

Tribhuvan University  
**A Comparative Study of Imperatives in English and Maithili**

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### **Abstract**

The thesis entitled "A Comparative Study of Imperatives in English and Maithili" endeavors to compare and contrast imperatives of Maithili and English languages.

Imperative is a kind of sentence structure which begins with the root verb form underlying the different functions beneath it. The researcher collected data from both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources of data were native speakers of Maithili language from two schools of Sarlahi district and secondary sources of the data were standard grammars of English and Maithili, different books, journals and related theses. Myself as a native speaker of Maithili, I have used the data from colloquial as well as standard Maithili. Imperative sentence in both languages is similar with respect to the function, form, types and other grammatical treatment whereas they differ in terms of the tense, word order, honorificity and usage.

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## Chapter - One

### Introduction

#### 1.1 English language in Nepal

Language, a voluntary vocal system of human communication, is an extremely complex, versatile and most commonly used tool that people use to fulfill their needs.

We can say that language is the property of human beings only. But the most important thing to remember is that people use different kinds of tools to fulfill their communicative needs. We speak, write, think recollect something, or even dream during our sleep with the help of language. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary "Language refers to the system of sounds and words used by human to express their thought and feelings". According to Mrs. Indira Gandhi "By language I do not mean words or the grammar, but I mean thought and attitude which understand the people's point of view (The Hindustan Times, May 8, 1976).

Multicultural, multireligious, multilingual societies do exist in this world where different varieties of languages are spoken. With the growing use of English language in the world community English is no longer the language of English people. It has attained the status of an International language not only because it is used as a lingua franca but also because people in different parts of the world use it as their mother tongue.

"The English language has changed the global scenario. One in five of the world's population speaks English. Approximately 375 million people speak English as their first language. Over 375 million people speak English as their second language. English is the main international language of business, pop music, sports, advertising, academic

conference, travel, airports, diplomacy, science and technology. It is estimated that English is the language of over 80 percent of the information stored in the world's computers and 85 percent of internet home pages and English is the language of 68 percent web users" Encarta world English Dictionary" (201).

So far as the development of English language in Nepal is concerned, it is closely connected with the rise of the Prime Minister Jung Bahadur Rana who, in his visit to England, was highly influenced by English Education system and later on he established Durbar High School in 1853 A.D. It was the first English school to teach the English language in Nepal "English in Nepalese Education" (3). Since then English has been included in the curriculum right from Grade four up to the Master's level.

*English in Nepalese Education* says "English is undoubtedly of vital importance for accelerating the modernization process in Nepal"(4). The importance of English language in the present day world need not be overemphasized; it is a principal language of international communication and a gateway to the world body of knowledge. In view of these facts English language is given great importance in the education system of Nepal.

Hence, English is indispensable for academic and communicative purpose. The rapid growth of English medium schools and their impact on societies prove that the importance of English is very high in Nepal.

## **1.2 Maithili Language in Nepal**

Maithili is a New Indo-Aryan (NIA) language spoken in the two adjoining south Asian countries Nepal and India. As its name implies, Maithili is the language of residents of Mithila, the pre-historic ancient kingdom ruled by the then King Janak.

However, modern Maithili is politically split into adjacent parts of two different nations- Nepal and India and yet it exists as an inalienable cultural entity mainly owing to the proximity and regular interaction between the Maithili speaking community of the two nations.

The Maithili language is spoken by about 30 million people mainly residing in the eastern part of Nepal, Terai region and in the northern part of Indian State of Bihar. In Nepal, Maithili is the mother tongue of 12.4% of the total population of Nepal.

According to CBS (Central Bureau of Statistics): HMG / Nepal, Maithili has been the second widely spoken language of Nepal, as it is used by 27, 97,582 people residing in south-eastern plains known as the Terai.

Nepal is a multi-lingual country. More than 90 languages are spoken here in Nepal. Among them Maithili is the second one after Nepali, the national language. The people of about 11 districts namely Siraha, Saptari, Udaypur, Morang, Sunsari, Sarlahi, Dhanusha, Muhatari and Rautahat where Maithili is in vogue speak this language.

Comparative philology maintains that the languages are related to one another. Those two languages are linked with one another mean they are sister languages born from same mother language.

Maithili was regarded either as dialects of a spurious language called "Bihari" (Grieson, 1833-1887). Today, however, it is recognized as a distinct language and taught as such in the Indian Universities in Kolkotta, Bihar Patna, Bhagalpur, Darbhanga, Varanasi and Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur. The importance of Maithili in the context of Nepal can hardly be exaggerated as it flourished as a court language in the Kathmandu valley during Malla period. Several literary works (especially dramas and songs) and



inscriptions in Kathmandu have been structured. In the recent context there has been literary writing in all literary genres, especially poetry, plays and fiction from both India and Nepal. A part from Maithili literature, Maithili writers have also contributed to other fields like culture, history, Journalism, linguistic etc. Today, in Nepal, there has recently been made a constitutional provision for introducing all mother tongues at primary level of education.

### **1.3 Statement of Problem**

As language is a vehicle for the transmission of thoughts and feelings from one person to another, it is realized in different ways in different places and named accordingly. Maithili is one of the many languages spoken in Nepal which falls under Indo-Aryan language and is the second widely spoken language in Nepal. Up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the place of this language among the modern Indo-Aryan language was very much misunderstood and misrepresented. But today Maithili is recognized as a distinct language which still needs various types of studies, explorations, researchers, conversations, and developments which can bring the facts and figures of real situation, concept and attitude of the language speaker.

