language to communicate with speakers of other languages in Nepalese context. Nepali is also used when a group of friends belonging to different language groups visit them.

Table 1: Language used most frequently (in %)

	Ghale	Nepali	Ghale and Nepali
Counting	70	30	0
Singing	0	100	0
Joking	50	5	45
Bargaining/Marketing	55	45	5
Story telling	50	15	35
Discussing/debate	45	10	45
Praying	30	45	25
Talking to household helpers	35	10	55
Abusing	90	5	5

Table 1 shows the use of language for different purposes. The Ghale language is mostly used in counting, bargaining and abusing, where as Nepali is used in singing, and praying. Both Ghale and Nepali are used in joking, story telling and talking to household helpers.

Table 2: The domains of language use

Domains	Ghale	Nepali	Ghale & Nepali
Telling stories to children	10	0	90
Singing at home	0	100	0
Learning/ nursery rhymes	0	100	0
Talking to playmates	5	0	95
Talking to a household helper	5	0	95
In marriage invitations	100	0	0
Writing minutes	0	100	0
In dreaming	90	0	10
In family gathering	100	0	0
In public meeting	0	100	0

Table 2 shows that the Ghale language is used in marriage invitations. Ghale and Nepali are mostly used in telling stories to children, talking to playmates, talking to household helpers. On the other hand, Nepali is used mainly in four domains:

singing at home, learning nursery rhymes, writing minutes in community meetings and in public meetings.

In this study, while writing letters or telephoning to grandfather, grandmother, father and mother the Ghale language is used by all respondents. But while writing letters or telephoning to spouse only 20% people use the Ghale language and 80% use both Ghale and Nepali languages.

Table 3: Languages preferred as the medium of instruction

	Primary	L. secondary	Secondary	Higher
Ghale	25	5	0	15
Nepali	10	15	10	0
Ghale, Nepali	5	5	0	0
Ghale, Nepali, English	10	10	10	10
Nepali, English	15	25	30	25
Don't know	35	40	50	50

Table 3 shows that the Ghale language is preferred for the primary level and for higher education level. There are many speakers who do not know about the language plan for this kind of education system.

### 9 Language endangerment

Ghale is reported as an endangered language. Though the people of Ghale community are highly motivated and positive to preserve and promote their language, no effort has been made yet by government and indigenous institutions. The state of language endangerment is shown in figure 1.

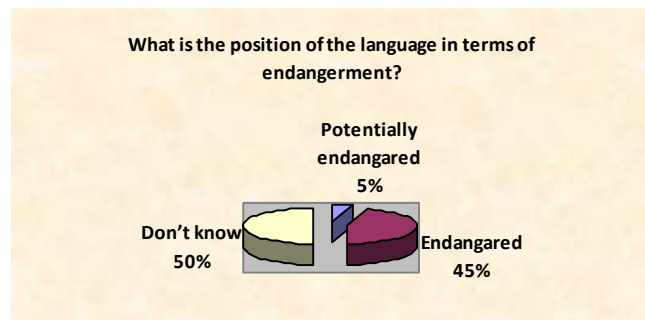


Figure 1: The state of language endangerment

### 10 Code mixing

Most of the speakers (80% in this sample), generally switch to other languages while speaking their language, while 20% answered that they do not switch into another languages. This is because the appropriate words and phrases are easily available for objects and ideas in other languages. Sometimes it is easy to talk on certain topics in other languages. Some people think that mixing words from other languages will not only spoil the beauty and purity of their language but also make the Ghale language more intelligible.

### 11 Language attitude

The Ghale people believed the Ghale language is precise, sweet, prestigious, pure, ancient and secret against other languages. They think the Ghale language may not be considered as a useful against other languages in jobs, social mobility, and literature, medium of instruction and science and technology. Some speakers (10%) agreed that the Ghale language may be useful only for business. Sometimes, some (30%) speakers believed embarrassed when they speak their mother tongue in the presence of the speaker of the dominant language.

Very few people (20%) have faced the problem because of being the native speaker of the Ghale language. Specially, Gurung people who live in Barpak village have responded that nobody can understand the language they speak when they are in contact with Gurung people from Syangja, Pokhara, Lamjung etc. Along with this, sometimes they feel as if they have less proficiency in Nepali learning. As a result, they have less chance to get job in the future. However, most of the speakers (80%) have responded that they do not have any problem because of being the Ghale native speakers.

There are 75% speakers who are sure when the children of their village grow up and speak the Ghale language.



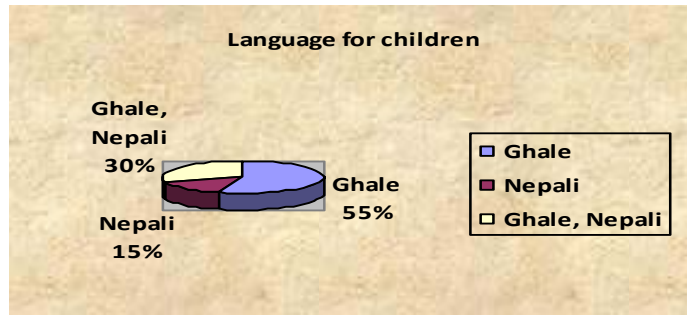


Figure 2: What language should your children speak first?

Figure 2 shows that half of the people want their children to learn the Ghale language first. Similarly, there are some (30%) speakers who want to teach both Ghale and Nepali languages to their children. Finally, only 15% respondents want to teach only Nepali language to their children.

#### 12 Appreciative enquiry

There are a number of reasons that make Ghale people feel proud of their language. Most of the speakers (30%) identified the Ghale language as their own language. Some other (20%) suggest that there are proper names in this language and anyone can find the ancient and historical traces in the language.

The following list presents the dreams of Ghale people:

- Development of the script to standardize Ghale language
- Building learning materials for children and adult speakers
- Teaching activities in school level children (at least primary education in the Ghale language)
- Study of history and tone of the language

- Songs and videos development in Ghale language
- Dictionary and grammar development

They believe that the government, linguists and language community should be involved to materialize these dreams. To preserve and promote the Ghale language the community can make school for language teaching, can help the government and can speak the Ghale language. To preserve and promote the Ghale language the Government and non-government organization should help by making textbooks in the Ghale language and can provide financial support to materialize dreams of Ghale people.

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## NON-FINITE ADVERBIAL SUBORDINATION IN CHINTANG

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In Chintang (Sino-Tibetan, Kiranti) both finite and non-finite adverbial clauses are found. In this paper we discuss only non-finite subordinate clauses in terms of their control behaviour, S/A coreferentiality, scope and other morpho-syntactic properties. An interesting feature of Chintang non-finite adverbial clause is their the person and number marking.

### 1 Introduction<sup>1</sup>

Traditionally, non-finite subordinate clauses are defined as subordinate clauses whose verb does not bear any person, number, mood and tense markers.<sup>2</sup> In Chintang this definition does not seem to hold. Even though all non-finite clauses lack tense, and mood, in Chintang we encounter person and number marking in purposive clauses as possessive prefixes. The covert S/A argument of the embedded clause is identical

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<sup>2</sup> Chintang corpus currently includes approximately 600,000 words, and is deposited in the dobes archive. ([www.mpi.nl/dobes](http://www.mpi.nl/dobes))

with the S/A of the superordinate clause. A survey of the Chintang corpus shows that the texts are full of many complex structures which contain a great number of converbal clauses. The purpose of this paper is to describe the converbal clauses of Chintang, which are non-finite adverbial clauses.

### 2 Converbs in Chintang

#### 2.1 The simultaneous converb *-sana*

The simultaneous converb *-sana* 'CVB' is suffixed to a verb stem, and it indicates that the action of the embedded clause takes place simultaneously with the matrix clause event. It combines two different actions expressed by two different verbs but happening at the same time or temporally overlapping. In most of the cases, the simultaneous converb clause precedes the matrix clause. The S or A argument of the converbal clause is always coreferential with that of the main clause. The converb *-sana* appears mostly with motion verbs. However, there are a few examples in the corpus where it is also found with some other types of verbs including stative verbs like *yuy-* 'stay'.

Ebert (1993) describes converbal clauses under the maximally reduced clause group. Like in many other languages, the S/A argument of the embedded clause is always coreferential with the S/A argument of the matrix clause in most if not all of the Kiranti languages (Ebert 2003a, 2003b). The converbal suffix is attached directly to the uninflected verb stems.

Both the embedded and matrix clauses can be intransitive with shared S argument as in (1a) or the matrix verb can be transitive, as in (1b).

- (1) a. rei?-sana = ta yu-i-yakt-i-ŋa = kha abo  
laugh-CVB=FOC stay-PL-IPFV-PL-e=BGR now  
'We were staying, laughing.'

[appa\_katha\_talk.032]

- b. cek-saṅa ca-no  
 speak-CVB eat-NPST  
 ‘S/he eats, speaking.’

In example (2a), both the embedded and matrix clauses are transitive, where the embedded A argument is coreferential with the matrix A. The embedded A can also be coreferential with matrix S argument, as in (2b).

- (2) a. teĩ-saṅa = ta khatt-e khoku  
 beat-CVB=FOC take-PST Khoku  
 ‘They took (him) to Khoku, beating him.’  
 [chintang\_sahid.185]
- b. cuwa tak-saṅa khai?-ya-ṛã  
 water bring-CVB go-1sS-NPST  
 ‘I go there when I go to bring water.’  
 [CLLDCh1R10S09.711]

According to our corpus, more than 80 % of converbal constructions do not contain any overt argument. This means that both the embedded and matrix clauses are constructed with out overt arguments. If there is any overt S/A argument, it belongs to the matrix clause. It is impossible to have an overt S/A argument in the embedded clause. In example (3), the embedded verb cannot assign an ergative case to its argument.

- (3) \*[phak-ṅa ca-saṅa] ti-e  
 pig-ERG eat-CVB come-PST  
 ‘The pig came, eating.’

However, it is possible to have an overt P argument in an embedded clause. Unlike it is the case for S/A arguments, it is not necessary for the P to be identical in the embedded and matrix clauses. The embedded and the matrix clause can have

two different objects, e.g., (4a). However, it is impossible to have a shared P with S, as in (4b).

- (4) a. gol khoṅ-saṅa akka biskut ca-kku-ṅ  
 ball play-CVB 1s biscuit eat-NPST-1sA  
 ‘While playing with a ball, I eat a biscuit.’
- b. \*khaṅ-saṅa thoms-e  
 watch-CVB do.a.shamanic.session-PST  
 ‘Intended: He did a shamanic session while everybody was watching him.’

Bickel (1993) reports that it is common for converbs to be repeated for emphasis in the neighboring language Belhare. This also holds true for Chintang.

- (5) khi-saṅa khi-saṅa riḱt-e  
 quarrel-CVB quarrel-CVB chase-PST  
 ‘He chased, scolding him.’  
 [CLLDCh4R13S05.568]

As in the above examples, a converb generally precedes the main clause. But, in addition to this, a converbal clause can also appear following the main clause. However, the position of the converbal clause does not influence the interpretation or the choice of the controller.

- (6) khim-be? = ta yuṅ-no o chap-saṅa  
 house-LOC=FOC be-NPST EMPH write-CVB  
 ‘He stays at home writing.’  
 [CLLDCh3R01S02.479]

### 2.1.1 Complex converbal construction

It is possible for a converb to form a complex converbal construction in Chintang. In this case, a converb is dependent on another converb. All the simultaneous converbs form an order like V<sub>1</sub>-CVB, V<sub>2</sub>-CVB and V-matrix, where the event marked by V<sub>1</sub>-CBV do not need to happen prior to the V<sub>2</sub>-

CVB. Both actions can happen simultaneously, as in (7). Moreover, bipartite or compound verbs can also form converbial constructions, as in (8).

- (7) *tiŋ-saŋa tiŋ-saŋa khel-a mes-saŋa thapt-u-kho*  
kick-CVB kick-CVB play-N.NTVZ do-CVB  
bring.across-3P-IMP  
'Bring it here by kicking and playing it.' CLS02.0542
- (8) *phan-a = lo yoʔ-ni omba-pak-saŋa khac-ce*  
walk-IMP=FOC DEM.ACROSS-DIR crawl-crawl CVB go-D  
'Please come! Let's go there, crawling.' CLS02.463

### 2.1.2 Scope of Negation

Like in Belhare (Bickel 1993) and in Puma (Schackow et al. in press), the scope of negation can have an effect on the embedded clause in Chintang. In the example (9a), what is negated is not the fact of 'going' but the mode of 'going' even though the negation marker is on the matrix verb 'go'. The same thing is also noticed in (9b), though the matrix verb is negated the effect of negation is not on 'sleeping' but on 'drinking', which is a cause for sleeplessness of the participant.

- (9) a. *phaĩ-saŋa akka khaiʔ-ya-ʔã-niŋ khim*  
walk-CVB 1s go-1sS-NPST-NEG home  
'I don't go home by foot.' (...but by bus)
- b. *arkha hop-saŋa im-ma-ʔã-niŋ*  
local.alcohol drink-CVB sleep-1sS-NPST-NEG  
'I don't get sleepy from drinking alcohol.'

The negation marker on the embedded converbial clause is not attested in Chintang except in the lexicalized verb *mahima* 'be sick' (literally 'not be able to').

- (10) *utti = ta ma-hi-saŋa ti-e*  
then=FOC NEG-be.well-CVB come-PST  
'He came back being sick.'

[appa\_katha\_talk.035]

### 2.1.3 Scope of question

We do not have any clear evidence so far for *sa* 'who' questioning an argument inside the embedded clause. In the example (11a), though the question word precedes the embedded clause, it does not belong to the embedded but to the matrix clause. In example (11b) where the question word questions an element inside the subordinate clause, was rejected by the consultants.

- (11) a. *sa-niŋ haĩ-saŋa a-yuŋ-no*  
who-COM talk-CVB 2-be-NPST  
'Whom did you stay while talking.'
- b. *\*sa-niŋ khon-saŋa i-laŋ od-e*  
who-COM play-CVB 2sPOSS-leg break-PST  
'Intended: Whom did you play with and break your leg.'

But we have many clear evidences where the interrogative pronouns *them* and *aŋ*, unambiguously belong to the embedded clause, as in (12).

- (12) a. *them khem-saŋa a-yuw-a-kha elo*  
what listen-CVB 2-stay-PST-BGR OR  
'What were you listening to and sitting?'  
[CLLDCh4R07S05.1554]
- b. *aŋ num-saŋa a-yuŋ-no*  
what do-CVB 2-stay-NPST  
'What are you doing being here?'

The scope of a question is sometimes ambiguous. *aŋ* in example (13) may question either the mood of going 'by

climbing' or simply fact of 'going'.

- (13) waŋ-saŋa khaʔ-no aŋ  
 climb-CVB go-NPST PTCL  
 'Does he GO by climbing?' or  
 'Does he go (up) by CLIMBING?'

[CLLDCh2R14S03.0732]

#### 2.1.4 Argument sharing

The converbal construction of Chintang involves a strict syntactic constraint on argument sharing. The examples discussed in this section illustrate the following configurations: (1) Two intransitive clauses sharing their S argument: S=S (1a), (8b). (2) Two transitive clause sharing their A argument only: A=A (4a). (3) Two transitive clause sharing both their A and P arguments: A=A, P=P (2a), (8a). (4) Coreference between the A of matrix clause and S of embedded clause: A=S (1b). (5) Coreference between the S of matrix clause and the A of embedded clause: S=A (2b).

Argument sharing between embedded and matrix clauses is obligatory. We have no examples where there is no argument sharing in the converbal constructions. However, not all possible relations are equally common. The systematic study of our corpus constituted by the first 600 converbal constructions in the various annotated sessions shows that the S=S configuration is the most popular one. The study also shows that relatively long chains of converbs describing successive events (more than three events) are not typical of Chintang discourse, and in the corpus, sentence such as (7) is quite rare.

#### 2.2 The purposive clause

The purposive clause is marked by the suffix *-si*, which is glossed as 'PURP' in this paper. Like in other Kiranti languages, the purposive suffix *-si* is typically restricted to

verbs of motion: a person or an animal moves somewhere in order to do something. In the embedded clauses, a *-si* marked constituent functions as the head of the clause which appears in the periphery of another clause. Like in the converbal clauses, the participants of the main clause must have control over the embedded clause as well.

- (14) a. siŋ khop-si khatt-u-ku-ŋ  
 wood search-PURP take-3P-NPST-1sA  
 'I take (him/her) to search wood.'  
 b. kappe hungoi-ʔ im-si lik-no  
 K. DEM-LOC sleep-PURP enter-NPST  
 'Kappe goes there to sleep.'

[CLLDCh3S12R04 211]

In our corpus *-si* very rarely occurs with stative verbs, as e.g. in (15). The same constraint has also been noted for neighboring Belhare (Bickel 2004).

- (15) beuli cop-si yuw-e  
 bride look-PURP be-PST  
 'He sat down there to see the bride.'

Like in the simultaneous converbal clause, there is no overt appearance of an S or A argument in the embedded clause (16a). But it is possible to have e.g. a locative argument and a P argument in an embedded clause, as in (16b).

- (16) a. \*menuwa-ŋa sencak ca-si kuŋs-e  
 cat-ERT mouse eat-PURP come.down-PST  
 'The cat came down to eat a mouse.'  
 b. ama akka jarkin-be cuwaphas-si khaiʔ-ya-ʔã  
 mother 1s jerrycan-LOC water fill-PURP go-1sS NPST  
 'Mother, I go to fetch water in the jerrycan.'

[CLS04.212]

Like the *-sana* converb clause, the purposive embedded clause can also appear in the middle position (17a) and at the final position of a sentence (17b). Postposed purposive clauses are quite common in Chintang.

- (17) a. a-ti-a-c-e            kina ba-i? ladai num-si akka-be  
 2-come-PST-d-PST SEQ DEM.PROX-LOC fight  
 do-PURP 1s-LOC  
 ‘You came here to fight with me.’  
 [origin\_myth.049]
- b. ama akka khai?-ya-?ã caklet khes-si  
 mother 1s go-1sS-NPST chocolate buy-PURP  
 ‘Mother, I am going to buy a chocolate.’  
 [CLS06.012]

Both the embedded and the matrix clause can be focused with additive focus clitics and topicalizers (18).

- (18) akka = yaŋ kok ca-si = na kuŋ-ŋa-?ã  
 1s=ADD rice eat-PURP=TOP come.down-1sS-NPST  
 ‘I also come to have rice.’  
 [CLLDCh1R11S03.279]

Like in the simultaneous converbal clause, we have no clear example for *sa* ‘who’ questions in the purposive clauses. But the examples in (19a) and (19b) show that the *them* and *aŋ* questions can occur inside the embedded clause.

- (19) a. them cop-si            khad-e  
 what see-PURP go-PST  
 ‘What did he go to see?’
- b. aŋ num-si ti-e  
 What do-PURP come-PST  
 ‘What did he come for?’

Person agreement can be expressed in the dependent clause, but it is quite different from independent clauses. In example (20), the P argument of the verb in the embedded clause is marked by a possessive prefix which expresses a different person from the one in the main clause.

- (20) i-cop-si            u-ti-a-ŋs-e            naŋ  
 2sPOSS-see-PURP 3nsS-come-PST-PERF-PST PTCL  
 ‘They have come to see you.’  
 [CLLDCh1R02S03a.108]

### 2.2.1 Scope of negation

As we do not have any clear evidence yet, we are not sure whether the scope of negation is extended over the embedded clause in purposive clauses.

But, we have some examples where it is possible to negate the embedded clause, as in (21). For this Chintang employs a different form of negation to code negative purpose.

- (21) cuwa la-si            maha khus-si khad-a-ŋs-a = kha  
 water bring-PURP NEG steal-PURP go-PST-PERF-  
 PST=BGR  
 ‘He did not go to bring water, but to steal things.’

### 2.3 Negation converb

The negation converb is the third most frequent non-finite clause marker in Chintang. In the negation converb clause, the embedded infinitival form of the verb is marked with a regular negation marking prefix *mai-*. Thus, a combination of a *mai-* ‘NEG’ + *-ma* ‘INF’, makes an embedded negation converb clause, which is quite different from a mere negation of a converb. This is because if it were simply a negation of an infinitival form of the verb, it would have been possible to formulate the clause without a negation marker too. As the negation marking on the infinitival form of verb is obligatory, this makes it different from general negation.

Like the other converbal clauses, the negation converb clause is also nonfinite and fully dependent in nature. The negation converb indicates that an action takes place without being supported by another event.

- (22) mai-kham-ma = ta      min-no  
 NEG-chew-INF=FOC    swallow-NPST  
 'He swallows without chewing.'

Unlike in *-saŋa* and *-si* nonfinite clauses, there is no obligatory coreferentiality in negative subordinate clauses. A negative converb clause can take its own arguments which are not necessarily identical with the arguments of the matrix clause, as in (23).

- (23) mai-pi-ma = ta            akka    pi-ŋa-ʔã-niŋ  
 NEG-give-INF=PTCL    1s give-1sA-NPST-NEG  
 'I do not give it before (someone) gives me.'

According to Ebert (2003a:31), all Kiranti languages except Camling have a negative converb. In a number of Kiranti languages, the regular negation marker also forms the negation converbal clauses. But unlike in other Kiranti languages which use *-sa/ saŋa* to mark simultaneous converb, Hayu reserves *-sa* only for the negation converb (Ebert, 2003a).

### 3 Summary

In this paper, we have dealt the three different types of converbal clauses in Chintang. Like in other Kiranti languages, the *-saŋa* converbal clause and *-si* purposive clause obligatorily share arguments between embedded and matrix clauses. But there is no obligatory control of any arguments in negation converb clause. Moreover, all types of converbal clauses do not allow an overt S/A argument in the embedded clause, but they do allow other arguments. All types of converbal clauses have in common that they all license some

sort of focus marker on the embedded clause. Like in Puma and Belhare, the question and negation scope is extended to the embedded clause in Chintang as well. Furthermore, unlike other languages, Chintang non-finite clauses can bear person and number marking in purposive structures.

[Glossing & abbreviation: This paper follows the Leipzig Glossing conventions, with the addition of the following abbreviations: BGR 'background information', DIR 'directional', e 'exclusive', N.NTVZ 'noun nativizer', SEQ 'sequential', PTCL 'particle']

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A STRATEGIC SEARCH FOR THE GENERAL  
FORMULA OF VERB ROOT DERIVATION IN NEPALI

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1 Derivation from citation form

Nepali grammatical tradition (Pandit, 1912:118) accepts the deletion of the suffix <nu> from the citation form of a verb to derive roots in Nepali as in (1).

(1) a. Citation forms:

<k <sup>h</sup> anu>	'to eat'	<g <sup>h</sup> arnu>	'to do'
<aunu>	'to come'	<dinu>	'to give'
<ḍunu>	'to wash'	<birsinu>	'to forget'
<saḥanu>	'to endure'	<duḥunu>	'to milk'

b. Root forms:

<k <sup>h</sup> a>	'eat'	<g <sup>h</sup> ar>	'do'
<au>	'come'	<di>	'give'
<ḍu>	'wash'	<birsi>	'forget'
<saḥa>	'endure'	<duḥu>	'milk'

2 Phonological constraint on nasalized <o>

Nepali phonology (Pokharel 1989: 34-36) does not supply nasalized <o> (and there are a few cases of change of nasalized <e> to <i> in the data) on the surface. This constraint has two implications: the citation suffix <nu> may have its underlying form <\*no> and the roots ending in mid vowels like <\*de> and <\*dho> may have assumed the surface forms of <di> and <ḍu> respectively before <nu> due

to the prenasalized spread of [nasal] feature. The following forms of the mid vowels in the nonnasal environment may hint to the presumed underlying forms:

- (2) a. <ḥunu> 'to be':  
       <ḥo> 'is' (equative)  
       <ḥola> 'maybe'  
       <ḥos> 'Let it be!'  
       <ḥou> 'you are'
- b. <ts<sup>h</sup>unu> 'to touch':  
       <ts<sup>h</sup>o> 'Touch!'  
       <ts<sup>h</sup>oyo> 'He touched'  
       <ts<sup>h</sup>ola> 'He may touch'
- c. <ḍunu> 'to wash':  
       <ḍo> 'Wash!'  
       <ḍoyo> 'He washed'  
       <ḍola> 'He may wash'
- d. <dinu> 'to give':  
       <de> 'Give!'
- e. <linu> 'to take':  
       <le> 'Take!' (in some dialects)

These data are against the traditional <nu> 'Deletion Rule' to derive Nepali verb roots.



### 3 Imperative singular form

In the majority of languages imperative singular form coincides with the root form (Pokharel, 1997:18). This strategy correctly supplies mid vowels in the roots in (2).

- (3) a. <fo> 'Be!'  
 b. <ts<sup>h</sup>o> 'Touch!'  
 c. <ḍo> 'Wash!'  
 d. <de> 'Give'  
 e. <le> 'Take!'

This strategy also helps to derive most of the root forms, eg:

- (4) <kha> 'Eat!' <gar> 'Do!' <au> 'Come!'  
 <de> 'Give!' <ḍo> 'Wash!' <birsi> 'Forget!'  
 <saḥa> 'Endure' <duhu> 'Milk!' (Dialectal variant)

However, it does not derive diphthong final roots like:

- (5) a. <aunu> 'to come': <a> 'Come!',  
 <gaunu> 'to sing': <ga> 'Sing!',  
 <ts<sup>h</sup>aunu> 'to roof': <ts<sup>h</sup>a> 'Mend the roof!',  
 <daunu> 'to train bullocks': <da> 'Train the  
 bullock!',  
 <ḍaunu>: 'to attend to': <ḍa> 'Attend to!',  
 <paunu> 'to get': <pa> 'Get it'
- b. <piunu> 'to drink': <pi> 'Drink!',  
 <siunu> 'to sew': <si> 'Sew!'
- c. <lyaunu> 'to bring': <lya> 'Bring!',  
 <nuhaunu> 'to bathe': <nuha> 'Have a bath!'

Typically, this group of roots undergoes monophthongization by deleting the second member of the diphthong. This situation labels the imperative singular strategy not a general rule of root derivation in Nepali.

