I. Introduction to Verbs

Verbs are a major word class in English which function as the predicator in a clause, linking subject with predicate.

There are two major kinds of verbs: full or lexical or main verbs which belong to the "open class" of "Lexical Items", and which typically express actions or states (hop; giggle; think, etc.) ; and the "Closed Class of Auxiliary Verbs" (be,do; will,; may, etc)

In a verb phrase or verbal group there will always be a main verb as " Head", and in many cases accompanying auxiliaries, which help to express distinctions of " Voice" (e.g. : is given) ; "Aspect" (e.g. : is crying; has cried) ; negation (didn't cry), etc. The forms of the main verb change correspondingly, a basic distinctionbeing between the "finite" and "Non – finite" forms:" cf. I cry, she cries (present tense), I cried (past tense) v the "participles" (cry-ing; cried). A small group of verbs have irregular forms involving vowel changes; left over from Germanic morphological habits; e.g. : drink –drank- drunk; drive-drove-driven

In Transformational Grammar, verb phrase (vp) conventionally indicates both verb and rest of predicate.

Verb may mean "the word" in Latin, but it stands for power. A verb is the engine of a sentence; without it, our carefully organized words stand still. A verb indicates action or being. As such, it is the only part of speech that can stand alone as a complete sentence

Wait!

(The subject, "you", a pronoun, is understood.) Sentences without strong, convincing verbs lack power and substance. However, verbs don't have to be fancy or complicated. Look at the verb choice in this selection:

They <u>crossed</u> the Hudson ahead of the mail. A fog

<u>rolled</u> in their backs, Manhattan <u>disappeared</u>

into the mist like the detail on a fading negative,

and the prospect of the West <u>lay</u> before them, a

sinful Kodachrome promise.

- Robert Sabbag: snow Blind

These verbs are simple, direct and parallel. "They" didn't traverse the river, and the fog didn't tiptoe in Sabbag's verb were chosen carefully and correctly. Verb functions in the following:

a) Verbs can state action:

The police officer <u>fired</u> three shots at his assailant.

b) Verbs can indicate being or position:

The suspect <u>was</u> in an alley when police surrounded him.

C) Verbs can explain a state of being:

The suspect <u>was</u> comatose when doctors examined him.

But in Maithili, verb is a term used in the grammatical classification of words, to refer to a class traditionally defined as "doing" or action words – a definition which has been criticized in linguistics (e.g. Lyons, 1968? Palmer, 1971; quirk et al, 1972), largely on the grounds that many verbs do not 'act' in any obvious sense as, for example, the Maihili <u>lag</u>   b 'to seem'. The formal

definition of a verb, especially of a Maithii verb, refers to an element which can display morphological contrasts of tense, aspect, mood, voice, gender, person as well as the social status of the person use in the subject and/or object of the sentence in which the particular verb occurs. Functionally, it is the element which, singly or in combination with other verbs (i.e. 'verb phrase'), is used as the minimal predicate of sentence, co-occurring with a subject- e.g.: <u>o</u> <u>æla</u> 'he came'.

The first philologist who made a close study of the system of verbs in maithili was Grierson (1881 and 1883c.). But he could not manage to explain the complexity of verb-conjugation in Maithili; nor did he make any serious attempt to analyze the series of verbal suffixes in this language. He himself confessed:

The Maithili verb delights in a redundancy

of forms. Like all partially cultivated languages,

it has few parts of which there are not two or

three optional forms. These optional forms are not

local peculiarities, but are all used by the same

speaker as his fancy or as the rhythm of the

sentence dictates. I can not find out that they

represent any different shades of meaning

(Grierson, 1881: 50, my emphasis)

Grierson is right in pointing out that there are optional forms in Maithili verb – conjugation, but the present researcher does not agree with him that such
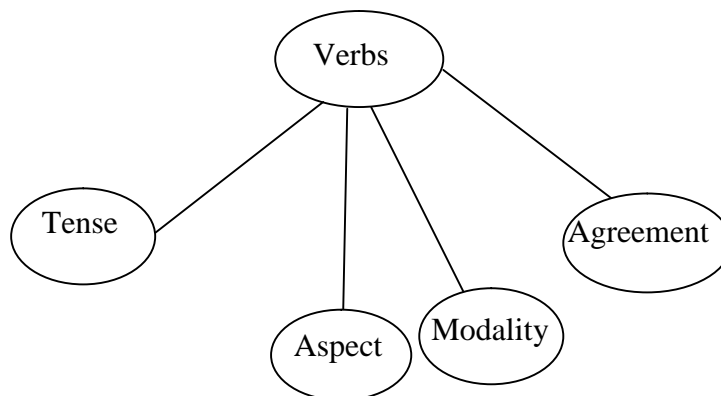
different forms are used according to the "fancy" of the speaker and "rhythm of the sentence." The present research also disagrees with Grierson that the peculiarity of the conjugation in questin is characteristic of "partially cultivated languages." As a matter of fact, this conjugation is so systematic and free from anomaly that it can unquestionably place Maithili in the rank of fully cultivated languages.

Apart from Grienson, the other scholars who studied and published some materials on the Maithili verbs are S. Jha (1958: 443-561) and G. Jha (1958 and 197(: 43-74). But their studies are basically diachronic in nature, and their descriptions of the Maithili verbal system are based primarily on the pre-established categories of Sanskrit Grammars. The present researcher is not aware of any book published on the morph phonological study of the Maithili verbs, especially of the one based on the phonological theory described by Chomsky and Halle (1968).

The verbal system of this language is basically inflectional: i.e. many of the desinence morphemes of the Maithilis verbal system consist of elements like tense, aspect, mood, voice, gender, person as well as the social status of the person used in the subject/object of the sentence in which the verb occurs. This language forms its periphrastic tenses using one of the aspectual forms and a tense – mood marker. An aspect marker is attached to the main verb root, while tense and mood are marked mainly on auxiliaries. Similarly, gender, person and social status, too are usually market on auxiliaries. The category 'singular'

or 'plural' relates only to certain parts of the noun phrase for certain classes of nouns and pronouns in Maithili.

But verbs have some forms like:

```
                    ┌─────────┐
                    │  Verbs  │
                    └─────────┘
           ┌──────────┼────────────┐
      ┌───────┐       │            └─────┐
      │ Tense │       │        ┌────────────┐
      └───────┘       │        │ Agreement  │
                 ┌─────────┐   └────────────┘
                 │         │
              ┌──────┐ ┌──────────┐
              │Aspect│ │ Modality │
              └──────┘ └──────────┘
```

II. Tense

In English, as in other languages, there is some (slight) morphological indication of time The "Present Tense" is realized by the base form, which is identical with the infinitive except in the third person where–s is added (resized by |s|, |Z|, |IZ|, depending on the final consonant: e.g. sits, prods, dozes); and the past tense is realized either by the addition of – (e) d, (It|, Id|, |Id|, e.g., walked, dozed, prodded) on the vast majority of verbs; or by a vowel change, in verbs deriving from Old English 'strong' or 'irregular' verbs; e.g.; swam (swim); bound (bind), etc.

The correlation between tense and time is not straightforward, since there are only two tenses in English, but three major temporal distinctions: past, preset, and future. As Lyons (1977) says, however, many other languages lack a future tense: perhaps because it is not seen as so definite and certain as the past, and involving more of an element of prediction. In English, indeed, future time is commonly expressed by model verbs (will; shall, etc.); and also the present and adverbials (e.g., I go to Paris next week). In some traditional grammars, however, the phrase future tense can be found.

Present time itself is not easily defined, and so can embrace a wide span of reference. As the entry for present tense illustrates, it has a wide range of uses, not all of them strictly temporal, so is sometimes traditionally termed the preterit, is typically used to mark actions and events that specifically take place in the past, and so is usual in historical accounts and narratives; e.g., William the Conqueror invaded England in 1066. Very common, however, is a model
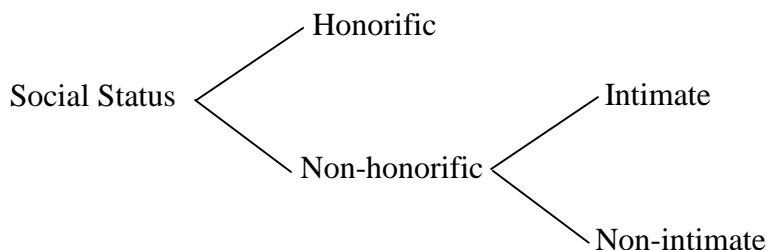
use of the past tense to indicate polite tentativeness, as in I thought I would ask you if …; Did you wish to see me?

As Lyons (1977) also notes, tense is a deictic category in that temporal reference is fixed in relation to the speaker's 'now' (v 'then') in the discourse situation. In novels, where the world of the fiction intersects with the world of narration, and also the world of the reader reading, temporal relations can become quite complex. So, for example, Dombey <u>sat</u> in the corner of the darkened room … (Dickers: Dombey and son) has the past tense of straightforward third person narration indicating the time of 'HISTOIRE' (story); but whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else, these pages must show … (David copper field) refers to the (future) time of reading outside the time of the novel. Within any one novel there will be shifts of tense according to the shifts of temporal perspective. A uniform sequence of past tenses in more characteristic of folk-and-fairy-tales than the novel. In continental criticism the term "EPIC PRETERITE" refers specifically to the past tense of "FREE INDIRECT STYLE", which fuses the present time of thought with the past tense mode of narration.

Tense is sometimes used, especially in older grammars, to cover other uses and forms of the verb which are now also termed 'ASPECT': as in the perfect tense/aspect. Strictly speaking, aspect indicates whether an action is in progress: e.g., she is <u>composing</u> a symphony (the progressive aspect); or completed: she has composed a symphony (the perfect (ive)); but it is difficult

to dissociate these meanings from the purely temporal. The present progressive in particular is used much more commonly than the simple present tense to describe actions done at the present time (The taxi as waiting v. The taxi waits)

But in Maithili "social status" is categorized in the following ways:

```
                              Honorific
                            /
                           /                      Intimate
  Social Status  <                              /
                           \                    /
                            \  Non-honorific  <
                               Non-honorific   \
                                                \
                                                 Non-intimate
```

Honorific forms are used to express levels of politeness or respect, especially in relation to the compared social status of the participant; not – honorific forms, on the other hand, are used when the social status of the person in question is relatively low. The latter forms are again sub-divided into two further categories:

a. Intimate, i.e. the form which is used when the person concerned is not intimate to the speaker.

b. Non-intimate, i.e. the form which is used when the person concerned is not intimate to the speaker.

When the grammatical subject or object of the auxiliary verb is in the first person, the pronoun used for the subject is h m 'I', while the one used for the object is h_ mra (object/accusative) are always treated in the Maithili verbal system as having just one form each, and the social status markers attached to the auxiliary verb roots are primarily the ones that are used in the honorific

forms of the second and the third person. We shall therefore regard the verbal form of the first person in Maithli as simply 'honorific'.