The problem of the study is to explore the distinctions and similarities between English and Maithili languages in terms of imperative. This short research raises the following questions:

1. Does imperative sentence in English language bear congruency with the imperative sentence in Maithili language in terms of sentence pattern and structure?
2. Does function of imperative coincide or vary in both languages?

3. Do they have any other form of representation?

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Research**

The main objectives of this research are formulated as follows:

- i. To analyze imperative sentences in English language.
- ii. To analyze imperative in Maithili language.
- iii. To compare English imperatives and Maithili imperatives.
- iv. To analyze the pedagogical implications of this study.

#### **1.5 Definition of the Imperative**

According to Crystal (2003), "An imperative is a term used in the grammatical classification of Sentence ASSERTIVE, INTERROGATIVE, etc (p.227). Following Wren and Martin (2004) "An imperative is a sentence that expresses a command on an entreaty"(p.1). Similarly in the word of Leech and Svartvik (1977) "An imperative sentence is a sentence with an imperative verb, i.e., the base form of the verb, without endings for number or tense" (p.216). Swan (1989) states that imperatives are used to tell or ask people what to do to make suggestion, to give advice or instructions, to encourage an offer, and to express wishes for peoples welfare. An imperative followed by 'and' or 'or' can have similar meaning to an if-clause (p.268).

By and large imperative sentence carry one of the three modes of English sentences. The sentence type that is normally associated with imperative mood is the command. Imperative sentence does not have an overt subject. It is optional in surface level. At the same time imperatives are tenseless and take no modals. Even if there is no subject in the surface level, an imperative sentence does have a subject. The subject of an

unmarked form of an imperative is the second person singular or plural subject pronoun, 'you'.

## 1.6 Contrastive Analysis: an Overview

Contrastive Analysis (CA) is a branch of applied linguistics which compares two languages typologically in order to find out the point of the similarities and differences between them and then to predict the areas of ease and difficulty in learning by the speakers of the other language. It has general applications in teaching second languages.

Carl James defines CA as "a linguistic enterprise aimed at producing inverted (i.e. contrastive not comparative) two valued typologies (CA is always concerned with a pair of languages) and founded on the assumption that language can be compared". It can be inferred (reaching from facts and reasoning) from this that languages are comparable and CA is the comparison of two linguistic systems which can be any of morphology, phonology and syntax or grammar. (*Contrastive Analysis*, 93)

CA hypothesis based on behaviouristic psychology can be summarized in the following way:

- ) Difference between the former and the present learning causes hindrance in the learning process whereas the learning process is facilitated by the similarity between the former learning and the present learning.
- ) Hindrance leads to difficulty in learning whereas facilitation leads to ease in learning.
- ) Learning difficulty, in turn leads to errors in performance whereas learning ease leads to errorless performance.

Contrastive analysis has two significant functions, primary and secondary functions. The primary function is predictive function whereas the secondary function explains the sources of errors committed by the second language learners. Contrastive analysis has two aspects: these are linguistic aspect and psychological aspect. Linguistic aspect deals with the theory to find some features quite easy and some other extremely difficult. Psychological aspect deals with the theory to predict the possible errors made by second language learners.

Linguistic component of contrastive analysis is based on the following facts:

- i. Language learning is a matter of habit formation.
- ii. The mind of an L2 learner is already full of L1 habit whereas the mind of an L1 learner is empty: the mind of a child at birth is tabula rasa.
- iii. Languages are different, however, they are comparable.

Psychological component of contrastive analysis, called the transfer theory, is based on the fact that past learning facilitates the present learning. If it facilitates learning it is positive transfer. But if it hinders new learning it is called negative transfer. Positive transfer indicates the facilitation whereas negative transfer means interference.

*(Contrastive Analysis, 7)*

### **1.7 Review of Related Language (Literature)**

To explore the imperatives in English and Maithili languages, many scholars and grammarians have reached on this topic and stated that imperative sentences are unique: they tend to apart from similar constructions in other languages.

Dr. Yadav, Ramawatar in *A Reference Grammar of Maithili: Sentence types* (p284)  
 project distinction between imperative sentences in English and Maithili language in  
 terms of sentence pattern as well as in semantic level for instance:

- |    |                    |   |             |
|----|--------------------|---|-------------|
| a. | j-o                | - | in Maithili |
|    | go - IMP – (2NH)   |   |             |
|    | 'Go'               | - | in English  |
| b. | lab - h            | - | in Maithili |
|    | bring -IMP – (2MH) |   |             |
|    | 'Bring!'           | - | in English  |
| c. | la – u             | - | in Maithili |
|    | bring – IMP – (2H) |   |             |
|    | 'Bring!'           | - | in English  |

#### Semantic Imperatives

- |    |                        |   |                                    |
|----|------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| a. | le – o / li-a          | - | 'Immediate' imperative in Maithili |
|    | take – IMP – (2NH)     |   |                                    |
|    | 'Take'                 | - | in English                         |
| b. | l – ihe                | - | 'Future' imperative in Maithili    |
|    | take – IMP FUT – (2NH) |   |                                    |
|    | 'Take!'                | - | in English                         |
| c. | k r – o                | - | 'Immediate' Imperative in Maithili |
|    | do – IMP – (2NH)       |   |                                    |
|    | 'Do!'                  | - | in English                         |
| f. | k r – ihe              | - | 'Future' Imperative in Maithili    |

do – IMP FUT – (2NH)

'Do!' - in English

Swan, Michael, *Practical English usage*:

"Imperative (p268 -209) asserts the general view of imperatives that pattern follows basic forms of verbs in the beginning of the sentence. He adds that imperative sentence implies to make suggestion, to give advice or instructions, to encourage, offer and express wishes of people and welfare. For instance:

A. Look in the mirror before you drive off.

B. Enjoy your holiday.

C. Let's pray

To extend the usage of imperative sentences, it also implies for emphatic purposes, question tags, subject with imperative, passive imperative and word order.

