

VERB MORPHOLOGY IN TAMANG

A Thesis

Submitted to

Central Department of Linguistics

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements of masters of Arts in Linguistics

By

Sizar Tamang

Roll No: 281877

T.U. Regd. No: 7-2-429-6-2003

Central Department of Linguistics

Tribhuvan University

Kritipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

2015

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This is to certify that **Mr. Sizar Tamang** has completed the thesis entitled **Verb Morphology in Tamang** for the partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master's Degree in Linguistics under my supervision and guidance. I recommend this thesis for evaluation.

Supervisor

.....

Dr. Dubi Nanda Dakal

Central Department of Linguistics

Tribhuvan University

Date

LETTER OF APPROVAL

This thesis entitled **VERB MORPHOLOGY OF TAMANG** submitted by **Mr.Sizar Tamang** to the Central Department of Linguistics, Tribhuvan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree in Linguistics.

.....

Dr. Dubi Nanda Dakal
Supervisor
Central department of Linguistics
Tribhuvan University

External Examiner

Prof. Dr.Dan Raj Regmi
Head of the Department
Central Department of Linguistics
Tribhuvan University

Date:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all I like to express my sincere gratitude to my respected teacher and supervisor Dr. Dubi Nanda Dhakal. His knowledge about the subject matter was indeed very helpful for completion of this work. His inspirational advises has helped me to shape my work into linguistically sound which I had no idea about. I sincerely thank him for being there when I needed him, I truly had a learned a lot from him.

I also would like to thank Dr. DanvRaj Regmi for his advice on changing the proposal when my original supervisor had left for higher study. It was indeed a good advice for me as I came to learn more about my own language.

I am also grateful to Mr. Krishna Prasad Chalise whose knowledge on Tamang language is unquestionably huge. He took great interest in my work and had helped me to clear many doubts during the writing of this Thesis. He corrected my previous view about the language and showed me the feature of eventive and stative within the language.

I also like to extend my thanks to Mr. Balaram Prasai whose help in fixing the data in Toolbox had minimized the work load into half.

I also like to extend my thanks to Mr. Ajitman Tamang and Mr. Rajendra Thokar for their inspirations and analysis of the language. I am very much obliged to my two language consultants Ms. Basanti Lama and Mr. Pritam Lama of Dapcha for sharing their time and data with me.

Finally, I would like to express my deep gratitude to my parents and all the relatives whose blessing and support I was able to finished this work.

Sizar Tamang.

ABSTRACTS

Tamang is one of the Tibeto-Burman languages spoken in Nepal. Tamang is widely divided into two groups mainly the Eastern and Western varieties. This study is an attempt to analyse the verb morphology mainly focusing on the tense, aspect and mood and modality (T.A.M) of Tamang of the Eastern variety. This study is based on the Tamang language spoken in the Kharare Pangu, of Kavrepalanchowk district. The study is carried out within the functional-typological framework developed by Talmy Givón (2001) and further supplemented by B. Comrie (1976, 1985) Bybee, Perkins, and Pegliuca (1994), Bhat (1999) and Timberlake (2007). This study is organized into six chapters.

Chapter One deals mainly with the backgrounds of the study, literature review, data collection techniques and limitations of the study.

Chapter Two covers the Tamang verb. This chapter deals with the syllable structure and the morphophonemic change of the verb root with different tense and mood markers. In it verb formation process like compounding, complex structure, derivation and borrowing is discussed in general. Other verbs form like honorific and distinct use of the verbs in discourse were also been included along with copula verbs.

Chapter Three includes the Tense and Aspect of Tamang. Past and non-past tense is covered under Tense. The different temporal aspectual of the language like habitual, progressive and perfect is discussed in Aspect section.

Chapter Four covers with Mood and Modality. In the chapter the term ‘mood’ is used which is based on the theory that is chosen to deal modal system of the language. The Epistemic and Deontic mood has been discussed along with the related moods under this division. Realis and Irrealis, Judgements and Evidential and Interrogative are included under the Epistemic mood. Deontic mood covers the Imperative, Obligation, Necessity, Ability and Desire.

