# Phonemic Analysis of Maithili and English Sounds 

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education In Partial Fulfillment for the Master of Education in English

Submitted by<br>Lal Babu Yadav

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that to the best of my knowledge this thesis is original; no part of it was earlier submitted for the candidature of research degree to any university.

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## RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that Mr. Lal Babu Yadav has prepared this thesis entitled "Phonemic Analysis of Maithili and English Sounds" under my guidance and supervision.

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## DEDICATION

Dedicated in Memory of
My Grandmother
Dayabati Yadav
From Whom I Acquired My Mother Tongue

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#### Abstract

The study entitled "Phonemic Analysis of Maithili and English Sounds" attempts to identify consonants sounds in Maithili and then compare and contrast them with the consonants of English. The researcher conducted a survey and collected the data from 35 fluent speakers of Maithili native people from Bariyarpatti area of Siraha district, by using purposive non-random sampling procedure. The informants were 25 years above in age; English data were taken from secondary sources, mainly from Geigerich (1982), some of the Maithili data were adopted from Yadav (2011). Major findings of the study are that Maithili has 26 consonants. This number is larger than English Consonants; Maithili does have more oral plosive sounds; 16 unlike English 6. English does have more fricative sounds; 9, which Maithili does have only 2. English does have labio-dental, alveolar and plato- alveolar sounds which are not found in Maithili language. In Maithili, all stops sounds do have voiced aspirated phonemic feature, which does not in English. , Maithili has 14 and English has 15 voiced consonants. Two nasal sounds are identical in term of phonemes in both languages.

This thesis is organized in five chapters. The first chapter deals with introduction of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, delimitations of the study, and operational definition of the key terms. The second chapter deals with review of related literature and conceptual framework which consists review of the related theoretical literature, review of related empirical literature, implication of the review for the study and conceptual framework. The third chapter deals with methods and procedures of the study which consists design, and methods of the study, population, sample and sampling strategy, study area / field data collection tools and techniques, data collection procedures and data analysis and interpretation procedures. The fourth chapter deals with analysis of data interpretation procedures. The fourth chapter deals with analysis of data and interpretation of results which consists analysis of data and interpretation of results, summary of the findings. The fifth chapter deals with conclusion and recommendations.


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## LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| / / | $:$ | Phonemic Transcription |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| [ ] | $:$ | Phonetic Transcription |
| Approx. | $:$ | Approximant |
| -asp | $:$ | Unaspirated |
| C | $:$ | Consonant |
| CA | $:$ | Contrastive Analysis |
| CBS | $:$ | Central Bureau of Statistics |
| CUP | $:$ | Cambridge University Press |
| Dr. | $:$ | Doctor |
| edits. | $:$ | Editors |
| ELT | $:$ | English Language Teaching |
| et. al | $:$ | and others |
| frica. | $:$ | Fricative |
| IPA | $:$ | International Phonetic Alphabet |
| n. d. | $:$ | Number |
| No. | $:$ | Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary |
| OLD | $:$ | Oxford University Press |
| OUT | Page |  |
| P. | Professor |  |
| Prof. | Registration |  |
| Reg. | Retroflex |  |
| Retro. | Serial Number |  |
| SN | Tribhuvan University |  |
| TU | Voiceless |  |
| -v |  |  |

## CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This is the study on Phonemic Analysis of Maithili and English Sounds. This chapter comprises the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, delimitation of the study, and operational definition of key terms.

## Background of the Study

Language is a source of knowledge for the native speaker of any language. It is the source of general study of culture (Yule 2010, p.266). Each speech community has the unique ideas for human concept of universe and world view. Chomsky (2006; p.xiv) points that language plays an essential role in thinking and human interaction. Wardhaugh, 1998, p. 1 says that language is a reason to make human society.

At the present day world, irrespective of some speech communities, people are at least bilingual. Being bilingual equals being able to speak two languages for the sake of communication (Harmmers\&Blance, 2000, p.6). Moreover, number of multilingual people is increasing. It has some reasons for it's behind. Firstly, language has appeared as power. It is difficult to assimilate in contemporary world and push a head oneself without learning the dominant language. Secondly, using lingua franca is mandatory for all, which might be the other language than one's mother tongue. It is the connective language for all speech communities and probably the medium of instruction for all. Thirdly, language is a matter for prestige or dignity and the English language has been adopting as a medium of instruction. In Nepal, irrespective of inhabitants of over hundred twenty three speech communities, literacy of English is increasing day by day. In context of Nepal, English language is not matter of ignorance but its fluency is fruitful for every student to compete with the world. For this, English teachers must have knowledge that how linguistically diversified students can learn English language.