When the subject or the object of the Maithili sentence is in the second person, the auxiliary verb can have one of the following three forms according to the social status of the subject or the object:
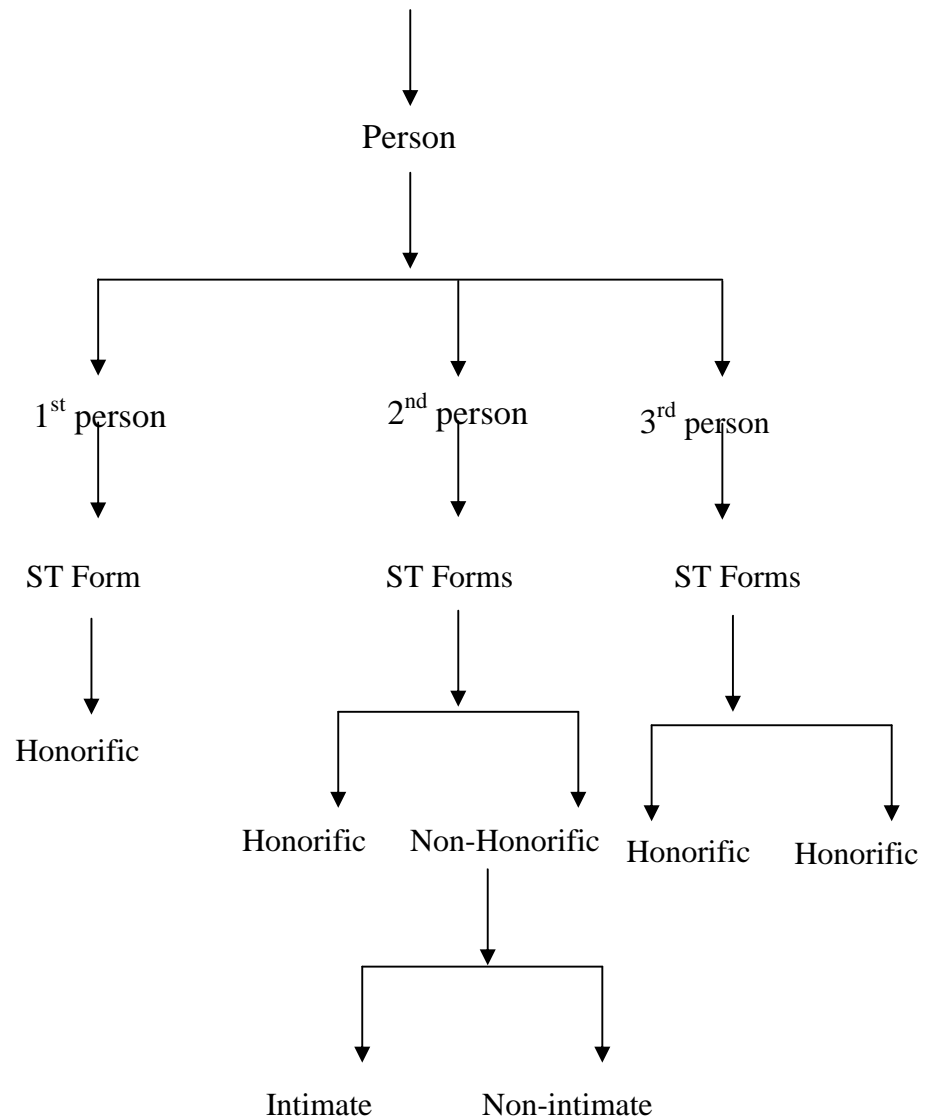
(i)   the y u form,

(ii)   the h u form, and

(iii)   the r u form.

The y u form is honorific, and the pronouns used in accordance with this form are: ãhã/ pne (subject/nominative) 'you' and ãhãk/ pnek (object/accusative) 'to you'; the h u form is at once non-honorific and intimate, and the pronouns used for this form are tõ (subject/nominative) 'you' and tora (object/accusative) 'to you'.

But when the subject or the object of the sentence is in the third person, then the verb in Maithili can have either an honorific form or a non-honorific one. The third person pronouns used in the honorific form are i/o (subject/nominative) 'he/she' or 'this/that' and hinka/hunka (object/accusative) 'to him/to her', while these used in the non-honorific form are also i/o (subject/nominative) 'he/she' or thus/that', and ekra/okra (object/accusative) 'to him/to her' or 'to this/to that.'

The first, the second and the third person in Maithili are all now categorized below in accordance with the forms of their respective social status (ST):

Person and st forms in Maithili

```
                          │
                          ▼
                        Person
                          │
                          ▼
        ┌─────────────────┼─────────────────┐
        ▼                 ▼                 ▼
    1ˢᵗ person        2ⁿᵈ person        3ʳᵈ person
        │                 │                 │
        ▼                 ▼                 ▼
    ST Form           ST Forms          ST Forms
        │                 │                 │
        ▼          ┌──────┴──────┐    ┌─────┴─────┐
   Honorific       ▼             ▼    ▼           ▼
              Honorific   Non-Honorific  Honorific  Honorific
                                │
                         ┌──────┴──────┐
                         ▼             ▼
                     Intimate     Non-intimate
```

The above-mentioned 'person' and 'social status' categories in Maithili can be formalized in terms of four features: i.e. two features [1ˢᵗ person] and [2ⁿᵈ person], for the categories of 'person'; and two features, [honorific] and [intimate], for the categories of 'social status'. Each of these features may be either plus or minus. And allof them may be termed inflectional features since they enter into the phonological rules which categorise both the inflection of nouns and pronouns and the phonological

vaciation of verbal forms usually labeled 'agreement' or 'concord'. A somewhat broad specification of these features is given below in (1):

(i)   v $\longrightarrow$ $[\pm 1^{st} \text{ person}]$

(ii) $[-1^{st} \text{ person}]$ $\longrightarrow$ $[\pm 2^{nd} \text{ person}]$

(iii) $[+1^{st} \text{ person}]$ $\longrightarrow$ $[\pm \text{ honorific}]$

(iv) $[+2^{nd} \text{ person}]$ $\longrightarrow$ $[\pm \text{ honorific}]$

(v) $V[-2^{nd} \text{ person}]$ $\longrightarrow$ $[\pm \text{ honorific}]$

(vi) $[-\text{honorific}]$ $\longrightarrow$ $[\pm \text{ intimate}]/ [2^{nd} \text{ person}]$

The forms according to the subject

In this part we shall look into those auxiliary verb forms which are in accordance with the social status (ST) of their grammatical subjects. To do so systematically, we shall analyze the forms in all tenses: the present, the past, and the future.

Present Tense in English and Maithili

Tense in the verb is the most significant grammatical means of indicating time, so that the present tense is used to refer to present time: marked morphologically in Modern English only in the third person singular of lexical verbs (-s)

Yet the relational ship between tense and time is complex. On the one hand the temporal continuum itself is not easily divided up into past, present and future, nor is present time easily defined (the present moment? The present year? Century?), so I <u>feel</u> hungry or I <u>live </u>in London or English <u>is</u> the most widely known language in the world has different shades of present reference.

On the other hand there are not enough tenses in English verbs to indicate the main time divisions: there are only two tensed, the present and the past, but no future. Consequently, the present tense is one of the means used to express future time (e.g.: The plane leaves for st. Lucia tomorrow) Moreover, there is the added complication that for certain kinds of (dynamic) verbs, it is the progressive aspect (q.v.) that most commonly indicates actions happening at the present moment rather than the present tense: e.g.: I'm mending the car (just at the moment/right now, etc.). In older English the simple present was the norm, and this survives in the grammar of poetry into the twentieth century:

> To shower beat.
>
> On broken blinds and chimney pots,
>
> And at the corner of the street
>
> A lonely cab-horse steams and stamps.
>
> (T.S. Eliot: Preludes -1)

However, the present tense is commonly used in sports commentaries for actions described simultaneously with the moment of speaking: the so-called 'instantaneous present,' as in Botham bowls to Border, who plays a beauty of a stroke. The present tense is also used with similar reference in rituals and ceremonies with "Per formative verbs":

e.g., I name this ship Marie Celeste.

There are other marked temporal uses of the present tense in different "Registers". In newspaper headlines the present tense is used for the (longer) perfect aspect for events that have just happened and with present relevance:

e.g., Soviets <u>save</u> Aussie boffins. In narratives, the "Historic Present" (q.v.) is used for the more usual past tense for vividness and immediacy, e.g., suddenly the door <u>opens,</u> and a large shape <u>looms</u> out of the darkness.

This makes the present tense a very general category. It also has certain uses that are not strictly temporal in reference, so that some linguists prefer to label it the non-past tense. It is very commonly used in "Generic" statements for universal truths (e.g., A rolling stone <u>gathers no</u> mass), and where these occur in novels with third person narration, they are a characteristic sign of the "omniscient Narrator": with a single drop of ink for a mirror the Egyptian sorcerer <u>undertakes</u> to reveal to any chance comer far-reaching visions of the past (opening sentence of George Eliot's Adam Bede).

In literary criticism and newspaper articles, etc., the present tense is also used for statements about writers and works which have relevance beyond the biographical: e.g., In his poetry Hopkins expresses his love of God and of nature.

Forms of Present Tense

Tense	Form
(a) Simple Present Tense	$S + v^1/v^5 +$ …………
(b) Present Continuous Tense	$S +$ am/is/are $+ v^4$ ……….
(c) Present Perfect Tense	$S +$ have/has $+ v^3 +$ ……….
(d) Present Perfect Continuous Tense	$S +$ have been/has been $+ v^4 +$ …….

Verb forms

Verb has five forms: v^1, v2, v3, v4 and v^5

V^1 – It is the base form or present tense of verb in plural number. e.g.:

Go, come, play, run, etc.

V^2 – It is past form or – ed form of verb which is used in both singular and
plural of past tense. e.g., went, came, played, ran, etc.

V^3 – It is the third form of verb or – en form. e.g., gone, come, played, run, etc.

V^4 – It is the fourth form of verb or – ing form. e.g., going, coming, playing,
running, etc.

V^5 – It is the fifth form of verb or – es/s form which is used in third person
singular number of present tense e.g., goes, comes, plays, runs, etc.

Simple Present Tense

(a) Simple Present Tense is freely used to express the action all the three
times (present, past and future). Examine the time expressed in each of
the following sentences in present simple tense. e.g.:

(i)   Goswami Tulsidas is one of the greatest poets of India. This sentence
is in the present tense, but it expresses something of the past time.

(ii)   He is going to Biratnagar tomorrow. This sentence is in present
progressive tense, but it expresses an action that will take place in
future time.

(iii)   The Punjab Mail starts from Howrah station at 6 p.m. Here also the
tense used is present simple, but it expresses an action of leaving the
station yesterday (past time), the other day (past time), tomorrow
(future time) and even this day (present time). This, Present

Indefinite Tense expresses all the three times (present, past and future).

Present Progressive/Continuous Tense

(a) Present progressive/continuous tense is commonly used to express an action or situation that is already going on at the time of speaking. e.g.:

(i)   Why are you crying? Has someone beaten you?

It is wrong to write-why do you cry, because the action of crying is going on.

(ii)   Hurry up! They are all waiting for us.

It will be wrong to write – "They wait", because the action of waiting is going on.

(b) Present progressive Tense is also used to express changing or developing situations. e.g.:

The patient is getting better and better.

India is progressing day by day.

(c) Present continuous tense is also used to express future happenings. e.g.:

What are you doing this evening?

We are probably spending our coming holidays in tours.

Present Perfect Tense

(a) Present perfect tense has some reference to the present time also. So it can never be qualified by an adverb or phrase denoting post time. We should never write –

He has died of fever yesterday. We should write -

He died of fever yesterday. I finished my work last evening. (not, have finished)

(b) It is also used for long actions and situations which started in the past and went on until very recently. e.g.:

I have written five pages since this morning.

I have always taught intelligent students.

He has not worked for years.

Present Perfect Continuous Tense

(a) Present perfect continuous Tense is used to express the continuity of an atction that started in the past time. e.g.:

I have been reading this book since morning.

He has been working in this college since 1978.

(Never write- He is working …. Since 1978)

(b) If since, with the meaning, governs a clause, the verb in that clause must be in the past tense. e.g.:

I have been eating banana since I was a child.

(c) Generally for/since is used in present perfect tense or present perfect continuous tense.

The Forms in the Present Tense in Maithili

The morphological analysis of auxiliary verb forms is done. We can draw the following two main conclusions about the regularities with which these verb forms occur in the present tense.

First, both h and the suppletive   h are used as auxiliary verb roots in Maithili in the present tense: h is used only when the grammatical subject of the sentence is in the [-honorific] form of the third person;   h is used in all other contexts.

Secondly, as present tense-cum-social status markers, Maithili uses four inflectional suffixes: -i̱ , - (h),-_ and ̱ ±ʰ i̱. The suffix is attached to the root when the subject of the sentence is either in the first person.

Table – 1 (A): Six Maithili sentences containing auxiliary verb forms in the present tense:

1	ST Form	Sentence subject-verb	Gloss
1. 1ˢᵗ	honorific	ẖ m̱ ʰi̱	'I am'
2. 2ⁿᵈ	y u form	ãẖã̱ ʰi̱	'you are'
3. 2ⁿᵈ	h u form	†õ ʰ (h)	'you are'
4. 2ⁿᵈ	ru form	†̱õ̱ ʰ	'you are'
5. 3ʳᵈ	honorific	o̱ ʰⁱ †ʰⁱ	'He/she is'
6. 3ʳᵈ	non-honorific	o̱ ʰⁱ	'He/she is'

Table: 2 (B): The morphological analysis of the Maithili auxiliary verb

21forms as given in table 1.