Chapter Five includes the findings and the summary of the study. The brief summary is also presented after each chapter.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments	iii
Abstract	iv
Lists of Tables	viii
Lists of Figures	viii
List of Map	viii
Abbreviations	ix
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-9
1.0 Background	1
1.1 Statement of problem	2
1.2 Objectives of the study	3
1.3 Review of literature	3
1.4 Significance of the study	5
1.5 Research methodology	6
1.5.1 Area of study	6
1.5.2 Sources of data	7
1.5.3 Theoretical framework	7
1.5.4 Analysis	7
1.6 Limitations of study	8
1.7 Organization of the study	9
CHAPTER TWO: TAMANG VERB	10-25
2.0 Outline	10
2.1 Tamang verb stem	10
2.1.1 Syllable structure	10
2.1.2 Verb stem classification	11
A. Consonant final ending	11
B. Vowel final ending	12
2.1.3 Morphophonemic change	12

A.	With tense	12
B.	Imperative formation	13
2.2	Causative stem	14
2.3	Negative stem	15
2.4	General features of Tamang verb	15
2.4.1	Compound verb	15
2.4.2	Complex verb	17
2.4.3	Derived verb	17
2.4.4	Honorific verb	18
2.4.5	Borrowed verb	19
2.4.6	Distinct verb	19
2.5	Copula verb	20
2.5.1	<i>hin-</i> copula verb	21
2.5.2	<i>mu-</i> copular verb	22
2.5.3	<i>re</i> copula verb	24
2.6	Summary	26
 CHAPTER THREE: TENSE AND ASPECT		27-37
3.0	Outline	27
3.1	Background information on tense	27
3.2	Tamang tense system	28
3.2.1	Past tense	28
3.2.2	Non-past tense	30
3.3	Aspect	32
3.3.1	Perfective aspect	33
3.3.2	Imperfective aspect	34
A.	Habitual aspect	34
B.	Progressive aspect	34
C.	Perfect aspect	35
3.4	Summary	37

CHAPTER FOUR: MOOD AND MODALITY	38-53
4.0 Outline	38
4.1 General theoretical outline	38
4.2 Epistemic Mood	39
4.2.1 Realis and Irrealis	39
A. Realis Mood	40
B. Irrealis Mood	41
4.2.2 Judgements and Evidentials	41
I. Judgements	41
I.A Declarative	41
I.B Probability	42
I.C Possibility	42
II. Evidential	43
II.A Report	44
4.2.3 Interrogative Mood	45
4.3 Deontic Mood	46
4.3.1 Imperative	46
A. Request	48
B. Hortative	48
C. Optative	49
D. Prohibition	50
4.3.2 Obligation	51
4.3.3 Necessity	51
4.3.4 Ability	52
4.3.5 Desire	52
4.4 Summary	53
CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION	54-57
Reference	58
Annexes	60

LISTS OF TABLES

Table 1.1: Vowel Inventory

Table 1.2: Consonant Inventory

Table 2.1: Syllable structure of Tamang Verb

Table 2.2: Table showing the *n-* ending verb root with past and non-past tense

Table 2.3: Table showing the *-p* ending verb root with Non-past tense *-la* and *-ba*

Table 2.4: Tamang verb stem finals with imperative markers.

Table 2.5: Honorific verb with gradation

Table 3.1: Negation of copular verb with *a-* morpheme

Table 3.2: Copular verbs with negative *a-* morpheme and tense marker

Table 3.3: Table showing the copular verb with tense marker

Table 4.1: Tense markers

Table 5.1: Mood classification according to Bhat

LISTS OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Diagrammatic representation of time axis with tense.

Figure 2: Diagrammatic representation of tense in two fold.

Figure 3: Tense and temporal anchoring

Figure 4: The diagram of past tense and non-past tense marker.

Figure 5: The diagram showing the markers *-ba* and *-la*

LIST OF MAP

Map1.1: Area of the study

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1	First Person
2	Second Person
3	Third Person
ABL	Ablative
ABLY	Ability
CAUS	Causative
CLF	Classifier
COMP	Comparison
CP	Conjunctive Particle
DAT	Dative
ERG	Ergative
EVID	Evidential
EXCL	Exclusive
F	Feminine
FOC	Focus
GEN	Genitive
HON	Honorific
HHON	High Honorific
HORT	Hortative
IMP	Imperative
INCL	Inclusive
INS	Instrumental
INT	Intensifier
IRR	Irealis

LOC	Locative
NEG	Negative
N-HON	Non-Honorific
M	Masculine
NEC	Necessity
NEG	Negative
NMZL	Nominalizer
NPST	Non-past
NUM	Numeral
OPT	Optative
PFV	Perfective
PL	Plural
POSB	Possibility
PROB	Probability
PRF	Perfect
PROG	Progressive
PROH	Prohibitive
PST	Past
PURP	Purposive
REDUP	Reduplication
REP	Report
REQ	Request
RLS	Realis
SG	Singular