According to CBS report (2012) 123 languages are spoken in Nepal. It means to nation inherits 123 language systems. The systems of these languages are different with the system of English language. The level of differences and the similarities are
the factors of language learning; more differences more difficult and more similarities less difficult. So, the Contrastive Analysis (CA) should be done for every language prior to English teaching. Contrastive analysis can be done in different levels of language among them phonology or phonemic analysis is one.

In the modern day world, minorities' language like-Maithili speakers are shifting to either dominant language or world lingua franca for scope or opportunities they developed. In the same time, voices of linguistic human rights and preservation and promotion of all languages and medium of instruction in own mother tongue is rising. In this context, this study has attempted to give a track to learning English for Maithili speakers for their professional development.

Finally, in this study, CA has done between English and Maithili language through phonemic analysis in the phonological level and concluded with pedagogical implications.

## Statement of the Problem

Ladefoged (2006, p.33) opines "phonology is the descriptive of the systems and patterns of sounds that occur in a language". Similarly Crystal (2003, p.350) defines phonology as a 'branch of linguistics which studies the sound system of languages'. Phonology, one of the branches of linguistics which deals with the sound system of particular language embodies the phonemic analysis. Most important work of phonemic analysis is determination of phonemes in a language and proceeded by figuring out the environment of occurrence of allophones of that language.

Nepal is the home of linguistic diversities with the four language families, 123 languages (CBS report 2012) has spoken throughout the country. Most of the languages fall under minority in their use, number of speakers and vitality. Number of languages is highly endangered and verge of extinction. Determinations of phonemes are yet to be done in many languages. It seems to be lead linguistic disaster feature. Extinction of any language from the nation will be an extinction of one of the sources of knowledge. So all minority languages should be studied from the very beginning i.e. determination of phonemes or phonemic analysis.

In the context of Nepal, lack of phonemic analysis of student's mother tongue have been appearing as a big problem in classrooms. Phonemic system of English and phonemic system of one's mother tongue do not match. It creates a mentality of difficulty in learning and teaching English language, in case of Maithili speakers, also implies this situation. In our practice, there is no particular attempt made on the analysis of phonemes of different languages. In this situation, this study has attempted to fulfill the urgent requirement of phonemic analysis of Maithili language prior to English language teaching (ELT) for Maithili speakers in the classroom.

## Objectives of this Study

The objectives of this study are as follows:
i. To list out and determine the phonemes of Maithili.
ii. To compare and contrast the phonemes of Maithili with phonemes of English.
iii. To suggest some pedagogical implications.

## Research Questions

The research questions of this study are as follows:
i. What are the phonemes of Maithili language?
ii. Are English and Maithili phonemes phonemically similar or different?
iii. How the Maithili phonemes are similar and different with English phonemes?

## Significant of the Study

Phonemic analysis is the work which opens the door to analyze the language in advance by finding out and determining the phonemes of Maithili language. It is the first study of Maithili language regarding phonological comparison with English language in the context of Nepal. Thus, it will start the discussion on phonological comparison of diverse mother tongue of Nepal with the English language prior to ELT class. This study is relevant and significant in many ways; firstly, this study is helpful for teacher to develop an ability to pronounce Maithili tongue to reflect English language for target students. Secondly, it will help the policy makers,
curriculum developers, linguists, textbook writer, and stakeholders to develop curriculum of Maithili language as well as curriculum of English and Nepali language relevant to the Maithili speaking students in future. Lastly, but not least, this study will be helpful for its documentation in some considerable extent.

## Delimitation of the Study

This study had the following delimitations:
i. This study was based on the exploration of the consonant phonemes of Maithili language.
ii. It was limited to the phonemic analysis of Maithili consonant sounds.
iii. It will be limited to carry out the contrastive distribution of the sounds.
iv. It was limited in the sense that the primary data were taken from only 35 native speakers of Maithili language based on Sirhali dialect.
v. Only secondary sources will be used for data of English.
vi. 25 years above aged were informants in this study.