### 4 Probabilitative singular form

Deletion of <la>, the probabilitative morpheme, from a 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular form is another possibility of root derivation of verbs in Nepali (see Pokharel 1999: 25-26), eg:

- (6) <k<sup>h</sup>ala> 'He may eat' <gaḥla> 'He may do'  
 <dela> 'He may give' <ḍola> 'He may wash'  
 <aula> 'He may come' <siula> 'may sew'  
 <birsela> 'may forget' <saḥla> 'He may endure'  
 <duḥla> 'He may milk' (Dialectal form)

This strategy is also found problematic in a few roots.

### 5 Comparison of the strategies

The following table shows that the different strategies mentioned above may give different outputs in a few roots:

Table 1: Root derivation through different strategies

	Rules	C- ending	fi- ending	CC- ending	V- ending	Vv- ending
a	<nu> deletion:	gar	saḥa- /duḥa-	birsi- /birs-	di-/ḥi- /ḍi-	au- /siu-
b	imperative sg:	gar	saḥi- /duḥi-	birsi- /birs-	de-/ḥo/ḍo	a-/si-
c	<la> deletion:	gar	saḥa- /duḥo-	birse-	de-/ḥo- /ḍo-	au- /siu-

- (7) a. dufu-/dufo-/dofio-/ dufiΛ-/ dufi-/dufie-  
 b. sΛfiΛ-, sΛfi-  
 (8) birsi-, birsΛ-, birse-  
 (9) de-, di-

None of the three strategies mentioned above can resolve the problem of root allomorphy of the vowel ending roots.

#### 6 Mathematical strategy of generative phonology

To resolve this problem of allomorphy we can propose a fourth strategy, the mathematical strategy of HCF (Highest Common Factor). This strategy is common in the derivation of the underlying form in generative phonology (Chomsky and Halle, 1968). According to this strategy, if all the verb forms of a root are taken together and calculated the HCF, it will generate the root form and this will be the general formula of verb root derivation in Nepali. Thus root forms of the verbs listed in (1b) will be as follows:

- (10) a. <k<sup>h</sup>a> 'to eat', <gΛr> 'to do',  
 <au> 'to come', <de> 'to give',  
 <ɖo> 'to wash', <birs> 'to forget',  
 <sΛfi> 'to endure' <dufi> 'to milk',

#### b. Citation forms:

- <k<sup>h</sup>anu> 'to eat', <gΛrnu> 'to do',  
 <aunu> 'to come', <dinu> 'to give',  
 <ɖunu> 'to wash', <birsinu> 'to forget',  
 <sΛfiΛnu> 'to endure' <dufiunu> 'to milk'

- c. <fiunu> 'to be':  
 <fo> 'is' (equative), <fiola> 'maybe',  
 <fos> 'Let it be!', <fiou> 'you are',  
 d. <ts<sup>h</sup>unu> 'to touch':  
 <ts<sup>h</sup>o> 'Touch!', <ts<sup>h</sup>oyo> 'He touched',  
 <ts<sup>h</sup>ola> 'He may touch'  
 e. <ɖunu> 'to wash':  
 <ɖo> 'Wash!', <ɖoyo> 'He washed',  
 <ɖola> 'He may wash'  
 f. <dinu> 'to give': <de> 'Give!'  
 <linu> 'to take': <le> 'Take!' (In some dialects)  
 e. <fo> 'to be', <ts<sup>h</sup>o> 'to touch!',  
 <ɖo> 'to wash', <de> 'to give'

#### 7 Comparative method

The shapes of roots thus derived can be verified against Indo-Aryan cognates (See Turner, 1931) as in (11).

#### (11) Cognates of <fo> 'be':

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| <*bhoti> (Rigveda)    | <hoti> (Pali)      |
| <bhomi>,              | <hoi> (Prakrit)    |
| <hor> (Syrian Romani) | <bhoŋo> (W Pahadi) |
| <bhoŋ> (W Pahadi)     | <hoya> (Bengali)   |
| <hoeb> (Maithili)     | <hona> (Hindi)     |
| <hovaŋ> (Lahanda)     | <hovū> (Gujarati)  |
| <hoŋe> (Marathi)      |                    |

## (12) Cognates of &lt;ḍo&gt; ‘wash’:

<dhāvati> (Skt)	<dhopati> (Pali)
<dhovai> (Prakrit)	<thovel> (Eur Ramany)
<thovyū> (Arm Romany)	<dhoṅo> (Kum)
<dhoiba> (Assam)	<dhoya> (Bengali)
<dhoiba> (Oriya)	<dhona> (Hindi)
<dhoṅa> (Pan)	<dhovū> (Guj)

## (13) Cognates of &lt;ro&gt; ‘weep’

<roditi> (Sanskrit)	<rodati> (Pali)
<rodai> (Prakrit)	<rovel> (Eur Rom)
<roar> (Syrian Rom)	<roya> (Bengali)
<rona> (Hindi)	<roṅa> (Panjabi)
<rovan> (Lahanda)	<rovū> (Guj)

These data show that Nepali <o>-ending roots have changed into <u>-ending ones in a nasalized environment.

However, between <ts<sup>h</sup>o> and <ts<sup>h</sup>u> forms (10d) comparative data reveal that the underlying root form is <ts<sup>h</sup>u> rather than <ts<sup>h</sup>o>. Here, <ts<sup>h</sup>o> is not basic, but derived due to analogy with other <o>-ending roots presented in (10b, c, e). The comparative Indo-Aryan data reveal this hypothesis, eg:

## (14) &lt;chu&gt; ‘touch’

<chupati> (Sans)	<chupati> (Pali)
<chuvai> (Prakrit)	<chuhṅa> (W Pah)
<chūya> (Bengali)	<chuība> (Oriya)

<chuhuṅa> (Pan)	<chuna> (Hindi)
<chuhauṅa> (Sindhi)	<chuvū> (Guj)

## 8 Raising of nasalized mid vowel

The tendency of raising the nasalized mid vowel is found even with the front vowel <e> (see Pokharel, 1989:34-36).

## (15) &lt;de&gt; ‘give’

<deti> (Pali)	<dei> (Pali)
<deṅu> (W Pah)	<deba> (Oriya)
<dena> (Hindi)	<deṅa> (Pan)
<devū> (Guj)	<dena> (Ben)
<deṅa> (Oriya)	<dena> (Hindi)
<deṅe> (Marathi)	<dinu> (Nep)
<deṅu> (Guj)	<deṅe> (Marathi)

## 9 &lt;nu&gt; or &lt;no&gt; in the citation form?

One of the implications of this stance also predicts that the <nu> suffix of the Nepali citation form on the surface finds its cognate in <\*no>. The Baitadeli dialect and one of the subdialects of Tanahu also use <ṅo> and <no> as the cognates of the <nu> in the standard Nepali.

## (16) Standard Nepali &lt;khanu&gt; ‘to eat’

Baitadeli <khaṅo> ‘to eat’

## 10 Mismatch in writing and pronunciation

The foregone hypothesis of the raising of the underlying <\*o> as the surface <ū> also helps to explain why some <o>-ending

Nepali nouns and adjectives in the written forms are pronounced as <u> in the nasalized environment.

- (17) लामो /lamo/ [lāmũ] ‘long’  
 (18) सानो /sano/ [sānũ] ‘small’  
 (19) चानो /tsano/ [tsānũ] ‘slice of fruits/ vegetables’  
 (20) छानो /ts<sup>h</sup>ano/ [ts<sup>h</sup>ānũ] ‘roof’

#### 11 Correction of Pradhan’s rule

Pradhan (1951:14) writes that both <o>-ending and <u>-ending nouns become <a>-ending before the pluralizing particle ह्रू <h̄aru>. While making this rule he has overlooked the nasalized context. In fact, the rule applies only to the <o>-ending nouns, not to the <u>-ending.

- (21) कानु /kano/ [kānũ] ‘blind of one eye’  
 कानाह्रू /kana-h̄aru/ ‘blinds’  
 (22) आलु /alu/ [alu] ‘potato’  
 आलुह्रू /alu-h̄aru/ (not \*आलाह्रू /ala-h̄aru/ ‘potatoes’)

In the examples the final vowel of the word for blind is phonetically nasalized, but that is not the case for the final vowel of the word for potato; therefore Pradhan’s prediction has failed for (22).

#### 12 Conclusion

The mathematical strategy of root derivation, which is commonly adopted to discover an underlying form in classical generative phonology, is general and more reliable to derive roots in Nepali.

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## EVIDENTIALITY IN MANIPURI

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This paper examines the evidentiality in Manipuri, a TB language. There are three types of indirect evidential: the first one based on the result state of a prior event and the speaker's reasoning, *-lɔmɔ*, the second one based on reportative/quotative/hearsay evidential, *-ye* and the third one based on strictly on hearing, *-dai*.

## 1 Introduction

Evidentiality is a grammatical category indicating the source of information whether the speaker has personally seen the situation, inferred it from evidence or heard it from other people or perceived. Evidentials in Manipuri can be broadly classified into three categories: direct, indirect and deferred. In direct evidentials Manipuri has four types of evidentials based on different sensory information: *-khə*, first hand personal experience including visuals; *-həw*, perceived by speaker (strictly visual); *-bə*, speaker's source and *(-bə)-mal*, perceived by the speaker (auditory, feeling, seeing, etc).

## 2 Direct evidentiality

In an extensive study of typology of evidentials, De Haan (1999) finds that direct evidentials, typically arise from one of two sources: either from dietic or demonstrative morphemes; or from (default) tense or aspect markers. He finds that the dietic to visual path of development has been followed in Northern California as well as the Amazon, in languages such as Wintu, Hupa and Sanuma. The development of direct evidentials from dietic makes good sense in Manipuri too. In Manipuri, a speaker uses a visual evidential based on dietic markers, he or she is saying that the action was witnessed

personally because it occurred in the some deictic sphere as the location of the speaker.

2.1 *-həw*

The enclitic *-həw* is an illocutionary operator that modifies the sincerity condition of simple speech acts by adding the condition that the speaker sees the event described by the sentence, which is illustrated in comparison between simple assertive sentences.

- (1) *noŋ ta-həw-re*  
rain fall-DEV-ASP  
'It was raining (the speaker saw it).'

In the cross-linguistic study of evidential morphology Bybee (1985) showed that evidentials are usually highly infinite. In the study of grammaticalization of evidential in many cases, verbs of perception, cognition and utterance have eroded giving rise to an evidential system whose meaning is fairly transparent (Anderson 1986, Weled 1988). Likewise in Manipuri too, we can see or demonstrate the origin of evidential markers from verbs of 'say', 'know' 'hear' and 'see'.

Manipuri marks a visual evidential with the verb root *u* 'see'. For example, *ma cak cahəwri*. He was eating food/rice (the speaker has witnessed which the subject of the sentence concerned was taking food.) It is probably derived from a compound verb as *ca-u-ri* 'eat-see-ASP' which later became *ca-həw* ASP. Why do I claim that this evidential marker *-həw* is derived from *-u* 'see', because the meaning of the sentence is still very transparent that only when one see the act being performed, then the speaker can use the *-həw* suffix. This is a direct evidence which the speaker has witnessed the person having food. One might also argue that this suffix *-həw* is

derived from *həwbə* ‘start or begin’ which is homophonous with this suffix. It is also quite likely that it is derived from this word because semantically it does confirm to the meaning generated by the sentence that the speaker has actually witnessed the subject of the sentence concerned taking his food. Here, it may also be argued that the speaker has actually seen the subject of the sentence beginning performing the act.

Though there is a little difficulty in interpreting the derivation of *-həw* enclitic, I would however, say that the first interpretation is more appropriate as clue is contained in the dialogue given below:

(2) 1<sup>st</sup> speaker

ma thəbək-tu təw-həw-i  
 he work-DET do-EVD-ASP  
 ‘He was doing the work.’

(3) 2<sup>nd</sup> speaker

nəŋ manə thəbək-tu təsəŋ-nə təwbə u -rək-prə  
 you he ERG work-DET really-do NOM see-ASP-INT  
 ‘Did you really see him doing the work?’

(4) 1<sup>st</sup> speaker

əŋ ma-nə təw-həw-i  
 yes he ERG do-EVD-ASP  
 ‘Yes he was doing the work.’

It may be noted that at the time of reporting, the reporter is no more at the place where the subject of the sentence is performing the act.

## 2.2 *-khə*

This direct evidential is contributed by assertion. I refer to this evidential property as *khə* ‘know’ as it is derived from the lexical verb *khəŋ* ‘know’. This is a convenient label for the fact that when a person says something he presents himself as knowing that thing. As the enclitic *-khə* imposes or enforces as observability restriction which requires a situation described to have been directly observed by the speaker.

(5) huranbə-du som-də cen-khi  
 thief DET this way LOC run DEV  
 ‘The thief ran away this way.’

Here, the speaker saw the thief running away that he directly observed the situation. Further the enclitic *-khə* also imposes a locability restriction on direct evidentiality. Unlike the use of enclitic *-həw*, the enclitic *-khə* is essentially used by the speaker, where exactly the speaker saw the thief running away.

## 2.3 *-bə*

It expresses speaker point-of-view and indicates that the speaker is the source of the evidence for the assertion. In conversation *-bə* is often used to indicate for which the speaker has direct experience and hence direct evidence. This form of evidentiality in Manipuri is based on nominalization. In all the examples nominalizers are placed after the verb. The whole sentence becomes nominalized which is followed by the copula *-ni*. Sometimes the copula *-ni* is optional and when it is optional it expresses mirativity.

(6) əynə hay-bə ni  
 I.ERG say-NOM COP  
 ‘I said (this).’

- (7) əynə hay-bə  
 I.ERG say-NOM  
 'I said (this) (so what's matter).'

When the nominalizer *-bə* is the phrase final then it expresses mirativity. The nominalizer *-bə* functions with the notion of evidentiality to specify the relation of the speaker to the information presented in the sentence that one comes to know the information from speaker's own experience. This enclitic expresses the validity the person feels towards the information, the degree of assertion or force the speaker intends that it is a valid or known information rather than unknown or probabilistic.

#### 2.4 *-(bə)-mal*

Other sensory information can be turned into an evidential as well. For example in Manipuri we can show that an auditory evidential which shows that the action described is perceived by hearing or by other sensation such as feeling and seeing.

- (8) noŋ ta-male  
 rain fall-seem ASP  
 'It seems it is raining.'

This sentence is uttered when the speaker hears the rain drops falling on the roof. The same enclitic is used for other sensations.

- (9) ma tələ-male  
 he lazy-seem ASP  
 'He appears lazy.' (by seeing the person)
- (10) ma caniŋ -male  
 he eat wish seem ASP  
 'It appears that he wants to eat (something).'

The *-(bə)-mal* evidential marker is part of the verbal morphology system which adds the sense of 'appearing to be'. This enclitic when appended to the verb stem, describes its meaning as to show a sign of and to behave like.

The same enclitic is also used as an inferred/indirect evidential when the speaker does not want to assert the truth value of the statements for the reasons known to him. He pretends to show his appearance like; he does not really know the truth and what is being told is something that has been gathered from hearsay or from other sources. This usually happens in a situation when the speaker does not want to take a stand or when he wants to be in a safer position by appearing not knowing fully the truth value of the statement.

#### 3 Indirect evidentiality

Indirect evidentials are used when the speaker was not a witness to the event but when he/she learned of it after the fact. There are three broad categories of indirect evidential: inference, quotative and strictly hearing.

##### 3.1 *-mə*

Inferential evidentials are used when the speaker draws an inference on the basis of available physical evidence.

- (11) ma lak(1)ə - mə-ni  
 he come IEV ASP  
 'He has come.'

The evidential use is ordinarily an inferential evidential. It applies to the whole sentence, indicating that the speaker obtained the knowledge he/she bases his/her statement on indirectly via inference. Thus the sentence indicates that although the speaker did not witness the event of John's coming she/he inferred the event based on the result state. For example, the sentence above with *-(l)əmə* enclitic is an

evidential sentence that conveys the speaker's inferred based on his/her reasoning. It can be said that it is an assumption based on the logical reasoning and general knowledge.

### 3.2 *-ye*

In Manipuri the *-ye* enclitic is being used for reportative, quotative or hearsay. Any information that speaker has learned through others, he uses it with *-ye* enclitic.

In Manipuri this *-ye* enclitic is a grammaticalized form a verb *hai* 'say'. This is a very common phenomenon which occurs in several languages of the world. More often than not indirect evidence, especially quotative evidentiality, is expressed with a grammaticalized form of the verb meaning 'to say' (Harris and Campbell, 1995:171). The important part of this evidential is to denote that the speaker had no role in observing the action he or she describes. In the use of *hai* as quotative, it expresses that the information came to the speaker as the second hand information.

- (12) *tombə lak-e-ye*  
Tomba come ASP IEV  
'Tomba has come.' (It is said that Tomba has come)
- (13) *mi əmə si-re-ye*  
person one die ASP IEV  
'One person died.' (It is said that one person died or one person is reportedly dead or one person is said to have died)

The same enclitic is also used in narratives or in storytelling. This may be because evidential marking is an important grammatical feature of the artistic genre of the traditional story (includes, myth, folktales and community history. It is probably the speakers want to evidentially frame stories as

reported information. The same enclitic *-ye* is used when one describes one's own experience in the past when the speaker is being told about it. For example, when one describes one's own childhood what has been told to him. This is not surprising because the notion of distant past allows an interpretation of non-witnessed, reported etc.

- (14) *əy əŋaŋ ɔyriŋəydə ŋawsinəy-ye*  
I child while naughty-IEV  
'While I was a child I was naughty.' (While I was child I have been told that I was very naughty)

### 3.3 *-dai*

Another evidential marker used in Manipuri is *-dai*.

- (15) *ma səyreŋ i-(ye)-dai*  
he poetry write-ASP-IEVD  
'He is said to write poetry.' (Literally: It is heard or learnt that he writes poetry.)
- (16) *ma si-re-dai*  
he die-ASP-IEVD  
'He is said to have died'  
(literally - It is heard or learnt that he died)

This enclitic *-dai* is used by a speaker indicating that he/she obtains the knowledge strictly based on what he heard.

### 4 Deferred evidentiality

Another striking feature of Manipuri is the existence of Deferred Evidence (hereafter DE). Similar situation of DE is reported by Maslova (2003). She describes it as an extremely broad semantic domain of the non-eyewitness term that the inferential form is used between witnessed state the situation that brought. This is evident in the example given below



- (17) john yamṇə cao-rəm-me  
 John very big DE ASP  
 'John has grown big.'

Here, inferential form signals that the speaker did not witness the process of John's growing big, but only saw the result, i.e. the state of being big. It signals just that the information on the situation was obtained later the situation had taken place, even though the speaker has first-hand eyewitness evidence of that event by the time of speech.

The meaning of DE is particularly clear in description of speaker's own actions, which cannot be accounted for in terms of inference.

- (18) ṇa yamṇə pharəm-me  
 fish many catch DE ASP  
 'It turned out that he had caught many fishes'.

Here, even though the speaker participated in fishing, yet the fish was counted only afterwards or catching of too many fishes is realized later.

## 5 Conclusion

We have discussed that Manipuri shows rich morphosyntactic markers of evidentiality. Manipuri has both direct and indirect evidentials. There are four direct evidentials namely *-khə* which shows first hand personal experience which includes visual, the enclitic *-həw* perceived by speaker is strictly visual, another marker *-bə* expresses speaker's point of view and the speaker is the source of evidence for the assertion and *-(bə)mal* marker which is used for other sensory information such as auditory feeling and seeing. Three indirect evidentials *-(l)ə-mə* based on the logical reasoning and general knowledge, the *-ye* enclitic used for Reportative /quotative/Hearsay and the

dai enclitic based on strictly what the speaker hears, have also been discussed. Another interesting phenomenon worth observing is the existence of Deferred evidential in Manipuri i.e. the morpheme *-lam* signals that the information on the situation was obtained later the situation had taken place, even though the speaker has first-hand eyewitness evidence of that event by the time of speech.

Abbreviations:

DEV	- Direct Evidential
IEV	- Indirect Evidential
ASP	- Aspect
LOC	- Locative
COP	- Copula
DE	- Deferred Evidence

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## A COMPUTATIONAL ANALYSIS OF NEPALI BASIC NOUNS: A FINITE STATE APPROACH

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This paper is an attempt to analyze the Nepali basic nouns with reference to their properties and implement them computationally to create a lexical finite state transducer using Xerox Finite State Toolkit. The created lexical transducer can be directly used to analyze and generate the Nepali basic nouns.

### 1 Background

Nepali nouns show various kinds of morphological features which are discussed and analyzed in the subsequent sections. The primary approach to classify the nouns is formal one because the formal representation can be implemented for the computational process. However, the semantics of a particular group of nouns is also considered for the classification to capture the formal behavior. The classification is partly based on Adhikari (1993) and Pokharel (2054 BS); and partly on the research carried out by the researcher.

### 2 Nepali noun characteristics

#### 2.1 Number

Nepali nouns show two dimensions of the number feature: singular and plural. The unmarked (or the citation) form is always singular whereas the feature plural is indicated either by the change in the citation form (from *o*-ending nouns to *a*-ending nouns) or by a plural/collective marker *-fiaru:*. The *o*-ending nouns as *ts<sup>h</sup>oro* 'son' in (1a) change into *a*-ending as *ts<sup>h</sup>ora* 'sons' in (1b) to mark the plurality and non-*o*-ending nouns as *g<sup>h</sup>ar* 'house' in (1d) take postposition *-fiaru:* '-PL' to indicate the plurality as *g<sup>h</sup>ar-fiaru:* 'houses' in (1e). The plural

marker *-fiaru:* can also occur optionally with *o*-ending nouns as *ts<sup>h</sup>ora* 'son' in (1c). But the *o*-ending noun stems change to *a*-ending oblique form.

- (1) a. *ts<sup>h</sup>oro kam gar-ts<sup>h</sup>Λ*  
 son.SG work do-3SG.NPST  
 'The son works.'
- b. *ts<sup>h</sup>ora iskul dza-n-ts<sup>h</sup>Λn*  
 son.PL school go-ϕ-3PL.NPST  
 'The sons go to school.'
- c. *ts<sup>h</sup>ora-fiaru: iskul dza-n-ts<sup>h</sup>Λn*  
 son.OBL-PL school go-ϕ-3PL.NPST  
 'The sons go to school.'
- d. *g<sup>h</sup>ar ramro ts<sup>h</sup>Λ*  
 house.SG good.SG be.3SG.NPST  
 'The houses are good.'
- e. *g<sup>h</sup>ar-fiaru: ramra ts<sup>h</sup>Λn*  
 house-PL good.PL be.3PL.NPST  
 'The houses are good.'

### 2.2 Gender

#### 2.2.1 Lexical gender

The gender of the nouns, which do not have any kind of gender marker can be interpreted from their semantics. These nouns inherently carry the gender features. As in (2a) the noun *b<sup>h</sup>ai* 'younger brother' does not have any kind of marker in it but it is masculine and in (2b) the noun *ba<sup>h</sup>ini:* 'younger sister' also does not have any marker in it but it's feminine. This type of feature is found in a small set of the human nouns and has the grammatical implication as the verb agrees with

subject NP in terms of gender whereas the animate feminine do not show this kind of agreement.

2. a. b<sup>h</sup>ai dzã-d̪ai ts<sup>h</sup>ʌ  
younger brother go-IMPF be.3SG.MASC.NPST  
'The younger brother is going.'
- b. bʌfiɲi g<sup>h</sup>ʌr-ma bʌs-ts<sup>h</sup>e  
younger sister house-LOC sit-3SG.FEM.NPST  
'The younger sister stays at home.'

### 2.2.2 Morphological gender

Nouns in which the gender indicated either by certain change or by some sorts of marker are said to be having morphological gender. The citation form is always masculine gender as *befulo* 'bridegroom' in (3a) and *nati* 'grandson' in (3c). The *o*-ending nouns change into *i*-ending as *befuli* 'bride' in (3b) and non-*o*-ending nouns take the feminine gender markers *-i:* or *-ni:* as *natini* 'grand daughter' in (3d).

- (3) a. befulo sundʌr ts<sup>h</sup>ʌ  
bridegroom.MASC handsome be.3SG.MASC.NPST  
'The bridegroom is handsome.'
- b. befuli: kurup ts<sup>h</sup>e  
bride.FEM ugly be.3SG.FEM.NPST  
'The bride is ugly.'
- c. nati b<sup>h</sup>at k<sup>h</sup>a-n-ts<sup>h</sup>ʌ  
grandson.MASC rice eat- $\phi$ -3SG.MASC.NPST  
'The grandson eats rice.'
- d. nati-ni: iskul dza-n-ts<sup>h</sup>e  
grandson-FEM school go- $\phi$ -3SG.FEM.NPST  
'The granddaughter goes to school.'

### 2.3 Form

Nepali nouns show two forms morphologically: direct and oblique. Traditionally the nouns which appear as the citation forms are direct and those appear with postpositions are oblique. The *o*-ending nouns as *biralo* 'cat' in (4a) change to *a*-ending as *birala* 'cat' in (4b) to take the oblique form. This happens only in *o*-ending nouns when they are followed by any postpositions. The non-*o*-ending nouns do not show such changes whether they are followed by postpositions or not as *ru:k<sup>h</sup>* 'tree' in (4c). Therefore, the non-*o*-ending nouns are not considered as oblique form in this study.

- (4) a. biralo dud<sup>h</sup> k<sup>h</sup>a-n-ts<sup>h</sup>ʌ  
cat.SG milk eat- $\phi$ -3SG.NPST  
'The cat drinks milk.'
- b. birala-le musa mar-ts<sup>h</sup>ʌ  
cat.OBL-ERG mouse.PL kill-3SG.NPST  
'The cat kills the rats.'
- c. ru:k<sup>h</sup>-ma eʋʌ tsʌro bʌs-eko ts<sup>h</sup>ʌ  
tree-LOC one.CL bird sit-PERF be.3SG.NPST  
'A bird is sitting in the tree.'