Leech and Svartvik, *A communicative Grammar of English Sentences* (p.386) spills idea about imperative sentences shared with Michael swan and other.

Greenbaum, Sidney: *The oxford English Grammar: Imperative sentences* (p. 49) also makes use of similar idea of others but he emphasizes distinct idea that third person subject occurs occasionally in imperative sentences: for instance:

1. Nobody, say anything

2. Those without letters from their parents raise their hands. The other distinct idea he proposes is that 'let' may be a main verb (allow), but 'let's' must be the imperative auxiliary.

Similarly, according to Bas Arts (1997) "Imperative sentences are sentences that are normally interpreted as directives i.e. someone is telling someone else (not) to do some thing" (p.75). For instance:

- (a) Go home
- (b) Mind your own business.
- (c) Don't eat that sandwich,

### **1.8 Significance of the Study**

The study becomes significant to examine imperative sentences which can help to understand/learn to the speakers of both English and Maithili languages. This study will also be useful to some extent for language teachers, syllabus designers, textbook writers and linguists to some extent.

### **1.9 Research Methodology**

The method of the study will be "compare and contrast" to analyze the imperative sentences in both English and Maithili languages. To meet the objectives of the topic, field research as well as libraries and secondary materials will be taken as a source. The suggestions and guidelines of the respected lectures and professionals will be commendable.

### **1.10 Limitation of the Study**

No research is universal. It becomes the matter of critique. Therefore, the present study will be based on certain materials, locality and restricted time. As a result it will focus mainly upon imperative in terms of functions/forms and will not cover the whole area of the study of imperative.

### **1.11 Organization of the Study**

The organization of the study will be as follows.

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: English and Maithili Imperatives

Chapter 3: A Comparative Study of English and Maithili Imperatives.

Chapter 4: Summary and Conclusion.



## Chapter – Two

### English and Maithili Imperatives

#### 2.1 Imperatives in English

An imperative sentence is a sentence which expresses commands, suggestions, or requests. It does not have an overt subject. However, the subject may be optionally realized in the surface level. Imperatives are often supposed to be tenseless and do not take any modals. Similarly imperative does not go with progressive and perfective aspects.

For instance:

Go away.

Be quiet.

Come over here.

Have a tea.

However, it is possible, though rare, to have an imperative with progressive aspect. For instance:

Be watching tomorrow night for the conclusion to the show.

There often comes question whether it is appropriate to use imperatives in English. The traditional answer to this question offered in ESL (English as a Second Language) / EFL (English as a foreign language) texts is that imperatives are used when there is a status difference between the speaker and listener such that the speaker has the power to order or command the listener to do something. For instance, the military officer is often portrayed as "barking commands" at service personnel of lesser rank, using imperatives

such as "listen up!" However, the status difference between speaker and listener is only one of the factors that determine when imperatives are used.

### **2.1.1 The Form of Imperatives**

Even if there is no subject in the surface level, an imperative sentence does have a subject. The subject of an unmarked form of an imperative is the second person singular or plural subject pronoun, you. It can be tested with the help of reflexive pronoun:

- a. Watch yourself
- b. \*Watch himself
- c. \*Watch herself
- d. \*Watch myself
- f. \*Watch ourselves
- g. \*Watch itself

Only (a) is correct because reflexive pronoun and its antecedents are co-referential. Thus, this syntactic evidence supports our intuition that the subject of imperative sentence is 'you'.

#### **2.1.1.1 Negative Imperatives**

Negative imperatives are somewhat more complicated than their affirmative counterparts. They are mainly used for prohibiting, advice, ordering and negating the actions. Three types of negative imperatives occur:

- i. Don't you run! (Contracted negative, subject present)
- ii. Don't run! (Contracted negative, subject absent)
- iii. Do not run! (uncontracted negative, subject absent)

### 2.1.1.2 Be Imperative

Although 'do' is not normally used as an auxiliary with be, do is used before be in negative and emphatic imperatives. For instance:

Don't be silly!

Do be quiet!

### 2.1.1.3 Emphatic Imperative

We can make an emphatic imperative with *do + infinitive*. This is common in polite requests, complaints and apologies. For instance:

Do sit down.

Do be a bit more careful.

Do forgive me – I didn't mean to interrupt.

### 2.1.1.4 Elliptical Imperative

"Elliptical imperative are much more common in formal conversation" (Kuhn, 1993). These elliptical imperatives are understood from the context: trays! (Put your trays on the table), these two (put these two trays together). Switch! (Switch garbage disposal, converse with me). These were data from Kuhn's study.

### 2.1.1.5 Passive Imperative

These imperatives are used to tell people to arrange things to be done to them. We often use *get + past participle*. These kinds of imperatives are mainly implied with the passive structure. For instance:

Get vaccinated as soon as you can.

Get dressed as soon as you can.

### 2.1.1.6 Diffuse Imperative

Diffuse imperatives are directed at anyone and everyone who is present. Subjects of diffuse imperatives are indefinite pronouns e.g.:

Somebody open the door.