Person	ST Form	Root Present Tense cu Cum-ST Marker	Gloss
1. 1st	honorific	h + - i	h i
2. 2nd	y u form	h + - i	h i
3. 2nd	h u form	h + - (h)	h (h)
4. 2nd	ru form	h + -	h _
5. 3rd	honorific	hi + - +hi	hi +hi
6. 3rd	non-honorific	hi + - i	hi

Or in the honorific form of the second person; in addition, is also

attached to the root h when the subject of the sentence is in the non-honorific

form of the third person. The marker is attached to the root when the subject of

the sentence is in the h u form (i.e. in [+ intimate] form) of the second person;

the marker - , on the other hand, is attached to the root when the subject is in

the r u form (i.e. in [-intimate] form) of the second person. The suffix = is

attached to the root when the subject of the sentence is in the honorific form of

the third person.

Past Tense in English

AN action in the past may be seen as having taken place at a particular

point of time or over a period; if the latter, the period may be seen as extending

up to the present or relating only to the past; if the latter, it may be viewed as having beeb completed or as not having been completed.

Forms of past tense

Tense	Forms
1. Simple Past Tense	s. + v2 + …………
2. Past continuous Tense	s. + was/were + v4 +………
3. Past Perfect Tense	s. + had + v3 + ……….
4. Past Perfect Continuous Tense	s. + had been + v4 ………

1. Simple Past Tense

Past Indefinite/simple tense is used to express the following kinds of statement.

a) It expresses an action or happening that was completed in the past. e.g., He went home. The accident took place due to engine trouble.

b) It expresses the continuity of an action in the past. e.g.,

We sang while they danced. (= We were singing while they were dancing.)

c) It expresses a habitual action in the past. e.g.,

My father said so. (= My father used to say so.)

d) Past simple is often used to express imaginary present situations or imaginary future events that may not happen. e.g.,

It I had longer holidays, I would be very happy. If a got rich, I would travel all over the world.

Past Continuous/Progressive Tense

Past continuous tense is used in the following ways:

a) It is used chiefly to express what was happening or what action was going on at a particular past moment. e.g.;

When I got up today, I saw that the sun was shining bright. (In this full sentence it will be wrong to write ……….. the sun shone).

b) It is very often used in a sentence together with past indefinite. In such case the past continuous tense usually refers to a longer action or situation, while the past simple refers to a shorter event or action that took place in the middle of the longer one or that interrupted it. e.g.,

She was singing and dancing, but stopped when she saw her father.

The phone rang while I was having my meal.

I was running downstairs when I slipped and fell. (it would be wrong to write here – I ran downstairs………)

Past Perfect Tense

a) Past Perfect Tense should be used only to express an action that had been completed before another took place. e.g.,

He had done that work before he came here.

He fled in great haste, for the police had come to arrest him.

The mangoes were destroyed by a storm which had suddenly risen.

(It is clear that the rising of a storm had taken place before the mangoes were destroyed.)

Note: (i) When there is no mention of two consequent actions – one after another, the use of past perfect will lead to error. e.g.,

In its sitting on last Sunday the governing body had resolved to dismiss the poem.

This sentence is wrong, because it is in past perfect tense, although there is no mention of two consequent actions.

(The correct tense would be "The governing body resolved ……..")

Akbar had ruled wisely in India. (The correct sentence would be – Akber ruled wisely ……………)

b) The past perfect is common in indirect reported speech after past verbs like said, told, wondered, explained, thought, know, learnt etc. e.g.,

I told them that I had bought a new car.

He wondered who had left the door open.

I could see from his face that he had received some shaking news.

Past Perfect Continuous Tense

Past Perfect Continuous Tense is used in the following:

a) It is used indicate an action that was completed at some definite past time but had been going on before that. e.g.,

He had been swimming for two hours.

I had been living in the house for three years when the house owner asked me to vacate it.

An uproar had been going on for sometime when I stepped into the meeting house.

Note: (i) A time – expression like since last year, for he last few days, since morning is generally put after perfect continuous tenses.

(iii)   If past perfect continuous is not followed by an adverb/phrase denoting time, it may be used only to associate it with another clause in the past simple. e.g.,

He said that he had been reading the book carefully.

But in Maithili:

The forms in the Past Tense

Table 2 (A): Eight Maithili sentences containing those auxiliary verb forms that are used in the past tense.

Person ST form	Sentence subject-verb	Gloss
1. 1ˢᵗ honorific	h m h a|…(h)	'I was'
2. 2ⁿᵈ y u from	…h… h |… (h)	'You were'
3. 2ⁿᵈ y u from	+ h |… (h)	'You were'
4. 2ⁿᵈ y u from	+ h |…	'He/she was'
5. 3ʳᵈ honorific	O̲ h	+ hi	'He was'
6. 3ʳᵈ honorific	O̲ h (h)	'He was'
7. 3ʳᵈ honorific	O̲ h |i(hi	'She was'
8. 3ʳᵈ non-shonorific	O̲ h		'He/she was'

The morphological analysis of the Maithili auxiliary verb forms is done in Table 2. From the study of the morphological analysis done in Table 2, we can draw the following four main conclusions about the regularities of these verb forms:

Table 2 [B]: The morphological analysis of the Maithili auxiliary verb forms as given in Table 2 (B).

Person	ST Form	Root Aspect PT Gender/St Marker Marker Marker	Verb Form
1. 1st	Honorific	^{h}+ - +-| + - (h)	^{h}⌞ (h)
2. 2nd	y u from	^{h}+ - +-| + - (h)	^{h}| (h)
3. 2nd	h u form	^{h}+ - +-| + - (h)	^{h}| (h)s
4. 2nd	r u form	^{h}+ - +-| + -	^{h}|
5. 3rd	honorific	^{h}+ - +-| + - +^{h}i	^{h}| ± i
6. 3rd	honorific	^{h}+ - +-| + - a (h)	^{h}| |a (h)
7. 3rd	honorific	^{h}+ - +-| + - (hi)	^{h}| |I (hi)
8. 3rd	Non-honorific	^{h}+ - +-| + ø	^{h} ||

First, …. Is always used as the root of the auxiliary verb in the past tense (PT), and - …. Is used its aspect marker.

Secondly, the morpheme- …… is always used as the past tense marker. In the absenc of any additional marker, the form……………… always denotes the non-honorific social status of its grammatical subject.

Thirdly, ….. and……… are the two gender-cum-social status markers that are attached to the ……. Form in different morphological context:….. is attached when the grammatical subject is in the masculine gender and in the honorific form of the third person;………., on the other hand, is attached when the subject is in the feminine gender and in the honorific form of the third person.

Fourthly, ……….., are the four social status markers that are attached to the …. Form of the auxiliary verb in different morphological contexts. Each of these social status markers remains neutral with regard to the gender of its grammatical subject. The marker …………. is used when the subject is in the honorific form of the third person;……….. in used when the subject is either in the first person or in the honorific form (i.e. the y u form) of the second person; (h) is used when the subject is in the h u form of the second person; and ………. is used when the subject is in the r u form of the second person.

Future Tense in English

Future tense indicates a coming time. It has been divided into four parts.

Tense	Forms
1. Simple Future Tense	S. + shall/will + v1 + obj
2. Future Continuous Tense	S. + shall be/will be + v4 + obj
3. Future Perfect Tense	S. + shall have/will have + v3 + obj.
4. Future Perfect continuous Tense	S. + shall have been/will have been + v4+obj

1. Simple Future Tense

Simple future tense is used to denote an action to be done at some time in suture or to predict a coming event e.g.,

It is raining; I shall not go out today.

Clouds have gathered, it will rain soon.

But time-adverbials like "soon, shortly, tonight, tomorrow, next week (month,year), in a few minutes (days, weeks, months), by next week (tomorrow, two o'clock), etc. are used in future indefinite tense.

Future Continuous Tense

Future continuous tense is used to say that an action will be going on or continuing at a particular time in future. e.g.,

Please do not ring tonight – I will be having a dinner party.

This time tomorrow I'll be driving my own car.

I shall be waiting for you on the platform.

This evening we shall be making preparations for our departure for Kathmandu.

Future Perfect Tense

Future perfect tense is used to say that some action will have been completed or finished by a certain time in future. e.g.,

She will have been here for three years next June.

He will have reached home tomorrow by this time.

But, by + time

Before + time

In + period of time (tomorrow, then, next week, the end of this month, year, etc.) or time clause are used with such the tense. e.g.,

He will have gone home by then.

Before he goes to see her, she will have left home.

Future Perfect Continuous Tense

Future perfect continuous tense is used to express an action which will be finished or completed at some point of time in future, but will be continuing until then. e.g.,

I shall have been walking for an hour by the river side.

He will have been working in the kitchen till his wife has come back and relieved him.

It often occurs with 'By/before + future time' and 'for + period of time' or 'In + period of time' and 'for + period of time'. For exmpale:

By next April he will have been making a nice building for 2 (two) years.

In five months we shall have been working for three years.

But in Maithili, "The Forms in the Future Tense"

Table 3 (A): Eight Maithili sentences containing those auxiliary verb forms that are used in the future tense.

Person	ST Form	Sentence		Gloss
		Subject	verb	
1. 1st	Honorific	m	r b	'I will be'
2. 2nd	y u form		r b	'You will be'
3. 2nd	h u form	+	r b	'You will be'
4. 2nd	r u form	_	r b	' You will be'
5. 3rd	Honorific	O r +a(h)		'He/She will be'
6. 3rd	Honorific	O	r +	'He will be'
7. 3rd	Honorific	O r b+i(hi)		'She will be'
8. 3rd	Non-honorific	O	r +	'He/She will be'

The morphological analysis of these auxiliary verb forms is done in Table 3 (B). From the stuy of the morphological analysis done in Table 3 (B), we can draw the following four main conclusions about the regularities of these verb forms in the future:

First, …… always used as the root of the auxiliary verb forms in the future, and -   is used as its aspect marker.

Table 3 (8): The morphological analysis of the Maithili auxiliary verb forms as given in Table (A).

Person	ST form	Aspect Tense Gender/ST Root marker marker marker	Verb form
1. 1st	honorific	r h + - + - b + ø	r h b
2. 2nd	y u form	r h + - + - b + ø	r h b
3. 2nd	h u form	r h + - + - b + - (h)	r h b (h)
4. 2nd	r u from	r h + - + - b + -	r h b
5. 3rd	honorific	r h + - +^{h} +- in $^{(h)}$	r h b
6. 3rd	honorific	r h + - -+ + -a(h)	r h +^{h}in (h)
7. 3rd	honorific	r h + - + - + + - i (hi)	r h ta(h)
8. 3rd	Non- honorific	r h + - + - + + ø	r h t

Secondly, ………. And …. Are the three morphemes that are used as future tense markers in Maithili. They are used in different morphological environments and they also indicate different social status of their grammatical subject. The marker …. Is attached to th auxiliary verb – root + … when its grammatical subject is either in the first person or in the second person. The

form ……………… without any other social status marker attached to it always denotes the honorific social status of its grammatical subject. The markers - + and …. on the contrary, are attached to ……., when their grammatical subjects are in the third person. The form ……. Without any social status marker attached to it, always denotes non-honorific social status of its grammatical subject, while … is attached to the form … when the gender of the honorific third person remains unspecified.

Thirdly, … and …. Are the two gender-cum-social status marker that are attached to the auxiliary verb form … is attached to ….. when its grammatical subject is in the masculine gender and in the honorific form of the third person;…. , on the other hand, is attached to it when the subject is in the feminine gender and in the honorific form of the third person.

Fourthly, … and …. Are the two social status markers that are attached to the auxiliary verb form …. : the former is attached to …. When its grammatical subject is in the … form of the second person; the latter is attached to … when the subject is in the … form of the second person.

III. Aspect in English

Aspect is defined in the following points:

1. A grammatical category applied to verbs, referring to particular ways of viewing the temporal constraints of an activity or event. In English the two kinds of aspect which are marked formally in the verb phrase are:

(a) The progressive, which indicates whether an action is in progress (be + ing: She <u>is changing</u> gear-box);

(b)   The perfect or perfective, which indicates whether an action is completed (have+ ed/en: She <u>has changed</u> the gear-box).