### 2.4 Honorificity

Nepali nouns show two levels of honorificity morphologically: non-honorific and honorific. The honorificity distinction can be found only in *o*-ending human nouns. Those nouns with *o*-ending as *befulo* 'bridegroom' in (5a) change into *a*-ending as *befula* 'bridegroom' in (5b) indicating non-honorificity and honorificity, respectively.

And the non-*o*-ending human nouns use some other strategies to indicate honorificity.

- (5) a. befulo hatti-ma t<sup>h</sup>i-jo  
 bridegroom.NHON elephant-LOC be.3SG.NHON.PST  
 'The bridegroom was on the elephant.'  
 b. befula hattima t<sup>h</sup>i-e  
 bridegroom.HON elephant-LOC be.3SG.HON.PST  
 'The bridegroom was on the elephant.'

### 2.5 Evaluation

From the evaluative point of view, Nepali nouns show two distinctions: augmentative and diminutive. This distinction is found only in *o*-ending inanimate nouns which indicates the size of the object whether it is bigger or smaller. The *o*-ending as *ḍalo* 'a normal size basket' in (6a) changes into *i*-ending as *ḍali*: 'a small basket' in (6b) indicating augmentative and diminutive forms, respectively. The non-*o*-ending inanimate nouns do not show this distinction, therefore, they are not considered here.

- (6) a. ram ḍalo ba-na-unA dzan-dA-ts<sup>h</sup>A  
 Ram basket.AUG make-INF know- $\phi$ -3SG.NPST  
 'Ram knows to make the basket.'  
 b. jo tsidz ḍali:-ma rak<sup>h</sup>!  
 this thing basket.DIM-LOC keep.IMP  
 'Keep this thing in the small basket!'

### 2.6 Significant stem finals

The Nepali basic nouns end with various sound segments. But from the significance point of views, they are in a binary division: *o*-final nouns and non-*o*-final nouns. The *o*-final noun stems show different changes to indicate various kinds

of morphological features as discussed above such as number, gender, form, evaluation, honorificity and vocative case. These features are significant grammatically as visible in subject NP-verb agreement. Although some non-*o*-final noun stems take gender inflection, there is no change in the noun stems. And the rest of the nouns stem do not change their form for anything.

### 3 Classification of Nepali nouns

On the basis of characteristic features discussed above, Nepali nouns can be grouped into fourteen classes which comfortably fit into the finite state machine at least for the present purpose. The features like number, gender, form, honorificity, evaluation and vocative case are considered while grouping the nouns (section 5).

### 4 Level of representation: lexical and surface

Words in the written or spoken text, in fact, represent the outer form, i.e. surface form. But a word carries various kinds of information which can be represented at least in two levels. Lexical level is a canonical form or lemma of the word and a set of tags showing its syntactic category and morphological features such as a possible part of speech and/or inflectional properties such as gender, number, person, tense, aspect, mood, etc. Thus, the lexical level represents the sequence of morphemes in a certain fashion. These morphemes including stem correspond to a certain form which is actually spellings of word in written text is known as surface form. Therefore, the representation of actual spelling of a particular word that corresponds to its lexical form is said to be the surface level (Koskenniemi, 1983). Table 1 shows the two levels of representation of the words.

Table 1: Lexical and Surface levels representation

Lexical Level	Surface Level
केटो+NOUN+MASC+SG	केटो

### 5 Implementation

The computational implementation of two-levels of representation of the noun morphology as discussed in section (4) is based on Beesley and Karttunen (2003). The morphotactics is implemented in lexc grammar and morphophonemic rules are implemented in xfst interface. Two kinds of tags are designed, the first normal tags which appear in upper language indicating features and second special tags which are used in the lower language to create certain environment for the application of rules and they are removed at the end. The lexc grammar and xfst interface presented below are only the sample one. The encoding used in this implementation is Devnagari Unicode (UTF-8). The tags +MP and +FE are used for creating environment for applying rules and rest are for morphological features.

#### 5.1 Lexc grammar

Multichar\_Symbols +NOUN +MASC +FEM +OBL +PL +SG +DIM  
+VOC +HON ^MP ^FE +PLACE +PROPER

#### LEXICON ROOT

Nouns;

LEXICON Nouns !! Noun Lexicon

केटो inflection\_1a; !! Type 1a Nouns

मुसो inflection\_1b; !!Type 1b Nouns

डालो inflection\_1c; !!Type 1c Nouns

फोटो inflection\_1d; !!Type 1d Nouns

काका inflection\_21a; !!Type 21a Nouns

नाति inflection\_21b; !!Type 21b Nouns

बाघ inflection\_21c; !!Type 21c Nouns

बिस्ट inflection\_21d; !!Type 21d Nouns

दाइ inflection\_22a; !!Type 22a Nouns

दिदि inflection\_22b; !!Type 22b Nouns

राम inflection\_22c; !!Type 22c Nouns

सीता inflection\_22d; !!Type 22d Nouns

खेत inflection\_22e; !!Type 22e Nouns

पोखरा inflection\_22f; !!Type 22f Nouns

LEXICON inflection\_1a

+NOUN+MASC+SG:0 #;

+NOUN+MASC+PL:^MP #;

+NOUN+MASC+OBL:^MP #;

+NOUN+MASC+HON:^MP #;

+NOUN+MASC+VOC:^MP #;

+NOUN+FEM:+FE #;

LEXICON inflection\_1b

+NOUN+MASC+SG:0 #;

+NOUN+MASC+PL:^MP #;

+NOUN+MASC+OBL:^MP #;

+NOUN+FEM:+FE #;

LEXICON inflection\_1c

+NOUN+SG:0 #;

+NOUN+PL:^MP #;

+NOUN+OBL:^MP #;

+NOUN+DIM:^FE #;

LEXICON inflection\_1d

+NOUN+SG:0 #;

+NOUN+PL:^MP #;

+NOUN+OBL:^MP #;

LEXICON inflection\_21a

```

+NOUN+MASC:0      #;
+NOUN+FEM:ी      #;
LEXICON    inflection_21b
+NOUN+MASC:0      #;
+NOUN+FEM:नी     #;
LEXICON    inflection_21c
+NOUN+MASC:0      #;
+NOUN+FEM:िनी   #;
LEXICON    inflection_21d
+NOUN+MASC:0      #;
+NOUN+FEM:ेनी   #;
+NOUN+FEM:िनी   #;
LEXICON    inflection_22a
+NOUN+MASC:0      #;
LEXICON    inflection_22b
+NOUN+FEM:0      #;
LEXICON    inflection_22c
+NOUN+PROPER+MASC:0 #;
LEXICON    inflection_22d
+NOUN+PROPER+FEM:0 #;
LEXICON    inflection_22e
+NOUN:0      #;
LEXICON    inflection_22f
+NOUN+PLACE:0  #;
END

```

## 5.2 xfst interface

```

clear
define cons
कगघडाडचछजझञाटठाडढणताथदाधनपाफबभामायरालावास
|षशाह;

```

```

define liquids रल;
define change [[ो %+MP -> ा || _ .#.]
.o.
[ो %+FE -> ी || _ .#.]
.o.
[ा -> [] || _ ?* %^b ि न ी .#.]
.o.
[ा -> [] || _ े न ी .#.]
.o.
[ा -> [] || _ ि न ी .#.]
.o.
[ा -> [] || _ ी .#.]
.o.
[ी -> ् || liquids _ न ी .#.]
.o.
[ी -> ि || _ न ी .#.]
.o.
[[. ] -> ् || cons _ न ी .#.]
.o.
[य ा -> [] || _ न ी .#.]
.o.
[ी -> [] || _ ि न ी .#.]
.o.
[ू -> ु || _ ?* %^b ि न ी .#.]
.o.
[ी -> [] || _ %^b ि न ी .#.]
.o.
[%^b -> [] ]
.o.

```

```
[ि -> [] || ु _ न ी .#.]
];
```

```
read lexc <nouns.txt
define nouns;
read regex nouns .o. change;
save stack nouns.fst
```

## 6. Conclusion

The Nepali basic nouns are analyzed with reference to the characteristic features that they carry and classified into 14 classes. These groups of nouns are fed into the lexc grammar to create a lexicon finite state transducer and separate finite state transducers for morphophonemic rules. And finally these finite state traducers are composed to create a lexicon which can be directly used to analyze and generate the basic nouns.

## Abbreviations

∅-Null	INANI-Inanimate
1-First person	INST-Instrumental
2-Second Person	LOC-Locative
3-Third Person	MASC-Masculine
ABL-Ablative	NOM-Nominative
ADJ-Adjective	NOUN-Noun
AUG-Augmentative	NP-Noun Phrase
CC-Coordinate	NPST-Non past
CL-Classifier	OBL-Oblique
COM-Comitative	PART-Particle
DAT-Dative	PST-Past
DIM-Diminitive	PERF-Perfect
DIR-Directional	PL-Plural
ERG-Ergative	POSTP-Postposition
FEM-Feminine	SG -Singular
GEN-Genitive	SUPER-Superlative
HON-Honorific	VERB-Verb
IMPF-Imperative	VOC-Vocative

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STRATEGIES OF PRONOMINALIZATION IN KOYEE<sup>1</sup>

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Koyee is one of the complex pronominalized Kiranti languages in which the personal pronouns representing the subject and sometimes the object of the sentence can be affixed to the verb.

## 1 Introduction

Hodgson (1857) is supposed to be the first person to coin the term 'Pronominalization'. It means that the process of copying full or part of the phonetic form of pronouns with different case roles by the head of a sentence or phrase.

Pronominalization refers to the use of the subject (and sometimes the object as well) among the Himalayish languages (Grierson and Konow, 1909). Pronominalization has to do with the affixation of pronouns-like formatives to the root verb to indicate agreement to the subject and object (Kansakar, 1993).

Koyee<sup>2</sup> is a complex pronominalized language in which personal pronouns representing the subject-occasionally also the object of the sentence, can be verb found attached to the verb. In order to understand pronominalization in Koyee, we need to look at the table 1 of personal pronoun.

<sup>1</sup> This is a revised version of the paper presented in the 30th Annual Conference of Linguistic Society of Nepal (LSN) held on 26-27 November, 2009 at CEDA Hall, Katmandu

<sup>2</sup> Koyee is one of the Kirat Rai languages of the Himalayish sub-group within Tibeto-Burman group of Sino-Tibetan language family. This language is spoken by an estimated 3000 people in Sungdel and Dipsung VDCs of Khotang district of Sagarmatha Zone in the eastern Nepal.

Table 1: Personal pronouns in Koyee

	Singular	Dual	Plural
1st Person	aŋ	intsi (INCL) ʌntsu (EXCL)	iŋki (INCL) ʌŋkʌ (EXCL)
2nd Person	an	antsi (INCL) antsinusi (EXCL)	ani (INCL) anitsʌ (EXCL)
3rd Person	umu	umunsi	umtsʌ

## 2 Pronominalized suffixations in verb

Koyee pronominalization can be realized in dual and plural of the agent in the first person but not in the singular agent.

- (1) a. intsija olon hʌptsisi  
intsi-ja olon hʌptsi-si  
1DU.INCL-ERG milk drink-NPST.1DU.INCL  
'We (two) drink/will drink milk'
- b. ʌŋkʌ olon hʌptsekʌ  
ʌŋkʌ-a olon hʌpts-e-kʌ  
1DU.EXCL-ERG milk drink-NPST.1DU.EXCL  
'We (two) drink/will drink milk'
- c. iŋkija olon hʌptsiki  
iŋki-ja olon hʌptsi-ki  
1DU.EXCL-ERG milk drink-NPST.1DU.EXCL  
'We (two) drink/will drink milk'
- d. ʌŋkʌtsʌ olon hʌptsekʌ  
ʌŋkʌtsʌ-a olon hʌpts-e-kʌ  
1PL.EXCL-ERG milk drink-NPST-1DU.EXCL  
'We (two) drink/will drink milk'
- e. iŋki mo:ki

iŋki mo:-ki  
 1PL.INCL stay-NPST.1PL.INCL  
 ‘We all stay/will stay.’

- f. ʌŋkʌ mo:kʌ  
 ʌŋkʌ mo:-kʌ  
 1PL.EXCL stay-NPST.1PL.EXCL  
 ‘We all stay/will stay.’

From the above mentioned instances (1a-f), what can be found is that in both inclusive and exclusive of the first person dual and plural pronouns are affixed to the finite verb form to show the agreement of the subject with the verb. The first person dual inclusive and exclusive pronoun markers <-tsi> and <kʌ> respectively show the agreement as <-si> and <-kʌ> in the verb. Likewise, the first person plural inclusive and exclusive pronoun markers <-kʌ> and <-ki> appear the same in the verb respectively.

Similarly, the second person pronominal agreement is given below.

- (2) a. ana olon ʌpʌtsina  
 an-a olon ʌpʌtsi-na  
 You-ERG milk drink-NPST.2SG.  
 ‘You drink/will drink milk.’
- b. anija olon ʌpʌtsini  
 ani-ja olon ʌpʌtsi-ni  
 You (HON)-ERG milk drink-NPST.2SG.  
 ‘You drink/will drink milk.’
- c. antsija olon ʌpʌtsina  
 antsi-ja olon ʌpʌtsi-sina

You-ERG milk drink-NPST.2DU.  
 ‘You (two) drink/will drink milk.’

- d. anitsʌa olon ʌpʌtsisini  
 anitsʌ-a olon ʌpʌtsi-sini  
 You-ERG milk drink-NPST.2PL  
 ‘You (all) drink/will drink milk.’

From the above mentioned examples, what we can see is that the second person non-honorific marker <-na> shows the agreement as <-na> in the verb. On the other hand, honorific marker <-ni> shows the agreement as <-ni> in the verb. The second person dual and plural marker <-ntsi> and <-nitsʌ> show the agreement as <-sina> and <-sini> in the verbs respectively.

The pronominalization in the third person pronoun appears only in the dual of the agent.

- (3) a. umua olon ʌpda  
 umu-a olon ʌp-da  
 he/she-ERG milk drink-NPST.3SG.  
 ‘He/she drinks/ will drink milk.’
- b. untsia olon ʌpdasi  
 untsi-a olon ʌpda-si  
 they-ERG milk drink-NPST.3SG.  
 ‘They (two) drink/ will drink milk.’
- c. umtsʌa olon ʌpdani  
 umtsʌ-a olon ʌpda-ni  
 they-ERG milk drink-NPST.3PL.  
 ‘They drink/ will drink milk.’

In the above examples (3a-c), the third person dual suffix marker <-tsi> shows agreement as <-si> with the verb. Similarly, the third person plural suffix marker <-tsΛ> shows agreement as <-ni> in the verb.

In the case of object pronominalization, only third person dual of object shows the pronominalization in the verb.

- (4) a. umu-a umnusi (-lai) jΛmdasi  
 umu-a umnusi(-lai) jΛmda-si  
 he/she-ERG 3DU. (-ACC) hit-NPST3DU.obj.  
 'He/she hits/ will hit them (two).'
- b. um-a umtsΛ (-lai) d<sup>h</sup>aŋdani  
 um-a umtsΛ(-lai) d<sup>h</sup>aŋda-ni  
 he/she-ERG 3DU.(-ACC) hit-NPST3DU.obj.  
 'He/she hits/ will hit them (two).'

In the above examples (4a-b), it can be realized that the third person dual object suffix <-nusi> shows pronominalization process as <-si> in the verb.

### 3 Non-past tense and pronominal suffixes

In Koyee, the non-past tense marker is restricted to the first, second and third person singular.

- (5) a. aŋa olon hΛpdΛ  
 aŋ-a olon hΛp-dΛ  
 I-ERG milk drink-NPST.1SG.  
 'I drink/ will drink milk.'

- b. aŋ hutΛ  
 aŋ hu-tΛ  
 I come-NPST.1sg.  
 'I come/ will come.'
- c. anija dza: dzeni  
 ani-ja dza: dze-ni  
 you-ERG rice eat-NPST.2H.  
 'You eat / will eat rice.'
- d. uma pi:n dzada  
 um-a pi:n dza-da  
 he/she-ERG potato eat-NPST.2H.  
 'S/he eats / will eat potato.'

### 4 Past tense and pronominal suffixes

- (6) a. intsija olon hΛptsasi  
 intsi-ja olon hΛpts-a-si  
 1DU.INCL-ERG milk drink-PST-1DU.INCL  
 'We (two) drank milk'
- b. ΛŋkΛΛ olon hΛptsakΛ  
 ΛŋkΛ-a olon hΛpts-a-kΛ  
 1DU.EXCL-ERG milk drink-PST.1DU.EXCL  
 'We (two) drank milk'
- c. iŋkija olon hΛptsaki  
 iŋki-ja olon hΛpts-a-ki  
 1DU.EXCL-ERG milk drink-PST-1DU.EXCL  
 'We (two) drank milk'
- d. ΛŋkΛtsΛΛ olon hΛptsakΛ  
 ΛŋkΛtsΛ-a olon hΛpts-a-kΛ

1PL.EXCL-ERGmilk drink.-PST-1DU.EXCL  
 'We (two) drank milk'

e. iŋki mΛ:ki

iŋki mΛ:-ki  
 1PL. INCL stay-PST.1PL.INCL  
 'We all stayed.'

f. ΛŋkΛ mΛ:kΛ

ΛŋkΛ mΛ:-kΛ  
 1PL. EXCL stay-PST.1PL.EXCL  
 'We all stayed.'

From the above mentioned instances (6a-f), we can see that in both inclusive and exclusive of the first person dual and plural pronouns are affixed to the finite verb form to show the agreement of the subject with the verb. The first person dual inclusive and exclusive pronoun markers <-tsi> and <kΛ> respectively show the agreement as <-si> and <-kΛ> in the verb. Likewise, the first person plural inclusive and exclusive pronoun markers <-kΛ> and <-ki> in the verb appear the same.

### 5 Conclusion

In Koyee, the strategies of pronominalization process in the first person and the second person appear only in dual of agent and plural of agent. The first person dual inclusive and exclusive pronoun markers <-tsi> and <-kΛ> respectively show the agreement as <-si> and <-kΛ> in the verb. Likewise, the first person plural inclusive and exclusive pronoun markers <-kΛ> and <-ki> show the agreement. The second person non-honorific marker <-na> shows the agreement as <-na> in the verb. On the other hand, honorific marker <-

ni> shows the agreement as <-ni> in the verb. The second person dual and plural marker <-ntsi> and <-nitsΛ> show the agreement as <-sina> and <-sini> in the verbs respectively. The third person dual suffix marker <-si> shows agreement as <-si> with the verb. Similarly, the third person plural suffix marker <-tsΛ> shows agreement as <-ni> in the verb. The third person dual object suffix <-nusi> shows pronominalization process as <-si> in the verb.

### Abbreviations

1	First person
2	Second person
3	Third person
ACC	Accusative
DU	Dual
ERG	Ergative
EXCL	Exclusive
HON	Honorific
INCL	Inclusive
NPST	Non-past
obj	Object
PL	Plural
PST	Past
SG	Singular

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MORPHOSYNTAX OF RELATIVIZATION IN KAIKE<sup>1</sup>

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Kaike primarily employs two nominalizers: *-pa* and *-nan* to form relative clauses under the grammar of nominalization. Such clauses formed with *-pa* followed by genitive and those with *-nan* followed by dative marker code perfective and imperfective aspects. The gap strategy is mainly used to form relative constructions in *Kaike*.

## 1 Introduction

The main purpose of this paper is to look at the morphosyntax of relativization in the Kaike language from the functional-typological perspective. Tibeto-Burman languages extensively make use of nominalization for a wide range of grammatical purposes. One of the main functions of nominalization is to construct the relative clauses in these languages. DeLancey (1999) argues that nominalization is the main process of relativization in Bodic languages. Kaike is a seriously endangered and poorly described Tibeto-Burman language of the Bodish group spoken in the three villages, viz. Sahartara, Tupatara and Tarakot under Sahartara Village Development Committee of Dolpa district of Nepal (Gurung et al. 2006). According to the Census of Nepal, 2001, the total population of the speaker amounts to 792.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> This is the revised version of the paper presented in the 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Linguistic Society of Nepal held in Kathmandu, 26-27, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Moseley (ed. 2007:330) notes Kaike, which belongs to Tamangic branch of Tibeto-Burman language, is an endangered language of the world.

Tibeto-Burman languages of the Bodish group primarily employ nominalization as a morphosyntactic process of relativization (Genetti, 1992; DeLancey, 1999; Bickel, 1999; Watters, 2006a) and so does Kaike.

We organize this paper into five sections. In section 2, we present an overview of the basic features of the nominalizers in Kaike. Section 3 presents the formation and classification of relative clauses in the language. In section 4, we examine the case recoverability strategy in the language. Section 5 provides the summary of the findings of the paper.

## 2 Basic features of the nominalizers

Before dealing with the morphosyntax of relativization it would be better to present an overview of the basic features of the nominalizers in the Kaike language. They are as follows:

- i. There are three forms of nominalizers: *-pa*, *-nan*, and *-ma*.
- ii. Both *-pa* and *-nan* are affixed to the verb as suffixes whereas *-ma* is attached to an adjective to show the comparison between the two entities of the clause (Regmi, 2007)
- iii. Only the nominalizers *-pa* and *-nan* are employed to form relative constructions in Kaike.
- iv. The nominalizer *-pa* may be followed by genitive marker and *-nan* by the dative marker.

## 3 Formation and classification

Primarily as in Tibetan (DeLancey, 1999) the relative clause in Kaike is syntactically a nominalized clause marked by the nominal marker and functionally a nominal modifier of the head noun. Kaike presents a slightly complex system of relativization in the sense that it makes use of two different nominalizers characteristically followed by two types of case

markers, namely, genitive and dative and shows aspectual reference of the relative clause.

We may classify the relative clauses in Kaike morphologically and aspectually. Morphologically there are two types of relative clauses in Kaike: relative clause consisting of nominalizer followed by the genitive marker and relative clause consisting of nominalizer followed by the dative marker.<sup>3</sup> These two types of relative clauses can be further classified in terms of the time reference of the relative clause (i.e. aspectually): perfective and imperfective. Figure 1 presents the classification of the relative clauses morphologically and aspectually.

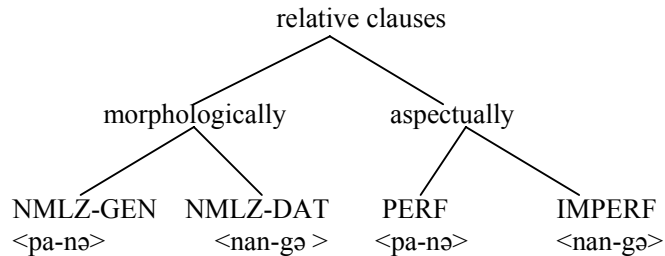


Figure 1: Classification of the relative clauses in Kaike

The following are the examples:

- (1) Nominalizer followed by genitive <pa-nə>

yim doŋ-pa-nə simi sowa-bo  
house make-NMLZ-GEN man come-PST.DJ  
'The man who has made house came.'

<sup>3</sup> In many TB languages relative clauses consist of the default nominalizer with genitive marking ( DeLancey, 1999).

- (2) Nominalizer followed by dative <nan-gə>

ŋa-i raksi thuŋ-nan-gə p<sup>h</sup>yaŋ-pa  
1SG-ERG alcohol drink-NMLZ-DAT beat-PST.CJ  
'I beat the man who drinks alcohol.'

The relative clauses in (1 and 2) are positioned before the head noun. Both *-pa* and *-nan* are the relativizers affixed to the root of the verb in Kaike. The choice between these two nominalizers as relativizers is determined by the time reference of the relative clause. In other words, the relative clause in (1) consisting of *-pa* followed by the genitive marker *-nə* characteristically differs from the relative clause in (2) consisting of *-nan* followed by the dative marker *-gə* in terms of aspect. In (1) *-pa* followed by the genitive marker codes perfective aspect whereas in (2) *-nan* followed by the dative marker *-gə* codes imperfective aspect.

The correlative types of relative clauses marginally exist in Kaike. As in Newar and other TB languages like Bhujel (Regmi, 2007) Kaike does not have relative pronouns. It makes use of interrogative pronouns for making correlative relative clauses.<sup>4</sup> The following are the examples.

- (3) a. [su ŋə-i prasnə lop-pa]  
who 1SG-ERG question ask-PST.CJ  
ənə simi lə ŋya  
that man good COP  
'The man whom I asked the question is good.'
- b. [su-i c<sup>h</sup>oy lə ŋya]  
who-ERG read good COP  
ənə-je pas k<sup>h</sup>ē

<sup>4</sup> They are simply innovations under the influence of the contact language, Nepali.

he-ERG pass do.NPST  
 ‘The man who reads well passes (the examination).’

In examples, (3a-b), *su* ‘who’ is an interrogative pronoun. However, it has been used as a relative pronoun in the formation of correlative relative clauses in Kaike.

#### 4 Case recoverability strategy

In common with other Bodish languages a restricting relative clause in Kaike is syntactically embedded as a subordinate clause functioning as a noun modifier in the NP. The relative clause misses one argument that is co-referential to the head noun. In Kaike the referential identity of the missing argument inside the relative clause is fully recoverable from the head noun itself because the missing argument of the relative clause is obligatorily co-referent with the head noun. However, the case role of the missing argument cannot be likewise recovered because the head noun bears its case role (semantic and grammatical) in the main clause whereas the missing co-referent noun may occupy any case role within the relative clause.<sup>5</sup> Following are the examples:

- (4) a. əku t<sup>h</sup>ot-pa-nə simi  
 honey extract-NMLZ-GEN man  
 la cim-nan  
 hand lick-NMLZ  
 ‘The man who extracts honey licks the hand.’
- b. ŋə-i rowa-pa-nə simi-je  
 1SG-ERG believe-NMLZ-GEN man-ERG

<sup>5</sup> The head noun bears its case-roles vis-à-vis the main clause but the relativized noun may realize a variety of case-roles within that clause (Givón, 2001).

d<sup>h</sup>oka bim-bo  
 cheat cheat give-PST  
 ‘The man whom I believed cheated me.’