Don't anybody move!

Vocative use of imperative with 'you' is not possible with diffuse imperative because their subjects are indefinite third person pronoun:

\*Somebody, you come here.

### 2.1.1.7 Inclusive Imperative

Inclusive Imperative starts with *let's* since they include the speaker with the addressee. This type of imperative stands for suggestion rather than command. For instance:

Let's dance together.

Let's go come.

Let's play cricket.

### 2.1.2 Form and Function of Imperative in English

There is no one-to-one correspondence between form and function of imperative sentence of both English and Maithili. Other forms can also serve the function of imperatives which in turn can also serve other's function e.g.:

Imperative	:	Help me, please.
Declarative	:	I need some help.
Interrogative	:	Can / could you give me a hand?
Declarative	:	You'd better serve the food.

**Other functions of imperative (in addition to commands)**

Offers	:	Have another biscuit.
Suggestion	:	Let's go to movie tonight.
Requests	:	Close the door, please.
Advices:		Don't forget your marriage anniversary.
Directions	:	Turn right at the supermarket.
Prohibitions	:	Don't pick the flowers.
Procedures	:	Add a spoon of sugar and stir it.
Invitations	:	Have a good journey.

**2.1.3 Politeness in Imperatives**

According to Carrell and Conneker (1981), the politeness of imperatives depends on the three things:

- i. Sentence mood (declarative, interrogative and imperative)
- ii. Presence or absence of modal.
- iii. The tense used.

<b>Least polite</b>	<b>Imperative – elliptical</b>	<b>A glass of water</b>
	Imperative	Give me a glass of water.
	Declarative (no modal)	I want a glass of water.
	Declarative – historically present tense modal	I'll have a glass of water.
	Declarative - historically past tense modal	I'd have a glass of water
	Interrogative – no modal	Do you have a glass of water?

	Interrogative – historically present tense modal	Can you give me a glass of water?
Most polite	Interrogative – historically past tense modal	Could you give me a glass of water?

### 2.3.1 Increasing the Politeness

Politeness of an imperative can be increased by the addition of *please*.

Give me a glass of water.

Vs

Please, give me a glass of water.

Give me a glass of water, please.

If *you* subject is present the addition of *please* sounds odd:

Please you give me a glass of water.

*Kindly* can also be added to increase the politeness:

Kindly give me your pen.

*Do* can also be added to make an imperative polite:

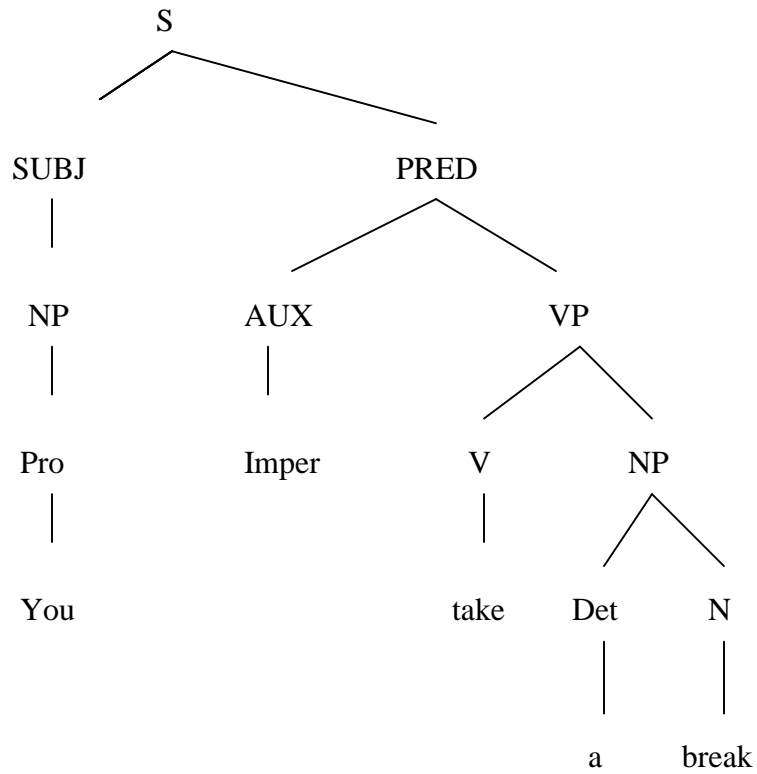
Come in.

Do come in.

### 2.3.2 The basic structures of the imperative sentence in tree diagram like this:

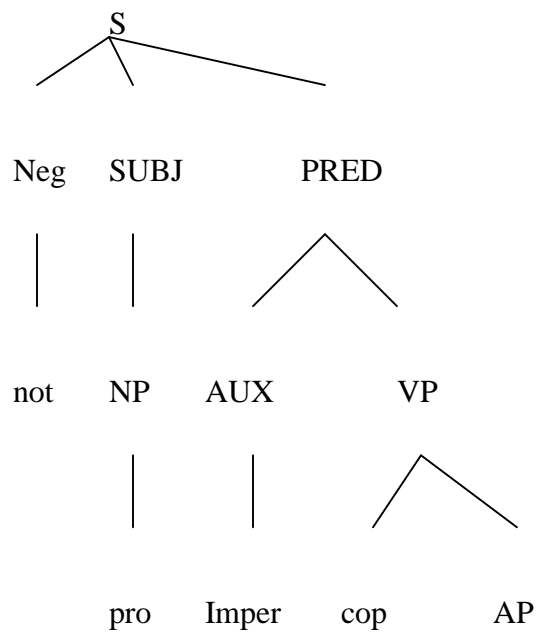
Though there are many theories to represent the imperatives on the tree diagram, the simplest one is used here just to show the methodology to portray the hierarchy.

