

PLURALIZATION OF NOUNS IN ENGLISH AND MAITHILI

**A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education
University Campus, Kirtipur, Kathmandu
In Partial Fulfilment for the Master’s Degree in
English Language Education
(Specialization in English Education)**

**By
Mahi Narayan Yadav**

**Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal**

2008

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DECLARATION

I am here to declare that this thesis is the best of my knowledge and original, no any part of it was from earlier condidatures of research degree to any university.

Date : 2065/07/17

Mahi Narayan Yadav

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This is to certify that **Mr. Mahi Narayan Yadav** has prepared this thesis entitled "**Pluralization of Nouns in English and Maithili**" under my guidance and supervision.

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Dedicated to

My parents who devoted their entire lives to make me what I am today.

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ABSTRACT

This thesis entitled "Pluralization of Nouns in English and Maithili" is an academic attempt aiming at identifying the processes of pluralization in Maithili and comparing them with those in English. The main objective of carrying this study was to pinpoint the similarities and differences between English and Maithili nouns related to the processes of pluralization. The researcher used both the primary and secondary sources of data. The primary sources of the data were native speakers of the Maithili language from Eight VDC of Saptari district. The secondary sources of the data were different books, journals and thesis. The sample population of the study consisted of 72 Maithili native speakers who were sampled for the study by using stratified random sampling procedure to elicit the required data. The structured interview sheets were used for the selected illiterate and literate Maithili native informants and the questionnaires for the selected educated ones but the questions were the same in both tools. The collected data were analyzed, interpreted and presented descriptively and comparatively.

There are the same types of nouns in both English and Maithili. But the processes of pluralization of nouns in both languages are different. There are a large number of processes of pluralization in the English language but such a situation does not exist in the Maithili language. There are a limited number of processes of pluralization in the Maithili language. The suffix '*sab*' is added with a singular countable noun to change it into a plural one. The suffix '*lokain*' is only used with singular countable human noun to change into a plural one. The determiner '*bahut*' is also used to change singular nouns into plural in the Maithili language. They are written separately.

This thesis consists of four chapters. Chapter one deals with the introduction of the study. It consists of general background, review of related

literature, objectives of the study, significance of study and definitions of the specific terms.

Chapter two deals with methodology. It consists of sources of data, sample population, sampling procedure, tools for data collection, processes of data collection and limitations of the study.

Chapter three which is the core of the thesis includes the analysis and interpretation of the data. It deals with the similarities and differences among the processes of pluralization of nouns in English and Maithili.

Chapter four incorporates findings, recommendations and pedagogical implications of the study.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CA	:	Contrastive Analysis
CBS	:	Central Bureau of Statistic
e.g.	:	For example
Edu.	:	Education
L ₁	:	Mother language
L ₂	:	Second language
N	:	Noun
NIA	:	New Indo - Aryan
No.	:	Number
NP	:	Noun Phrase
PN	:	Plural Number
SLC	:	School Leaving Certificate
SN	:	Singular Number
SOV	:	Subject Object Verb
S-V	:	Subject Verb
SVO	:	Subject Verb Object
T.G.	:	Target Language
T.U.	:	Tribhuvan University
TG	:	Transformational Generation
VDC	:	Village Development Committee
Viz.	:	Such As