- c. ram-je kələmə bim-pa-nə  
 Ram-ERG pen give-NMLZ-GEN  
 simi ŋə-i kapi bim-pa  
 man 1SG-ERG exercise book give-PST.CJ  
 ‘I gave the exercise book to the person whom Ram gave a pen.’

In example (4a) the missing co-referent noun occupies the grammatical case role of subject whereas in (4b) the co-referent noun takes the case role of direct object. Similarly, in (4c) the case role of the missing co-referent noun is referred to as indirect object.

There have been proposed various strategies to solve the problem of identifying the case roles of the missing arguments. One of the very popular case recoverability strategies is referred to as the gap (zero) strategy, other being the non-embedding, the anaphoric pronoun, relative pronoun, the verb agreement and gap, the word order, nominalization, the equi-case, verb coding and standard case marking (Payne, 1997; Givón, 2001). Kaike primarily employs the gap strategy for the relative clauses formed under the grammar of nominalization.<sup>6</sup> In Kaike, this strategy simply puts the verb of the relative clause in a participial form and leaves a gap in the relative clause to indicate the position of the head noun (Subbbarao, 2009).<sup>7</sup> Consider the following example.

<sup>6</sup> Kaike seems to be using other strategies for the correlative relative clauses formed with the use of interrogative pronouns.

<sup>7</sup> See Watters (2006b) for conjunct-disjunct distinction in Kaike.



- (5) [yim doŋ-pa-nə - $\phi$ ] simi sowa-bo  
 house make-NMLZ-GEN man come-PST.DJ  
 'The man who has made house came.'

In example (5), the verb is nominalized and the gap is left in order to identify the case role of the missing argument in the relative clause. Diagram 1 presents how the gap strategy is employed in the relative clauses constructed under the grammar of nominalization in Kaike.

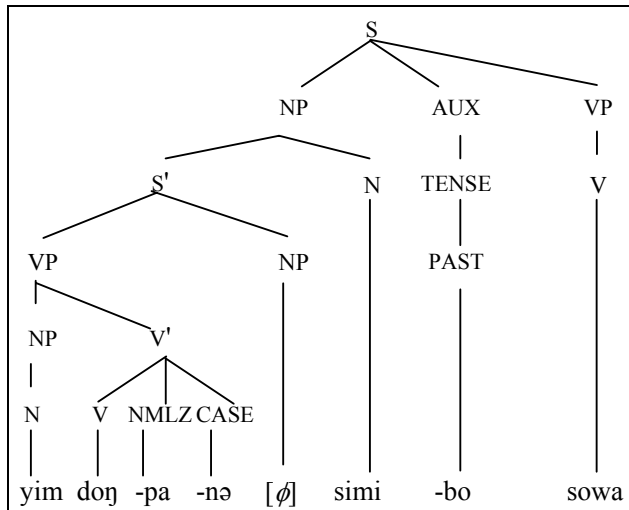


Figure 2: Gap strategy in the relative construction

In Figure 1, S' represents the relative construction formed by employing the nominalization strategy. In this construction, the NP directly dominated by S' represents the referential identity of the missing argument of the relative clause. This is represented by [- $\phi$ ] in the tree diagram.

## 5 Summary

In this paper, we have tried to analyze the morphosyntax of relativization in Kaike. In common with other Tibeto-Burman languages of the Bodish group, Kaike primarily employs nominalization as a morphosyntactic process of relativization.

In section 2, we presented three forms of nominalizers: *-pa*, *-nan*, and *-ma*, in which *-pa* and *-nan* are affixed to the verb as suffixes whereas *-ma* is attached to an adjective. Apart from this, only *-pa* followed by genitive marker and *-nan* by the dative marker are employed to form relative constructions in Kaike.

In section 3, we presented two types of relative clauses morphologically and semantically. The relative clauses with nominalizer followed by the genitive marker and nominalizer followed by the dative marker constitute the morphological typology of the relative clauses in Kaike. Semantically the relative clauses with nominalizer followed by the genitive marker codes perfective, and nominalizer followed by the dative marker codes imperfective aspect in Kaike.

In section 4, we examined the case recoverability strategy in the language. Kaike primarily employs the gap strategy for the relative clauses formed under the grammar of nominalization. According to this strategy, the verb is nominalized in Kaike and the gap is left in order to identify the case role of the missing argument in the relative clause.

### Abbreviations

1	First person
AUX	Auxiliary
CJ	Conjunct
COP	Copula
DJ	Disjunct
DAT	Dative
ERG	Ergative

GEN	Genitive
NEG	Negative
NMLZ	Nominalization
NPST	Non-past
PST	Past tense
SG	Singular

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## NOMINALIZATIONS IN BHUJEL<sup>1</sup>

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Bhujel, in common with many Bodish and Himalayish languages, employs morphological strategy to adjust the grammatical category of the root of the verb in the grammar of nominalization. It utilizes two nominalizers, viz., *-məy* and *-o* to express a wide array of language specific functions apart from the 'expected' functions.

### 1 Introduction

The main purpose of this paper is to look at morphosyntactic properties of nominalization in Bhujel, an endangered and preliterate language spoken by about 3,923 ethnic Bhujel, most of them living along the Mahabharata mountain range of Tanahun, Gorkha, Chitwan and Nawalparasi districts of Nepal. Natively referred to as *puk<sup>h</sup>gyal ηur* (*puk<sup>h</sup>gyal* 'Bhujel' and *ηur* 'language') this language belongs to the east Himalayish languages of Himalayish section of the Bodic branch of Tibeto-Burman language family (Regmi, 2007b).<sup>2</sup>

In Bhujel, in common with many Himalayish branches of Tibeto-Burman languages (DeLancy, 1999; Bickel, 1999; Watters, 2006) nominalization is one of the very productive as well as pervasive derivational morphosyntactic strategies to adjust the grammatical category of the root of the verb. There are two forms of nominalizers in Bhujel: *-məy* and *-o*. Similar

<sup>1</sup> This is the revised version of the paper presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Linguistic Society of Nepal held in Kathmandu, November, 26-27, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Moseley (ed. 2007:323) notes Bhujeli, which belongs to Chepangic branch of Tibeto-Burman language, is a severely endangered language of the world.

to other Himalayish languages, Bhujel makes use of nominalization for a wide range of functions other than the main two 'expected' functions of nominalizations in Bodic languages: reifications of events and processes and expressions of clauses as arguments of predicates (Noonan, 1997). Moreover, nominalizers express modal as well as aspectual properties in the language.

This paper is organized into four sections. The first section is the introduction. In section 2, we deal with the classification and distribution of the nominalizers in Bhujel. Section 3 discusses the functions of the nominalization in this language. In section 4, we summarize the findings of the paper.

### 2 Classification and distribution

Typologically, there are three types of derivational strategies employed by different languages of the world to form nominalization from the verb: lexical, morphological and analytic (Payne, 1997). Bhujel neither makes use of lexical strategy as English nor analytic as Mandarin. In common with many Bodish and Himalayish languages Bhujel utilizes morphological strategy. Figure 1 presents the classification of nominalizers in terms of forms, modality and aspects in Bhujel.

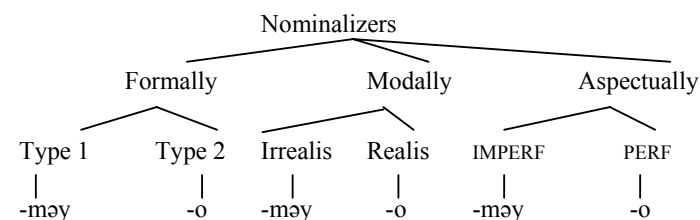


Figure 1: Classification of nominalizers in Bhujel

Figure 1 shows that the nominalizers in Bhujel may be formally classified into two types: Type 1 (<-məy>) and Type 2 (<-o>). They can be further classified modally and aspectually. Modally they are classified into irrealis (<-məy>) and realis (<-o>) and aspectually into imperfective (<-məy>) and perfective (<-o>).

The nominalizers in Bhujel exhibit interesting distribution typologically. Both type 1 and type 2 nominalizers are primarily affixed to the root of the verb as suffixes at three levels: the word, clause and sentence level.

They are affixed to the root of the verb at the word level, as in (1).

- |     |    |       |                   |         |                     |           |
|-----|----|-------|-------------------|---------|---------------------|-----------|
| (1) | a. | (i)   | hin               | ‘sell’  | hin-məy             | ‘seller’  |
|     |    | (ii)  | le                | ‘buy’   | le-məy              | ‘buyer’   |
|     |    | (iii) | je                | ‘eat’   | je-məy              | ‘eater’   |
|     | b. | (i)   | rup               | ‘stich’ | rup-o               | ‘tailor’  |
|     |    | (ii)  | k <sup>h</sup> aŋ | ‘cook’  | k <sup>h</sup> aŋ-o | ‘cook’    |
|     |    | (iii) | syān              | ‘teach’ | syān-o              | ‘teacher’ |

These nominalizers are affixed to the root of the verb at the clause level, as in (2).

- |     |                           |           |           |
|-----|---------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| (2) | co                        | kim-haŋ   | mu-o      |
|     | son                       | house-LOC | stay-NMLZ |
|     | ‘The son stayed at home.’ |           |           |

They are affixed to the root of the verb at the sentence level, as in (3).

- |     |                                     |           |                    |          |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------|
| (3) | wa                                  | sat-o     | man <sup>h</sup> e | waŋ-əl   |
|     | bird                                | kill-NMLZ | man                | come-PST |
|     | ‘The man who killed the bird came.’ |           |                    |          |

The irrealis nominalizer *-məy* may be best exemplified in the sentence level, as in (4).

- |     |   |            |         |           |
|-----|---|------------|---------|-----------|
| (4) | goyco-koy                                   | kim-taŋ    | wa-məy  | pər-na    |
|     | man-GEN                                     | house-EMPH | go-NMLZ | OBLG-NPST |
|     | ‘It is necessary to go to the man’s house.’ |            |         |           |

The realis nominalizer *-o* may be best exemplified in the sentence level, as in (5).

- |     |  |           |       |          |
|-----|--|-----------|-------|----------|
| (5) | kuy                                    | sat-o     | ja    | waŋ-əl   |
|     | dog                                    | kill-NMLZ | tiger | come-PST |
|     | ‘The tiger which killed the dog came.’ |           |       |          |

The nominalizers classified aspectually in Bhujel may be best differentiated from the formation of the relative clauses (See, 3.2.5 for details).

### 3 Functions

Nominalizations in Bhujel can be used to express a wide array of functions. Following Noonan (1997), such functions in Bhujel may be broadly divided into two categories: ‘expected’ and language specific functions. They are discussed as follows:

#### 3.1 ‘Expected’ functions

There are two ‘expected’ functions of nominalizations: the reifications of events and processes and the expressions of clauses as arguments within the clauses (Noonan, 1997).

##### 3.1.1 Reifications of events and processes

Nominalizations basically reify inherent aspects of the verb, as in (6).

- |     |    |      |                     |            |                   |
|-----|----|------|---------------------|------------|-------------------|
| (6) | a. | (i)  | ŋa-i                | ja-kay     | apa-al-u-ŋ        |
|     |    |      | 1SG-ERG             | tiger-DAT  | shoot-PST-DIR-1/2 |
|     |    |      | ‘I shot the tiger.’ |            |                   |
|     |    | (ii) | ŋa-i                | ap-o       | ja                |
|     |    |      | 1SG-ERG             | shoot-NMLZ | tiger             |
|     |    |      | ‘The tiger I shot’  |            |                   |

- b. (i) dyo lyuŋkh-al  
3SG fall-PST  
'S/he fell.'
- (ii) dyo lyuŋkh-o siŋ  
3SG fall-NMLZ tree  
'The tree from which s/he fell'

In example (6a-i), the verb *ap* 'shoot' inherently expresses an event. In the same way, in (6b-i) *lyuŋkh* 'fall' articulates a process. However, in (6a-ii) and (6b-ii), the inherent aspects of the verbs have been reified.

### 3.1.2 Expressions of clauses as arguments of predicates

The nominalized expressions may function as the arguments of predicates. Such expressions are nouns and may be case-marked, as in (7).

- (7) nyamtyau tuŋ-məy-kəy wa sat-al  
alcohol drink-NMLZ-ERG fowl kill-PST  
'The man who drinks killed the fowl.'

In example (7), the nominalized form of the verb the *tuŋ* 'drink' has been ergative-marked functioning as the subject of the predicate.

## 3.2 Language specific functions

The constructions headed by the nominalizations in Bhujel can be used to express a wide array of functions. They are discussed as follows.

### 3.2.1 Naming of activities or states

What is to be noted here that the root of the verb suffixed by type 1 nominalizer *-məy*, in Bhujel, is used as citation form of the verbs. In discourse, it is used to express the names of activities or states, as in (8).

- (8) nyamtau tuŋ-məy dyaŋ-la  
alcohol drink-NMLZ good-NEG  
'Drinking alcohol is bad.'

### 3.2.2 Verb complementation

Only type 1 nominalizer in Bhujel can be used as verb complements, as in (9).

- (9) ŋa ihaŋ mu-məy luŋ ge-yal  
1SG here stay-NMLZ heart be-PST  
'I want to stay here.'

### 3.2.3 Noun complementation

Both type 1 and 2 nominalizers may function as noun complements. The following are the examples.

- (10) a. pas ge-may bat-i ŋa geum-ala-ŋ  
pass be-NMLZ matter-ERG 1SG happy-PST-1/2  
'That I pass made me happy.'
- b. apa waŋ-o bat-i ŋa geum-ala-ŋ  
F. come-NMLZ matter-ERG 1SG happy-PST-1/2  
'That the father came made me happy.'

### 3.2.4 Purpose clauses

Only type 1 nominalizer in Bhujel may be used to code purpose clauses, as in (11).

- (11) dyo je-məy-kay waŋ-al  
3SG eat-NMLZ-DAT come-PST  
'S/he came to eat.'

In (11) the nominalizer requires to be followed by the dative marker *-kay* in Bhujel.

### 3.2.5 Relative clauses

Many TB languages employ nominalization as one of basic morphosyntactic strategies for relativization (Subbarao, 2009). So does Bhujel. The roots of the verbs are affixed with the nominalizers: *-məy* and *-o* to form relative clauses, as in (12).

- (12) a. wa sat-məy kuy waŋ-əl  
fowl kill-NMLZ dog come-PST  
'The dog which kills birds came.'
- b. ram mum-məy kim  
Ram stay-NMLZ house  
'The house in which Ram lives'
- c. wa sat-o kuy waŋ-əl  
fowl kill-NMLZ dog come-PST  
'The dog which killed birds came.'
- d. kuy-kəy jəyk-o plom  
dog-ERG beat-NMLZ grandson  
'The grandson whom the dog bit'

In examples (12a-b) the roots of the verb are attached with the suffix *-məy* whereas in (12c-d) they are marked by the suffix *-o*. These two verbal morphemes are in a paradigmatic relationship.<sup>3</sup> The relative clause in which the verb is suffixed by *-məy* may be referred to as perfect participle (INF PTCP) and the clause with the verb suffixed by the morpheme *-o* may be referred to as infinitival participle (PRF PTCP) (Genetti, 1992). In Bhujel their distribution does not distinguish grammatical relations as in Kham (Watters, 2001) or semantic role.

Moreover, the relative clauses formed by the affixation of *-məy* contrast modally and aspectually with those formed by the

<sup>3</sup> Chepang (Caughley, 1982:42) unlike Bhujel has a single verbal morpheme /-o/ for relativization. Thus, the relative clause morphology unlike Bhujel does not code additional semantic or grammatical categories.

affixation of *-o* in (12a-d). The clauses in (12a-b) represent irrealis modality and imperfective aspect whereas the clauses in (12b-d) codes realis modality and perfective aspect.

### 3.2.6 Marking plural

Type 1 nominalizer in Bhujel, though unproductively, is used as a plural marker, as in (13).

- (13) a. gami-məy  
villager-PL  
'villagers'
- b. daju-məy  
brother-PL  
'brothers'

### 3.2.7 Formation of adjectives

There exist three adjectives in Bhujel which are derived from the demonstrative pronouns (proximate, distal and remote) with type 2, as in (14).

- (14) a. i PROX i-o [ito] 'like this/ this kind'
- b. u DIST u-o [nuto] 'like that/ that kind'
- c. dyo REM dyo-o [duto] 'like that/ that kind'

Most of the adjectives in Bhujel are derived from descriptive verbs. These adjectives consist of a root of the verb followed by the nominalizer *-o* as in (15).

- (15) a. gal 'blacken' /galo/ [galt] 'black'
- b. p<sup>h</sup>am 'whiten' /p<sup>h</sup>am-o/ [p<sup>h</sup>amo] 'white'
- c. dun 'fatten' /dun-o/ [dunto] 'fat'
- d. gren 'be thin' /gren-o/ [grento] 'thin'

Some of the adjectives in Bhujel are derived from stative verbs with type 2 nominalizer.

- (16) a. ge 'become' /ge-o/ 'been something'  
 b. na 'have' /na-o/ 'having something'  
 c. na-lə 'not have' /na-lə-o/ 'having nothing'

Some adjectives in Bhujel can be derived from a root of the verb followed by the type 1 nominalizer as in (17).

- (17) a. lu-məy 'over sexy'  
 b. si-məy 'man/ animal to die'  
 c. chop<sup>h</sup>-məy 'having sharp edge'

Table 1 presents the constraints in the use of type 1 and type 2 nominalizers in Bhujel.

Table 1: Constraints in type 1 and type 2 nominalizers

	Functions	Nominalizers	
		Type 1	Type 2
1.	Naming of activities or states	√	x
2.	Verb complementation	√	x
3.	Noun complementation	√	√
4.	Purpose clauses	√	x
5.	Relative clauses	√	√
6.	Marking plural	√	x
7.	Formation of adjectives	√	√

#### 4 Summary

Bhujel stands having two nominalizers which may be classified formally and semantically. They are suffixed to the root of the verb at the word level, clause level and sentence level. Apart from the main two 'expected' functions of nominalizations: reifications of events and processes and expressions of clauses as arguments of predicates the constructions headed by the nominalizations in Bhujel can be

used to express a wide array of functions: Naming activities and states, verb complementation, noun complementation, purpose clauses, and relative clauses. There are some more functions of nominalizers in Bhujel. Quite interestingly Type 1 nominalizer in Bhujel, though unproductively, is used as a plural marker. Basically, type 2 nominalizer is used to derive adjectives from the demonstrative pronouns (proximate, distal and remote). Moreover, many adjectives are productively derived with the help of the nominalizers in Bhujel.

#### Abbreviations

1	First person	ERG	Ergative
½	1 or 2 person	LOC	Locative
1SG	First person singular	NMLZ	Nominalizer
3SG	Third person singular	NPST	Non-past
AUX	Auxiliary	OBLG	Obligatory
DAT	Dative	PROX	Proximal
DIST	Distal	PST	Past tense
DUR	Durative	REM	Remote
EMPH	Emphatic	SG	Singular

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## RAJI PRONOUNS

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In this paper, we discuss the personal, indefinites, interrogatives, reflexives, demonstratives, relative-correlatives and possessive pronouns in the Raji language.

## 1 Introduction

The Raji people reside primarily in the districts of Surkhet, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Bardiya and Banke in the Mid-Western and Far-Western Nepal. It must be noted that a linguistically and culturally contiguous small group of roughly 496 Rajis live in Pithoragarh district of the Kumaon Himalayan region of Uttar Pradesh, India. They have lived as hunter-gatherers in the forests of Uttaranchal (Krishnan, 2001:449 and Rastogi, 2006:52). The Government of Nepal has recognized the Raji as an official nationality.

## 2 The personal pronouns

It has a set of independent first, second and third person pronouns in singular, dual and plural forms. Demonstratives function as the third person pronouns on the order of 'this' (proximal), 'that' (distal) and 'that' (remote). Gender is not inflected in the pronoun.

The first person and second person independent personal pronouns are *ŋa* 'I' and *naŋ* 'thou'. The first and second person singular pronouns are identical to the pronouns reconstructed for Proto-Tibeto-Burman *\*ŋa* 'I' and *\*naŋ* 'you' (Benedict, 1972:93; Matisoff, 2003:264; Ebert, 1994:76).

The singular is unmarked category and the dual marker is *-dzi* in both first and second persons. However, *-giŋ* is the dual

marker in the third person pronoun. The plural marker is *-i* in the first person, *-ni* in the second person and *-la* in the third person.

## 2.1 First person singular

The first person singular pronoun is *ŋa* in Raji.

- (1) *ŋa bʌtaŋ dzakŋ*  
*ŋa bʌtaŋ dza-k-ŋ*  
 1SG rice eat-SD-1  
 'I eat rice.'

## 2.2 First person dual

The first person dual pronoun is *ŋʌdzi*.

- (2) *ŋʌdzi nʌmfiʌ swakʌtsĩ*  
*ŋʌ-dzi nʌm-fiʌ swa-k-i-tsĩ*  
 1-DU house-LOC go-SD-NPST-DU.1  
 'We (two) go home.'

## 2.3 First person plural

The first person plural is *ŋʌi*.

- (3) *ŋʌi nʌmfiʌ swakĩ*  
*ŋʌi nʌm-fiʌ swa-k-i*  
 1-PL house-LOC go-SD-1.PL  
 'We go home.'

## 2.4 Second person singular

The second person singular is *naŋ*.

- (4) nλŋ bλtaŋ dzaki  
 nλŋ bλtaŋ dza-k-i  
 2SG rice eat-SD-NPST  
 ‘You eat rice.’

#### 2.5 Second person dual

The second person dual is *nλŋdzi*.

- (5) nλŋdzi bλtaŋ dzakĩtsĩ  
 nλŋ-dzi bλtaŋ dza-k-i-tsi  
 2-DU rice eat-SD-NPST-2DU  
 ‘You (two) eat rice.’

#### 2.6 Second person plural

The second person plural is *nλŋni*.

- (6) nλŋni bλtaŋ dzaki  
 nλŋ-ni bλtaŋ dza-k-i  
 2-PL rice eat-SD-PL  
 ‘You eat rice.’

It is to be noted that the technique of horification in Raji is the use of dual and plural person pronouns for singular second persons. There are two levels of honorific namely, the mid and high in Raji. The mid level honorificity is expressed by the use of dual marker *-dzi* which gets suffixed to both the personal pronouns and the verb. On the other hand, the high level honorificity is expressed by the use of plural marker *-ni* which also gets suffixed to both the personal pronouns and the verb. However, honorificity in Raji is restricted to whether the speech act participants are the kins or kiths (affinal or not affinal). It is necessary to use honorificity within not affinal relations. The following are the examples:

- (7) a. nλndzi ti tuŋdzi  
 nλn-dzi ti tuŋ-dzi-ø  
 2-MHON water drink-MHON-IMP  
 ‘You (to sister-in-law) drink water.’  
 b. nλŋni bλtaŋ dzani  
 nλŋ-ni bλtaŋ dza-ni-ø  
 2-HHON rice eat-HHON-IMP  
 ‘You (to father-in-law) eat rice.’

#### 2.7 Third person singular

The third person singular is *fiun*.

- (8) fiun bλtaŋ dzaki  
 fiun bλtaŋ dza-k-i  
 3SG rice eat-SD-NPST  
 ‘He eats rice.’

#### 2.8 Third person dual

The third person dual is *fiungĩŋ*.

- (9) fiungĩŋ bλtaŋ dzakĩtsi  
 fiun-gĩŋ bλtaŋ dza-k-i-tsi  
 3-DU rice eat-SD-NPST-DU  
 ‘They (two) eat rice.’

#### 2.9 Third person plural

The third person plural is *fiunla* in Raji.

- (10) fiunla bλtaŋ dzaki  
 fiun-la bλtaŋ dza-k-i  
 3-Pl rice eat-SD-PL  
 ‘They eat rice.’

The personal pronouns in Raji are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Personal pronouns in Raji

Person \ Number		Singular	Dual	Plural
First person		ŋa/na 'I'	ŋɔdzi 'we two'	ŋɔli 'we'
Second person	LHON	nɔŋ 'you'	nɔŋdzi 'you two'	nɔŋni 'you'
	MHON	nɔŋdzi 'you'		
	HHON	nɔŋni 'you'		
Third person	Proximal	in 'this'	ingij 'these two'	inla 'these'
	Distal	fɔn 'that'	fɔngij 'those two'	fɔnla 'those'
	Remote	an 'that'	angij 'those two'	anla 'those'

Table 1 shows that the Raji language has the distinctions between the first, second and third persons and the singular, dual and plural pronouns.

### 3 Indefinite pronouns

The indefinite pronoun in Raji is *dzaŋ*. The following are the examples:

- (11) a. ŋaki fɔna dzaŋ la uilɔ mɔŋŋɔŋ glakĩ  
 ŋa-ki fɔn-a dzaŋ-la ui mɔŋŋɔŋ gla -k -ĩ  
 1SD-DAT there-LOC whatever be that like feel-SD-NPST.1  
 'I like whatever there is.'

- b. fɔn dzaŋɔli dɔrku ɔni dzakula  
 fɔn dzaŋ-lɔli dɔrku ɔni dza-ku la  
 3SG whatever-INT find too eat-IND be  
 'He eats whatever he gets.'

### 4 Interrogative pronouns

Bhat (2004:47) says that the interrogative pronouns are also considered to be 'indefinite' in the sense that the speaker himself is incapable of identifying its referents.

The following are the examples of interrogative pronouns:

- (12) a. g<sup>h</sup>wa 'where'  
 b. g<sup>h</sup>esɔ 'how much'  
 c. g<sup>h</sup>esɔ 'when'  
 d. gusa 'how'  
 e. gun 'who'  
 f. gun 'which'

The interrogative words are used to ask questions about human or non-human subject, object, reason, frequency, etc. The following are the examples:

- (13) a. fɔn g<sup>h</sup>walɔ swaka  
 fɔn g<sup>h</sup>wa-lɔli swa-k-a  
 3SG where-INT go-SD-PST  
 'Where did he go?'
- b. nɔŋi ɔŋɔli dzaka  
 nɔŋ-i ɔŋ-lɔli dza-k-a  
 you-ERG what-INT eat-SD-PST  
 'What did you eat?'
- d. tsaŋi g<sup>h</sup>esɔɔli bɔtaŋ dzaka  
 tsa-ŋ-i g<sup>h</sup>esɔ-lɔli bɔtaŋ dza-k-a

son-1POSS-ERG howmuch-INT rice eat-SD-PST  
 ‘How much rice did my son eat?’