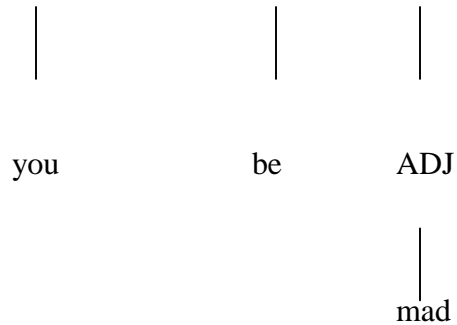
a) Take a break.



Mapping rules that apply are subject deletion and morphological rules.

b) Don't be mad.





Mapping rules applied are: operator addition, not placement, not contraction, subject deletion and morphological rules:

## 2.2 Imperatives in Maithili

An imperative sentence is typically used to express an order, a request, or a warning. Maithili imperative does not have overt subject. However, the subject is deleted on the surface structure. The Maithili imperative also begins with the main verb, i.e. the base form of the verb. Unlike English imperative, Maithili imperative has unique quality.

It has tense aspect honorific in the subject pronoun and verb. For instance:

(1) j - o

go – IMP – (2 NH)

'Go !'

(2) lab - h

bring – IMP – (2 MH)

'Bring !'

(3) la - u

bring – IMP – (2 H)

'Bring !'

(4) li -



take – IMP – (2 NH)

'Take !'

(5) li- he - 'future' imperative

take – IMP FUT – (2 NH)

'Take !'

When we analyze the above mentioned examples, what we find is that no imperative sentences from [1] to [5] adopt subject pronoun in the surface level of the sentences. Likewise English imperative, the subject 'you' in Maithili ones is suppressed which is understood. They start with the base form of the verb. Thus, *j – o, lab - h, la – u, li –* and *li – he* are the basic form of the verbs. These basic forms of the verbs show that imperatives are tenseless. But in Maithili imperative we can see both the tense aspect and tenseless like the examples from [1] to [4] indicate the 'immediate' imperative and the no. [5] indicate the 'future' one.

If we analyze those sentences on the basis of *Honorificity*, we can experience that their syntactic structures are same, but they mostly differ from each other in their degree of honorificity level in Maithili. The second sentence is mid – honorific, the third one is honorific while the other first, fourth and fifth are non – honorific in the second person subject pronoun.

### 2.2.1 The Forms of Imperatives

To consider on the Maithili imperative, it differs on the basis of sentence structure. English imperative often begins with the basic form of verb but Maithili imperative sometimes accelerates with reflexive pronoun. For instance:

(6) pne kh – o (sth)

REFL eat - IMP

'eat (sth) yourself !'

(7) pne a - u

REFL come – IMP

'Come yourself!'

The above mentioned sentences refer that the word order in Maithili seems to be fairly 'free'. By 'free' we mean the constituents of a sentence can occur in any order in Maithili language i.e. 'SOV' (i.e. subject, object, and verb). But the constituents of the sentence may be arranged as shown below:

(8) Ram Kitab Kinat - SOV

Ram book will buy

'Ram will buy a book.'

(9) Kitab Kinat Ram - OVS

(10) Kitab Ram Kinat - OSV

(11) Kinat Ram Kitab - VSO

(12) Kinat Kitab Ram - VOS

(13) Raam kinat kitab - SVO

This does not mean that the word order in Maithili is entirely free, it has some restrictions too. Like adjective 'hariyar' in the sentences given below is possible with other constituents but not with 'Gita' in number [17]:

(14) Gita hariyar sari pahirne aich.

Gita green sari wearing is

'Gita is wearing a green sari.'

- (15) Gita sari hariyar pahine aich.  
 (16) Gita sari pahirne aich hariyar.  
 (17) Hariyar Gita sari pahirne aich.

Jha (1958), who lists a large number of such restrictions on the word order in Maithili arrives at the conclusion that Maithili word order is free, subject to some restriction (Yadava. 1998: 21).

In Maithili imperative, the second person subject pronouns (which represent the addressee) are suppressed but their presence is felt semantically in the verbal category which carries person honorific agreement affixes.

- (18) kh - o  
 eat – IMP – (2NH)  
 'Eat!'
- (19) pi  
 drink – IMP – (2NH)  
 'Drink !'
- (20) a – u  
 come – IMP – (2H)  
 'Come !'

Reflective imperative constructions also reflect the existence of an antecedent subject pronoun.

For instance:

- (21) pne j – o  
 REFL go – IMP

'Go yourself!'

(22) pne padh – u

REFL read – IMP

'Read yourself!'

Reflexive possessive also hints at the subject pronoun which is 'understood'

(23) p n e le – o

REFL – GENIT take – IMP

'Take your (own)!'

(24) p n a ke h t – a – u

REFL Acc/DAT move – CAUS I – IMP

'Remove your (own) self!'

### 2.2.1.1 Negative Imperative

In negative imperative of the Maithili, the negative particle '*n i*' is in preverbal position and the verb is in its imperative form. For instance:

(25) n i j – o

no go – IMP-NH

'Don't go!'

(26) n I ja – u

not go – IMP-NH

'Don't go!'