It is difficult to dissociate aspect from "Tense", the verbal category that denotes temporal distinctions. It is not only that aspect combines with tense to give the present progressive (e.g.: She <u>is changing</u> the gear-box) or the past progressive (e.g.: She <u>was changing</u> the gear-box), but also that in present-day English the progressive is more usual (unmarked) to describe a single action done at the present time, than the simple present tense itself (c.f. the kettle's <u>boiling</u> v. the kettle <u>boils</u>).

Although the relationship between perfect and simple past tense is the 'norm', the significance of the (past) perfect (or pluperfect) for aspect is apparent. It is not so much a sense of completion that emerges, but of setting or orientation v. story line, e.g.:

The trusser and his family proceeded on their way,

And soon entered the Fair-field, which showed

Standing-places and pens where many hundreds

Of horses and sheep had been exhibited … At

Present, as their informant had observed, but

Little real business remained on hand.

(Hardy: The mayor of caster bridge, chapter-1)

A shift from tense to aspectual distinctions can also mark a shift from narrative to "Free Indirect Style", to indicate a character's thoughts, e.g. :

(a) I pressed the door gently.

(b) It had always been left open at night in the old days.

(Murdoch: The Italian Girl, opening sentences).

2. The term "Aspect" was borrowed by Todorov (1966) and applied to the study of "Narrative". The perspective form which a story is viewed by the "Narrator", A much more widely used term is "point of view".

But Aspect in Maithili

Aspect

Perfect   Non-perfect

Simple   Imperfect   Progressive
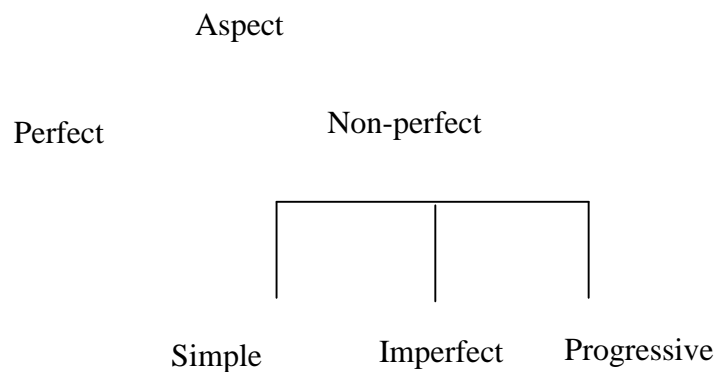
The verb forms that each of these aspectual distinctions takes can be shown by giving a paradigm of the verb dek^h 'to see', as given in table 4 (a).

Although each of the twelve Maithili sentences given in Table 4 (a) contains only the non-honorific third person pronoun o 'he/she' as its subject, it must be pointed out that the person of the subject as wel as the social status of

that person does not affect the choice of aspect markers in Maithili. In other

words, aspect markers attached to the main verb-roots of Maithili always

remain the same regardless of the person and the social status of the person

given in the subject and/or object. The morphological analysis of the main

verbs given in Table 4 (a) is done in Table 4 (b). Relevant discussions based on

the morphological analysis of Table 4 (b), especially discussions on the elision

of the dental …. , are presented in a later sub-section 5 (a).

Table 4 (a): A paradign of the verb/dek^h/, showing each of the aspectual

distinctions in Maithili.

Aspect	Tense	Verb		Gloss
		Subject Main Auxiliary		
Simple	Present Past Future	O̱ dek^h i h ø O̱ dek^h i k ø O̱ dek^h t ø		'He\She sees' 'He\She saw' 'He/She will see'
Imperfect	Present Past Future	O̱ dek^h i(t) i hi̱ O̱ dek^h i(t) ẖ ↓ O̱ dek^h it ṟ ẖ t		'He/She is seeing' 'He/She was seeing' 'He/She will be seeing'
Progressive	Past Future	O̱ dek^h ṟ ẖ । i hi̱ O̱ dek^h i h h ↓ O̱ dek^h i h ṟ ẖ t		'He/She was continuously seeing' 'He/She will continuously be seeing'
Perfect	Present Past Future	O̱ dek^h ne i hi̱ O̱ dek^h ne h ↓ O̱ dek^h ne ṟ ẖ t		'He\She has seen' 'He/She had seen' 'He/She will have seen'

Table 4 (b): The morphological analysis of the main verbs shown in

Table 4(a):

Aspect	Root Marker	Tense/ST		Aspect Marker		Verb form
Simple	dek^h i ^h	+	-	+	ø	<u>dek ^h</u> - <u>i</u> ^h
				+	ø	<u>dek ^h</u> | k
	dek^h | k	+	-	+	ø	<u>dek ^h</u> <u>t</u>
	dek^h t	+	-			
Imperfect	dek^h	+	ø	+	- i(t)	<u>dek ^h</u> <u>i(t)</u>
	dek^h	+	ø	+	- i(t)	<u>dek ^h</u> <u>i(t)</u>
	dek^h	+	ø	+	- i(t)	<u>dek ^h</u> <u>it</u>
Progressive	dek^h	+	ø	+	r h |	<u>dek ^h</u> <u>r h</u> ↓
	dek^h	+	ø	+	r h |	<u>dek ^h</u> -<u>r h</u> ↓
	dek^h	+	ø	+	r h |	<u>dek ^h</u> <u>r h</u> ↓
Perfect	dek^h	+	ø	+	-ne	<u>dek ^h</u> <u>ne</u>
	dek^h	+	ø	+	-ne	<u>dek ^h</u> <u>ne</u>
	dek^h	+	ø	+	-ne	<u>dek ^h</u> <u>ne</u>

Table 5 (a): But the Maithili verb forms providing evidences for the

elision of the bilabial /b/.

Root	Gloss	Honorific Past Tense form of the verb	Gloss
Pib	'to drink'	<u>Pi|…(h)</u>	'drank'
Deb	'to give'	<u>de|…(h)</u>	'gave'
Sib	'to sew'	<u>Si|…(h)</u>	'sewed'
^h<u>ub</u>	'to touch'	^h<u>ul…(h)</u>	'touched'

Table 5 (b): The morphological analysis of the verbs forms in Table 5 (a) .

Root	Past Tense Marker	Honorific ST Marker	Verb Form	Gloss
Pib	+ -|	+ - (h)	Pi|…(h)	'drank'
Deb	+ -|	+ - (h)	de|…(h)	'gave'
Sib	+ -|	+ - (h)	Si|…(h)	'sewed'
^{h}ub	+ -|	+ - (h)	^{h}ul…(h)	'touched'
|eb	+ -|	+ - (h)	|e|…(h)	'took'
d^{h}ob	+ -|	+ - (h)	d^{h}o| |…(h)	'washed'

Form the study of the morphological analysis of aspects done in Table 4 (b), we can draw the following conclusions about their regularities:

i.   In the simple form, the main verb-roots in Maithili are not marked for aspect –they are attached with tense and/or social status markers only;

ii.   The imperfect markers in Maithili are …. And …. And they are always affixex to the root of the preceding main verb:…. Is used in the present and past tense forms, but …. is used in the future tense only;

iii. The progressive form in Maithili is always marked with ….. which is a free morpheme and which always occurs after the root of the main verb; and

iv.   The perfect marker in Maithili is – ne and it, too, is always affixed to the root of the preceding verb.

Thus, the aspects in Maihthili can be either unmarked, as in the 'simple'
form, or marked in any one of the following three ways:

(i) ………..   (Imperfect)

(ii) ………..   (Progressive), or

(iii) – ne   (Perfect)

Of all these aspect markers, the imperfect marker ….. is the one which is
very significant for us here as it provides some important evidence for the
process of elision occurring in Maithil. The process of slision occurring in
Maithili. Te marker …. Has two main realizations: i.e. …. And …. Table 6(a)
shows the phonological contexts in which the two foms, …. And …. Occur in
Maithili. That is, Table 6(a) clearly shows that there are two different
phonological environments in which …. And … occur: of the main verb-root;
…. On the other hand, occurs root. An informal rule given in (1) describes the
two different environments in which the two imperfect aspect markers occur in
Maithili.

Rule (1)

Imperfect Aspect Marker $\longrightarrow$ $\begin{cases} - \text{i(t)/c} \longrightarrow \# \\ -\text{i(t)/v} \longrightarrow \# \end{cases}$

Table 6: The forms |- (t)| and | - i (t) | attached to the main verb-roots in
Maithili.

The form	Verb Root	Aspect Mrker	Verb form	Gloss
- <u>i(t)</u>	dek^h +	- i(t)	dek^h i(t)	'seeing'
	sun +	- i(t)	sun i(t)	'hearing'
	k h +	- i(t)	k i(t)	'saying'
	k…s +	- i(t)	k…s i(t)	'laughing'
	sut +	- i(t)	sut i(t)	'sleeping'
-i(t)	ja +	-i(t)	Jai(t)	'going'
	k^{h}a +	-i(t)	k^{h}ai(t)	'eating'
	d^{h}b +	-i(t)	d^{h}oi(t)	'washing'
	ho +	-i(t)	hoi(t)	'happening'
	n ha +	-i(t)	h hai(t)	'bathing'

Each of the two aspect marker, - <u>i(t)</u> and –i(t), shows the elision of the
dental t occurring in Maithili. The phonological context in which this elision
takes place can be described in terms of the following phonological rule:

Rule (2)

$$\begin{bmatrix} + \text{Cons} \\ + \text{ant} \\ + \text{cor} \\ - \text{asp} \\ - \text{voice} \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \emptyset / VV \underline{\quad} \#$$

This rule says that the dental t occurring in the word-final position of the
Maithili verb is elided, whenever it is preceded by two adjacent vowels.

Similarly, the verb forms presented in Table 5 (a) and morphologically analysed in Table 5 (b) show that the labial b in the Maithili verb-roots like <u>Pib,</u> <u>deb,</u> <u>leb</u> and so on is elided, whenever the past tense marker -1 and the honorific social status marker ….. are attached to them. The phonological context in which this elision of the labial b occurs in Maithili can be stated in terms of the phonological rule given below:

Rule (3)

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
+ \text{Cons} \\
+ \text{ant} \\
+ \text{cor} \\
- \text{asp} \\
- \text{voice}
\end{bmatrix}
\longrightarrow \varnothing / VV \underline{\qquad}
\begin{bmatrix}
+ \text{Cons} \\
+ \text{lateral} \\
- \text{asp}
\end{bmatrix}
$$

All in all, it has always been a feature of the structure of Maithili words that weakly accented syllables have undergone a process of gradation – i.e. loss of phonemes, obscuration of vowels, and so on. The same process of gradation, with resultant contraction, weakening and even total elision of speech segments, may be observed in operation in current Maithili. The forms exhibiting the weakening or elision of speech segments in Maithili are very typical of rapid, colloquial speech, while more formal speech tends to retain the fuller form under the preservative influence of spelling.

The morph phonology of the Maithili verbs and verb forms provides significant evidences regarding the weakening of $\underline{n}^h$ to n and the elision of <u>k</u> <u>b</u> <u>t</u> and <u>h</u> in different phonological environments. Since elision indicates relative phonological strength, this study shows that in Maithili velars are weaker than dentals or labials. As the dental <u>t</u> and the labial <u>b</u> are phonologically stronger

than the velar k̲, both t̲ and b̲ always dominate k̲ in the Maithili clusters: k̲t̲ and

k̲b̲. With regard to the dentals and labials, the dentals in Maithili are strongest

as they or their reflexes remain while velars and labials weaken. Like Sanskrit

and many other Indo-Aryan languages, the Maithili voiced dental d̲ shifts to its

voiceless counterpart t, as in the following compounds, for example:

    t̲ d̲ + k̲al̲ = t̲ t̲kal̲ "immediately"

    s̲ n̲s̲ d̲ + s̲ d̲ s̲y̲ = s n̲s̲ t̲s̲ d̲ s̲y̲ "member of parliament"

This consonant shift, discussed in detail in the previous chapter, must be

regarded as an example of strengthening. Since according to the inertial

development principle strengthening applies preferentially to strong elements,

if only one element of a velar, labial or dental group strengthens, "that element

is the strongest element" (Foley, 1977:50).Since in maithili dental strengthen in

preference to velars and labials, dentals are stronger than velars nad labials.