- e. kui g<sup>h</sup>walɪ woŋki  
 kui g<sup>h</sup>wa-lɪ woŋ-k-i  
 dog where-INT come-SD-NPST  
 ‘Where does the dog come from?’

### 5 Reflexive pronouns

Reflexive pronouns can be used to refer to 'self'. In Raji, the reflexive pronoun is *apula*. It has been borrowed from Nepali. It can be used with all the persons. The following are the examples of reflexive pronouns:

- (14) a. ŋa apula nɒmfiə swakŋ  
 ŋa apula nɒm-fiə swa-k-ŋ  
 1SG REF house-LOC go-SD-1  
 ‘I will go home myself.’
- b. ŋa apula tsit<sup>h</sup>i krakŋ  
 ŋa apula tsit<sup>h</sup>i krak-k-ŋ  
 1SG REF letter write-SD-1  
 ‘I write a letter myself.’
- c. fiunla apula woŋkasi  
 fiun-la apula woŋ-k-a-si  
 3-PL REF come-SD-PST-PL  
 ‘They came themselves.’

The reflexive marker *-si* is suffixed to the verb. The following are the examples:

- (15) a. nɒŋi lɒtta tsursika  
 nɒŋ-i lɒtta tsur-si-k-a  
 2SG-ERG cloth wash-REF-SD-PST  
 ‘You washed clothes yourself.’
- b. ŋa apɒnɒŋ tsit<sup>h</sup>i kraksikŋ  
 ŋa apɒnɒŋ tsit<sup>h</sup>i krak-si-k-ŋ  
 1SG own letter write-REF-SD-1  
 ‘I write my own letter myself.’

### 6 Relative pronouns

The relative pronoun *dzɒŋ* might have been borrowed from Nepali and modified in accordance with Raji phonology. The following are the examples:

- (16) a. dzɒŋ ramrɒu uilɒ pitkɒi  
 dzɒŋ ramrɒ-u uilɒ pit-kɒi  
 which good-NATZ that bring-OPT  
 ‘Bring whichever is good.’
- b. fiunfiə dzɒŋ lɒ ŋakɪ mɒnɒŋ glakɪ  
 fiun-fiə dzɒŋ lɒ ŋa-kɪ mɒnɒŋ gla-k-ɪ  
 DIST-LOC whatever be 1SG-GEN like feel-SD-NPST  
 ‘I like whatever there is.’

### 7 Demonstrative pronouns

The demonstratives have to do with spatial orientation, specially the location of some object with respect to the speaker and hearer in a speech act (Watters, 1998:339). The demonstrative pronouns and the third person pronouns are the same in Raji. The following are the examples:

- (17) a. in madza la  
 in madza la  
 PROX good be  
 'This is good.'
- b. fiun ŋaki tsaŋ  
 fiun ŋa-ki tsa-ŋ  
 DIST 1SG-GEN son-1  
 'That is my son.'

### 8 Relative-correlative pronouns

As Keenan (1985) shows, as quoted in Watters (1998:337) correlatives are the functional equivalent of relative clauses in many languages. The correlative in Raji might be a borrowing from Nepali. Correlatives in Raji occur obligatory in pairs, and the other members of the pair is a pronoun referring back to the correlative. The relative-correlative pronouns in Raji is *dzΛŋ...fiun*.

- (18) a. dzΛŋ mants<sup>h</sup>e kuja wanani ui mants<sup>h</sup>e ŋaki tsaŋ  
 dzΛŋ mants<sup>h</sup>e kuja wan-a-ni ui mants<sup>h</sup>e  
 REL man yesterday come-PST-was COR man  
 ŋa-ki tsa-ŋ  
 1SG-GEN son-1  
 'The man who came yesterday is my son.'
- b. dzΛŋ trontja ruk<sup>h</sup>ŋfia t<sup>h</sup>utit<sup>i</sup> fiun ŋaki tsaŋ  
 dzΛŋ trontja ruk<sup>h</sup>ŋ-ha t<sup>h</sup>uti-ti fiun ŋa-ki tsa-ŋ  
 REL boy tree-LOC climb-PERF COR 1SG-GEN son-1  
 'The boy who has climbed up the tree is my son.'

- c. dzΛŋ ŋa pΛd<sup>h</sup>Λia fiun iskul b<sup>h</sup>AtkΛika  
 dzΛŋ ŋa pΛd<sup>h</sup>Λ-i-a fiun iskul b<sup>h</sup>AtkΛ-i-k-a  
 REL 1SG read-NATZ-PST 3SG school fall-NATZ-SD PST  
 'The school where I read fell down.'

### 9 Possessive pronouns

In Raji, the pronominal possessors take the same genitive case suffix. The following are the examples:

- (19) ŋaki  
 ŋa-ki  
 1SG -GEN  
 'my'

### Abbreviations

1	First person	2	Second person
3	Third person	COR	Correlativ
DAT	Dative	DIST	Distal
DU	Dual	ERG	Ergative
GEN	Genitive	HHON	High Honorphic
IMP	Imperative	IND	Indefinite
INT	Interrogative	LOC	Locative
MHON	Mid Honorphic	NATZ	Nativizer
NPST	Non Past	OPT	Optative
PERF	Perfective	PL	Plural
POSS	Possessive	PROX	Proximal
PST	Past	REF	Reflexive
REL	Relative	REM	Remote
SD	Same day	SG	Singular

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## LANGUAGE POLITICS OF NEPAL IN PRESENT DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION

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This paper is an attempt to discuss the language politics of Nepal focusing mainly on the context of present democratic transition. It simply has tried to explain the concept, context with its various aspects, and ended with some tentative conclusions.

### 1 Background

In countries where there are more than one main language, there are often political implications in decisions that are seen to promote one group of speakers over another, and this is often referred to as language politics. An example of a country with this type of language politics is Nepal. Language politics also relates to dialect, where speakers of a particular dialect are perceived as speaking a more culturally 'advanced' or 'correct' form of the language. Politicians may therefore try to use that dialect rather than their own when in the public eye. Language politics sometimes is seen to be mismatched with the politics of language which in fact is language management. Generally it is done by the government of that state or country. It is what a government does either officially through legislation, court decisions or policy to determine how languages are used, cultivate language skills needed to meet national priorities or to establish the rights of individuals or groups to use and maintain languages. For this different language policies can be adopted by the government in accordance with the language situation and the number on languages and their vitality and necessity. Although many nations historically have used language policies most often to promote one official language at the expense of others, many

countries now have policies designed to protect and promote regional and ethnic languages whose viability is threatened. One of the important tasks of language management as Neustupny (1986) views is to investigate what the language problems are and what they are likely to be the future: the decline concerned with language problems is language management.

From political point of view language is the most powerful factor in bringing the elite and the masses together for strengthening social and national integration. It makes a scientific and technical knowledge easily accessible to the people in their own languages and, thus, helps in the process of democratization, acculturation and socialization as well as for the creation of new political and scientific outlook. The political interpretation of language in the view of Mclean (1996) is, in most sense has been considered, 'a contest over words, a language game.' Language politics has become a universal phenomenon and has become a quite fashionable term which denotes the relationship between the languages and politics and the influence of the former to the latter. In order to understand the entire political process and structure, it is essential to study which language citizens utilize for their overall development. The recognition of a particular language in a civil and political society is an important aspect of the legitimization of a particular culture, values, norms, belief history and a lot of socio-economic and political factors.

### 2 The context

Nepal possesses an amazing cultural diversity including ethnic richness and linguistic plurality. Nepal can be a language lab as there exist about 125 languages and dialects of four different genetic stocks: Indo-Aryan, Tibeto-Burman, Austro-Asiatic and (Munda) Dravidian. Kusunda language in recent years on the other hand for example has found to be a distinct isolate language; it is not the the member of any

linguistic group (Watters et al. 2005). In this way, still the reality about some of the languages of Nepal and their affiliation are found to be unknown.

After the restoration of democracy in 1990, and mainly after the people's movement in April 2006, new waves of enthusiasm awakened widespread interest in the minority languages and cultures among many indigenous groups as well as among the advocates of their causes. After Nepal has adapted the Interim Constitution in 2007 after the restoration of democracy in the form of republican Nepal made the linguistic issue more contextual. As this constitution declares on restructuring the state ending all forms of exploitations including linguistic one, and the promotion of inclusive democracy, the scope of language politics in Nepal has further been accelerated.

### 2.1 The politics of Nepalbhasa movement and linguistic minorities

The Nepalbhasa movement in 1920s was grounded in its very forming the concept of strong ethnic identities with its glorious past, a distinct language, a unique culture, an old literature, a particular script and territory etc. It aims at the recognition and usage of Nepal Bhasa along with other Nepalese languages for official purposes. Similarly the latter half of the 1970s may be said to be a period of beginning for the minority language issues. The issues of linguistic minorities and official language/s have never been as sensitive in Nepal as it is now. While the interim statute maintains the continuity of Nepali, in Devanagari script, as the language of official communication, some members of the Constituent Assembly want to add 11 more languages to the list, giving them the same status, while others are advocating for the addition of Hindi. Otherwise, the members will resort to writing "notes of dissent", unwittingly using an English expression to press their point. One contention is that since Nepal is now a

republic, it should adopt a language policy to de-link the country's monarchical past. If all 11 languages gain equal status with Nepali as demanded, that will still leave Nepal's 81 other languages. On the other hand, Nepali is the mother tongue of 49% of the population and has been in use for official communication for centuries. It is a language with an enriched vocabulary, grammar and literature. Besides being the official language, Nepali has provided a link between and among communities speaking local languages and dialects.

### 2.2 The politics of Hindi language

Language controversy remained a burning issue in Nepal since the political change of 1951 to till now. Hindi language has been in the center of political debate from the then leader of Nepal Terai Congress Veda Nand Jha to present Vice President Parama Nand Jha, the main objective of which has been the recognition of Hindi as an autonomous Terai state language. Mainly Terai based political parties, with loaded regional overtones, suddenly felt strong enough to demand that Hindi, spoken mainly in northern India and popularized by India's Mumbai-based film industry, be given the status enjoyed by Nepali. To enjoy Hindi movies and music, which is done even in America and Europe, cannot be a basis to accept it as a serious language of mass communication. Hindi, although given national language status in India, is not widely used. Television viewers have seen Indian Interior Minister P. Chidambaram handling Hindi questions in English. English continues to be the language of Indian law courts. This happened on the eve of the national polls of April 2008 that were held to elect the constituent assembly.

Language experts do not consider Hindi's case as a tenable proposition as the percentage of the population using Hindi as its mother tongue is 0.47%. If Hindi is accepted as an official language this would pose a direct threat to Terai's existing regional languages such as Maithili, Bhojpuri, Avadhi and



Thaar. Some language-political experts view that Hindi would spark the highly sensitive issue of nationalism. Languages, they view, need to be placed in four categories: mother tongues of all communities; the link language, which is Nepali; cultural languages such as Sanskrit, used by Hindus and Buddhists alike for religious rites and Arabic/Urdu which are essential for Muslims; and English.

### 2.3 The politics of language standardization and modernization

Most of the languages of Nepal are facing the problems of standardization. No doubt, some languages of Nepal are rich in literary heritage but they have mostly amassed literary and religious vocabulary earlier usage, which have restricted to certain social groups. But the process of the standardization of language in Nepal has been seriously challenged and threatened by the corrupt political leaders and administrators. Most of the top ranking political leaders, senior administrators, army and police officers in Nepal use bad, abusive or slang words which has virtually degraded or corrupted the language. If this process continues in future, the language of these seniors would be considered as a base or vulgar language, which is always disliked by the civilized linguists and academicians. If thought corrupts language in the words of Orwell (1985), language can also corrupt thought. The corruption of man is followed by the corruption of language (Schlesinger, 1985).

Linguists often express their dissatisfaction over the differences between the standard language and local dialects. Because there is nothing like standard language of the civil people and that the rest are dialects and are the languages of the working class. Why is it called a dialect? Why is the language and considered a standard language? Why is the Brahmin's language; called a standard language and the working people's dialect. The differences between standard

language and local dialects in some cases are symptomatic of the majority-minority; dominant-subordinate; privileged, under privileged dynamics relating to ethnic, cultural, social and politico-economic spheres of life of a particular nation-state. It represents state intervention in language programs, policies and planning which have serious implication as far as issues of language vis a vis power, privilege, economic and educational opportunities and national-regional identities are concerned. Regarding the standardization of language, teachers and the native speakers of a particular language differ much. The teachers stressing the standardization of school text books, view that their students would remain backward if they are taught *dehate* or *Gaunle Bhasa* (Village language) instead of a standard language. But others feel that the mother tongue should be used in instruction, examination and for other purposes. These local languages continue to discharge a pre-functionary role limited to routinized communicative expressions. In certain areas of social communication, the local languages, except English, may become the medium of cultural expression, whereas English dominates other technical and advanced fields, matters of higher educational research and development. Language cannot grow on their own to a standardized level of communication unless they have a determined state or institutional support as the minorities languages of Nepal have. The present legal system of Nepal has tried to escape from this inequality. But these legal provisions are yet not to be realized in practice in Nepal due to the lack of a number of factors including the lack of resources, educational materials, teachers, and so on.

### 2.4 The politics of spoken languages and medium of instruction

With the extension of party networks in Nepal after 1990 and post April movement, the increasing number of NGOs, INGOs and educational institutions, the activation of

educational lights, local party cadres and leaders, E-media have gradually influenced, shaped and replaced the traditional languages by the modern ones even in the backward villages. In the urban centers, the modern languages are used but the illiterate masses do not easily understand the modern language used by the urbanite elites. Thus, a clear distinction is noticed in the use of the language in the rural and urban areas and between the elites and the masses.

The study of attitudes towards spoken languages and the medium of instruction in educational institutions are important aspects of language politics. The use and practice of standard languages in educational institutions, as some linguists believe, has led to an attitude of neglect, humiliation and depreciation to local/substandard languages. The concept of a standard language has somehow reduced the role of spoken language as a symbol of backwardness. The whole education system has very hostile and demeaning attitudes towards spoken languages. Lack of knowledge of a particular standard language is many times reduced to not having a language as innocent villagers cannot speak so called standard language. So even if there are primers in the mother tongues, the teachers prefer to talk in the standard language and is hostile towards his students' language. The purpose of making primers in mother tongue is totally defeated. The middle class, at times overly, and at other times subtly, use our command over a dominant language, or the language of the rulers, to subjugate and dominate the toiling masses. The rise of regional linguistic identities had developed themselves as a reaction to the domination of standard language (Saxena and Kamal Mahendru, 1995). The teachers prefer to use standard language in school instruction and consequently, the languages of the minority groups remain neglected. Even the textbooks are written in standard languages.

## 2.5 The politics of link language and English language

In the multilingual society like Nepal, the study of inter-community communication or lingua franca which is often referred to as a link language or auxiliary language becomes an important aspect of language politics. Nepali is broadly used as the lingua franca in Nepal among different communities. In the hills and in the mountains, the speakers of the Tibeto Burman Languages are often found to use Nepali as their link language. Educated native speakers of the Tarai, in most cases, tend to use Hindi as lingua francas for inter-community communication (Yadava, 2004). The Bantawa Rai among the Rai communities in some parts of eastern hill and Bhojpuri and Maithili in some parts in southern plains also perform this role in a limited form. The voice of using Tibetan in Himalayan region, Nepali in Mountainous region and Hindi in Terai region has also been raised in the recent time.

However, missing links are also seen in link language. Several factors have contributed to the consolidation of English language as the lingua franca and its maximum use in higher administrative, educational, political and diplomatic fields in Nepal. Though the present constitution has not specifically mentioned the role of English in Nepal, but in practice it has become a language of mass media, academic seminar and symposium, the library, public administration, diplomatic business, higher level academic and research institutions and register level language. Nepal's heavy dependence on foreign aid, its diplomatic relations with more than 100 nation-states; the growing of NGOs and INGOs and job opportunities to Nepal and abroad and a number of factors have contributed the gravity of English in the lives of Nepalese people.

## 2.6 The political parties and political register

The both major and minor political parties of Nepal, after 1990 hold almost similar views regarding languages in their election manifestos. But the situation of the country got changed slowly when Nepal Communist party Maoist took language as one of the major tools for its revolution after 2000. It mainly raised the voice of ethnic languages; of them, Tamang, Newar, Magar, Gurung and Limbu were the major.

Socio-linguists stress that effective communication demands not only the grammatically correct utterances but situationally appropriate also. Language has to be appropriate to the speaker, receiver, situation and subject matter (Rai, 1995). In this direction, the study of political register becomes particularly important. The politicians during their political gaming, commonly use political and constitutional registers. Nepali, however, is not enough to meet all the technical terms and for this reason, the use of English is growing day by day. Besides political register, medical, legal, technical, engineering and other registers are flourishing these days in Nepal. The general people who are mostly illiterate express their dissatisfaction with the fact that the language of law, constitution, government document and party leaders are not easily understood because they are not culturally grounded in social lives of people.

### 2.7 The politics of language and power struggle

All language is ideological in the sense that it encodes a certain world view; a certain conception of life. As such language (Connolly, 1983 as quoted by Tariq Rahaman, 2003) always wields ideological, often covert power. Thus, language is the site of competing views on how life should be lived. The dominance of a language, then, always favors a certain conception of life and, by implication, those who believe in it. It is not merely at this deep level of ideology that language is part of the struggle for power between different groups. Language is a powerful tool by which politicians transmit

political conception, and symbols of political power, ideologies and values. It is equally important medium of interest articulation, aggregation and communication, from society to polity and polity to society thereby affecting decision making process. During the election, political leaders who express their views clearly in the public gatherings can garner more votes and popular support than those who cannot. Political leaders can manipulate ideas through language and can attract the voters towards their political ideologies and beliefs. As language is a powerful means of political communication, the choice of words by political leaders largely reflects their attitudes, style, capacity, vision and performance. Language is also related with leadership pattern which is a quality that signifies the ability of a person or a group of people to persuade and force others to act or not to act by inspiring them and making them believe and not to believe that a proposed course of action is the best or correct one (Robertson, 1993). Language is thought to be the most powerful component of group individuality. Language is the most powerful factor in bringing the elite and the masses together for strengthening social and national integration. It makes a scientific and technical knowledge easily accessible to the people in their own languages and, thus, helps in the process of democratization, acculturation and socialization as well as for the creation of new political and scientific outlook (Khuller, 1995). The present Nepal has been transited with language-based conflict as language plays in an overt power struggle between pressure groups and political powers. Language is attuned to the expression of status and power (Sapkota, 2010). The lack of compromise can result in communal tension.

### 3 The conclusion

The issues of linguistic minorities and official language/s have never been as sensitive in Nepal as it is now. The accelerated

process of globalization, democratization and human rights set primary condition for post modernism, language-politics being one of the key aspects for accelerating social change in Nepal. Though linguistic movement in Nepal, particularly in post April, has made some important achievements, lots of practices have still remained in its practice.

In today's globalized world, language politics has become a universal phenomenon and has become a quite fashionable term which denotes the relationship between the languages and politics and the influence of the former to the latter. In order to understand the entire political process and structure, it is essential to study which language citizens utilize for their overall development. The recognition of a particular language in a civil and political society is an important aspect of the legitimization of a particular culture, values, norms, belief, history and a lot of socio-economic and political factors. Language politics has become more pronounced in the Third World country as Nepal, because it has become an important factor in national integration and national unity. How all languages of Nepal should be managed by applying appropriate language planning should be the main concern of these days. Political parties and even the language activists are seen to be using language issues just to fulfill their interests.

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## THE CLASSIFIERS IN NEWAR AND JAPANESE

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This paper is an outcome of comparison of 93 noun classifiers and verb classifiers (34 pure classifiers, 41 quasi-classifiers, 9 reduplicative classifiers, 4 direct quantifiers, 5 directly quantifiable nouns) of Newar with their parallel classifiers of Japanese. This is a preliminary work therefore needs further analysis.

## 1 Introduction

Newar and Japanese are both classifier languages. Newar is taught in government schools, colleges and university in Nepal. According to the CBS Report of Nepal, 2001 the Newar population stands at 1,245,232. There are over 200 classifiers in Newar and are over 500 in Japanese.

Japanese is spoken by over 130 million people in Japan and Japanese emigrant communities around the world in Brazil, Peru, Argentina and Melbourne, in Davao, Philippines. Many major universities throughout the world provide Japanese language courses, and a number of secondary and even primary schools worldwide offer courses in the language. International interest in the Japanese language dates back to the 1800s but has become more prevalent following Japan's economic bubble of the 1980s and global popularity of Japanese pop culture (such as anime and anime-based video games) since the 1990s.

## 2 Newar and Japanese classifiers

Newar classifiers are known as 'tajigo:' (Joshi, NS. 1112: 179-202). Japanese classifiers are known as 'ruibetsushi' as well as 'ryoushi'. Japanese nominal classifiers and verb classifiers are collectively known as 'jосуushi'. There are over

200 classifiers in Newar whereas there are over 500 classifiers in Japanese (Iida Asako and Machida Ken: 2004).

## 3 Nominal classifiers

Order of placement of the classifiers: objects can be classified in two ways in Newar.

- i. Classifiers in front of a noun following the numeral as in (chə -pa: bhō:) [One-CL: DIMENSION paper] 'a folio'.
- ii. Classifiers after the numeral preceded by a noun as in (bhō chə -pa:), also meaning 'A leaf'.

But, in Japanese normally, classifiers come after a noun followed by the numeral as in (kami ici -mai) meaning 'A folio'. But, (ici-mai kami) would be grammatically incorrect. In this case a genitive marker *no* must be inserted between the Cl. and the object. Hence, (ici- maino kami) is grammatically correct. However, in this sentence (ici-maino kami) -mai (枚) works as a quantifier and therefore, it would mean 'a folio out of some or many folios'. This is because, under normal situations Jp. nominal-cls. come after a noun followed by the numeral as in (kami ici -mai) meaning 'A leaf'. But, in case of (ici-mai kami) a genitive marker /no/ must be inserted between the Cl. and the object for it to be grammatically correct.

Use of classifiers in both languages is governed by definite parameters. In Newar, -mhə is used for counting all animate objects, as well as objects treated and perceived as animate, or having an animate's figure, as scarecrow, dolls, ghosts, gods, goddesses etc, irrespective of habitats but -ma is the general classifier for Plants.

In Japanese -nin (人) classifies human beings, -hiki (匹) classifies insects, fishes, and small four-footed animals. -tou (頭) classifies big animals and birds -like cow, horse, tigers,

elephants, lions; ostriches; and big sea-animals like shark, whale, dolphin, seals. *-wa* (羽) classifies birds. *-shi* (氏) classifies personal names being recommended as candidates. *-ei* (名) classifies human beings in formal speech in Jp. *-ri* (人) classifies ‘a person and ‘two persons’. For counting ‘3 persons’ and beyond *-nin* (人) is used. *-tai* (体) classifies dead persons and objects regarded as dead including dead gods and goddesses, statues of gods and goddesses. *-wa* (羽) also classifies ‘hare’ which is an exceptional case. *-hon* (本) is a general Cl. for plants. *-rin* (輪) classifies stalkless flowers. *-on* (本) classifies flowers with stalk.

Table 1: Classifiers attributing to the shape of objects in Newar

Nw. Cl.	Gloss	Noun Heads	Jp. Cl.
-gə:	round objects	Stomach, buttock, ankle, eye	-ko(個), -tsu(つ)
-gə:	small round objects	grain	-tsubu(粒)
-gə:	temples of varied purposes	temple	-ken(軒), -ji(寺), -u(宇), -san(山)
-gə:	vehicles: land,	Car, bi-cycle	dai(台)
-gə:	vehicles: air	aero plane	-ki(機)
-gə:	vehicles: sea, river	Boat, ship	-sou(艘), -seki(隻)
-gə:	kitchen utensils and containers	bucket, kettle	-ko(個), -kou(口)
-gə:	flat surfaces	wall, ceiling	-mai(枚)
-pa	flat objects, paired objects	Loaf, glove, sock, leg, hand	-mai(枚), -hon(本)

-pu	long thin objects	pen, necktie, rod, rope	-hon(本)
-gu:	spectacles	Spectacles	-hon(本)
-gu:	dead idols	Statues	-tai(体)
-gu:	tools and furniture	Chair, table	-kyaku(脚), -taku(卓).
-ca:	circular objects	Wheel, ear-rings	-rin(輪), -ko(個)
-ku:	small pieces	fabric, edible objects, splinters	-kire(切)
-phwə:	small button-like objects	flower	-hon(本), -rin(輪)

Table 2: Classifiers attributing to geographical locations

-gu:	locations	Country, mountain, pond, place	-kakoku(力国), yama(山), -men(面), -kasho(箇所), -tsu(つ)
-ku:	rooms	ordinary room	-heya(部屋)
-ku:	rooms	partitioned room	-ma(間)
-ku:	location	Garden,	-tsu(つ)

Table 3: Classifiers attributing to the nature and activities

-kha	houses	all kinds of houses	-ken(軒)
-gu:	houses	Building and mansion	-tou(棟)
-gu:	houses	Buildings meant for human's residence	-ko(戸)
-gu:	buildings	apartment	-mune(棟)
-gu:	buildings	schools	-kou,(校),

-gə:	electrical machinery objects for domestic uses	iron, radio, watch	-dai(台)
-gə:	equipments for communications	telephone, computer, television	-dai(台)
-gə:	celestial objects	earth, universe	-tsu(つ)
-gə:	explosives	bullet, bomb fire cracker,	-hatsu(発)
-gə:	heaters, stoves	Electric stove, heater	-dai(台)
-gu:	documents meant for dispatch	Application, document, letter	-tsuu(通) -tsuu(通) -tsuu(通) -tsu(つ)
-gu:	proverbs	proverb	-tsu(つ)
-gu:	celestial object	universe	-tsu(つ)
-gu:	abstract objects	Problem, question	-ken(件), -tsu(つ)

Table 4: Pairs

-ju	clothes	Gloves, western dresses, socks	-sou(双), -cyaku(着), -soku(足),
-jwə:	ornaments	Ear rings	-kumi(組)
-jwə:	Pairs	Birds, ear-rings.	-tsui(対)
-ju	set of	dresses	-shiki(式),

Table 5: Miscellaneous

-gə:	miscellaneous	soap, pillow, bag, cage, closet, box, trunk, bell, hand mill, basket, stone, grain	-ko(個)
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Quantity or Volume (Quasi-Cls. / reduplicative Cls.):

Table 6: Quantity or volume (Quasi-Cls. / reduplicative Cls.)

