

A Descriptive Account of Complex Predicates in Nepali

*A thesis submitted in part fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
Doctor of Philosophy*

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July 2023

CHAPTER-V

Conclusion

In Chapter 1, we saw the Nepali language and community of Assam. We have seen the new identity of Nepali speaking people of Assam as **Asameli Gorkha**. The Asameli Gorkha and their migration to North East India reveals that one section of the migrants came in search of their basic needs and better opportunities and another section of migrants came because of the interest of British administration. In this chapter we have seen that the recent scenario of Gorkha people in Assam is that they are well assimilated with the Assamese culture and tradition. Apart from the identity, we found that the Nepali language spoken in Assam shows certain variation from the standard variety. There are many morphological items in Standard Nepali (SN) that are no longer used in Assam variety of Nepali (AN). In AN we see lexical borrowings from Assamese and colloquially these borrowed words are now part of their daily usage of vocabulary. Few instances are *besi* ‘excess’, *zharu* ‘broom’, *kazia* ‘fight’, *nimokh* ‘salt’, *potol* ‘pointed gourd’, *bohi* ‘copy’, *matha* ‘head’, *pasi* ‘bamboo basket’ etc. The variation in AN is not only limited to lexical level but also in structural level. In this Chapter, we see the agreement marker in AN for first person plural number in present tense is **-um** but **-au** in SN. The ablative case marker in AN is **bada** whereas in SN we have **bata**. The AN variety is observed in the colloquial form. In any formal occasion the AN speakers tend to use the SN variety because they feel this variety as in pure form and correct. The latter half of this chapter showed the concept of complex predicate in detail. There are many definitions that talked about the formation and properties of complex predicates in world languages.

In Chapter 2, we have shown the finite and non-finite clause structures in Nepali. In this chapter we have seen the SOV word order of Nepali, Tense-Aspect-Mood features, agreement and other features like negation in details. We have found in this chapter that the typology of AN also has certain level of variation from the SN. In SN there are three tense markers (present **-ch**, past **-j**, future **-ne**) but in AN there are only two tense markers (present **-ch**, past **-j**). In AN, the future time is indicated with the help of a temporal adverb. The **-ch** marker is polysemous in Nepali as it indicates both present tense and existential marker. The **-ch** marker occurs in bound form when it is a present tense marker but it occurs in free form if it is an existential marker. The optative mood marker is present in SN but in AN it is not used. Even in formal setups this optative mood marker is not

used. The agreement markers in both present and past tense is also shown where we see the person, number and gender agreement and also variation of agreement markers based on honorificity. The non-finite marker **-i** is also discussed where we see the **-i** marker occurs in a non-finite clause, nominalized clause, derived nominal. This chapter has shown all the necessary typological features of AN and SN for understanding the structure and patterns of the language.

In Chapter 3, we see the different types of compound verb construction (CV). In Nepali we have seen non-verb + verb, verb + verb, verb-i + verb type of compound verb construction. In AN, the non-verbal category includes adjective + verb and noun + verb combinations. In SN there is one more kind of combination i.e. adverb + verb compound construction. In Nepali, the main verb/ nonverbal element of the compound construction juxtaposes with a light verb that takes the tense and agreement features. In Nepali CV the conjunctive particle **-i** suffixes with the main verb when it has *-le* ‘take’ and *-de* ‘give’ as light verbs. In Nepali CV the verbal and nonverbal element can be dropped in yes/no question type of sentences. Compound sentences can be also formed with CVs in Nepali. The subject oriented benefactive light verbs in Nepali are *-le* and *-de* and in case of malefactive light verb construction the light verb *-de* is used. Negation of the CV requires the negative marker **-na** which suffixes with the light verb.

In Chapter 4, we have shown the serial verb constructions (SVC) in Nepali where all the verbs in a string are attached together to indicate one broader event. We found that in a SVC the verbs are always in a sequential order and all the verbs of the SVC except for the final verb takes the non-finite marker **-i**. In this chapter, we found that the conjunctive particle **-i** in a CV is different from the **-i** a SVC. The test of negation proves this claim. The negative marker **-na** prefixes with the constituent verbs of a SVC but only suffixes with the final verb of the SVC. Negative marker in Nepali prefixes in an imperative construction, root word, infinitival construction and non-finite construction. Therefore, by the test of negation we found that the **-i** in the verbs of an SVC is a non-finite marker, not conjunctive particle. In this Chapter we found another argument to support this claim, that we can drop any constituent verb from the SVC but it is not possible to drop any single element from a compound construction. This chapter also showed features like k-word occurring in a SVC, causative and passive marker in the final verb of the SVC in Nepali. The **-i** marker in an SVC is observed in the colloquial form and **-era** in written variety. We argued in the chapter that the Nepali speakers of Assam uses this **-i** marker prominently

because the **-i** marker is a conjunctive as well as non-finite marker in Assamese. The influence of Assamese may be the possible reason for the adaptation of **-i** marker in AN widely.