Thus, within the group of stops, the relative phonological strength in Maithili

be shown as:

        K   p   t

      ————————————→

        1   2   3
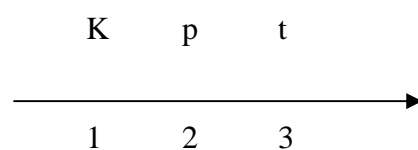
Even though our results concerning the relative phonological strength of

stops in Maithili do not quite follow the pattern witnessed in most Romance

and Germanic languages, for example, they should not be regarded as

surprising. For, like Maithili, even in the group of Germanic language, the

dentals of German, too, are said (e.g. Foley, 1977:50) to be phonologically

stronger than labials. It, therefore, makes sense to say that for any particular language an order of relative phonological strength must be determined, as we have already done in the case of the Maithili stops, and that we may expect different languages to choose different orders. The phonological strength of stops in Maithili chooses an order which is similar to that of a language like German but not so similar to that of a language like English, for instance.

Summary and Discussion

To summaries, the Maithili auxiliary verb forms in the preset tense consist of such elements:

(A) Aux Verb Forms in the Present Tense

These present tense forms of the Maithili auxiliary verb are described in Rule (1) below:

Rule (1)

(i)　　Aux veb in the

Present Tense　⟶　root + present tense/ST marker
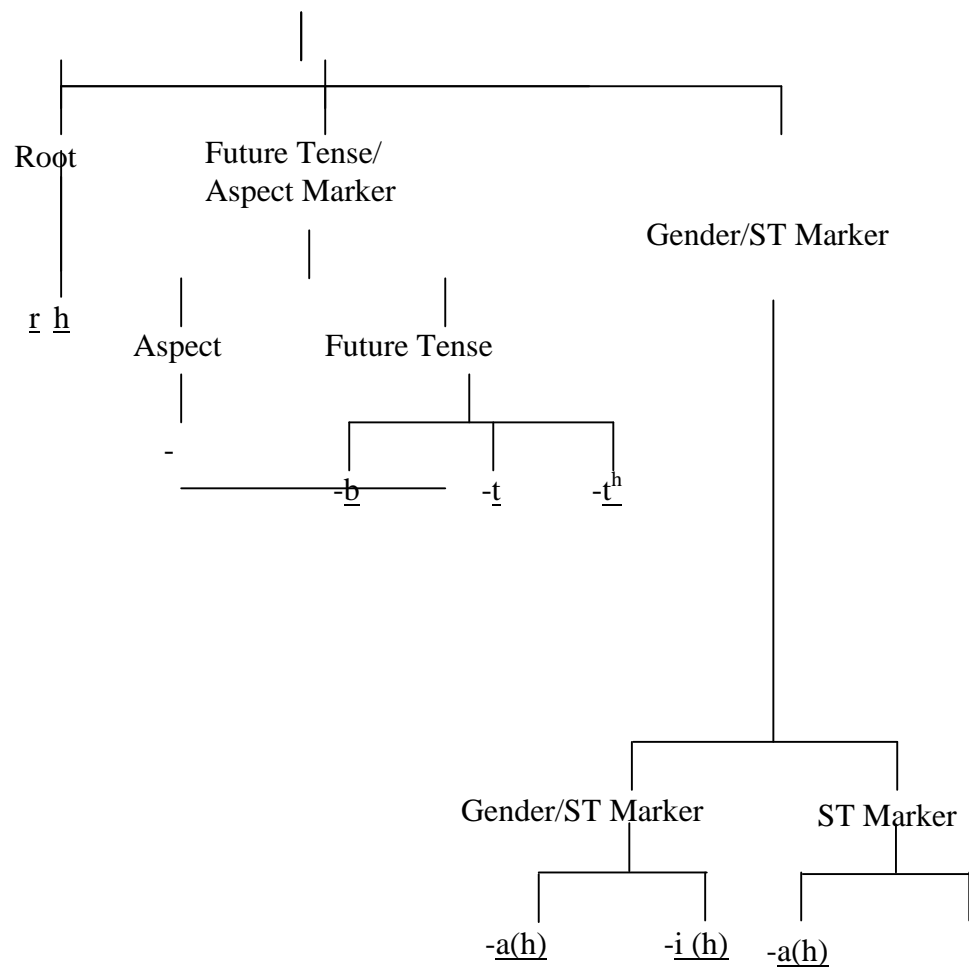
(ii) Root ⟶　$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} .... \end{array} \right\}$

(iii) Present tense/ ST marker ⟶　$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} .... \end{array} \right\}$

The past tense forms of the Maithili auxiliary verb are summarized below:

(c) Aux Verb Forms in the Future Tense

```
                        |
      ┌─────────────────┼──────────────────────────────────────┐
      |                 |                                        |
    Root          Future Tense/                                 |
                  Aspect Marker                                  |
      |                 |                          Gender/ST Marker
      |                 |                                        |
    r̲ h̲               |                                        |
                  ┌─────┴──────┐                                 |
                Aspect     Future Tense                          |
                  |             |                                |
                  -      ┌──────┼──────┐                         |
                         |      |      |                         |
                        -b̲     -t̲     -t̲ʰ                        |
                                                                 |
                                          ┌──────────────────────┴───────────┐
                                    Gender/ST Marker                    ST Marker
                                      ┌────┴────┐                      ┌────┴────┐
                                      |         |                      |
                                    -a̲(h)     -i̲ (h)               -a̲(h)
```
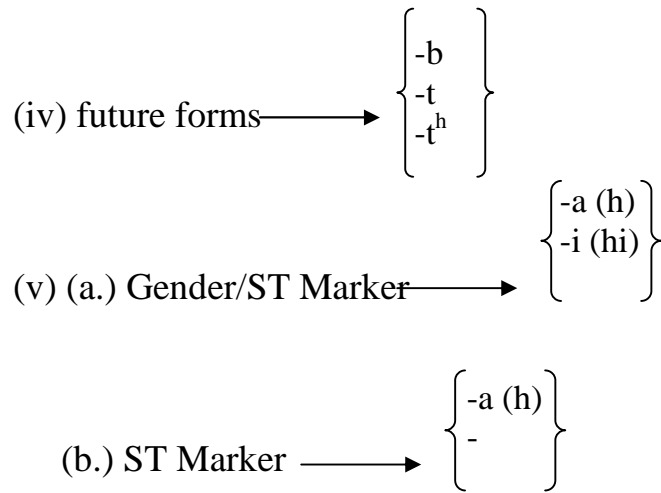
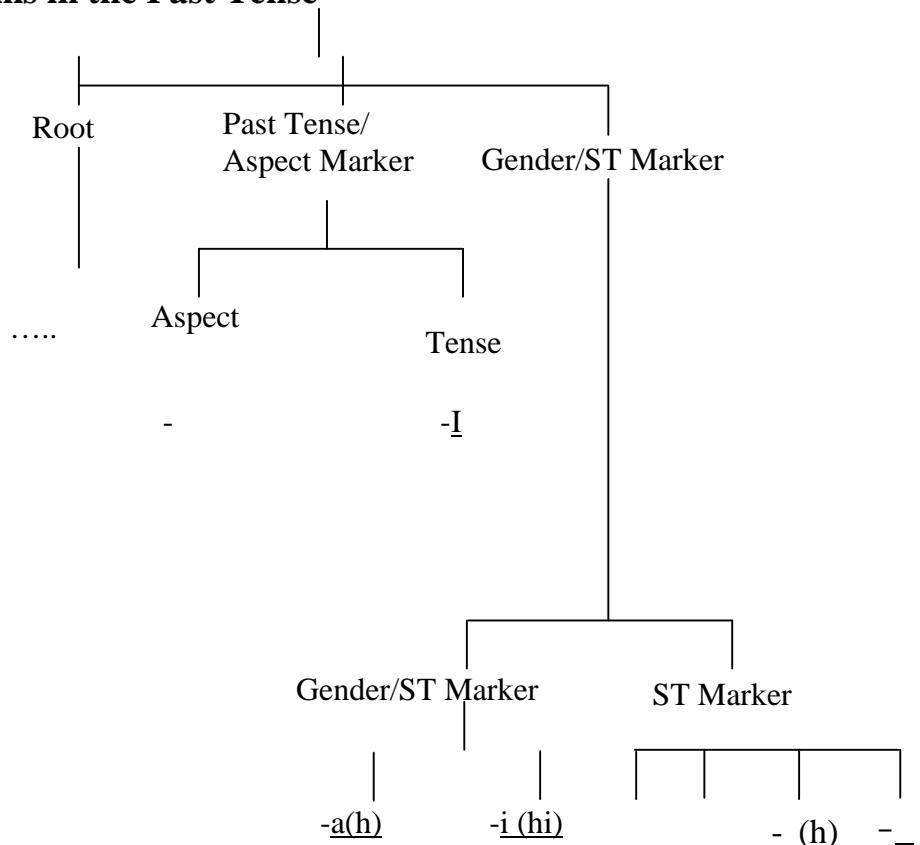These forms of the Maithili auxiliary verb as used in the future tense are described in Rule (3) below:

Rule (3)

(i)   Aux Verb in the

Future ⟶ root+ future tense+ aspect marker { a. Gender/ ST marker b. ST Marker }

(ii) root ⟶ r̲ h̲

(iii) aspect marker ⟶ -

(iv) future forms⟶ $\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{-b} \\ \text{-t} \\ \text{-t}^h\end{array}\right\}$

(v) (a.) Gender/ST Marker⟶ $\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{-a (h)} \\ \text{-i (hi)}\end{array}\right\}$

(b.) ST Marker ⟶ $\left\{\begin{array}{l}\text{-a (h)} \\ \text{-}\end{array}\right\}$

(B.) The past tense forms of the Maithili auxiliary verb are summarized
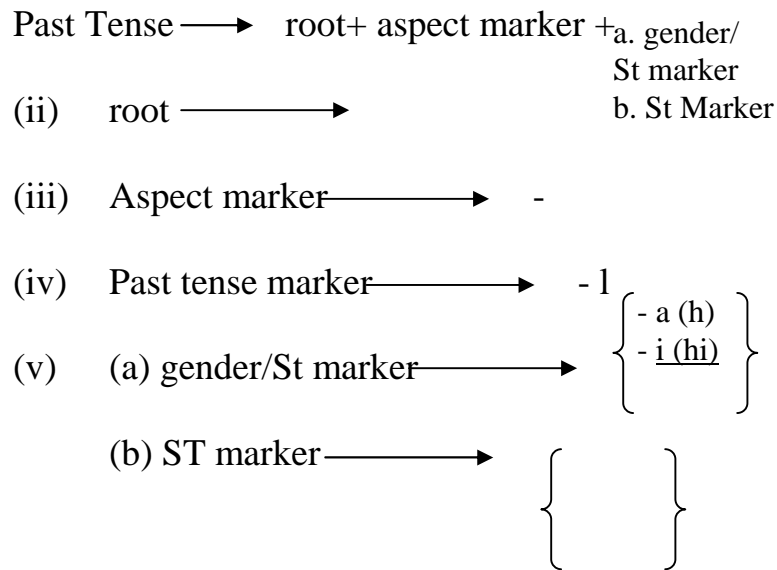
below:

Aux Verb Forms in the Past Tense

Root | Past Tense/Aspect Marker | Gender/ST Marker

.....