The above sentences manifest that '*n i*' particle is used before the main verb to make them negative and on the other hand English imperative embraces 'don't' supporting for negative. Thus, Maithili imperative avoids 'do' supporting.

### 2.2.1.2 Emphatic Imperative

Maithili language also makes use of emphatic imperative by using post verbal affixes 'be' and 'be ta.' For instance:

(27) kh be k r – o  
eat EMP do – IMP  
'Do' eat!'

(28) t h l be t k r – u  
walk EMP do – IMP  
'Do walk!'

Thus, 'be' and 'be ta' in the sentences [27] and [28] respectively are used to make it emphatic imperative in Maithili.

### 2.2.1.3 Elliptical Imperative

Elliptical imperative in Maithili happens in context in relation to addressee and addressor to know the things. For instance:

(29) kitab! (kitab p dhu)  
Book ! (Read the book)

(30) j ma! (j ma pahiru)  
Shirt! (Wear the shirt)

The present examples apparently show that the addressee is familiar with the context. The addressee understand what the addressor mean. By 'kitab' and 'j ma', the addressee comes to know that s /he should 'read the book' and 'wear the shirt' consequently.

### 2.2.1.4 Diffuse Imperative

Diffuse imperative is directed at everyone who is present. The subject of diffuse imperative is indefinite pronoun. For instance:

(31) keo sutu ya-ha  
Somebody sleep here.

(32) keo n I ja – u  
Somebody not go  
'Nobody go!'

These examples obviously reveal that Maithili imperatives don't always use second person pronoun at any cost. Rather they sometimes use indefinite pronoun '*keo*'

#### **2.2.1.5 Inclusive Imperative**

Inclusive imperative encompasses the speaker with the addressee which functions as suggestions rather than commands. For instance:

(33) hum s b padhu  
we all read  
'Let's read.'

(34) hum s b khele calu  
we all play go  
Let's go to play.

The given statements indicate that the addressor is not outside rather *h m s b* includes both the addressor and the addressee.

#### **2.2.1.6 Semantic Imperative**

Imperatives usually have the inherent semantics of future. They are notionally future as it is anticipated that the request will be carried out in time later than time of

request. Maithili, however, has distinct "future" imperative affixes as opposed to what might be called the "immediate" imperative affixes. We can compare the following sentences:

(35) di - - 'immediate' imperative

give – IMP – (2NH)

'Give!'

(36) d – ihe - 'future' imperative

give – IMP FUT – (2NH)

'Give!'

(37) h t - h - 'immediate' imperative

move – IMP – (2MH)

'Move!'

(38) h t - ih n - 'future' imperative

move – IMP FUT – (2MH)

'Move!'

It is clear that sentences [35] and [37] imply that the requests be carried out either immediately or following the time of request, where as sentences [36] and [38] imply that the requests be carried out in time later than the time of request, or at later time suitable to the addressee.

### 2.2.2 The form and function of Imperatives

In Maithili imperative, there is also no one-to-one correspondence between imperative form and directive function. They serve as command, request, order and suggestion. For instance:

- (39) sahyog karu  
 help do  
 'Help'
- (40) h mra sahyog cahi  
 'i help need  
 'I need help.'
- (41) sahyog hamra k r saki chi?  
 help me do can be  
 'Can /could you help me?'

The sentences impart the function of imperative as directive does. Though the sentence [35] is in the form of imperative, [36] is in declarative form and [37] in an interrogative form, they indicate similar function.

Some functions of imperatives are shown below:

- [i] Offers : Prasad liu  
 Prasad take  
 'Have a prasad.'

Have, in the above sentence states the function of offer by using 'prasad liu.'

- [ii] Suggestions : sama – e p r padhu  
 time on read  
 'Read on time.'

Here, the sentence reflects the function of suggestion or to give advice to 'read on time.'

- [iii] Requests : cithi likh di -



letter write - imp (GT)

'Write the letter. (please).'

Maithili imperative uses the honorific to make the speech more polite for request.

The affix ' ' in the word 'di - ' shows the request.

[iv] Directions : sidhe ja – u

straight way go

'Go the straight way.'

It demonstrates the function of direction in Maithili imperative.

[v] Prohibitions : yihan n i thuk feku

here not spit IMP(H)

'Don't spit here.'

It shows the function of prohibition.

[vi] Procedures : dudh g r m k ir k cini rakhu

milk boil do then sugar put

'Boil the milk then put the sugar.'

Maithili imperative also has the function of prohibition.

[vii] Invitation : voj khae au

feast eat come

'Come to eat feast.'

Here, we can also see the function of invitation in Maithili imperative.

[viii] Invitation : voj khae au

feast eat come

'come to eat feast.'

Thus, Maithili imperative also see the function of invitation in Maithili imperative.

(ix) Wishes : khub jiu  
 long year live  
 'May you live long!'

Thus, Maithili imperative also shows the function of wishes.

(x) Commands : tu gam jah-i  
 you home go  
 'Go home!'

Maithili imperative, here, reflects the function of command.

"Imperative in Maithili has preserved the inflected form. Its sense is still unaltered. When used with the first person, it rather expresses a demand or an entreaty than command which is its primary purpose. In the third person, the idea of command and entreaty is also present (Jha. 1958: 605)."

Second person: tu ghar jahi, "go home."

First person: ham ghar jau, "am I permitted to go home?"

