

**CLAUSE COMBINING IN WESTERN
TAMANG**

(As spoken in Nuwakot)

A DISSERTATION

SUBMITTED

TO

**CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS
THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY**

**IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE
MASTER'S DEGREE**

IN

LINGUISTICS

By

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EXAM ROLL NO: 280013

T.U. REGD.NO: 9-1-29-356-98

NOVEMBER, 2015

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Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I owe a great deal to Prof. Dr. Dan Raj Regmi, my supervisor and the head, Central Department of Linguistics, T.U. for his constant guidance, insightful comments and genuine encouragement in the preparation of this dissertation.

I would also like to extend thanks to Dr. Dubi Nand Dhakal, Reader, Central Department of Linguistics, Dr. Balaram Prasain, Mr. Ram Raj Lohani, Lecturers and Mr. Krishna Prasad Chalise, Mr. Bhim Lal Gautam, Mr. Krishna Prasad Parajuli, Mr. Kamal Paudel and Mr. Bhim Narayan Regmi, Teaching faculties, Central Department of Linguistics, T.U., for their encouragement in writing this dissertation.

I would like to extend thanks to Dr. Ambika Regmi, researcher, Linguistic Survey of Nepal (LinSuN), Central Department of Linguistics, T.U., for her regular guidance in the collection and management of the data, insightful comments and genuine encouragement to the completion of this dissertation.

I am also grateful to my language consultant Mrs. Manjung Tamang and her husband Mr. Gadup Tamang from Bungtang Village Development Committee, Nuwakot District.

I am grateful to Mrs. Sarita Karki, Mr. Bishwonath Khanal, Mrs. Amita Mahat and Mrs. Bimala Rijal, the administrative staff of Central Department of Linguistics, T.U. for their help and encouragement in writing this dissertation.

I can't help thanking my husband Mr. Govinda Dhital without whose constant inspiration and cooperation this work would not have been completed. I would express my deep gratitude towards my father-in-law, mother-in-law, grand-mother-in-law and other family members for their help in my study. Grishma, my daughter and Grish, my son, also deserve appreciation for their love and various types of help in the completion of this work. There are many people who have directly or indirectly helped me in the making of this dissertation. I must not fail to appreciate their help.

Finally, I express my deep gratitude towards my parents, late Mr. Tulasi Prasad Adhikari and Mrs. Damanta Adhikari for their perennial inspiration for my academic achievement and progress.

MANJU ADHIKARI

ABSTRACT

This study presents a linguistic analysis of the clause combining in Western Tamang, a major dialect of Tamang, within the framework of the functional-typological grammar developed mainly by T. Givón (2001) and complemented by other functional linguists. The main goal of the study is to analyze the forms and functions of clause combining in Western Tamang. This study, based on primary data, is organized into six chapters. Chapter 1 introduces Western Tamang. It also presents statement of the problems, objectives of the study, review of literature, research methodology, significance of the study, limitations of the study and organization of the study. Chapter 2 deals with the theoretical framework employed in the study. In chapter 3, we discuss simple clauses in Western Tamang. Similarly, chapter 4 looks at different types of subordinate clauses in the dialect. In chapter 5, we examine coordinate clauses in Western Tamang. Chapter 6 summarizes the major findings and presents a conclusion of the study.

Western Tamang, a vigorous dialect, exhibits both non-verbal and verbal predicate simple clauses in terms of their internal structure. There are three types of simple clauses with non-verbal predicates, viz., adjectival predicate, nominal predicate and locative predicate. They all make use of copular verbs in the clauses. In this dialect, there are four types of verbal predicate clauses, viz., intransitive clauses, simple transitive clauses, intransitive clauses with indirect object and transitive clauses with indirect objects. In terms of speech act distinction, Western Tamang exhibits four types of simple clauses, viz., declarative, interrogative, imperative and optative clauses/sentences in terms of speech act distinctions in syntax.

This dialect exhibits five types of subordinate clauses, viz., serial verb constructions, complement clauses, adverbial clauses, relative clauses and converbal clauses. In subordination, Western Tamang uses non-finite form of the verb as a major strategy for clause combining. It does not have a prototypical type of serial verb constructions as found in the isolating languages. In Western Tamang, complement clauses, which function either subject or direct object of the main clause, are non-finite. There are seven types of adverbial clauses in terms of the functions or senses of their subordinators, viz., time, location, manner, purpose, reason, concession and condition. Except time and manner, other adverbial clauses use inflectional morphology as the major strategy for clause combining. In Western Tamang, there are two types of relative clauses: [+finite] or [-finite]. The [-finite] relative clause (i.e., Externally headed relative clauses) uses non-finite verb suffixed by nominalizer *-ba*. The [+finite] relative clauses are relative-correlative clauses with a finite verb. This type of relative clause makes use of interrogative pronouns as relativizers. There are two types of converbal clauses, viz., sequential and simultaneous. The verb of the sequential converbal clause is suffixed by *-dzim* whereas simultaneous converb is formed by the reduplication of the verb root.

There are four types of coordinating constructions, viz., conjunction, adversative conjunction, disjunction and exclusion. In coordination, except for conjunction and adversative conjunction, Western Tamang uses coordinators borrowed from Nepali. It uses simple juxtaposition, an asyndetic coordination for conjunction. To sum up, Western Tamang, a head final and SOV word order dialect, employs different morphosyntactic strategies for clause combining.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1	=	First person
2	=	Second person
3	=	Third person
ABL	=	Ablative
ALL	=	Allative
ABLT	=	Ability
CAUS	=	Causative
CBS	=	Central Bureau of Statistics
CONC	=	Concessive
COND	=	Conditional
COP	=	Copula
DAT	=	Dative
DET	=	Determiner
DO	=	Direct object
ERG	=	Ergative
EXIST	=	Existential
GEN	=	Genitive
IMP	=	Imperative
INES	=	Inessive
INF	=	Infinitive
IO	=	Indirect object
LOC	=	Locative
N	=	noun
NEG	=	Negative
NP	=	Noun phrase
NMLZ	=	Nominalization
NPST	=	Non-past
O	=	Object
OPT	=	Optative
PL	=	Plural
PP	=	Prepositional phrase

PRD	=	Predicate
PST	=	Past tense
PURP	=	Purposive
S	=	Sentence
SUB	=	Subject
SG	=	Singular
SEQ	=	Sequential
SIML	=	Simultaneous
V	=	Verb
VP	=	Verb phrase