Aspect —

Tense -I̲

Gender/ST Marker | ST Marker

-a̲(h) -i̲ (hi)

- (h) -_

These past tense forms of the Maihtili auxiliary verb are described

in Rule (2) :

Rule (2)

(i)   Aux verb in the past tense/

Past Tense $\longrightarrow$ root+ aspect marker $+_{a.\ gender/}$
St marker

(ii)   root $\longrightarrow$ b. St Marker

(iii)   Aspect marker $\longrightarrow$ -

(iv)   Past tense marker $\longrightarrow$ - l

(v)   (a) gender/St marker $\longrightarrow$ $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{- a (h)} \\ \text{- \underline{i (hi)}} \end{array} \right\}$

       (b) ST marker $\longrightarrow$ $\left\{ \quad \right\}$

All these studies on the auxiliary verb forms in Maithili give ample evidences elision- i.e. the omission of sound segments in connected speech. Like many other Indo-aryan languages (for example, Chatterji, 1926/1970 and 1960; Burrow, 1955; S. Jha, 1958), it has always been a feature of Maithili words that the weakly accented syllables have undergone a process of gradation, i.e. loss of phonemes or obscuration of vowels. The same process of gradation, with resultant contraction, may be observed in operation in current Maithili. It is important, however, to distinguish between cases of elision which have already been established (e.g. S. Jha, 1958) in the language for sometime and those which have become current recently, as in the case of the following Maithili auxiliary verb forms, which we already came across in earlier examples:

Present	Past	Future
^h (h)	^h ⏌…(h)	r̲ h̲ b̲ (h)
	^h ⏌ (h)	r̲ h̲ t̲ ^hin̲(h)…
	h ⏌a̲(h)	r̲ h̲ ta̲(h)
	^h ⏌i(hi)	r̲ h̲ ti̲(hi)

In these latter cases, the forms exhibiting the elision of a total syllable, as of (hi) from ………………..and ………… , or of a total phoneme, as of h̲ form the following:

Present	Past	Future
^h (h)	^h ⏌…(h)	r̲ h̲ ta̲(h)
	^h ⏌ (h)	r̲ h̲ta̲(h)
	h ⏌a̲(h)	

Or of a particular distinctive feature only, as of the aspiration of … from …. , are all typical of rapid, colloquial speech, whereas more formal speech tends to retain the fuller form under the preservative influence of the spelling. These examples of elided auxiliary verb forms in colloquial speech are independent of the type of reduction affecting particular words and syllables under weak accent in connected speech, as discussed in the subject matter.

(D.) The forms According to Both the Subject and the Object

As stated earlier, the system of verbal inflection in Maithili is such that its verbs are inflected for person and according to the social status of both the

subject and the object. In this sub-section we shall first present and analyze those auxiliary verb forms that are used in accordance with the social status of their grammatical subjects and objects in the present, past and future tenses, and then we shall summaries and discuss what light these forms throw on the process of elision in Maithili.

(E.) The forms in the Present, Past and Future Tenses

To ascertain which inflectional forms are used in which cases, Table (A) provides a framework for all possible combinations in which the subject and the object, with their similar and/or different social status forms, can be used in the Maithili sentences. Based on this Framework, Later Tables list 26 sentences each in the present, past and future tenses, respectively. The main verb of al these sentences is the same: …… 'saying'; differences occur primarily in the social status forms of their subjects and objects, and consequently in their auxiliary verb forms as well.

Based on the framework outlined in later Table lists 26 sentences which show how the Maithili auxiliary verb forms are inflected in the present tense in accordance with the social status of their grammatical subjects and objects. Table (c) presents the morphological analysis of the same auxiliary verb forms. Similarly, based on the same framework of Table (A), Tables (D) and (F) also list 26 sentences each and show how the Maithili auxiliary verb forms are inflected in the past tense and in the future tense, respectively. The morphological analysis of the verb forms of Table (D) is done in Table (E), while that of Table (F) is done in Table (G).

Table (A) : Possible combinations of the subject and the object that ca be used in the Maithili sentences in the first, second and third persons-each person of the 'subject' and the 'object' columns is categorized in accordance with its St forms.

Subject		Object	
Person	ST Form	Person	ST Form
1. 1st	honorific	2nd	y u form
2. 1st	honorific	2nd	h u form
3. 1st	honorific	2nd	r u form
4. 1st	honorific	3rd	honorific
5. 1st	honorific	3rd	non-honorific
6. 2nd	y u form	1st	honorific
7. 2nd	y u form	3rd	honorific
8. 2nd	r u form	3rd	non-honorific
9. 2nd	h u form	1st	honorific
10. 2nd	r u form	1st	honorific
11. 2nd	h u form	3rd	honorific
12. 2nd	r u form	3rd	non-honorific
13. 2nd	r u form	3rd	honorific
14. 2nd	r u form	3rd	non-honorific
15. 3rd	honorific	1st	honorific
16. 3rd	non-honorific	1st	honorific
17. 3rd	honorific	2nd	y u form
18. 3rd	honorific	2nd	h u form
19. 3rd	honorific	2nd	r u form
20. 3rd	non-honorific	2nd	y u form
21. 3rd	non-honorific	2nd	h u form
22. 3rd	non-honorific	2nd	r u form
23. 3rd	honorific	3rd	honorific
24. 3rd	non-honorific	3rd	honorific
25. 3rd	honorific	3rd	non-honorific
26. 3rd	non-honorific	3rd	non-honorific

Table (B): Maithili sentences based on the pramework outlined in Table (A), showing how the auxiliary verb forms are inflected in the present tense in accordance with the ST forms of their grammatical subjects and objects.

Subject	object	Main	Auxiliary	Gloss
		Verb		
1. h m	…h…k	k h i(t)	ʰi	'I am saying to you'
2. h m	tora	k h i(t)	ʰiy (h)	'I am saying to you'
3. h m	tora	k h i(t)	ʰiy (h)u	'I am saying to you'
4. h m	hunka	k h i(t)	ʰiy (h)	'I am saying to you'
5. h m	okra	k h i(t)	ʰiy i(k)	'I am saying to you'
6. …h…	h mra	k h i(t)	ʰi	'You are saying to him'
7. …h…	hunka	k h i(t)	ʰiy n (h)	'You are saying to him'
8. … h…	okra	k h i(t)	ʰiy i(k)	'You are saying to him'
9. t	h mra	k h i(t)	ʰ (h)	'You are saying to him'
10 t	h mra	k h i(t)	ʰ …	'You are saying to him'
11. t	hunka	k h i(t)	ʰ hun (h) …	'You are saying to him'
12. t	okra	k h i(t)	ʰ h k	'You are saying to him'
13. t	hunka	k h i(t)	ʰiy hun (h)…	'You are saying to him'
14. t	okra	k h i(t)	ʰ hik	'You are saying to him'
15. O	h mra	k h i(t)	ʰ ±ʰi	'He/She is saying to him'
16. O	h mra	k h i(t)	ʰi	'He/She is saying to him'
17. O	…h…k	k h i(t)	ʰ tʰi	'He/She is saying to him'
18. O	tora	k h i(t)	ʰ tʰun (h) …	'He/She is saying to him'
19. O	tora	k h i(t)	ʰ tʰun (h) …	'He/She is saying to him'
20. O	..h…k	k h i(t)	ʰi	'He/She is saying to him'
21. O	tora	k h i(t)	ʰ (h)	'He/She is saying to him'
22. O	tora	k h i(t)	ʰ (h)u	'He/She is saying to him'
23. O	hunka	k h i(t)	ʰ ʰ(h)…	'He/She is saying to him'
24. O	hunka	k h i(t)	ʰ n (h)	'He/She is saying to him'
25. O	okra	k h i(t)	ʰ t ʰ in (h)…	'He/She is saying to him'
26. O	okra	k h i(t)	ʰ (h)is	'He/She is saying to him'

Table C: the morphological analysis of the Maithili auxiliary verb forms in the present tense as given in the Maithili sentence of Table B.

Root	Tense/ST Marker Subject		Object	Verb form
1. ʰ	+	-i	+	Ø	ʰ i̱
2. h	+	-i	+	-y (h)	ʰ i̱y (h)
3. h	+	-i	+	-ʸ (h)u	ʰ i̱y (h)
4. h	+	-i	+	-ʸ (h)…	ʰ i̱y n⁽ʰ⁾…
5. h	+	-i	+	-ʸ i(k)	ʰ i̱y (k)
6. h	+	-i	+	Ø	ʰ i̱
7. h	+	-i	+	ʸ n(h)…	ʰ i̱y n⁽ʰ⁾…
8. h	+	-i	+	-ʸ i(k)	ʰ i̱y (k)
9. h	+	- (h)	+	Ø	ʰ ẖ (h)
10. h	+	-…	+	Ø	ʰ i̱y (h)
11. h	+	ˉ h	+	-un(h)…	ʰ ẖun (h)…
12. h	+	ˉ h	+	- k	ʰ ẖ (k)
13. h	+	ˉ h	+	-un(h)…	h ẖun⁽ʰ⁾…
14. h	+	ˉ h	+	-ik	ʰ ẖik
15. h	+	ˉ tʰi	+	Ø	ʰ ±ẖ i
16. h	+	-i	+	Ø	ʰ i̱
17. h	+	ˉ tʰi̱	+	Ø	ʰ ṯ ʰ i
18. h	+	ˉ th	+	Ø	ʰ ṯ ʰ un (h)…
19. h	+	ˉ th	+	-un(h)…	ʰ t ʰ u̱n (ʰ)…
20. h	+	-i	+	Ø	ʰ i̱
21. h	+	Ø	+	ˉ (h)	ʰ ẖ (h)
22. h	+	Ø	+	ˉ (h)u	ʰ ẖ (h) u̱
23. h	+	ˉ tʰi̱	+	-n(h)…	ʰ ṯ ʰin(ẖ) …
24. h	+	ˉ	+	-n(h)…	ʰ ṉ(h) …
25. h	+	ˉ tʰi̱	+	-n(h)…	h t ʰi̱n ⁽ʰ⁾…
26. h	+	ˉ (h)	ˉ	-i	ʰ (ẖ)i

To reveal the tense of each sentence as well as the gender and/or social status of the person used in its grammatical subject and/or object. Six pairs of such markers are:

(i) -i<u>y</u> <u>(h)</u>

- <u>(h)</u>

(ii) -i<u>y</u> <u>(h)u</u>

- <u>(h)u</u>

(iii)-i<u>y</u> <u>n</u>$^{(h)}$...

- <u>n</u>$^{(h)}$...

(iv)-i<u>y</u> <u>i(k)</u>

- <u>i(k)</u>

(v) –a<u>t</u> ^{h} <u>in</u>$^{(h)}$...

-<u>in</u>$^{(h)}$...

(vi)- t ^{h} <u>un</u> $^{(h)}$...

-<u>un</u> $^{(h)}$...

In each of the pairs, the first marker is used in the present and the past tense forms with suffixes like -i<u>y</u> and - <u>t</u> ^{h}, while the second marker of each pair is used in future forms without using the -i<u>y</u>-suffix. There are, in addition, three other markers- i.e.-   k, -ik and – <u>(h)i</u> -and these are used in all forms: present, past and future. All these auxiliary verb forms of tables C, E, and G provide further evidences of the process of elision occurring in Maithili. That is, they provide evidences of the elision of <u>h</u> and k in different phonological environments, as well as evidences of the weakening of <u>n</u>^{h} into n in particular phonological contexts.

Taking instances of the elision of <u>h</u> first, the auxiliary verb forms shown below reveal that the elision of <u>h</u> form the suffix – <u>h</u> occurs in three phonological environments: i.e.

Present	Past	Future
^hi y (h)	^h ↓…^(h)	r h b ^(h)…
<u>h</u> iy (h)u	^h liy (h)	r h b (h)
^hi (h)	^h liy (h)u	r h ta(h)
	^h l (h)	r h ta(h)u
^hi (h)u	^h l (h)	r h ta(h)i
	^h l (h)u	
^hi (h)i	^h l (h)i	

i.   When it occurs word-finally, especially when the final syllable of such

words remains weakly accepted;

ii.   When it occurs in the final syllable of a word, preceded and followed by

oral vowels; and

iii.   When it occurs in the final syllable of a word, preceded and followed by

nasal vowels.

And followed by nasal vowels.

These generalization can be stated in terms of the following phonological

rule:

Rule (i):

$$\begin{Bmatrix} + \text{cons} \\ - \text{low} \\ - \text{voice} \end{Bmatrix} \longrightarrow \emptyset/V \qquad (V) \quad \#$$

It should be emphasized that the <u>h</u> of the suffix - <u>h</u> is elided only when it occurs in a weakly accented final syllable of a word. But if this h of h occurs word-medially, as in the following verb forms, for example,

Present	Past	Future
^h ↓ <u>hun</u> ^(h)…	^h ↓ <u>hun</u> ^(h)…	r h b <u>hun</u> ^(h)…
^h <u>h</u> <u>k</u>	^h ǀ <u>h</u> <u>k</u>	r h b h k
		r h b <u>hik</u>

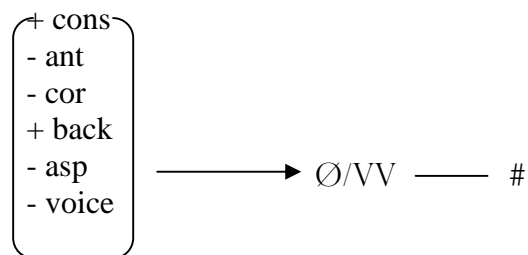Then it simply does not elide in Maithili.