## Operational Definition of the Key Terms

The operational definitions of the key terms are as follows:

Phoneme: The term 'phoneme' in this study refers to minimal distinctive sounds of Maithili language.

Maithili: In this study 'Maithili' refers to the native people of Eastern part of Trai region (Sirha District) and the name of the language they originally speak.

Minimal Pair: In this study, the term 'minimal pair' refers to set of pairs of meaningful Maithili sounds except single alternative sound in the identical environment.

Phonemic Analysis: The term 'phonemic Analysis' in this study refers to determination of Maithili phonemes and their comparison and contrast with the English phonemes.

Contrastive Analysis: The term 'Contrastive Analysis' in this study refers to find out the similarities and differences between Maithili and English language and then predicting the areas of difficulty in learning of the English language to Maithili speakers.

## CHAPTER II

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter comprises review of related theoretical literatures, review of related empirical literatures, implications of the review for the study and conceptual framework of the study.

## Review of Related Theoretical Literature

This sub-section discusses with different theoretical perspectives related to the discussion of phonetics, phonology, phonemic analysis, inventory of English phonemes, introduction of Maithili language and contrastive analysis.

## Phonetics

Phonetics is the scientific study of human speech sounds. Human communication is primarily based on speech. One's speaking or vocal noise is intended to communicate to other. The speech we use today is the factor what we are today, unlike other creatures on earth. The science, which studies this human entity; the speech sounds, comes under phonetics.

Ladefoged (2001, p.1) opines "phonetics is concerned with describing the speech sounds that occur in the language of the world". Crystal (2003, p.349) gives the meaning of phonetics as "the science which studies the characteristics of human sound making, especially those sounds used in speech, and provides methods for their description, classification and transcription". OALD (2008) defines phonetics as "the study of speech sounds and how they are produced". Catford (1988, p.1) opines "phonetics is the systematic study of human sounds. It provides means of describing and classifying virtually all sounds that can be produced by human vocal tract". Hyman (1975) describes that phonetics study tells how the sounds of a language are made and what their acoustic properties are.

The speech sounds comprise three aspects; production, perception, and transmission. They are entitled as articulatory phonetics, acoustic phonetics, and auditory phonetics in linguistics. These are the core study areas of phonetics. The description of these areas is made by a figure as following:

Figure 1: Aspect of Phonetics


Articulatory Phonetics: It is the study of the production of speech sounds. It describes how vowels and consonants are produced or articulated in various speech organs. The IPA classification is the contribution of this phonetics.

Acoustic Phonetics: It studies the way in which the air vibrates between the mouth of the speaker and the ear of the listener. It has achieved a good deal of success in matter of the study of the vowel sounds but regarding consonants, it has not reached final conclusion.

Auditory Phonetics: It deals with the perception of speech sounds. It studies perceptual response to speech sounds as mediated by ear, auditory nerve and brain.

## Scope of Phonetics

O' Corner (1973, as cited in Maharjan, 2013) has talked the four scopes of phonetics. They are as follows:
i. Language Analysis

One of the areas of phonetics is transcription of sounds of a particular language. This makes a sound system to looking forward into determination of phonemes with suspicious pairs. Developing writing system of desired language starts from here.
ii. Language Teaching

The study of phonetics makes language teachers ease to diagnose errors committed by the students in the classroom due to influence of mother tongue.

Correction of these errors and competent of pronunciation in target language is expected in language teaching learning classroom. The study of phonetics is the main course towards this problem solving.
iii. Speech Therapy

The knowledge of phonetics is helpful to treatment of some speech disorders like; cleft palate patient, cleft lips patient, congenitally deaf child and abnormal linguistic behavior especially when associated with medical conditions.
iv. Communications

The study of phonetics is very helpful to all sorts of communications as phonetics carries the study of human speech sounds. Articulatory, acoustic and auditory phonetics relates the production, transmission and perception of speech sounds respectively. These all, regard the communications.