Third person: u ghar jao, "he should go home,:"

And also "he may be allowed to go home." According to Jha, the imperative is now and then used in interrogative and negative sentences. In an interrogative sentence, the imperative is used only in the first and third persons and it conveys the sense of prior purpose etc. For instance:

(42) ham kiae gam jau, "for what purpose should I go home?"

(43) o aha-ke kiae kahath, "why should he say to you?"

(44) to gam nah jah, " you do not go home."

The Maithili imperative in the second person also conveys the sense of the subjunctive with the particle "if" expressed or understood. For example:

(45) to kahuh ta taka det

"If you speak to him, he will give me money."

(46) to jaibhi ta hamu jayeb

"If you go, I, too, shall go."

### 2.2.3 Honorificity in Maithili Imperatives

As in many natural languages of the world, the unmarked imperative forms of Maithili are the affixless verb stems themselves. However, overt morphological devices are employed in order to indicate honorificity.

(a) The case marker –u / - adds the honorific form in the imperative sentences. For instance:

(47) ( h ) c l – u

you (H) walk – IMP – (2H)

'(You) speak!'

(48) ( h ) baj-u

you (H) speak – IMP –(2H)

(You) speak!'

(49) ( h ) pahiru (dress)

you (H) wear – IMP – (2H)

'(You) wear!'

(50) ( h ) di-

you (H) give – IMP (2H)

'(You) give!'

(b) The case marker - h indicate the mid-honorific (MH) form in the regular verb stem of the imperative sentences. For instance:

(51) (tu) c l - h  
 you (MH) walk –IMP –(2MH)  
 '(You) go!'

(52) (tu) dekh -  
 you (MH) look –TMP –(2MH)  
 '(You) look !'

(53) (tu) kar -  
 you (MH) do – IMP – (2MH)  
 '(You) do!'

(c) Non- honorific form adds –o or nothing, leaving just the verb stem itself. For instance:

(54) (t u) b ja – o  
 you (NH) call –IMP –(2NH)  
 '(You) call !'

(55) (t u) bhag – o  
 you (NH) get out –IMP – (2NH)                      '(You) get out !'

## Chapter-Three

### A Comparative Study of English and Maithili Imperatives

So far as the comparative study is concerned, it points out the similarities and differences between English and Maithili imperatives. So In this chapter, the similarities and differences between English and Maithili imperatives are tried to be described.

#### 3.1 Similarities Between English and Maithili Imperatives:

Though every language appears to be idiosyncratic because of its own linguistic repertoire, it certainly does share some features with the other languages prevailing in the world. Maithili language, therefore, also bears congruency with English language in terms of imperative. Some major similarities that can be shown are furnished below:

1. Both English and Maithili imperatives are initiated with the main verb i.e., the base form of the verb e.g.

(56) h t – a – u - Maithili

move – CAUS – IMPP – (2H)

'Remove' - English

(57) lab - h - Maithili

bring – IMP - (2MH)

'Bring!' - English

2. Reflexive imperative construction in both languages reflects the existence of an antecedent subject pronoun e.g.

(58) ( pne) ga – u - Mithili

REF sing – IMP – (2H)

'Sing" yourself!' - English

(59) ( pne) a – u  
 REFL come –IMP – (2H)  
 'Come yourself!'

3. Negative particles in imperatives of both languages are placed before the main verb to negate the sentence without the obligatory insertion of subject e.g.

(60) n i a – u - Maithili  
 not come – IMP – (2H)  
 'Don't come!' - English

(61) n i h t – u  
 not move – IMP – (2H)  
 'Don't move!'

4. Imperative sentences in both languages take the suppressed second person subject pronoun e.g.

(62) (to) j – o - Maithili  
 you (NH) go – IMP – (2NH)  
 '(You) go!' - English

(63) (to) kh – o - Maithili  
 you (NH) eat – IMP – (2NH)  
 '(You) eat!' - English

5. Elliptical imperatives are realized in both languages but these are determined by context e.g.

(64) khana (khana teb lp r rakh du) - Maithili  
 Meal (arrange the meal on the table) - English

(65) kitab (kitab padh –o)  
Book (read the book)

6. Inclusive imperatives are present in both languages e.g.

(66) h ms b c lu - Mithili  
Let's go - English

(67) h ms b tahlu - Mithili  
Let's walk - English

7. Emphatic imperatives exist in both English and Maithili language. English Imperatives denote emphatic by using 'do' supporting before the main verb and in Maithili by using “be/ ta” e.g.

(68) kh be k ru - Maithili  
eat emp do – IMP  
'Do eat'. - English

(69) t h l be ta k ru - Maithili  
walk EMP do – IMP  
'Do walk'. - English

In these sentences no. (68) and (69) 'be' and 'be ta' are used for emphatic purpose in Maithili and 'do' in English.

8. Diffuse imperatives are common in both the languages which herald directly at anyone and everyone who is present there. Subjects are indefinite pronoun. For instance:

(70) Somebody open the door.

(71) Don't anybody move.

(72) ke – o sutu ya – ha

- somebody sleep here  
 'Somebody sleep here'.  
 (73) ke – o n i ja – u  
 somebody not go  
 'Nobody go'.

To be critically examined English imperative use 'somebody' 'anybody' as indefinite pronoun as a subject. Likewise, Mithili imperatives also use '*ke – o*' as indefinite pronoun as a subject.

9. There is no one-to-one correspondence between forms and directive function in both languages. Different forms of the sentence have similar function. For instance:

- (74) i. imperative - Help me, please.  
 ii. Declarative - I need some help.  
 iii. Interrogative - Can / could you give me a hand?
- (75) i. sahyog ka –ru  
 help do  
 'Help please!'
- ii. h mra sahyog cahi  
 I help need  
 "I need help"
- iii. sahyog hamra k r saki chi  
 help me do can be  
 "Can / could you help me?"