-bhwa:	flat palmful morsel	Beaten rice	-kuci(口)
-pe:	fingerful morsel	Cooked rice	-kuci(口)
-phəN	combs	bananas	-phusa(房)
-pasə:	palmful of	grains, flour, water	-sukui(掬)
-khəN	a plentiful wholesome of	meal	-hai(杯)
-ku	loads of solid or liquids	Water, firewood	-taba(束)

Table 7: Groups of people, animals, birds, grains, cereals, diamonds

Nw. Cl.			Jp. Cl.
-bəthā:	large groups of people	people	-mure(群)
-thvə:	small groups of people	people	- guru:pu(グループ)
-pucə:	a bunch of people	people	-atsumari(集),

<i>-pucə:</i>	a bunch of peas, flowers, jewels	peas, diamonds, sepals, petals, small flowers	<i>-matomar i</i> (纏)
<i>-mure</i> (群)	herd of cattle, flocks of birds	Cattle, birds	<i>-bəthā:</i>
<i>-hitodakari</i>	large mass of people	people	<i>-lawaləskər</i>

In Japanese usages of classifiers attributing mainly to the following parameters.

Table 8: The parameters

Parameters:	Japanese	Newar
Abstract nouns	<i>-tsu</i> (づ)	<i>-gu:</i> , <i>-gə:</i> , <i>-pu</i> , <i>-pa:</i>
Letters and printed matters	<i>-tsuu</i> (通)	<i>-gu:</i>
Explosives and fire crackers	<i>-hatsu</i> (発)	<i>-gə:</i>
Monuments and graves	<i>-ki</i> (基)	<i>-gu:</i> , <i>-gə:</i>
3-dimensional objects	<i>-ko</i> (個)	<i>-ca:</i> , <i>-pva:</i> , <i>-pu</i>
Means of navigation		
small ships	<i>-sou</i> (艘)	<i>-gə:</i>
yachts	<i>-tei</i> (艇)	<i>-gə:</i>
big ships	<i>-seki</i> (隻)	<i>-gə:</i>
Items	<i>-ten</i> (点)	<i>-gu:</i> , <i>-ta</i>
Parts and copies	<i>-bu</i> (部)	<i>-gu:</i>
Ways of thinking	<i>-kou</i> (考)	<i>-gu:</i>
Medicines:		

Elixirs, syrups	<i>-saji</i> (匙)	<i>-gu:</i> (cəmcə) <sup>1</sup>
Powdered medicines	<i>-phuku</i> (服)	<i>-gu:</i> (puriya) <sup>2</sup>
Capsules/Tablets/Suppositories	<i>-jou</i> (錠)	<i>-ca:</i>
Stone walls, brick walls	<i>-kabe</i> (壁)	<i>-gə:</i>
Nights	<i>-ban</i> (晩)/ <i>-ya</i> (夜)	<i>-ca</i>

### 9 Semantic similarities

#### Newar classifiers

*-pva:* is used to count kerosene stoves being lit or used at the time of its counting and *-gə:* is used to count kerosene stoves on display for sale at the time of its counting.

#### Japanese classifiers

*-mai* (枚) a general classifier of flat objects including shirts is also used to count pants when worn in the body and *-hon* (本) a general Cl. for long and thin objects, scrolls of same size, sky scrapers, towers, bridges, tunnel, wells, cassette tapes, video tapes, oil fields, films, number of telephone calls, gutters etc also classifies pants on display for sales.

### 10 Morphophonemic changes:

Japanese classifiers *-hiki*, *-hon*, *-hai* change into *piki/ -pon*; *-biki/ -bon*; and *-piki*, respectively when immediately preceded by the numerals 'one'; 'three'; 'six', 'eight', 'ten', and 'one

<sup>1</sup>cəmcə is a loan-word.

<sup>2</sup>Puriya is a loan-word.



hundred' up to 'nine hundred'. *-hiki* (匹) changes into *-biki* (匹) after numerals 'three'; and '10,000' - '1000, 0000'; and into *-piki* (匹) after numerals 'one', 'six', 'eight', 'ten'; & '100' - '900'.

*-hiki* changes into *-biki* following the numerals 'one thousand' and beyond up to 'ten million' (but, applicable only for figures which are directly divisible by the numeral: 'ten' with quotients starting with any numeral from 'one' to 'nine' leaving no remainders).

*-hon* (本) changes into *-bon* (本) after numeral 'three'. *-hai* (杯) changes into *-bai* (杯) after numeral 'three'. In Newar only in the Verb Cl. *-thu* geminates itself following the numerals 'one' up to 'nineteen' except 'seven'.

11 Newar verb classifiers and their parallel Japanese classifiers:

*-thu* is used for classifying actions requiring extra physical force to conduct. ~ *-kai*(回) and *-do*(度) the two general classifiers.

*-kə:* is used substituting most of other discrete Nw. verb Cls. such as *-dhu:*/ *-rhu:* (specific classifiers of an unusual or unprecedented actions or events).~ *-kai* (回), *-do* (度).

*-hĩ:* is used to classify the act of fastening of sash around one's waist. ~ *-maki* (巻).

*-tu* is used to classify the act of scooping ~ *-sukui*(掬).

Japanese verb classifiers and their parallel Newar classifiers.

*-tabi* (度) is used for classifying actions and events in literary language. ~ *-kə*.

*hen* (遍) used for classifying an action committed only once in life time.~ *-kə:*

Direct quantifiers in Newar and parallel Japanese classifiers:

<i>lə-chi</i> (one month)	~ <i>ikkagetsu</i>
<i>də-chi</i> (one year)	~ <i>icinenkan</i>
<i>nhi-chi</i> (the whole day)	~ <i>icinicijuu</i>
<i>cə-chi</i> (the whole night).	~ <i>hitobanjuu</i>

Direct quantifiers in Japanese ~ parallel Newar classifiers

<i>hatsu-ka</i> (twentieth of a month)	~ <i>bi:s tarikh</i>
<i>hata-ci</i> (twenty years old person)	~ <i>ni:rhədumhə</i>
<i>you-ka</i> (eighth of the month)	~ <i>ath tarikh</i> .

Directly quantifiable nouns in Newar ~ parallel Japanese classifiers:

*chə -dā/ də-chi* (direct. quantifier) (one year) ~ '*ici-nen*'.  
*chə -thay* (a place) ~ '*ik-kasho*'/ '*hito-tokoro*'(a gathering place).  
*chə -paē* (a big semi solid lump formed from liquid, specially blood) ~ '*hito-katamari*'.  
*chə -pva:* (a hole) ~ '*ik-ketsu*', '*ippon*'.

## 12 Conclusion

The most frequently used Japanese classifiers in modern days are *-ko* (個) and *-hon* (本), and *-gə:* and *-gu:* in Newar.

Out of the two pronunciations one each of Chinese and Japanese of 'Kanji', the Chinese characters, 'On'yomi (the Chinese pronunciation)' is mostly used in Japanese Cls. The orders of placement of the Classifiers in Newar and Japanese are different and have different implications. Japanese Cl. *-tsu* (つ) may also be used substituting the Cls. *-ko* (個) and *-hon* (本). Objects with only slight change in their uses enjoy varieties in classifiers in both languages. Homographs (Same

spellings, different meanings /origins) of 'kanji' characters are prevalent in Japanese classifiers.

#### Abbreviations

Nw.	Newar
Jp.	Japanese
Cl./ Cls.	Classifier/s

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HOW DO YOU ADDRESS YOUR WIFE?  
SECOND PERSON PRONOUNS AND FIRST NAMES IN  
NEPALI

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This study concerning the use of first names and second person pronouns in the daily interactions between Nepali-speaking husbands and wives show that the linguistic behavior mirrors the social obligations, expectations and values related to the gender roles of husband and wife. Furthermore, it depicts the role of language as a resourceful tool for maintaining and negotiating the roles of the married couples in their daily lives.

### 1 Introduction

This paper discusses the sociolinguistic analysis of the use of second person pronouns and first names by Nepali-speaking couples in their daily interactions as well as the different social expectations of men and women by the society at large (Broude, 2003; Salami, 2004).

### 2 Methodology

The data for this paper was collected during a period of eight weeks in Kathmandu, from September 2005 to November 2005. Eight Nepali-speaking married couples were interviewed and observed closely as a couple and in groups at various times and on different occasions. Their face-to-face conversations were also taped. These couples range in age from early twenties to early sixties, have at least four years of college education, are financially comfortable, and belong to upper Hindu Newar castes. Drawing on the concept of community of practice as proposed by Eckert and McConell Ginet (1999), eight married couples were selected in such a way that they are aligned to each other in some social manner. Five of the wives are siblings and the rest are first cousins of

these five wives. These couples meet regularly for festivities and occasional outings and card games. They are, therefore, connected in terms of their relationships, their interests, their shared beliefs and values. Also, the information thus collected was supplemented by my own introspection as a native Nepali speaker belonging to a similar speech community.

### 3 Traditional patterns of pronominal choices for married couples

Nepali, as in many other Indo-European languages (Brown and Gilman, 1960), has the deferential 'you' and the familiar 'you.' The deferential 'you' consists of two forms: *hajur* and *tapāī*. Grammar books describe *tapāī* as an honorific form used to address someone higher in status. These books indicate *tapāī* as the normal form wives use to their husbands. (Adhikari 1993; Bhattarai 1976). *Hajur* is used for those who command a great deal of power, prestige, and respect. Some women use this for their husbands.

Nepali has two forms of familiar 'you': *tā* and *timi*. *Timi* is used among friends and between people who assume no difference in power while *tā* carries a greater degree of subordination or intimacy and solidarity between the speaker and the addressee. *timi* is the most popular pronominal form used by husbands for their wives (Bhattarai, 1976; Matthews, 1984). And husbands use *tā* too.

In the present data, three men use *tā* while the rest use *timi* to their wives. For three men *tā* is the unmarked form, while *timi* is the unmarked form for five men. On the other hand, all wives use *tapāī* to their husbands.

The table below provides the forms of second person pronouns in Nepali. Verbs agree with pronouns in terms of person and levels of respect.

Table 1: Forms of second person pronouns

Nominative	<i>tā</i>	<i>timi</i>	<i>tapāī</i>	<i>āphu</i>	<i>hajur</i>
Ergative	<i>tāile</i>	<i>timile</i>	<i>tapāīle</i>	<i>āphule</i>	<i>hajurle</i>
Dative	<i>tālāi</i>	<i>timilāi</i>	<i>tapāīlāi</i>	<i>āphulāi</i>	<i>hajurlāi</i>
Genitive	<i>tero</i>	<i>timro</i>	<i>tapāīko</i>	<i>āphno</i>	<i>hajurko</i>

4 Men's use of second person pronouns in their everyday interactions with their wives

The husbands switch pronouns strategically for various purposes. The men who normally use *tā* to their wives switch to *timi* while those who normally use *timi* switch to *tā*. On rare occasions, they also switch to *tapāī*.

#### 4.1 Switches for face saving purposes

Men often switch from *tā* to *timi* in situations where they may lose their face; that is, they may find themselves in situations where they perceive their authority or status is being compromised by their wives. Consider the following excerpt.

- (1) a. [Five people --two women, a man and a couple-- are playing cards. The couple, Binod and Rekha, is sitting next to each other. Rekha, (wife) is losing the game; Binod is trying to help her.]

Binod: (pulling on his wife's sleeves)

khai, **tero** tās herū  
PRT you-GEN card see-1s.NPST  
'Let me see your cards.'

Rekha: (pulling away angrily and raising her voice)

ke garnu bhaeko/ ma kheli hālchu ni

what do-INF be-2s.HON-PERF I play-EMPH hal  
1s.FUT PRT  
'What are you doing? I will play.'

Binod: (smiles awkwardly)

timile khelna jāndaina bhaneko chaina ni  
you-ERG play-INF know-2s.NEG say-PERF be-  
1s.NPST PRT  
'I didn't say you don't know how to play.'

Obviously, the husband feels disrespected by the wife when she expresses her anger publicly. To save the situation, he shifts from *tā* to *timi*.

- b. [Prakash is talking to his wife, Usha, and his sisters-in-law about missing his children who live in America. His son is married to foreigner; his daughter is in school.]

Prakash: (slowly)

khai dipak nepāl āune man gardaina  
PRT deepak nepal come-INF like do-3s.NPST-NEG  
'Deepak does not like to come to Nepal.'

Nepāli bibāha gareko bhae āūthyo holā  
nepali marry do-3s. PERF if come-3s.PST perhaps  
'If he had married a Nepali, he would visit us.'

Usha: (smiling)

hāmi gaera chorā chorisāga basūlā ni  
we go-PCP son daughter-with stay-1pl.FUT PRT  
'We will go and stay with our daughter and son.'

Prakash: (softly)

tā gaera bas  
you-NOM go-PCP stay-2s.NHON.IMP  
'You go and stay with them.'

Usha: (turning toward her sisters unhappily)

bhinājule kurā garne nai malai manpardaina  
brother-in-law-ERG talk do-INF PRT I-DAT like-  
1s.NPST-NEG  
'I do not like the way your brother-in-law talks.'

malāi dikka lāgchha  
I-DAT sad feel-1s.NPST  
I feel too depressed.'

Prakash: (getting up slowly)

timi jāu na/ ma po jādina bhaneko  
you go-2s.NHON.IMP PRT/ I PRT go-1s.NPST-  
NEG say-PERF  
'You can go. I said I don't want to go, not you.'

The conversation began in a light hearted spirit, but as the wife expressed displeasure toward the husband in the presence of his sisters-in-law, he switched to *timi* to save his face.

#### 4.2 Switches for expressing displeasure, annoyance and anger.

- (2) a. [Bikas is showing his wife a shirt that he has just bought.]

Bikas: yehā her ta/ yo kamij kasto cha  
here look-2s.IMP (agrees with tā) PRT/ this shirt  
how be-3s.NPST  
'Look here! What do you think of this shirt?'

Wife: (unenthusiastically)

rāmrai cha  
beautiful-PRT be-3s.NPST  
'It's nice.'

Bikas: (wears it and shows)

tālāi rāmro lāgena

you-ERG beautiful feel-3s.NPST-NEG  
'You don't like it.'

Wife: (calmly)

thikai cha  
All right-PRT be-3s.NPST  
'It's okay.'

Bikas: (taking off his shirt hurriedly)

timilāi maile kineko kehipani manpardaina  
you-DAT I-ERG buy-PERF anything like-  
2s.NPST-NEG  
'You don't like anything I buy.'

Wife: maile testo kehi bhaneko chaina

I-ERG such any say-PERF be-1s.NPST-NEG  
'I didn't say anything like that.'

The husband's switch to *timi* expresses his annoyance at his wife's failure to accommodate his desire, thereby failing to be a 'good' wife so to speak.

- b. [One morning, Hari is strolling leisurely in the garden. He calls his wife and asks her to telephone the gardener.]

Hari: **timile** āja kanchādāilāi bolāu hai  
you-ERG today Kancha-older brother-DAT call-2s  
IMP PRT  
'You call Kanchadai today.'

sabai phulharu marisakyo  
all flower-PL die-3PL.PST  
'All the flowers are dead.'

Wife: yetā hernus tehā kunāmā pani phohar cha  
here look-2s.IMP.HON there corner-in too dirt  
be-3s.NPST

‘Please look here. There is dirt in that corner too.’

sabai saphā garna lagāunu parne  
all clean do-INF make-INF should  
‘We need to have it cleaned too.’

Hari: **tāile** dekhāunu parchha  
you-ERG show-INF should-2s.NPST  
‘You don’t have to show that to me.’

The husband’s switch from *timi* to *tā* expresses his annoyance at his wife, who never pays any attention to the garden. The husband is essentially saying, “what do you know about the yard?”

#### 4.3 Rare switches to *tapāī*

We also find a few rare switches to *tapāī* by husbands.

- (3) a. [Bharati and Ram’s house is being repainted for their daughter’s wedding. They are discussing about the repairs.]

Bharati: uniharulāi seto pāip nachunu bhannus  
PL-OBJ white pipe NEG-touch-INF say-2s.HON.IMP  
‘Please ask the painters not to touch the white pipe.’

Ram: kun seto paip  
which white pipe  
‘Which white pipe?’

Bharati: māthi jhyāl bāta jhundeko cha ni  
up window from hang-PERF be-3s.NPST PRT  
‘The one that hangs down from the window above.’

Ram: **tāile** bhane pani huncha  
you-ERG say-INF too be-2s.NPST  
‘You can tell them too.’

Bharati: **tapāīle** bhannubhayo bhane uniharule māncha  
you-HON-ERG say-INF.HON-PST if they ERG  
obey-3p.NPST  
‘They will obey, if you tell them.’

Ram: tyo pāiple ke garcha  
that pipe-ERG what do-3s.NPST  
‘What does that pipe do?’

Bharati: māthi solār hitarmā joḍeko cha  
up solar heater-with join-PERF be-3s.NPST  
‘It is joined to the solar heater.’

bigryo bhane dherai paisā lāgcha  
damage if much money apply-3s.NPST  
‘If it is damaged, it will cost a lot of money.’

Ram: **tapāīle** thahā cha sabai kura  
You-HON-ERG know 3s.NPST all talk  
‘You know everything.’

**tapāīle** nāi bhannus na  
you-HON-ERG PRT say-2s.IMP.HON PRT  
‘You tell them.’

Bharati: huncha sabai kurā maile nai garchu  
Ok all talk I-ERG PRT do-1s.NPST  
‘Okay, I will do everything.’

**tapāī** chup lagera basnus  
you-HON quiet keep-PCP sit-2s.IMP.HON  
‘You can keep quiet and sit idly.’

Here the switch from non-honorific *tā* to honorific *tapāī* indicates irony—if you know so much why do you need me to ask the workers.

- b. [Five couples meet at a sister's house to play cards. Only six can play this game. Rama asks her husband to play.]

Rama: **tapāī** khelnus ma herchu  
you-HON play-2sIMP.HON I see-1sNPST  
'You play and I will watch.'

Pratap: (stepping away politely making room for his wife)  
hoina **tapāī** khelnus ma herchu  
no you-HON play-2sIMP.HON I see-1sNPST  
'No, you play and I will watch.'

The husband's switch indicates that the wife is no position to decide for him. He is entitled to play. If he does not want to play, only then can she play.

5 Wives and their use of second person pronouns and first names as forms of address:

In this study, all women invariably use **tapāī** in addressing their husbands which confirms the traditional usage described in the grammar books.. In Nepali culture, like in many rigidly static societies, people younger in age or status are not allowed to use non-honorific pronouns and first names to those higher in status or older. To break these rules would be rude and grossly impolite. In the present data, men address their wives with their first names freely and women never do so. In fact, Gothale (1996) maintains that the first thing a new bride has to learn when she begins her new life as a wife is not to address her husband by his first name.

The nonreciprocal use of first names between spouses also characterize a feudalistic tradition, where husbands are supposedly a reincarnation of gods and their names are not to be taken in vain. When asked about this tradition, wives say that using their husbands' first names may shorten their husbands' life span--(*logneko ayu ghatcha re*).

Using another's first name is a sign of considerable intimacy; therefore, the nonreciprocal use of first names by husbands for their wives exhibits a power differential—men are allowed to show their intimacy but women are simply allowed to express respect for their husbands. As Salami (2004) remarks regarding a Yoruba woman's address terms for her husband:

As a wife, the Yoruba woman is expected to humble herself before her husband and, therefore, should defer to him. ...it is the 'good wife' who does not use her husband's first name while she also demonstrates an example of virtuous behaviour to her child(ren) when she does not address the child(ren)'s father by his first name.

#### 6 Social perceptions and evaluation of norm-breakers:

Of course, there are some norm-breakers. These mistakes can cause uncomfortable situations for wives.

(4) [Binod walks into the room, hot and hungry]

Binod: ke cha khanalai  
what be-3s.NPST eat-DAT  
'What is there to eat?'

Rekha: (walking towards the kitchen)  
**timilai** ke manparcha (immediately corrects herself  
and uses **tapāī**)  
you-DAT what like-2s.NPST  
'What would you like?'

Binod (shocked):  
aba malāi timi pani bhanna thālyo  
now I-DAT you too say-INF start-2s.PST  
'Now you have begun to use *timi* for me.'

Rekha, without responding to her husband's displeasure, begins to prepare something for him to eat.

This exchange clearly exhibits the censure that women may face when they misuse the pronouns. Men enjoy greater freedom in their pronominal usage for women while women not only have a restricted usage but also a greater likelihood for being reprimanded for their mistakes. It is quite insightful to hear frequent criticisms by the wives of other women who break the norms of usage.

‘Did you hear how Sangita spoke to her husband yesterday? I thought she was speaking to her daughter. Sometimes she uses *tā* to her husband. Speaking in that manner in the presence of others looks bad.’

Such comments work as a mechanism for maintaining the linguistic norms while preventing other women from being innovative in their usage. Similar comments about norm breakers as being inappropriately liberated are also a recurring theme in TV programs. In one of the episodes of Santosh Pant's highly acclaimed weekly television program *Aja Bholiko Kura* (News of Today and Tomorrow), an educated working woman is portrayed; she uses both the first name and the pronoun *timi* to address her husband. This is what one of the female relative says:

*afno lognelai timi bhanya ta citta bujhena hai/ ali chadha jasto cha* (‘I don't like her using *timi* for her husband. She seems to be ill-mannered/spoiled.’)

With the use of *timi* and the first name of the husband, the wife is understood to disregard all the traditional values that adorn a typical wife in Nepali society. She fails to respect the relatives; she does not bow to greet the in-laws; and she goes out to work. She does not act like a traditional housewife. The use of the word *timi* clearly corresponds with the negative portrayal of a nontraditional wife.

## 7 Conclusion

This paper reveals some important aspects about interaction between social roles and linguistic behavior. The husbands switch pronouns to create and enforce relationships at every turn in their conversations with their wives. There is no neutrality—status and relationship is emphasized all the time. Although men use non-honorific forms of pronouns to them, women appear to be quite comfortable with this asymmetric usage. They seem to be rather conscious of their role as a wife and the social importance of fulfilling that role appropriately so much so that they are quick to censure those women who do not follow their usage.

Since marriage is regarded as the most important social and religious bind between men and women, any kind of disturbance within it can cause a great deal of disgrace to both, but more so for wives. Therefore, the most important factor in governing the linguistic behavior of these wives is the tradition that defines the roles of wives and husbands. This is also clearly depicted in Vijay Malla's story *Shrimati Sharada*. Marriage in Nepali society is a sacred social bind wherein the role of a husband is regarded as superior to that of a wife. Deference toward the husbands and the maintenance of traditional norms is expected from women. Age and profession seem not to matter at all at least for this group. The traditional forms express the rigid social hierarchy present in the community and the subordinate status of wives in relation to the husbands. We must, however, remember that the idea of male superiority has been ingrained in the minds of both men and women so deeply that any change of a social nature will take time.

## Abbreviations

DAT	Dative	NOM	Nominative
ERG	Ergative	NPST	Non-Past
FUT	Future	PCP	Participle



GEN	Genitive	PRT	Particle
HON	Honorific	PST	Past
IMP	Imperative	1s	First person
INF	Infinitive	2s	Second person
NEG	Negation	3s	Third person

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PERSONAL PRONOUNS IN SANTHALI<sup>1</sup>

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This paper presents a linguistic analysis of the personal pronouns of Santhali. In Santhali personal pronouns have separate forms for the dual and the plural. The pronoun of the first person has, moreover, two forms each in the dual and in the plural, i.e. exclusive and inclusive. For each of the personal pronoun in Santhali, there is a corresponding bound emphaziser, and for the subjects, which are animate nouns, the emphazisers are the same as those of the corresponding personal pronouns in third person. The present paper also attempts to analyze the case markers on different personal pronouns.

## 1 Background

This paper presents a linguistic analysis of the personal pronouns of Santhali, an Austro-Asiatic language of Kherwarian group of North Munda spoken in Nepal. Santhali has fairly a large community of speakers as it is spoken by 40,260 people (Census Report of Nepal, 2001) mostly in two districts of Nepal: Jhapa and Morang. Santhali is a well described and studied language in India but is poorly described Austro-Asiatic language Nepal. Personal pronouns in Santhali have three persons and three numbers. Santhali is a pronominalized language with a unique type of pronominalization system. In Santhali language subject pronoun is not only copied to the verb but also to the object of the sentence.

<sup>1</sup> This is the revised version of the paper presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual International conference of Linguistic society of Nepal held at Kathmandu, 26-27 November, 2009.

## 2 Personal pronouns

The personal pronouns have separate forms for the singular, dual and plural. The pronoun of the first person has, moreover, two forms each in the dual and in the plural, one excluding and another including the person addressed i.e. exclusive and inclusive. For each of the personal pronouns in Santhali, there is a corresponding bound emphaziser, and for the subjects which are animate nouns, the emphazisers are the same as those of the corresponding personal pronouns in third persons. Santhali has three numbers for nouns and pronouns, viz., singular, dual, and plural. Gender distinction is not found in Santhali personal pronominal system. Honorificity is found for the second person singular number only. Personal pronouns with its person, number, honorificity, inclusive/exclusive, proximal/distal are presented in table 1.

