Dangaura Tharu Verb Morphology

A Thesis

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Letter of Recommendation

This is to certify that Mr. Krishna Prasad Paudyal has completed this thesis entitled Dangaura Tharu Verb Morphology under my guidance and supervision. I recommend this thesis be submitted for final evaluation.

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Abstract

"Dangaura Tharu Verb Morphology" is basically a descriptive presentation of the structure of Dangaura Tharu verbs, though insights from functional typological perspective have also been taken into consideration. It presents the internal structure of the Dangaura Tharu verb and analyzes the morphological alternations during the inflectional processes. The data for the study were collected in Tulasipur municipality of Dang district during my one month's stay there in 2070 V.S.

Dangaura Tharu is a variety of Tharu language spoken in the Terai and inner Terai districts of Mid- and Far-Western regions of Nepal. It is an Indo- Aryan language comprising the SOV constituent order. The structure of Dangaura Tharu verb is quite complex. The infinitival form of the verb ends with *-na* as in Hindi. The inflectional suffixes that mark the agreement with the subject argument are unique in this language. The agreement markers in Dangaura Tharu are *-ũ, -i, -ya, -o, -a, -ʌ* - which are separable from tense markers. Dangaura Tharu verbs agree with the number, person, gender, and honorificity of the subject argument. The language, like most of the NIA languages, exhibits three tense system- present, past, and future - with distinct tense markers for each tense. It employs different tense markers for verbal predicates and nonverbal predicates in the present tense. The verbal predicates employ *-ṭʰ*, whereas the nonverbal predicates use *-ṭ* as present markers. The past tense is characterized by *-n* in the first person singular and *-l* elsewhere. Similarly, it employs *-m* in the first person singular, *-h* in the third person, and *-b* elsewhere to indicate future tense. The progressive aspect is marked by *-ṭi*. Dangaura Tharu employs periphrastic structure for perfective aspects- participial form plus copula verb. It has peculiar particle *hũ* to mark Hearsay and a peculiar suffix *-s* added to the root form to mark desiderative function of the verb.

Moreover, Dangaura Tharu exhibits two different copula verbs: *ba*, and *hui* in present, *rʌh* in past, and *hui* in future. In the present tense, the locative and adjectival predicates share the copula form *ba*, whereas the nominal predicates use *hui*. However, such a distinction is not attested in the past and future tenses.

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List of phonemic symbols used for transcription

Phonemic symbols	Equivalent Devanagari Script
p	प
p^{h}	फ
b	ब
b^{h}	भ
ṭ	ट
t^{h}	ठ
ḍ	ड
[ɖ]	[ड़]
ḍ^{h}	ढ
t	त
t^{h}	थ
d	द
d^{h}	ध
k	क
k^{h}	ख
g	ग
g^{h}	घ
c	च
c^{h}	छ

j	ज
j^{h}	झ
m	म
m^{h}	म्ह
n	न
n^{h}	न्ह
ŋ	ङ
ŋ^{h}	ङ्ह
y	य
w	व
r	र
r^{h}	ह
l	ल
l^{h}	ल्ह
h	ह
s	स
ʌ	अ
a	आ
i	इ
e	ए
o	ओ
u	उ

Abbreviations and symbols

1	first person
2	second person
3	third person
ABL	ablative
ACC	accusative
ADJ	adjective
ADV	adverb(ial)
AUX	auxiliary
C	consonant
CAUS	causative
CLF	classifier
COMP	complement
COP	copula
DAT	dative
DESID	desiderative
EMPH	emphatic
EXCLA	exclamatory
F	feminine
FUT	future
GEN	genitive
H	honorific
Hon.	honorific
HORT	hortative
HS	hearsay
HYPO	hypothetical
IMP	imperative
INF	infinitive

INST	instrumental
IA	Indo-Aryan
LOC	locative
M	masculine
N	noun
NCLF	numeral classifier
NEG	negative
NH	non-honorific
NIA	new Indo-Aryan
NP	noun phrase
O	object
ONO	onomatopoea
OPT	optative
PL	plural
PFV	perfective
PRF	perfect
PROG	progressive
PROH	prohibitive
PRS	present
PRT	particle
PST	past
PTCP	participle
Q	question
REDUP	reduplication
REFL	reflexive
S	subject
SG	singular
SEQ	sequential
TERM	terminative
V	verb
VOC	vocative