Similarly, the elision of k from the suffix - i(k) or - ik occurs in Maithili whenever -<u>ik</u> appears word-finally, preceded by two adjacent vowels or a diphthong, as the following forms show:

Present	Past	Future
^h <u>iy</u> <u>i(k)</u>	^h ǀiy <u>i(k)</u>	r h b <u>i(k)</u>

The elision of k can be described by means of the following phonological rule:

Rule (2)

$$
\begin{bmatrix}
+\ \text{cons} \\
-\ \text{ant} \\
-\ \text{cor} \\
+\ \text{back} \\
-\ \text{asp} \\
-\ \text{voice}
\end{bmatrix}
\longrightarrow \quad \varnothing / VV \ \underline{\quad} \ \#
$$

But whenever the word-final <u>k</u> of the suffix - <u>k</u> or -<u>ik</u> is preceded by only one vowel, as in the following verb forms, for example,

Present	Past	Future
^{h} h k	^{h} | h k	r h b h k
^{h} hik	^{h} | hik	r h b hik

Then the elision of k never occurs in Maithili.

Like wise, whenever such suffixes as …….. are added to different auxiliary verb forms in Maithili, then the words which eventually surface contain the unaspirated nasal in instead of the aspirated n^h, as the following verb forms show:

Present	Past	Future
^{h} iy n $^{(h)}$…	^{h} |iy n $^{(h)}$…	r h b n $^{(h)}$…
^{h} t ^{h} un $^{(h)}$ …	^{h} | hun $^{(h)}$…	r h b hun $^{(h)}$…
^{h} hun $^{(h)}$…	^{h} | t ^{h} un (h) …	r h t ^{h} un $^{(h)}$…
^{h} t ^{h} in $^{(h)}$ …	^{h} | t ^{h} in $^{(h)}$…	r h t ^{h} in $^{(h)}$…
	^{h} | n $^{(h)}$…	r h t n $^{(h)}$…

This weakening of n^h into n is phonologically conditioned: i.e. whenever n^h occurs inter-vocalically in the final syllable of a verb form, it loses its aspiration. This weakening process can be described in terms of the following phonological rule:

Rule (3):

$$\begin{bmatrix} + \text{ cons} \\ + \text{ nasal} \\ + \text{ ant} \\ - \text{ cor} \\ + \text{ asp} \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \text{-asp} \end{bmatrix} \; / \; \text{V-V} \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \; \#$$

IV. Modality in English

Modality is described in the following ways:

1. Modality as used in logic, "semantics and grammar" is concerned with speakers' attitudes and stance towards the prepositions they express. It is essentially a subjective and qualifying process: judging the truth of prepositions in terms of degrees of possibility, probability or certainty; and expressing also meaning of obligation, necessity, volition, prediction, knowledge and belief, etc.

Attempts to classify different kinds of modality have been made, and some terms have passed from logic into semantic studies. Necessity and possibility are basic concerns in logic, and alethic modality, dealing with the 'truth' of prepositions. Also prominent is a distinction between epistemic modality (from the Greek meaning 'knowledge'); and deontic modality (from the Greek meaning 'what is binding') concerned with 'obligation' and 'permission'. In Halliday's "Systemic Grammar" this particular aspect is termed modulation rather than modality. Sentences like you ma be right and she must have arrived by now express degrees of (un) certainty and knowledge; you may go now and you must leave at once express permission and obligation.

2. As these sentences illustrate, modality is very commonly expressed by the so-called modal verbs, a major category of auxiliary verbs in English. Other means of expressing modality include adverbs (possibly; perhaps), clauses (I'm certain that …) and mood. The model verbs commonly used to indicate different kinds of modality are <u>can,</u> <u>might</u>, must, <u>should</u> and <u>may</u>. In the

broadest sense the modal meanings expressed by these verbs include also volition and prediction (<u>will</u>, <u>shall</u>), ability and potentiality (<u>can</u>; <u>be able to</u>), etc.

3. Modality came to be discussed in stylistics, text linguistic and literary semantics as a result of increased interest in discourse and interpersonal relations between "Implied Author or Narrator" and "Reader", and the broad issue of "Point of view" in fiction.

It can be argued that fiction operates in the non-alethic modal system, sinc no fictional utterance is true or factural, except in the fictional "world" created. What is at issue is what might or could happen if … moreover, ulteranced infiction are always told from the point of view of someone, whether the implied author as narrator, or a character, or both: a subjectivity is inevitable. The more qualified or evaluated the statements, the more a sense of a narrator's personality is conveyed, and the greater awareness revealed of an implied "Address". Marked qualification is characteristic of first-person narratives: as in this example from the opening of madox ford's The Good Soldier.

… We had known the Ashburnhams for nine seasons of the town of Nauheim with an extreme intimacy or, rather with an acquaintanceship as loose and easy and yet as close as a good glove's with your hand. My wife and I know Captain and Mrs. Ashburnham as well as it was possible to know anybody, and yet, in another sense, we know nothing at all about them …
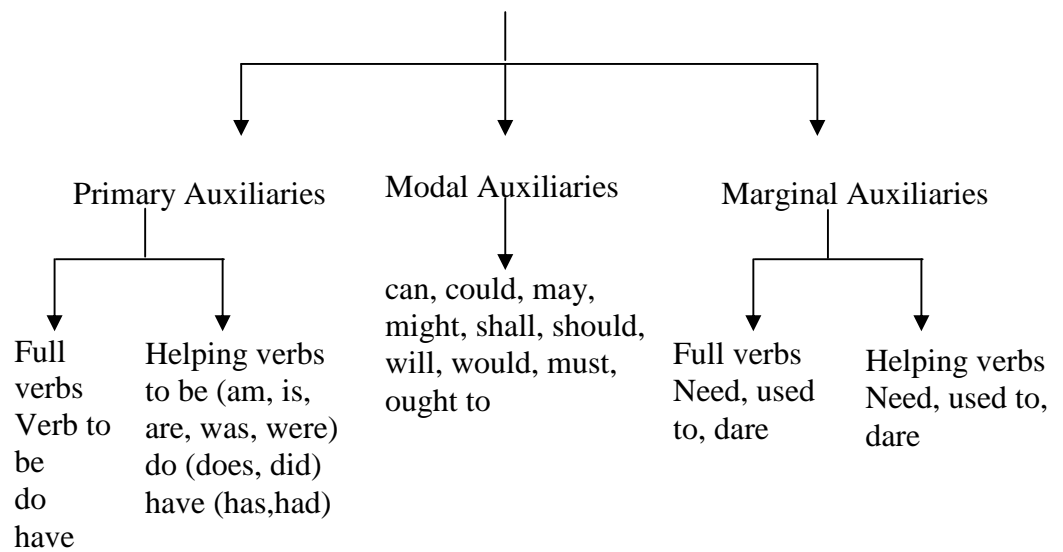
Marked modality is also characteristic of the representation of characters, thought processes in free direct and indirect thought, or interior monologue.

Moreover, plots themselves, whether in drama, epic or the novel, are frequently structured on conflicting modalities: on dramas and reality, obligations and desires, beliefs and dogmas. So in Paradise Lost, Adam falls because of his violation of the divine deontic modality of prohibition: yet one tree you must not touch…

4. In their work on situational varieties of (non-literary) language crystal and Davy (1969) used modality in quite a different sense to refer to a dimension of linguistic characterization which has to do with format or genre, itself linked to the purpose of the variety. So, for example, we can send a written message to someone in the form of a postcard, letter or fax; or publish details of an Anglo-Saxon treasure-hoard in a newspaper article, periodical paper, monograph or coffee-table book. In each case differences of modality will influence the choice of linguistic features.

In the work on "Register" by Halliday et al. (1964) this dimension is probably covered under mode below, but this is rather vaguely defined.
Auxiliaries

	Primary Auxiliaries	Modal Auxiliaries	Marginal Auxiliaries

Primary Auxiliaries

Full verbs
Verb to be
do
have

Helping verbs
to be (am, is, are, was, were)
do (does, did)
have (has,had)

Modal Auxiliaries

can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would, must, ought to

Marginal Auxiliaries

Full verbs
Need, used to, dare

Helping verbs
Need, used to, dare

But in Maithili a set of verbs are used as modals:

s k- b	'to be able to'
pa-eb	'to find or to be able to'
p r- b	'to lie/to be forced to'
cuk- b	'to fail/to comlete'
de- b	'to give/to allwo'
cah- b	'to want'

All of the above verbs occur as main verbs in simple or compound verb expressions:

h m s ik ja-eb

"I will be able to'

h… paib |e-|- h…

"You found/received"

Tõ bimar p ir ge-|-e

'You fell ill'

h… cuik ge-|- h

'You failde'

h m d de-|- h

'I gave'

h m cah- it ch-i|

'I want'

Cuk-u   -   'fail!'

h m   Ja-e   cah- it ch-i

'I want to go'

+o-ra   k r-   p r-t- uk

You (NH)-ACC/DAT do-INFlic(MOD)-FUT-(3NH+2NH)

'You will be forced to do it.'

(A) s k- b indicates capability:

h m   i   n di   he|-   s k- it   ch-i

I this rier swim-INF can-IMPERF

AUX-PRES- (I)

"I can/am able to swim this river.'

tõ   i   gach   p r   c irh :ja-(e) s k- it   ch-e

You (NH) this tree on climb-i- go- INF can- IMPERF   Ch-e   AUX-PRES-

(2NH)

'You can/are able to climb (on) this tree.'

ah…   i bi|ai ke pois li-   s k- b

You (H) this cat (ACC/DATbring up-I take-INF Can-FUT-(2H)

'You will be able to bring up this cat.'

Aikai|h ah… n i ja-(e) p b- it ch-i

these days you (H) not go-INF can-IMPERF ch-i AUX-PRES-(2H)

'These days you are not able to go:

 i ber h m j n kpur n iab- (e) p e-|- h

this time I Janakpur not come-INF can-PSt-(I)

'This time I was not able to come to Janakpur.'

Sa| me ek-e berg am ab- (e) p b- it

Year in one-EMPH time village come_INF CanIMPERE

Ch-i

AUX-PRES-(I)

'I manage to come home only once in a year.'

(B) p r- b indicates external pressure or compulsion:

Hun-ka   ai-o   …phis   ja-e

he (H)-ACC/DAT   today-EMPH office   go-INF

P r-t- inh

lie (MOD)-FUT-(3NH+3H)

'He will have to go to the office even today.'

 h…   ke   I   khoa   kha-e p r- t-O

You (H) ACC/DAT this milk cream eat-INF lie (MOD)-FUT-(3NH+2H)

"You will have to eat this milk cream.'

+O-ra   akhir   ja-e   p r-|- uk

You (NH)-ACC/DAt last   go-INFlie(MOD)-PST (3NH+2NH)

'AT last you had to go.'

(C) Cuk- b indicates completion of an act:

O   kha-(e)   cuk-|-ah

he (H)   eat-INF   finish-PST-(3H)

'He finished eating.'

+õ   b rab reh h   g lti   k (e) Cuk- it

You (H) always   such   error   do-INF finish-IMPERF

Ch-e

AUX-PRES-(2NH)

'You end up making such errors regularly.'

O   kailh   merika   p h c   Cuk- |

he (H) yesterday   America   reach   finish-PSTPCPL

hoe-t-ah

become-FUT-(3H)

'He would have arrived in America yesterday.'

(D) de- b indicates permission:

Hun-ka   ja-e   di- unh

he (H)-ACC/DAT   go-INFallow-IMP-(2H+3H)

'Allow him to go.'

O   h m-ra p n   ko+   p hir-

he (H) I-ACC/DAT   REFL   Coat   wear-INF

de-|- inh

allow-PST-(3H+I)

'He allowed me to wear his coat.'

(tõ)   ab-   d -hi(K)

You (NH)   come-INF   allow-IMP-(2NH+3NH)

'Allow him to come/Let him come.'

(E) Cah- b indicated wish and desire:

O   ink|- (e)   cah-|- ith

he (H)   escape-INF   want-PST-(3H)

'He wanted to escape.'

u   p rh-   cah- t

he (NH)   read-INF   want-FUT-(3NH)

'He would want to study.'

