

Abstract

This research aims to examine the construction and characteristics of compound and serial verb construction in Assam variety of Nepali (AN). It is a descriptive account of complex predicates in AN.

The First chapter introduces the Nepali language and the speakers of Assam, India. The Nepali spoken in Assam and some of its features are discussed in this chapter. The first part discusses the language and community and the next part discusses complex predicates in general. In this Chapter we have talked about the Nepali speakers of Assam, who are also known as Asameli Gorkha and their all-round assimilation with the Assamese culture and community. Most Nepali speakers of Assam are well versed in Assamese and therefore the influence of Assamese on Nepali has differentiated it from the standard variety of Nepali. The variation in terms of morphological items and in certain structural levels are also discussed in this chapter. As a member of Asameli Gorkha and speaker of Assam variety of Nepali (AN), I have primarily focused on AN data and shown how it varies from Standard Nepali (written variety).

The Second chapter discusses finite and non-finite clause structure in Nepali. In this chapter the basic typological overview of Nepali is discussed before looking at the [+finite] and [-finite] clause types. Word order, case marking, Tense-Aspect-Mood (TAM), agreement, negation is also investigated in this chapter. The first part of this chapter looks into the typological feature and in the second part, we have discussed finite and non-finite clause types in Nepali. The intransitive, transitive, di-transitive, infinitival, relative, nominalized clauses along with appropriate examples are shown in this chapter.

The Third chapter looks into the different features and properties of Nepali compound verbs. This chapter briefly talks about both the verbal as well as non-verbal compound construction. The verbal properties of compound verbs are discussed in details. We have also analyzed features like word order, k-word insertion, negation, deletion, compound verb in compound sentence, causativization, passivization with reference to Nepali compound verb in this chapter. The different types of Nepali compound verb are also a key part of this chapter where we have discussed the less availability of combinations like adverb-verb in Assam variety of Nepali. The occurrence of the marker **-i** in a compound construction plays an important role in Nepali compound verbs and in this chapter we have

showed the **-i** marker as conjunctive particle in Assam variety of Nepali. The properties of light verbs are also displayed in this chapter. The subject oriented benefactive light verbs, co-occurrence of light verbs, the light verb **-de**, are discussed in this chapter in details.

Chapter Four describes the serial verb construction found in Nepali. In serial verb construction many predicates are joined together in a simultaneous as well as sequential order. They are strongly bounded sequence of related events represented in a chain of multiple verbs. This kind of serial verb construction are analyzed in chapter with adequate examples. In this chapter we have discussed the **-i** marker as a non-finite marker and provided empirical evidences through the test of negation. Not much work is found in the serial verb construction in standard Nepali, and therefore this chapter discusses mainly the serial verbs with the **-i** marker that is predominantly found in the Assam variety of Nepali. In this chapter we have discussed the verbal features, constituents, causatives and passives with reference to serial verb construction.

Chapter Five concludes this dissertation with a general overview of the important findings of this study.

Keywords: Compound Verb, Serial Verb Construction, Conjunctive Particle, Negation, Nepali, Assam Variety of Nepali