Table 1: Personal pronouns in Santhali

Person	Number	Pronouns	Meaning in English
First	Singular	ijɲ	I
	Dual (inclusive)	alaŋ	Two of us (including listener)
	Dual (exclusive)	ɔliɲ	Two of us (excluding listener)
	Plural (inclusive)	abu	We (including listener)
	Plural (exclusive)	ale	We (excluding listener)
Second	Singular	am	You
	Singular(Honorific)	abin	you
	Dual	aben	Two of you
	Plural	ape	You (Plural)
Third	Singular (proximal)	nui	S/he (proximal)
	Dual (proximal)	nukin	Two of them (prox.l)

	Plural (proximal)	nuku	They (proximal)
	Singular (distal)	uni	S/he (distal)
	Dual (distal)	unkin	Two of them (distal)
	Plural (distal)	unku	They (distal)
	Singular (remote)	h $\Delta$ ni	S/he (remote)
	Dual (remote)	h $\Delta$ nkin	Two of them (remote)
	Plural (remote)	h $\Delta$ nku	They (remote)

Table 1 shows that Santhali distinguishes 18 pronominal categories, viz. first, second and third person singular, dual and plural, and there is an inclusive vs. exclusive distinction in the first person dual and plural. The third person pronouns are divided into categories in terms of the remoteness: proximal, distal and remote.

Some examples in sentence level are as follows:

- (1) a. ijn daka dz $\Delta$ mijnkida  
 ijn daka dz $\Delta$ m-ijn-kida  
 1SG rice eat-1SG-PST  
 'I ate rice.'
- b. ala $\eta$  dakala $\eta$  dz $\Delta$ mkida  
 ala $\eta$  daka-la $\eta$  dz $\Delta$ m-kida  
 1DU.INCL rice-1DU.INCL eat-PST  
 'Two of us (including listener) ate rice.'
- c.  $\Delta$ lijn dakalijn dz $\Delta$ mkida  
 $\Delta$ lijn daka-lijn dz $\Delta$ m-kida  
 1DU.EXCL rice-1DU.EXCL eat-PST  
 'Two of us (excluding listener) ate rice.'

- d. abu dakabu dz $\Delta$ mkida  
 abu daka-bu dz $\Delta$ m-kida  
 1PL.INCL rice-1PL.INCL eat-PST  
 'We (including listener) ate rice'
- e. ale dakale dz $\Delta$ mkida  
 ale daka-le dz $\Delta$ m-kida  
 1PL.EXCL rice-1PL.EXCL eat -PST  
 'We (excluding listener) ate rice.'
- f. am dakam dz $\Delta$ mkida  
 am daka-m dz $\Delta$ m-kida  
 2SG. rice -2SG eat-PST  
 'You ate rice.'
- g. abin dakabin dz $\Delta$ mkida  
 abin daka-bin dz $\Delta$ m-kida  
 2SG.H rice-2SG.H eat-PST  
 'You ate rice.'
- h. aben daka dz $\Delta$ mbenkida  
 aben daka dz $\Delta$ m-ben-kida  
 2DU rice eat-2DU -PST  
 'Two of you ate rice.'
- i. ape daka d $\Delta$ mpekida  
 ape daka d $\Delta$ m-pe -kida  
 2PL rice eat-2PL -PST  
 'You ate rice.'
- j. uni dakai dz $\Delta$ mkida  
 uni daka-i dz $\Delta$ m-kida  
 3SG rice -3SG eat-PST  
 'S/he ate rice.'

- k. unkin dakakin dzΛmkida  
 unkin daka-kin dzΛm-kida  
 3DU rice-3DU eat-PST  
 ‘Two of them ate rice.’
- l. unku dakaku dzΛmkida  
 unku daka-ku dzΛm-kida  
 3PL rice-3PL eat-PST  
 ‘They ate rice.’

From the examples (1a-l), apart from three persons (1st, 2nd and 3rd) and three numbers (singular, dual and plural) distinctions, the following observations can be made about the personal pronouns in Santhali.

- i. The personal pronouns show inclusive vs. exclusive distinction in first person dual and plural.
- ii. There are three categories of the third person pronoun in terms of remoteness: general, proximal and distal.
- iii. Personal pronouns do not show gender distinction in Santhali.

### 3 Patterns of cases of personal pronouns

The personal pronouns take different forms of cases. Table 2 presents the different categories of personal pronouns and their case forms.

Table 2: Personal pronouns and some major case markers

Cases		LOC	GEN	NOM	INST	DAT	ABL
Pronouns		-re	-ren, -aʔ, -rijaʔ	0	-te	0	-kʰΛi -kaʔ
1SG	ijn	+	+	-	+	-	+
1DU INCL	alaŋ	+	+	-	+	-	+
1DU EXCL	Λijŋ	+	+	-	+	-	+
1PL INCL	abu	+	+	-	+	-	+
1PL EXCL	ale	+	+	-	+	-	+
2SG	am	+	+	-	+	-	+
2DU H	abin	+	+	-	+	-	+
2DU	aben	+	+	-	+	-	+
2PL	ape	+	+	-	+	-	+
3SG PROX	nui	+	+	-	+	-	+
3DU PROX	nukin	+	+	-	+	-	+
3PL PROX	nuku	+	+	-	+	-	+
3SG DIST	uni	+	+	-	+	-	+
3DU DIST	unkin	+	+	-	+	-	+
3PL DIST	unku	+	+	-	+	-	+
3SG REM	hΛni	+	+	-	+	-	+
3DU REM	hΛnki n	+	+	-	+	-	+
3PL REM	hΛnku	+	+	-	+	-	+

## 4 Other pro-forms

This section deals with other pro-forms in the Santhali language. They include demonstrative pronouns, reflexive pronouns, and interrogative pronouns.

## 4.1 Demonstrative pronouns

Santhali displays the three way distribution of the demonstrative pronouns. They are on the basis of number; singular vs plural; proximity: proximal, distal, far distal and remote; and animacy: animate and inanimate.

The distribution of demonstrative pronoun can be shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Demonstrative pronouns in Santhali

Number		prox.	dist.	far dist.	remote
Singular	Animate	nui	uni	hɔni	hɔnihɔni
	Inanimate	nuã	unã	hana	hanahana
Plural	Animate	nuku	unku	hɔnku	hɔnkuhɔnku
	Inanimate	nijɔ	unaku	hanaku	hanhanaku

Some examples are provided in (2).

- (2) a. nui merɔm ijren kanai  
 nui merɔm ij-ren kana-i  
 DEM.PROX.AN goat 1SG-GEN be.PRS-3SG.AN  
 ‘This goat is mine.’ (proximal animate)
- b. nuã oʃaʔ kɔʃi gija  
 nuã oʃaʔ kɔʃi gija  
 DEM.PROX.INAM house small be.PRS  
 ‘This house is small.’ (proximal inanimate)

- c. uni sitai hende gija  
 uni sita-i hende gija  
 DEM.DIST.AN dog-3SG.AN black be.PRS  
 ‘That pen is black.’ (distal animate)
- d. hɔnihɔni hɔti pũd̥ gijai  
 hɔnihɔni hɔti pũd̥ gija-i  
 DEM.REM.AN elephant white be.PRS -3SG.AN  
 ‘That elephant is white.’ (remote animate)
- e. hɔnku hɔʃ kʰet̥re minaʔkuwa  
 hɔnku hɔʃ kʰet̥-re minaʔ-ku-wa  
 DEM.FDIST.AN.PL man field -LOC be-PL-PRS  
 ‘Those men are in the farm.’ (far distal animate flour)

It is found that there is metathesis between proximal and distal demonstrative pronouns as in (3).

- (3) Promixal Distal  
 nui uni  
 nuã unã  
 nuku unku

Similarly, remote demonstrative pronouns are the reduplication of far distal demonstrative pronouns as in (4).

- (4) Far distal Remote  
 hɔni hɔnihɔni  
 hana hanahana  
 hɔnku hɔnkuhɔnku  
 hanaku hanhanaku

## 4.2 Reflexive pronouns

Reflexive refers to a verb or construction where the subject and the object relate to the same entity. Santhali uses reflexive pronouns to express their relationship. Reflexive pronouns in Santhali are marked by *-te* meaning 'self/selves'. Reflexive pronouns in Santhali are provided in Table 4.

Table : 4 The reflexive pronouns in Santhali

Person	Number	Reflexive in Santhali	English equivalence
1st	Singular	te-gij	myself
	Dual(INCL)	te-laŋ	ourselves
	Dual(EXCL)	te-liŋ	ourselves
	Plural(INCL)	te-bu	ourselves
	Plural(EXCL)	te-le	ourselves
2nd	Singular	te-gin	yourself
		te-bin(H)	yourself
	Dual	te-ben	yourselves
	Plural	te-pe	yourselves
3rd	Singular	aiʔ-te	himself/herself
	Dual	akin-te-kin	themselves
	Plural	aku-te-ku	themselves

Some examples of reflexive pronouns in sentence level can be presented as in (5).

- (5) a. alaŋ            telaŋ            dzʌmkida  
       alaŋ            te-laŋ            dzʌm-kida  
       1DU.INCL    REFL-1DU.INCL eat-PST  
       'Two of us (including listener) ate ourselves.'

- b. ale            tele            tsʌlauina  
       ale            te-le            tsʌlau-ina  
       1PL.EXCL    REFL-1PL.EXCL go-PST  
       'We (excluding listener) went ourselves.'
- c. aben teben        dakaben dzʌmkida  
       aben te-ben      daka-ben dzʌm-kida  
       2DU    REFL-2DU rice-2DU eat-PST  
       'Two of you ate rice yourselves.'
- d. uni aiʔte            tsʌlauina  
       uni aiʔ-te            tsʌlau-ina  
       3SG 3.SG -REFL go-PST  
       'S/he went himself/ herself.'

In examples 5 (a-d) reflexive pronouns are *telaŋ* 'yourself', *tele* 'ourselves', *teben* 'yourself' and *aiʔte* 'himself/ herself' respectively.

## 4.3 Interrogative pronouns

The interrogative pronouns in Santhali are *tseʔ* 'what', *ʌkʌi* 'who', *unkare* 'where', *tisem* 'when', *tsida* 'why' and *uka* 'which'. Some examples are illustrated in (6).

- (6) a. amaʔ            ɲitum tseʔ    kana  
       am-aʔ            ɲitum tseʔ    kana  
       2SG-GEN    name    what    be.PRS  
       'What is your name?'
- b. am    ʌkʌi    kanam  
       am    ʌkʌi    kana-m  
       2SG    who    be.PRS-2SG  
       'Who are you?'

- c. ama? oʒa? unkare minaa  
 am-a? oʒa? unkare mina-a  
 2SG-GEN house where be-PRS  
 'Where is your house?'
- d. am tisam heʒinam  
 am tisam heʒ-ina-m  
 2SG when come-PST-2SG  
 'When did you come?'
- e. am hula tsida baŋheʒina  
 am hula tsida baŋ-heʒ-ina  
 2SG yesterday why NEG-come-PST  
 'Why didn't you come yesterday?'
- f. am uka pʌtʌbem parhau  
 am uka pʌtʌb-em parhau  
 2SG which book-2SG read-PRS  
 'Which book do you read?'

Here, the examples 6(a-f) show the interrogative pronouns viz. *tse?* 'what', *ʌkʌi* 'who', *unkare* 'where', *tisem* 'when', *tsida* 'why', *uka* 'which' respectively.

## Abbreviation

1	First person	FDIST	Far distal
2	Second person	GEN	Genitive
3	Third person	H	Honorific
ABL	Ablative	INAN	Inanimate
AN	Animate	INCL	Inclusive
DAT	Dative	INS	Instrumental
DEM	Demonstrative	LOC	Locative
DIST	Distal	PL	Plural
DU	Dual	PROX	Proximal
EXCL	Exclusive	PRS	Present
		PST	Past

REFL	Reflexive	SG	Singular
REM	Remote		

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## COPULAR VERBS IN CHHATTHARE LIMBU

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Copular verbs exist in Panthare Limbu (Wiedert and Subba1985:156), Phedappe Limbu (vanDriem 1987: 55), Athpare, Chamling, Thulung, Khaling and Bantawa (Ebert 1994:103-4) and Kham (Watters 2002:218). They are important features of Chhatthare Limbu, which cover various senses of English 'to be' verbs. They are used to express identity, show locations and positions and describe inchoative state and descriptive and attributive qualities. This article discusses these verbs in brief.

## 1 Introduction

Crystal (2003) defines copula as a 'linking verb' which relates subject and complement in a clause structure and says that the main copular verb in English is 'be'. Apart from 'to be' verbs, other verbs like 'to become' and 'to seem', 'to look' etc. are also used as copular verbs in English. Chhatthare Limbu has mainly ten types of copular verbs to express the meanings of English copular verbs.

## 2 Copular verbs

Table 1: The copular verbs in Chhatthare Limbu

identity operator	suffixal 'to be'
wa-ma	existential 'to be'
ahop- ma	negative existential 'to be'
yuj-ma	locational 'to be'
keŋ-ma	adhesive 'to be'
cuk-ma	attributive 'to be'
puŋ-ma	inchoative 'to be'
lo-ma	descriptive 'to be'

εp-ma	vertical 'to be'
nε-ma	horizontal 'to be'

## 2.1 Identity operator

Copular verb functions as an identity operator, which occurs in a two-nominal argument syntagm and indicates the second argument as identical to the first. For example, in the sentence, *a yakthunba-ŋa* 'I am a Limbu' the second nominal *yakthunba* is identical to the first nominal *a*. The suffix <-ŋa> operates the identity of the speaker. It constitutes a conjugation consisting of a set of adnominal suffixes. For examples,

- (1) khunε yakthunba  
3SG yakthunba  
'He/she is a Limbu.'
- (2) khunchi yakthunba-si  
3NSG yakthunba-3NSG  
'They are Limbus.'
- (3) khene yakthunba-na  
2SG yakthunba- 2SG  
'You are a Limbu.'
- (4) khenchi yakthunba-na-chiŋ  
2DL yakthunba-2-DL  
'You are Limbus.'
- (5) kheni yakthunba-na-niŋ  
2PL yakthunba-2-PL  
'You are Limbus.'



- (6) a yakthunba-ŋa  
1SG yakthungba-1SG  
'I am a Limbu.'
- (7) anchi yakthunba-si  
1SG yakthungba-NSG  
'We are Limbus.'
- (8) anchi-ŋa yakthunba-si-ŋa  
1SG-EXCL yakthungba-NSG-EXCL  
'We are Limbus.'
- (9) ani yakthunba-si  
1PL yakthungba-NSG  
'We are Limbus.'
- (10) ani-ŋa yakthunba-si-ŋa  
1PL-EXCL yakthungba-NSG-EXCL  
'We are Limbus.'

The third person singular form of the identity operator is zero. However, its dual and plural forms are marked by <-si>. The second person singular form of the identity operator is <-na>, its dual marker is <-chiŋ> and plural marker is <-niŋ>. The first person exclusive form of the identity operator is <-ŋa>, and its dual and plural numbers are marked by <-si>. The first person inclusive is unmarked, but its dual and plural numbers are marked by <-si>. According to Ebert (1994:105), 'the 'suffixal be' used in identificational sentences is a unique phenomenon of Limbu. However, Singh (2002:49) presents the same type of equational copula in Taron as given in (11), (12) and (13).

- (11) kəy dəktər əŋ  
1SG doctor 1SG  
'I am a doctor.'
- (12) nəŋ dəktər ce  
2SG doctor 2SG  
'You are a doctor.'
- (13) əmai dəktər  
3SG doctor  
'He is a doctor.'

### 2.1.1 Negative identity operator

The identity operator is negated by *ekhan* which functions only as a negative particle. The following are the examples.

- (14) khunə yakthunba ekhan  
3SG yakthungba NEG  
'He/she is not a Limbu.'
- (15) khunchi yakthunba-si ekhan  
3NSG yakthungba-NSG NEG  
'They are not Limbus'
- (16) khənə yakthunba-na ekhan  
2SG yakthungba 2SG NEG  
'You are not a Limbu.'
- (17) khenchi yakthunba-si ekhan  
2DL yakthungba-NSG NEG-  
'You are not Limbus.'
- (18) khəni yakthunba-si ekhan  
2PL yakthungba-NSG NEG  
'You are not Limbus'

- (19) a yakthunba-ŋa ekhan  
1SG yakthungba-1SG NEG  
'I am not a Limbu.'
- (20) anchi yakthunbasi ekhan  
IDL yakthungba-NSG NEG  
'We are not Limbus.'
- (21) anchi-ŋa yakthunba-si-ŋa ekhan  
IDL-EXCL yakthungba-NSG-1 NEG  
'We are not Limbus.'
- (22) ani yakthunba-si ekhan  
1PL yakthungba-NSG NEG  
'We are not Limbus.'
- (23) ani-ŋa yakthunba-si-ŋa ekhan  
1PL-EXCL yakthungba-NSG-1 NEG  
'We are not Limbus.'

## 2.2 Existential 'to be' and 'not to be'

The availability or existence of a thing is expressed by the verb *wa-ma* 'to be'.

- (24) hamba paŋbhe-o a-dak wa  
that village-LOC my-friend be  
'My friend is there in that village.'
- (25) kuwa-o cwat wa  
well -LOC water be  
'There is water in the well.'
- (26) pyaŋsi-ŋaŋ ku-beso-o thaŋ wa  
paddy-field-GEN 3SGPOSS-near-LOC cowshed be  
'There is a cow-shed beside the paddy-field.'

Wiedert and Subba (1985:156) give the paradigm of this verb. Rai (1985:181) lists two types of existential 'to be' in Bantawa language. In Chhatthare Limbu the existential 'to be' uses a negative counterpart *hopma* to index negative meaning.

- (27) hamba paŋbhe-o a-dak hop  
that village-LOC my-friend be not  
'My friend is not there in that village.'
- (28) kuwa-o cwat hop  
well -LOC water not be  
'There is no water in the well.'
- (29) pyaŋsi ku-beso-o thaŋ hop  
paddyfield 3SGPOSS-near-LOC cowshed not be  
'There is no cow-shed beside the paddy-field.'

Negative affixes are used if *wa* functions as a main verb.

- (30) hamba paŋbhe-o a-dak ma-wa-nen  
that village-LOC my-friend NEG-stay-NEG  
'My friend does not stay in that village.'
- (31) hamba paŋbhe-o adak-khachi ma-wa-chin  
that village-LOC my-friend-d NEG-be-NEG  
'My friends do not stay in that village.'
- (32) hamba paŋbhe-o adak-kha ma-ŋwa-nen  
that village-LOC my-friend-p 3PL- NEG-be-NEG  
'My friends do not stay in that village.'

## 2.3 Locational 'to be'

Locational 'to be' *yuŋ-ma* situates the subject in a place.

- (33) kunda-o cwa? yuŋ  
jar-LOC water be  
'There is water in the jar.'
- (34) harɛ-o khyu yuŋ  
bottle-LOC ghee-be  
'There is ghee inside the bottle.'
- (35) luŋghuri-o na yuŋ  
stone-hole-LOC fish be  
'The fish is inside the stone-hole.'

*wama* can also replace *yuŋma*.

- (36) kunda-o cwa? wa  
jar-LOC water be  
'There is water in the jar.'
- (37) harɛ-o khyu wa  
bottle-LOC ghee-be  
'There is ghee inside the bottle.'
- (38) luŋghuri-o na wa  
stone-hole-LOC fish be  
'The fish is inside the stone-hole.'
- (39) sumbak-ŋo yum wa  
dal-LOC salt be  
'There is salt in dal.'

#### 2.4 Adhesive 'to be'

The verb *keŋma* 'to be' indicates the object in a hanging position in the superior location such as fruits in a tree or cloud, stars, moon and the sun in the sky.

- (40) siŋbuŋ-ŋo ambe keŋ  
tree-LOC mango be  
'A mango is there on the tree.'
- (41) taŋsappa-o laba keŋ  
sky-LOC moon be  
'There is the moon in the sky.'
- (42) taŋsappa-o nam keŋ  
sky-LOC sun be  
'There is the sun in the sky.'

It conveys both locational and existential sense when referring to body parts.

- (43) ɔn-naŋ ku-milak keŋ  
horse-GEN 3SGPOSS-tail be  
'The horse has a tail.'
- (44) khune-ŋ ku-mik keŋ  
3SG-GEN 3SGPOSS-eye be  
'He has an eye.'
- (45) pi?-naŋ ku-milak keŋ  
cow-GEN 3SGPOSS -tail be  
'A cow has a tail.'

*keŋ* can be replaced by *wa*.

- (46) ɔn-naŋ ku-milak wa  
horse-GEN 3SGPOSS-tail be  
'The horse has a tail.'
- (47) khune-ŋ ku-mik wa  
3SG-GEN 3SGPOSS-eye be  
'He has an eye.'

- (48) pi?-naŋ ku-milak wa  
cow'-GEN 3SGPOSS -tail be  
'A cow has a tail.'

However, the locational 'to be' *yuy* cannot replace *keŋ*.

### 2.5 Attributive 'to be'

The verb *cuk-ma* 'to be' is used in the intransitive form to describe an attribute or trait to a subject. The predicate may contain an adjective with a descriptive meaning.

- (49) khunε kamba cuk  
3SG tall be  
'He is tall.'
- (50) khεnε nuba ka-juk  
2SG good 2-be  
'You are good.'
- (51) a siŋsiŋba cuk-ŋa  
1SG serious be-1SG  
'I am serious.'

### 2.6 Inchoative 'to be'

The verb *puŋ-ma* 'to be' describes the transition from one state to another in the past or non-past.

- (52) hamba hεnja kumakla puks-a  
that child black become-PT  
'That child became black.'
- (53) ba lεghe? taphεmba puks-a  
this cloth bad be  
'This cloth became bad.'

- (54) khunε kapoba puks-a  
3SG old become-PT  
'He became old.'

It also indicates an inherent quality.

- (55) napmi-ŋaŋ nεcchi ku-huk puŋ  
man-GEN two 3SG POSS-hand be  
'Man has two hands.'
- (56) samyaŋ kuhikla puŋ  
gold yellow be  
'Gold is yellow.'
- (57) εn-naŋ ku-daŋ ma-buŋ-nεn  
horse-GEN 3SGPOSS-horn NEG-be-NEG  
'A horse has no horn.'

### 2.8 Descriptive 'to be'

The verb *loma* 'to be' describes the manifestation of an attribute.

- (58) khunε ku-na mak lo  
3SG 3SGPOSS-face black be  
'His face is black.'
- (59) ba sukwa he? lo  
this bag red be  
'This bag is red.'
- (60) pitnu pho lo  
milk white be  
'Milk is white.'

### 2.9 Vertical 'to be'

The verb *yep-ma* 'to be' indicates person or object in a vertical position.

- (61) hamba paŋbhe-o lothik numa menche yep  
that village-LOC one beautiful young lady be  
'There is a beautiful young lady in that village.'
- (62) lam-beso pi? yep  
road-side cow be  
'There is a cow beside the road.'
- (63) tambhuŋ-o siŋbuŋ-gha mu-yep  
forest-LOC tree-p 3PL-be  
'There are trees in the forest.'

### 2.10 Horizontal 'to be'

The verb *ne* 'to be' indicates the object in a horizontal position.

- (64) sapla kham-mo nen  
paper floor-LOC be  
'Paper is on the floor.'
- (65) a-byaŋsi paŋbhe-o nen  
my-house village-LOC be  
'My paddy field is in the village.'
- (66) yodhambi nuba laje nen  
across the river good paddy-field be  
'There is a good paddy-field across the river.'

### 3 Conclusion

In Chhatthare Limbu, ten types of copular verbs are used to express the meanings of English copular verbs. Apart from marking identity, the copular verbs show the existence of person, animal or thing in general or specific locations or positions and describe their inchoative state and attributive and descriptive qualities.

### Abbreviations

1	First person
1DL	First person dual
1PL	First person plural
1SG	First person singular
2DL	Second person dual
2PL	Second person plural
2SG	Second person singular
3PL	Third person plural
3SG	Third person singular
3SGPOSS	Third person singular possessive
EXCL	Exclusive
GEN	Genitive
LOC	Locative
NEG	Negative
NSG	Nonsingular
PT	Past tense

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## ADVERBIAL CLAUSES IN MAITHILI

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This article is organized into three sections. Section 1 presents the definition of clause combining and its syntactic devices/processes. In section 2 we briefly try to discuss morphological analysis of Adverbial Clause and classify its types. In section 3, we explore the syntactic features associated with adverbial constructions to identify them from typological perspectives. Finally, we sum up the findings of the article.

## 1 Introduction

Most of the South Asian languages (including Indo-Aryan, Tibeto-Burman, Dravidian and Austric languages) typically employ non-finite clauses instead of finite clauses to realize clause linkage (cf. Masica, 1976 and Yadava, 2005). In this article we have chosen one of the major strategies employed for clause combining in the Maithili language, viz. adverbial clauses both from formal and functional-typological perspectives.

## 2 Definition of clause combining and its types

A clause is a group of words forming a grammatical category/unit higher than phrase and smaller than sentence. Functionally, a clause has subject and predicate. Most of the multi-verb constructions involve one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. An independent clause is one that is fully inflected and capable of being integrated into discourse on its own. A dependent clause is one that depends on some other clause for at least part of its inflectional information. Consider the example in (1).

- (1) He came in locking the door behind him.  
[Payne, 1997:306]

In (1) *he came in* is the independent clause on which *locking the door behind him* depends because the subject and tense of the dependent clause are only understood via the subject and tense of the independent clause. The dependent clause by itself does not qualify as a fully inflected clause, able to be integrated into discourse on its own. Sometimes fully inflected verbs are called finite verbs, whereas dependent verbs are termed non-finite.

In other words, a finite clause is a clause with a finite verb. A main clause is a clause that may stand alone as a complete sentence and expresses the focal predication when occurring in a complex sentence.

The following example sentence contains two clauses:

- (2) It is cold, although the sun is shining.

The main clause is *it is cold* and the subordinate clause is *although the sun is shining*.

