

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

The Noun Phrase Structure in English and Maithili: A Comparative Study

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English in the Partial
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in English**

By

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that Ms. Rambha Jha has completed her thesis entitled “The Noun phrase structure in English and Maithili: A Comparative Study” under my supervision and guidance. She carried out her research from May 2008 A.D to Nov 2008. A.D. I hereby recommend her thesis be submitted for viva voice.

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LETTER OF APPROVAL

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Abstract

Noun phrase is one of the important aspects of syntax in any language. This research focuses on noun phrases of Maithili and English language. It attempts to show how noun phrase is manifested in English and Maithili syntax. In this way, it makes a comparative study of noun phrases in both these languages and shows how words and structures are different due to difference in language. It also tries to find out whether world's languages share common attributes, possesses similar structure, or there lies anything like universal concept in language. There is similar case in both and Maithili in terms of adjective phrases, numerals etc Another important aspect is to show how comfortable a Maithili speaker feels to get used to English linguistic system; similarly how much familiar an English speaker finds to use Maithili language, especially in terms of noun phrases. There is similarity in terms of possessive which exists before head both in Maithili and English.

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Abbreviations

ACC/DAT	=Accusative/Dative
ADJ.	=Adjective
AGGREG	=Aggregative
AUX	=Auxiliary
CLAS	=Classifier
COREL	=Correlativizer
DEMONS	=Demonstrative
DET	=Determiner
EMPH	=Emphatic marker
F	=Feminine
FUT	=Future tense
GENIT	=Genitive
H	=Honorific
HH	=High honorific
IMP	=Imperative
IMPERF	=Imperfective aspect
INF	=Infinitive
INDEF	=Indefinite
INSTR	=Instrumental
LOC	=Locative
M	=Masculine
N	=Noun
NH	=Non-honorific
NP	=Noun phrase

OIA	=Old Indo-Aryan
PASS	=Passive
PERF	=Perfective aspect
PL	=Plural
PR	=Pronoun
PRES	=Present tense
PRESPCPL	=Present participle
PROG	=Progressive aspect
PST	=Past tense
PSTPCPL	=Past participle
REL. CL	=Relative clause
S	=Subject
V	=Verb
VP	=Verb phrase
1	=First person
2	=Second person
3	=Third person