The auxiliary verbs under discussion are three in number. They are:

   i.   Ch- 'to be' (stative)

  ii.   Ho- 'to be' (stative)

 iii.   Ho- 'to become' (nonstative)

Ch-ch- Present Tense

 ich

thik

h-

ch-   Past Tense

r h

ho-   Future Tense

r h

ch- it   ch-i

be-IMPERF   AUX-PRES-(I)

ho-ne| | ch- |

be-PERF   Aux-PST-(3NH)

h m ch-i

I be-PRES-(I)

'I am.'

 h…   ch- |- h

You (H) be-PST-(2H)

'You were.'

Ke   ch- |-ah?

Who (H)   be-PST-(3H)

'Who was (he)<

Tõ   ke   ch-e?

You (NH)   who   be-PRESS-(2NH)

'Who are you?'

I   k thi   h- i

This what be-PRESS-(3NH)

'What is this?'

Hvm hoe-b|r h- b

I   be-FUT-(I)

'I will be.'

+õ   hoe-b- h|r h-b- h

You (MH)   be-FUT-(2MH)

'You will be.'

V. Agreement in English

The rules for the way words and expressions are combined into clause and sentences. This is used in the following ways:

1. We should remember the two simple rules: (a) A singular subject takes a singular verb, and (b) a plural subject takes a plural verb. e.g.:

What is wanted are not large houses but small cottages. He has never taken and will never take such measures.

Two auxiliaries can be used with one principal verb, only when the form of the "Principal Verb" is appropriate to both the auxiliaries.

2. If two subjects together express one idea, they take a singular verb. e.g.,

Bread and butter is my usual breakfast.

The horse and carriage is at the door.

Early to bed and early to rise makes a man

Healthy, wealthy and wise.

3. If two or more singular subjects are preceded by each or every, the take singular verb. e.g.,

Every man and woman is happy in this village.

Each boy and each girl was given a prize.

4. If the subject is "The number of", we use a singular verb with it. If the sentence begins with 'A number of (=many)', a plural noun and a plural verb are used. e.g.,

The number of books is very small.

A number of books are mussing.

5. When two or more singular subjects are joined by or, nor, neither… nor, either…or, they take a singular verb. e.g.,

> Neither of the two men has done it.

> Neither Ram nor sister was there.

> Neither praise nor blame seems to affect him.

6. When two subjects of different numbers are to be joined by or, nor, the plural subject must be placed in the last the verb must be made plural e.g.,

7. When the subjects joined by either… or, neither… nor are of different persons, the person of the verb should agree with the person of the pronoun nearest to it. e.g.,

8. Words joined to a singular subject by with, together with, as well as, and in addition to, do not effect the number of the verb e.g.

Ram, and not you, has won the prize.

> Mohan as well as his sons and daughters like curry

9. When the subject of a verb is a relative pronoun, the verb agrees in number and person with the number and person of the antecedent of the relative pronoun. e.g.,

I, who am your friend, will always look to your comfort.

You, who are my friend, should help me.

10. When a plural noun represents a single quantity or mass, or when it is the title of a book or name of a country, it is followed by a singular verb. e.g.,

> The United States of America has a big army.

> Seven hundred rupees a month is a good income.

However, when the subject is a sum of money and the reference is the bills or coins considered separately, the plural verb is used. e.g.,

A thousand rupees were distributed among the prize winners.

There were twenty silver rupees jingling in his pockets.

11. The subject is singular but the verb should be plural because the noun phrase as a whole expresses a plural idea. e.g.

The majority of students are boys.

But in Maithili, the forms of the verb agreement inflection is determined by the person and honorific grade of the subject noun phrase:

h m   ch- |-ah |ch- |-i

I   be-PST-(I)

'I was'

 h…   ch- |- h |ch- |-i

You (H)   be-PST- (2H)

'You were'

Tõ   ch- |- h

You (MH)   be-PsT- (2MH)

'You were'

Tõ   ch- |-e

You (NH)   be-PST- (2NH)

'You were'

O   ch- |-ah

he (H)   be-PST-(3H)

'He was'

u   ch- |-O

he (NH)   be-PST-(3NH)

'He was'

Verb agreement has been distinguished into two parts. Such parts are discussed below.

Primary agreement inflections

A verb's primary agreement inflection encodes the features of person and honorific grade to the subject noun phrase, and is obligatory. e.g.,

u   gai   b nh- it   ich

he (NH) cow tie-IMPERF   Aux-PRES-(3NH)

'He is tying up the cow.'

u   gai   b nh-ne   ch- |-O

he (NH) cow tie-PERF AUX-PST-(3NH)

'He had tied up the cow.'

Sita (H) market go –FUT-(311,F)

'Sita will go to the market.'

O   ae-ll…|ch- ith

he (H) come-PERF   Aux-PRES- (3H)

'He has come.'

+õ   b ukar   ch- h

You (MH)   strong   be-PRES- (2MH)

'You are strong.'

+õ   J -it-e   t   nik

You (NH)   go-COND- (2NH) then good

 'It would have better had you gone.'

Secondary agreement inflections

The secondary dimension is usually with the person and honorific grade of the indirect object noun phrase if one is present, or otherwise with the person and honorific grade of a direct-object noun phrase (marked with the accusative-dative case.) e.g.,

O   +ora   dekh- |-thunh

he (H) you (NH)-ACC/DAT see-PST- (3H+2NH)

'He (H) saw you (NH).'

tõ   hun-ka   dekh- l-hunh

you (NH) he (H)-ACC/DAT see-PST-(2NH+3H)

'You (NH) saw him (H).

h m   hun-ka dekh- |-i inh

I   he (H) – ACC/DAT see-PST-(I+3H)

'I saw him (H).'

h m +o=ra   dekh- |-i uk

I you (NH)-ACC/DAT see – PST- (I+2NH)

"I saw you (NH).'

h m   ok-ra   dekh- |-i ik

I   he (NH)-ACC/DAT   see-PST-(I+3NH)

'I saw him (NH).'

The inventory of composite agreement affixes present, past and future tenses is given below:

Table (1): composite presents tense agreement inflections in Maithili:

OBJECT SUBJECT	3H	3NH	2H	2MH	2NH	1
3H	thinh	thinh	O	thunh	thunh	O
3NH	inh	ik|O	O	h	uk	O
2H	i inh	i ik|O	-	-	-	O
2MH	hunh	h k	-	-	-	O
2NH	hunh	hik/O	-	-	-	O
I	i inh	i ik/O	O	i h	i uk	-

Table (2) : Composite past tense agreement affixes in Maithili:

OBJECT SUBJECT	3H	3NH	2H	2MH	2NH	1
3H	khinh khinh khinh khinh (inh)	khinh khinh (inh) O	inh inh thunh thunh	khunh khunh thunh thunh	khunh khunh	inh inh
3NH	k inh (inh)[R]	k ik (ik)[h]	O	k h (h)[c]	k uk (uk)[d]	O
2H	| inh	| ik	-	-	-	O
2MH	hunh h h	h k h h	-	-	-	O
2NH	hunh	hik	-	-	-	O
I	i inh	i ik (o)	O	i h	i uk	-

(a) For transitive and intransitive verbs, - k inh and - inh are used respectively in those constructions where the 3H genitive noun phrase modifies the 3NH subject noun phrase (i.e., 3NH + 3H), e.g.,

Hun-k r   nok r   e-|- inh   (intransitive)

he (H)-GENIT servant come-PST-(3NH+3H)

(b) - ik Is the marker for 3NH+ 3NH combinations in those –a- ending intransitive verb constructions wherein the genitive noun phrase modifying the subject noun phrase controls the secondary verb agreement:

OK- r   nok r   e-|- ik(intransitive)

He (NH)- GENIT servant   come-PST-   (3NH+3NH)

'His servant came.'

but,

ok- r   nok r   kh e-|-k ik   (transitive)

he (NH)-GENIT   servant eat-PST-(3NH+3NH)

'His servant ate.'

Ok-ra   ek-+a   beta   ch- ik

He (NH)–ACC/DAT one-CLAS   son   AUX-PRES (3NH+3NH)

(c) With auxiliary verbs, the secondary agreement for 3NH + 2 MH is - h, e.g.,

U   +o-ra   dekh-ne   ch- |- h

he (NH) you (NH)-ACC/DAT see- PERF   AUX-PST- (3NH+2MH)

I   +oh- r   dh ua   bhe-|- h

(d) With auxiliary verbs, the secondary agreement affix for 3NH + 2NH is   uk, e.g.,

u   +o-ra   bhet- |

he (NH) you (NH)-ACC/DAT meet – PERF

ch- |- uk

AUX-PST-(3NH+2NH)

i   +oh- r   bhe-|- uk

this your (NH)-GENIT become –PST-(3NH+2NH)

'This is yours.' (lit.: 'This became yours.')

Toh- r   beta   e-|- uk

You (NH)-GENIt son come-PST- (3NH+2NH)

'your son came.'

O   hun-ka   kitab   d- it

he (H) he(H)-ACC/DAT book give-IMPERF

ch- think

AUX-PRES-(3H+3H)

'He gives him a book.'

Table (3): Composite future tense agreement affixes in Maithili

OBJECT SUBJECT	3H	3NH	2H	2MH	2NH	1
3H	inh	thinh thinh	O	thunh	thunh	O
3NH	inh	ik	O	h	uk	O
2H	inh	ik	-	-	-	O
2MH	hunh	h k	-	-	-	O
2NH	hunh	hik	-	-	-	O
I	inh	ik (o)	O	h	uk	-

Present tense

+õ   hun-ka   kitab   d- it   ch- ith-0

he (H) I - ACC|DAT book give-IMPERF Aux-PRESS (3H+I)

'He gives me a book.'

h m +o –ra   kitab d- it   ch-iauk

I you (NH)- ACC/DAT book give-IMPERF AUX-PREs-(1+2NH)

'I give you a book.'

Past tense

O +o-ra   kitab de-|-thunh

He (H) you (NH)-ACC/DAT book give – PST – (3H+2NH)

'He gave you a book.'

Tõ h m- r   kitab hun-ka   de-|-hunh

You (NH) I – GENIt book he (H)- ACC/DAT give –pst-(2NH+3H)

'You gave my book to him.'

h m hun-ka   +oh- r   kitab de |-i inh

I he (H) – ACC/DAT you (NH) – GENIT book give-pst-(I+3H)

Future tense

O hun-ka   kitab de-+- inh/de-t- thinh

he (H) he (H)-ACC/DAT book give –FUT- (3H+3H_

'He will give him the book.'

Tõ   hun-ka h m-ar kitab de-b-hunh

You (NH) he (H)-ACC/DAT I-GENIT book give-FUT- (2NH+3H)

'You will give him my book.'

h m +o-ra   hun-k-+ h m +o-ra   kitab   de-b-hunh

you (NH) he (H)-ACC/DAT I-GENIT book give-FUT-(2NH+3H)

'You will give him my book.'

h m +o-ra   hun-k- ra   kitab de-be-a- uk

I   you(NH)-ACC/DAT   he(H)-GENIT book give-FUT-(1+2NH)

'I will give you his book.'

Ah…   hun-ka   p n   kitab de-b- inh

You (H) he (H) – ACC/DAT REFL   book give-FUT-(2H+3H)

'You will give him your.

VI. Conclusion

It is said that we all human beings are distant relatives. That means, we all are born out of a single couple. But the Evolution Theory of science by Charles Darwin has proved that it is the time and environment that bring continuous change as well. Hence, we are the children of a single parents. It is the time and environment that brought differences among us as well. But the fact is that not all the features get changed. Thus, we can say that there are both the points of similarities differences among us. Similar is the case with the language as well. All the languages of the world are distant relatives but it is the time span of thousands of years that brought differences. Thus, there are both the points of similarities and differences among the languages of the world. In the same way, if we move to the next phase of the "Verbal Inflections in English and Maithili", there too, we can discover the points of similarities and differences among the verbal inflections . Considering this, I discovered a lot of similarities and differences among the verbal inflections of English and Maithili languages.

I have tried my best to consult the well known books, articles, journals of well-known writers to get information related to the topic. The discoveries are based on my own intellect and information obtained from different grammars, articles, books, journals etc which I believe, will be very useful to the Maithili native speakers who are interested in

knowing about the verbal inflections in Maithili and the points of

similarities and differences among the verbal inflections in English and

Maithili. It will also be useful to the teachers or learners who are

interested in learning or teaching these two languages comparatively.

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