## 2.1 Types of clause combining

Sentences can be combined by means of two syntactic devices in English syntax: subordination and coordination. The examples of coordination are as follows.

- (3) a. I remember. I saw the jewels.  
b. I remember seeing the jewels.  
(4) a. Ram is a bachelor. His sister is married.  
b. Ram is a bachelor but his sister is married.

## 2.2 Subordination in Maithili

Subordination involves the conjunction of two clauses with the help of subordinators or subordinating conjunctions. Unlike coordinators, the subordinators assign unequal rank to

the conjoined clauses and render one of the clauses subordinate to the other (Yadav, 1996).

The subordinators in Maithili are of two types.

i. Full words with lexical content, e.g. *jakhan* 'when'; *jan* 'if'; *je* 'that' *kiaek tə* 'because', etc. The examples are given below.

(5) a. hām jən-əit ch-i je o  
I know IMPERF Aux-PRES-1 COMP he.H  
mar-əl jae-t-ah  
kill-PST PCPL go-FUT-3H  
'I know that he will be killed.' (Yadav, 1996:344)

b. u chāra je kailh ˆ1  
that boy REL yesterday come-PERF  
çḥəl bəd cəlak çḥəl  
Aux-PST (3NH) very clever be-PST (3NH)  
'The boy who came yesterday was very clever.'

ii. Non-finite verb forms which lack agreement categories by definition:

(6) u hamara əbəkəlel kahalak  
he I Accu come INF ask-past  
'He asked me to come.'

There are three types of subordinate clauses: complement clauses, relative clauses and adverbial clauses. But I will only talk briefly about adverbial clauses in this paper.

### 1.3 Adverbial clauses

Adverbial clauses are those that serve an "adverbial function". They modify a verb phrase or a whole clause. They are not an argument of the clause. Sometimes adverbial clauses are termed "adjuncts". The adverbial subordinate

clauses in Maithili can be divided into the following types: time, condition, place, manner, reason, result, purpose, converbs; sequential and simultaneous.

#### 1.3.1 Adverbial of time

The adverbial clauses of time signal temporal as well as sequential relationships and utilize both the strategies of subordination as shown below.

i. Temporal relationship

It is signalled by the use of subordinators which are full words with lexical content; usually these are correlatives, one of which is optionally deleted, e.g., *jəkhən-təkhən* 'when-then', *jəhiya-təhiya* 'when-then', *jabət-tabat* 'as long as-until then'.

(7) jəkhən hām pəhūc-1-ahū (təkhən) əhā nāi  
When I arrive PST (I) then you (H) not  
ch-əl-əhū  
be-PST-(2H)  
'When I arrived, you were not (there).'

[Yadav, 1996:361]

Temporal relationship is also signalled by the use of non-finite verb forms that appear in combination with forms (postpositions) which explicitly identify temporal relationships and may also be combined with the emphatic enclitic.

(8) pərh-əit kaal pərhə ber me həlla  
read PSTPCPL time read INF time in  
nāi kər-u!  
noise not do-IMP. (2H)  
'Do not make a noise while studying' (lit: 'during the time of studying!')

[Yadav, 1996:362]

## ii. Immediate succession

The locative adverbial *jahā* ‘where’ coupled with *ki* ‘that’ signals immediate sequence of events:

- (9) (jəhā) sājh pər-əl ki  
Where evening lie PST (3NH) that  
əhā ghər bəhair le-l-əhū  
You (H) house sweep take PST (2H)  
'As soon as the evening set, you swept the room.'  
[Yadav, 1996:362]

Non-finite verb forms are also used in signalling immediate succession of events:

- (10) nokri-hoit (sath) ho-it-e (sath)  
Job bePRESPCPL with be PRESPCPL-EMPH with  
ham khabar de-b  
I news give (Fut-(I + 2H))  
'As soon as I get the job, I will inform you.'  
[Yadav, 1996:362]

## iii. Cause

Occasionally, the time adverbial morpheme (either with or without the emphatic enclitic-e) may signal cause as well:

- (11) jəhiy-e sə babu mər-l-əinh  
When-EMPH from father die PST-(3H + 3H)  
o gam choir de-l əinh  
he (H) village leave give PST (3H)  
'After his father died, he left the village.'  
[Yadav, 1996:363]

Non-finite forms, too, convey the meaning of cause.

- (12) i bat sun-əit o uith ge-l-ah  
This matter hear PRESPCPL he (H) rise go-PST-(3H)  
'When he heard it he left immediately.'  
[Yadav, 1996:363]

## 1.3.2 Conditional clauses

Conditional clauses are formed by adding the subordinator *jō* (also *jadi-yadi*, *əgər*) 'if' to the clause which signals the condition and *tə* 'then' to the main clause which states the outcome will happen if the condition is met.

- (13) jo pain pər tə tə rəih ĵb  
if water fall-FUT (3NH) then live go-FUT-(2H)  
'If it rains, please stay.' (lit: then you will stay)  
[Yadav, 1996:369]

## 1.3.3 Locative clauses

Locative adverbial clauses are introduced by the subordinator *jətə* 'where' or *jətəkətəu* 'wherever'

- (14) jətə pəthə-b həm jə-b  
Where send-FUT-(2H+I) I go-FUT-(I)  
'I will go where you send me.'  
[Yadav, 1996:363]

Usually, however, locative clauses in Maithili have the shape of a relative-correlative clause:

- (15) həm otə ohi tham jəb  
I there that place go (FUT-(I))  
jətə jahi tham həm-ra kəh-əb  
where which place I ACC/DAT say-FUT (2H+1)  
'I will go there where you ask me to.'  
[Yadav, 1996:363]



## 1.3.4 Manner clauses

Adverbial clauses of manner are introduced by *jena* ‘as’ or *jahina* ‘exactly as’.

- (16) la an-o jəhina malik  
take bring-IMP-(2NH) exactly as master  
kəh-əl-khunh  
say-PST-(3H+2NH)  
‘Fetch it exactly as the master said.’

[Yadav, 1996:364]

## 1.3.5 Reason clauses

Adverbial clauses of reason are formed by the use of a cluster of subordinating morphemes such as *tə* ‘so’ *tahi sã* (colloquially) *təi/təhi sã* ‘due to’, *tahi sã/tahi karn-ẽ* ‘due to that reason’, *karən je* ‘the reason being that’ or *kik təlki/lje* ‘because (of)’, e.g.:

- (17) gari chuit ge-l tahi sã ə-hĩ otə  
train leave go-PST-(3NH +I) due to that you(H) IMPH place  
rəih ge-l-əhũ  
live go-PST-(2H)  
‘I missed the train, due to that reason I stayed at your place.’  
[Yadav, 1996:364]

## 1.3.6 Result clauses

An adverbial clause of result is formed by the use of *jahi sã* (colloquially) *jəi sə* ‘so that/ as a result of which’.

- (18) bhai ji paisa bhej-nai choir de-l-əinh  
elder brother HP money send leave give PST-(3H)  
jahi sã pərhai chor-ə pər-əl  
consequently study leave INF MOD-PST-(3NH+I)

‘I had to quit my studies because elder brother stopped sending money.’

## 1.3.7 Purpose clauses

The adverbial clauses of purpose typically use the different types of bare infinitival verb forms, as exemplified below:

- (19) rakesh kitab kin-ə bazar ge-l  
Rakesh book buy-INF bazar go-PST (3NH)  
‘Rakesh went to bazar to buy a book.’

## 1.3.8 Converb clause and its types

The converb is one of the characteristic devices for linking sequences of clauses to the host clause in Maithili. The converb in Maithili is a linguistically valid category (Yadava, 2005; Mahato, 2009).

There are two types of Maithili converb clauses: sequential and simultaneous.

## 1.3.8.1 Sequential converb clause

A sequential converbal clause is normally joined to the left of the matrix clause in Maithili. The sequential converbal marker in Maithili is -ka/-ke, which follows the verb stem.

- (20) Snaan ka ka/ke o khaa-it ch-aith  
Bath having done he eat-Hab Aux-Pr.3 (H)  
‘Having taken bath, he eats.’

[Jha 971:74 cited in Yadava, 2005:444]

The equi-subject of the embedded clause is deleted. The action as denoted by the embedded clause is considered to happen a bit earlier than the embedding clause. In (20) the doer is supposed to take bath first and only then he eats.

## 1.3.8.2 Simultaneous converb clause

The simultaneous or progressive converbal clause encoded ‘simultaneity’, i.e. the activity overlapping with the activity

encoded in the matrix clause. Maithili uses repeated verb forms marked with the progressive aspect *-əit*. The simultaneous converb clause is marked with *-it*. They are exemplified in (21).

(21) o        bhat        kha-it        kha-it        məir ge-lah  
          he (H) rice    eat-IMPERF eat IMPERF die go-PST (3H)  
          'He died while eating rice.'

The equi-subject *o* is deleted in the embedded clause *bhat kha-it kha-it* in (21). Both works of embedded and embedding clauses are to be performed simultaneously.

The aspect of the embedding clause may not affect the aspect of the embedded clause, as the latter is always considered to be in the progressive aspect.

#### 1.4 Conclusion

To sum up, the adverbial clauses in Maithili tend to have the same-subject as their main clause. In addition to this referential coherence (Givon, 2001; Yadava, 2005), they also have temporal coherence with their main clauses; i.e. they tend to exhibit a rigid temporal-aspectual relation vis-a-vis their main clauses.

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## LINGUISTIC HERITAGE IN NEPAL

Subhadra Subba Dahal

Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

This is the 30<sup>th</sup> annual conference of Linguistic Society of Nepal and to be holding 30 conferences in unbroken succession is not an easy job to do. My compliments are to LSN for the great job.

The first conference of LSN was held in 1980 and I happened to address the conference as the vice chairman of the society since the first chairman, Prof. K.P. Malla was away to America. The theme of my address was language right in Nepal, most probably the denial of this right. I was caught up with some terms like language right and other ideas. Over the years, I have mellowed and I have come to understand things more clearly. Today, personally, I think, we need to sort out our priorities.

Over the passage of three decades we are still standing at the same place. We have not been able to come out of 'poverty and squalor'. We still live in illusion of सुख, शान्ती र प्रगति which we have not seen yet. We are still denied access to our basic needs. What do we need, language right? Or right to live, right to survive and sustain or right to access to a descent life? There are still questions. I do not need answers, but let us be honest to view things in correct perspectives.

Today, the LSN and its members and all fraternity fellows have before us a heritage of linguistics. This linguistic heritage was built in our life time; we did not inherit it from our proceeding peers or from historical past.

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the work of all those individual scholars who have been 'the pointer' to this heritage.

I fondly and gratefully like to mention the names of Brian Hodgson for his interest in Nepalese studies, G.A. Grierson for his linguistic Survey of India which includes a volume on the languages of Nepal, R.L. Turner for his monumental Etymological Dictionary of Indo-Aryan languages and the Dictionary of Nepali, Prof. G. Tucci who undertook his two scientific expeditions in western Nepal during 1930s and discovered the Khasa Kingdom of Mallas. I am referring to these reports and the book on the Mallas because they carry resourceful socio-cultural on Western Nepal. He discovered a few stone inscriptions and he reconstructed a glorious history, hitherto dormant, out of them. The Dullu inscription carrying the chronology of Malla Kings was dated 1354 A.D. It is interesting to know the languages used in those inscriptions. Most of the inscriptions began with invocations to God, interestingly not ॐ श्री गणेशायः नमहः but ॐ मणि पद्मे हुम in Tibetan script followed by text in Sanskrit and Sinjali. Personally, the reports of the expeditions and the book enthralled me. Geographically the Malla Kingdom included the present Garhwal and Kumaon of Himanchal Pradesh of India which removes some linguistic confusion created over many western dialects of Nepali. In fact, the whole western region of western Nepal and Garhwal and Kumaon are socio-culturally and linguistically a liquid zone, an imaginary political border line divides the area into two political zones, but still a strong linguistic cultural continuum exists in this area. If seen from historical linguistic view, many divergences developed after the political division yet cultural convergence is strong.

Let me continue with the names. There have been native traditional grammarians in language like Nepali, Newar,

Maithili, Bhojpuri and Awadhi. Their works deserve acknowledgement.

When Tribhuvan University opened or the Royal Nepal Academy was installed, they certainly accomplished some work in language studies. Institute for Nepal and Asian Studies, present CNAS initiated social science researches in linguistics, history, culture and anthropology. But the real founding of linguistic heritage was done by the Summer School of Linguistics. When a number dedicated linguists worked on many lesser known languages of Nepal. Descriptions of many languages were published. SIL guided and trained many scholars and their work remains most abiding for this linguistic heritage building. Some names of the dedicated scholars cannot be forgotten like Dr. Hale, Grovers, Coughley, Watters (Sr and Jr both), Maria Hari and Toba and many more, I regret my loss of memory of other great names.

I like to mention the name of a German scholar here. He is Prof. Bernard Kolver who initiated the linguistic survey of Eastern Nepal and who introduced the cultural heritage of Kathmandu valley to outsiders. He was an Indologist and yet his interest in the studies of language, culture and old manuscripts of Nepal had been his labour of genuine love for Nepal.

The Royal Nepal Academy included native linguists as its members, like Bal Krishna Pokharel, C.M. Bandhu, Yogendra Yadava and Bairagi Kainla who made solid contributions to linguistic studies of Nepal in their capacity as members.

And when native linguists returned from outside after their studies like K.P. Malla, B.M. Dahal, C.M. Bandhu, T.R. Kansakar, they launched their efforts by applying their expertise to give new orientations to language departments like English and Nepali. They introduced several small scale

projects on studies of several lesser known language of Nepal and study of English as a Second Language. The small scale project reports, although without linguistic sophistication, have been invaluable store house of linguistic information. Their new orientations to language department building introduced new attraction and new approaches to language studies.

In 1979 linguistic society was formed subsequently enough trained fresh linguists like Ramavatar Yadav, Shisir Sthapit, Abhi Subedi, Madhav Pokharel, Jaya Raj Awasthi, Yogendra Yadava, Sundar Krishna Joshi, Novel Kishor Rai, Govinda Raj Bhattarai, Nirmal Man Tuladhar rallied forth with the old ones to build a solidarity group of linguists. And when the linguistic department opened in 1996, under able leadership of C.M. Bandhu, Yogendra P Yadava, and T.R. Kansakar a strong linguistic faculty was built and they have groomed and trained, confident, energetic and hardworking new linguists. These new linguists have their own visions, perhaps more insightful, perhaps much broader, perhaps arrogant also. Yet they want to do something. I like young arrogance because it often, points at old mistakes, let us tolerate it, but if it continues it turns into prejudice which we must avoid. We have retired yet we are still a part of this linguistic heritage solidarity. We all should be proud that we built it in our life time, however, we should always be careful that how best we all can work together in order to consolidate it, protect it so that future generations will look back and remember our work fondly and gratefully, as all of us are doing now. Allow me now to acknowledge my humble tribute to the above mentioned scholars and scholar linguists for the work they have done for this linguistic heritage building.

Now, I wish to refer to some theoretical aspects regarding our present language problems.

My first concern is how is the new constitution going to treat our language? Finding it relevant to our situation, I like to refer to what Joshua A. Fishman, Jyotirindra Das Gupta and Heinzkloss write about similar situations like what we are facing now.

Joshua A. Fishman in his essay on 'Nationality, Nationalism and Nation-Nationalism' says that the relationship of language and nationalism is a central question for all those concerned with language problems of the developing nations.

Nationalism is the result of socio-cultural integration in a nation. At the socio-cultural level, it is the transition between ethnic group and nationality. To arrive at this stage of group or ethnic identity is to arrive at acceptance of a common identity that is to accept a common nationality. Nationalism is awareness, an idolized transformation from group behaviour to a common sense of togetherness or to own a sense of belonging to each other. Fishman further says sometimes nationalism crosses political geographic border. Political geographic boundary does not constrain the spread of nationalism. It is socio-cultural integration of giving awareness to a sense of belonging to one common identity, wherever you are, may be outside your own country.

Fishman explains situation of nationalism. In this case, political boundaries are most salient and most efforts are made towards maintaining or strengthening it regardless of socio-cultural character of the population, whenever political geographic momentum and consolidation are paid more attention than socio-cultural momentum and consolidation we might prefer a term nationism or political integration whenever the boundaries of a nation is more idealised than that of the nationality, it is nationism but then may also begin to find pressure building up for authentic socio-cultural unification or integration at some time or stage.

For building up of nationalism some sort of building up symbols simultaneously emerge like a national language, a national anthem, a national flag, a national costume etc. If nationalism also consequently works toward a socio-cultural unification, then some binding symbols are needed. There comes the need for a national language, its maintenance, reinforcement and enrichment at the same time other languages need careful treatment for education, administration and media use.

Functions of a national language and other languages must be recognized, clear and just a language policy and its honest implementation is needed.

Fishman concludes that at some point or stage, all languages chosen for education, administration and media must face the need for technology and one must realize technology has no ethnicity; it is uniformized throughout the world. And diglossia needs to be identified so that mistake could be avoided in regarding it as a different language.

Jyotirindra Das Gupta presents two situations that may cause language as well as socio-cultural issues. Most nations (clearly Nepal) are based on a plurality of segmental groups. More often feelings of attachment of segmental groups is stronger than their attachment with the nation. This segmental attachment is sometimes referred to as primordial attachment.

This dichotomy between primordiality to civility can be explained as group loyalty or civic loyalty to the nation.

This social cleavage is ultimately threatening to nationalism, working towards disintegration of a nation. This dichotomy and this phenomenon do seem to be emerging speedily in present Nepal.

Lastly Heinz Kloss presents language nation typology of new nations after several countries of South East Asia and Africa became independent nations from the British Empire.

Although, finding his typology interesting, we may reject his typology in Nepal, even hypothetically on the ground that Nepal has never been under any foreign domination that is under British Empire. But his basic definitions like Nation State, Multination, State, endoglossic and exoglossic states. Exoglossic are those countries which have adopted non-indigenous languages as national official languages. And endoglossic states are those which have made their own native languages as their national official language.

Nepal is a multiethnic and multilingual country. Even Prithivi Narayan Shah who founded Nepal State had recognized the fact by his statement that 'नेपाल चार जात छत्तीस वर्णको देश हो।' and 'बडा दुःखले अर्ज्याको देशलाई' meaning he earned this nationalhood not easily but by great hardship. Should we let it go? Would we do that? At least this kind of fraternity of people like ours (linguistic fraternity) would not let it happen.

Roles of languages should be sorted out. There are some theoretical measures by which we select a national language for the solidarity of our nationalism and as a symbol of this nationalism. We surely wish to remain endoglossic state by selecting one of our indigenous languages as our symbol of national identity and solidarity. That any indigenous language could be selected if it qualifies the following criteria.

- a. It should have a long history of its authenticity and autonomy.
- b. It should have a long written heritage of literature and written documents.
- c. It should enjoy a large social credibility of its use, acceptance and preference over a large part of the country

and outside the country where its people have spread over.

I hope all are interested in the selection of one national language and other languages for their roles as language of education, official and media use. In order to do the selection job, we must honestly give up the following:

- a. ethnic prejudice
- b. language prejudice
- c. political party prejudice

And our goal should be:

- a. socio-cultural integration
- b. to regard civic loyalty higher than group loyalty
- c. to promote indigenous languages
- d. and adopt technology for development which has no ethnicity and nor does it suffer from language prejudice.

Lastly, we all know that there is a difference between what we desire and what we see happening around. Yet I believe, although absolute socio-cultural integration is not possible but it could be achieved to a large degree if rulers give us:

- a. good governance
- b. social justice
- c. and room for healthy exercise of civic rights and duties

Let us all hope for a constitution to be written by those individuals who regard socio-cultural linguistic diversity of Nepal as more abiding factors than political ones and work aiming at fostering a strong unity in this diversity.

I wish good luck to all of us. Thank you all once again for inviting me for this speech. I take leave with a final note that we linguists have a duty to our country in sorting out correct priorities. And, at critical time like now, we could measure

national interest as higher than our other interest. Let us not allow language factor to be used for politics.

[Keynote address: 30<sup>th</sup> LSN Conference, 26<sup>th</sup> Nov 2009]

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

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Chief Guest, Dr. Kamal Krishna Joshi, Chairman, University Grants Commission; Keynote Speaker, Dr. Subhadra Subba; Chief Editor Prof. Jai Raj Awasthi; Distinguished guests; presenters and participants from home and abroad; and LSN colleagues, media persons, ladies and gentlemen.

I remember my first entry into this institution as a student member during its inception in 1976. Today, after three decades, I feel a great pleasure and regard it as a matter of great honor to speak to this august gathering of scholars, linguists, researchers and a host of aspiring young people as a President of LSN. Such gatherings made regularly for the last three decades have nurtured a rich 'linguistics culture' in Nepal and this has also drawn the attention of different scholars and institutions in the world. We have achieved this through presentations, discussions, and shared ideas and opinions.

Today, I would like to record the names of some pioneers and eminent linguists like Prof. KP Malla, Prof. TR Kansakar, Prof. Ballabh Mani Dahal, Prof. CM Bandhu, Prof. Shishir K. Sthapit, Prof. Ramawatar Yadav, Prof. Abhi Subedi, Dr. Subhadra Subba, Prof. Shanti Basnyat, Prof. Nirmal Man Tuladhar, Dr. Sundar Krishna Joshi and many others who have made a substantial contribution in laying the foundation of this discipline whereas, the following generation torch bearers are, among others, Prof. YP Yadava, Prof. CP Sharma, Prof. MP Pokhrel, Prof. Novel Kishor Rai and Prof. JR Awasthi. They are the leaders followed and supported by innumerable young generation enthusiasts students and researchers alike. Consequently, Linguistic Society of Nepal, which is underpinned by the Central

Department of Linguistics, Department of English Education, Central Department of English, as well as Central Department of Nepali, to a large extent, has developed itself into an incomparable pioneering center of learning and research in Nepal. A host of young academicians are involved in learning about their own native tongues and in exploring the wide horizon of the linguistic diversity of Nepal. Started by a small group of linguists 29 years ago, the Society has expanded its family now with about three hundred life members, across the geographical, linguistic and topical borders.

Obviously, LSN is the oldest of organizations in Nepal that has survived innumerable obstacles-- even wars, insurgencies, emergencies and many hindrances, political and economic, that has maintained its vibrancy throughout the years that is growing richer and stronger everyday. No other discipline in Nepal has experienced such a rigorous journey and growth in its content and form. The LSN survived everything as it remained ever an apolitical organization-- a forum dedicated solely to the promotion of academic activities--- study and research in linguistics.

As a result, linguistic discourse in Nepal has crossed all its traditional boundaries. During the early days, the papers included topics as *English vowels and consonants* or *syntax and morphology*. Today, at the other point of time, our young linguists are contemplating the application of computational linguistics in many indigenous languages. We have, for instance, papers like *Maintenance of Nepali among Nepali Children in Oregon*, *A Documentary of the Baram Language and its People*, *Case marker in Sherpa*, *genitive in Limbu*, *LinSuN initiatives*, *the Raji dialects*, *A componential analysis of basic Nepal nouns*, *Linguistic analysis of English-Arabic translation English lexical borrowings in Kashmiri* and so on. We have traversed a long way from structural to



computational, from lithographic machines to high-tech equipments. Over the years, Linguistic Society has played a leading role in creating this atmosphere; even the Central Department of Linguistics owes to it. These together have created awareness in our student-researchers and many projects are being carried out which aim at the preservation, protection and promotion of indigenous languages of Nepal. Many papers in this conference are the outcomes of the rich experience drawn from the field works. Such a linguistic and cultural awareness among the people has also strongly supported Nepal's political move towards *lok tantra*. It is the right to language and culture of the marginal and deprived section that has commanded the highest attention at this hour. At the same time we are compelled to think over and practice the application of IT in our activities like language study, planning, documentation and machine translation.

At this moment I would like to remind the august gathering of some issues that have been raised time and again. These help LSN drive further and widen its scope in the new challenging perspectives. These are:

- Materializing the Linguistic Survey of Nepal.
- The establishing Language Academy for which the linguistic communities have shown their serious concern time and again is very urgent call of time.
- The development of Nepali as a second language curriculum with the widely expanding Nepali diaspora and the different linguistic groups of the nation in mind needs accelerating.
- The promotion of linguistic and cultural harmony is a must because language is ultimately only a means that functions in society, and the study and researches related to language are not merely theoretical subjects of discussion and debates, rights and duties, they should be utilized as powerful instruments for nurturing and strengthening social harmony as well.
- We have to make the government realize that LSN is a forum of expertise required to preserve and promote different

languages as such they have to be invited to design courses and materials for mother tongue education as envisaged by the government.

- One of the most effective means of preserving languages and promoting an existence among each other is through translation. We need more expertise in translation so it is high time our Departments give high priority to activities related to translation studies course and research.

The editorial board consisting of Mr. Bhim Regmi, and Mr. Ganga Ram Gautam headed by Prof. Jai Raj Awasthi has produced a voluminous work, the regular issue of **the Journal of Linguistics** volume, the Board deserves special thanks for their untiring and meticulous work required to produce such a great treasure in a very short period of time.

I am thankful to my colleagues and Executive Members of LSN who have worked hard, incessantly nights and days, have spent their time, sometimes money and energy in making this mega event a success. It is difficult to survive without any resource in all voluntary basis. We are thankful to UGC, TU, NFDIN and Ratna Pustak Bhandar for their kind cooperation. We hope the government will recognize the contribution our predecessors have made in sustaining the LSN and will allocate some amount of annual fund towards its sustenance.

The presenters from home and abroad deserve our due thank, the contributors in the journal, the audience, the volunteers for making this success.

Thank you very much.

[Presidential address delivered at the 30th annual conference of the Linguistic Society of Nepal]

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#### Abbreviations used in this list

CDE Central Department of English  
 CDL Central Department of Linguistics  
 CDN Central Department of Nepali  
 CIL Campus of International Languages  
 CPDP Chintang and Puma Documentation Project  
 DEE Department of English Education

**Note:** We have tried our best to update the list of the life members of Linguistic Society of Nepal (LSN). We would be grateful to your kind help for further updates.