To illustrate the examples, the sentences are in different forms in (74) but they function as directive. Similarly, in no. (75) different forms like imperative, directive and interrogative function as directive in Maithili, too.

10. Both the languages do have politeness. English imperatives use words and sentences like '*Kindly*', *would / could* 'you + v'----- to make polite sentences. Similarly, Maithili imperatives use unique quality to make them polite by using honorific in both pronoun and verb e.g.

- (76) i. Open the door, please.  
 ii. Could you open the door, please?
- (77) *pne e – l - hu*  
 you come – IMP – (2HH)  
 'Come, please'

To analyze the above mentioned sentences, English imperatives use the 'please' and *could you + v'-----* to make them polite and in the same way Maithili imperatives use pronoun '*pne*' and inflexed in the verb '*e – l - hu*' to make it more polite.

### **3.2 Differences between English and Maithili Imperative Sentences:**

English and Maithili imperatives possess many similar grammatical and semantic ideas and points in terms of their treatment and contextual function. However, they assimilate certain characteristics which show distinctions among them. They are different mainly in their grammatical framework, usage, representation of meaning and honorificity. Such distinctive features are tabulated below:

<b>English Imperatives</b>	<b>Maithili Imperatives</b>
<p>(1) Honorific and non – honorific distinction, in English, is not manifested in terms of imperative sentences e.g.</p> <p>(a) Drink.</p> <p>(b) Go out.</p>	<p>(1) Honorific and non-honorific, in Maithili, is realized in terms of imperative sentences e.g.</p> <p>(a) pi – o (2NH)</p> <p>(b) la – u (2H)</p>
<p>(2) English imperatives are tenseless e.g.</p> <p>(a) Go there.</p> <p>(b) Ring it.</p>	<p>(2) Maithili imperatives are tensed e.g.</p> <p>(a) li-a – immediate imperative</p> <p>(b) l-ihe – future imperative</p>
<p>(3) Imperative, in English language, doesn't add any ending to the verb stem e.g.</p> <p>(a) Go there.</p> <p>(b) Fetch the glass of water.</p>	<p>(3) Imperative, in Maithili language, gives a command by adding special endings to the regular verb stem. The honorific form adds –u, the mid-honorific adds - h, and the non-honorific adds nothing e.g.</p> <p>(a) h ta-u (2H)</p> <p>(b) padhab- h (2MH)</p> <p>(c) h t – o (2NH)</p>
<p>(4) In English language, present and past tense historically may add politeness to the imperative sentence e.g.</p> <p>(a) I would like a glass of water.</p> <p>(b) Can you give me a glass of water?</p>	<p>(4) This phenomenon is not found in Maithili imperatives.</p>

(c) Could you give me a glass of water?	
(5) Operator addition is required to negate the imperative sentence in English e.g. (a) Come tomorrow. (b) Don't come tomorrow.	(5) No operator addition is needed to negate the imperative sentence in Maithili. (a) n i ja –u (b) n i a –u
(6) For emphatic purpose, in English, imperative sentence takes the help of operator 'do' e.g. (a) Do come. (b) Do read this book.	(6) In Maithili, imperative sentence takes the help of 'be' and 'be ta' for emphatic purpose e.g. (a) ae be karu (b) jae be ta karu.

## Chapter-4

### Summary and Conclusion

To sum up and conclude this research, it can be stated that imperative is the prevailing dominant feature or type of sentence in both English and Maithili. Many people have tried to define imperatives in their own views and perspectives. Similar to all views is the definition that imperative is a kind of sentence structure which begins from root form of the verb. However, the verb can be passivized and negativized. It stands for many functions like order, command, advice, suggestion, prohibition, request, offer, invitation, wish and so on. Both English and Maithili exploit the imperatives in various forms and functions. Imperative is a basic sentence structure in both languages. As the research is an attempt of comparative study, many similarities and dissimilarities have been revealed in the imperative of both languages.

Imperative, in both of the languages, is used for order, command, request, advice, suggestion and prohibition. The various types of imperative such as diffuse, emphatic, elliptical, reflexive etc are found in both of the languages. Structurally both languages begin their imperative with the root form of verb. Likewise, they use the second person pronoun 'you' as the deep structuring subject. Moreover, both of them negativize the imperative with the negative marker in the verb. Similarly, politeness is a marked feature of imperative in both languages.

Pointing out the contrasting elements, there are a few dissimilarities too. One of them is that Maithili imperative is tensed whereas English imperative is tenseless. The use of honorific marker (inflection) in verb is another contrastive feature in Maithili imperative. Moreover, Maithili imperative doesn't use any operator for request or

suggestion whereas English uses such operator extensively for these purposes. The most important difference between them is that there's sub-verb agreement in Maithili for honorificity but English imperatives don't have such case. Besides, the word order for imperatives in English is VO whereas the word order for imperative in Maithili is OV. Verbs in Maithili imperatives are marked with various morphological inflexions to represent different properties. On the contrary, verbs in English imperatives aren't marked with morphological inflexions for any properties but they take different lexical forms for different properties.

As a whole, there are more similarities than the differences in between the two languages. So, both of them can be judged on the same plane in terms of the same features simultaneously. Only on the ground of tense and honorificity, Maithili language outweighs English imperative.

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