## Phonology

Phonology refers to the study of sound system i.e. the study of how speech sounds structure and function in a language. It aims to determination of phonemes and exploration of environment of their occurrence in a language. Ladefoged (2006, p.33) opines "phonology is the description of the systems and patterns of sounds that occur in a language" similarly, Hyman (1975, p.1) "phonology is the study of sound system of language". Crystal (2003, p.350) defines "phonology as a branch of linguistics which studies the sounds systems of language". To sum up, phonology studies how sounds are structured within a system of the language and weather the sounds are meaningful or not in a particular context. Every language has different sound systems in their pattern and use and this can be explored through phonology.Dovrovolsky (1997, as cited in Rai, 2016) mentions the phonology as the component of a grammar made up of the elements and principles that determine how sounds vary and pattern in a language. Hyman (1975, as cited in Rai, 2016) writes about phonology as a study of how speech sounds structure and function in phonology as a study of how speech sounds structure and function in languages. Crystal (2003) defines the phonology as the branch of linguistics which studies the sound system of languages.

To sum up, phonology is the study of sound system in any languages that ignite to describe the use and pattern of sound systems. Every language has different sound systems in their pattern and use and this can be explored through phonology.

Phonology, a branch of linguistics which attempts to discover general principles that underlie the patterning of sounds in human language. The goal of phonology is, then, to study the properties of the sound systems which speakers must learn or internalize in order to use their language for the purpose of communication (Hyman, 1975, p.1). Phonemic analysis tries to aware of what is permissible word in a particular language. It implies phonological awareness of reading and writing in the language.

The phoneme, minimal unit of the sound system of a language (Crystal 2003, p.34) is always distinctive in meaning. It is 'minimal' and 'distinctive' in the sense it cannot be further split and if the phoneme is replaced by another some category sound in the identical environment, meaning changes. The language belong to some language family may vary the numbers of phonemes. The determination of phonemes is the fundamental and most first work in the study of any language. Because it is the basis for learning language and orthographydevelopment. Phonology is the second aspects of linguistic study following phonetics are preceded by morphology. Figure 2 make clear about position of the phonology in the discipline; linguistics.

Figure 2: Phonology in Linguistics


Phonological systems of language have two scopes. Firstly, an inventory of the phonemes, secondly, rules which specify the environment of occurrences of the phonemes.

Phonology has general, theoretical and applied importance in language teaching and learning. General importance is related to speakers of a language as the speaker can internalize the sound systems and pattern of language to be fluent in his/her mother tongue. Theoretical importance is related to carrying out linguistic research in the target language as knowledge of phonology makes the push forward to know the pattern of linguistic unit in language. Applied importance of phonology is related to implication of phonemic system of knowledge to literacy experts, teachers, actors, curriculum developers, language learners, speech therapists, neurologists, police and communication engineers. To sum up, importance of phonology is drawn in the following figure.

Figure 3: Importance or Scope of Phonology


## Phonemic Analysis

Phonemic analysis is simply known as classical phonology. It is the core part of the phonology. It is the core part of the phonology as it is the discipline to describe sound pattern and function in the language. Winter (2014) mentions two points for phonemic analysis that what exactly it involves:
i. Establishing the set of phonemes in a language.
ii. Figure out the phonological rules that determine the environments where allophones occur.

A phonemic analysis reveals if the studied phonemes of the particular language are in complimentary distribution, contrastive distribution or in free variation. Phonemic analysis has the certain procedures to carry out. The common procedures are as follows:
i. Making inventories of transcribed phones
ii. Setting of minimal pairs
iii. Determination of phonemes
iv. Determination of allophones
v. Determination of distribution of phonemes
vi. Description of consonant clusters
vii. Description of syllabus structure

## Principle of Phonemic Analysis

Phonemic analysis has certain principles to carry out. The general principles are; principle of contrastive and complementary distribution, principle of phonetic similarity, principle of free variation, principle of economy, principle of pattern congruity, and principle of plausibility.

Contrastive and complementary denotes that phonemes are always determined by their distinctive or contrastive proofs and allophones come as complementation of phonemes, phonetic similarity and free variation denote property of allophones share high degree of phonetic similarity and substitution of sound in identical environment without causing meaning change respectively. Economy here refers to economic or reduced use of sound in speech and pattern contiguity refers to occurrence of sound always follow regular pattern as symmetrical. Plausibility refers to occurrence of sounds in two or more environments. The principle of phonemic analysis can be summarized in the figure 4. The core ideas of above are adopted from Yadav (2004, p.127-130). In this study, first one principle has adopted for phonemic analysis.

Figure 4: Principles of Phonemic Analysis


## Articulation of Consonant Sounds

Speech production takes place when airflow from the lungs is comes out through speech organs. While production of consonant sounds, airflow is either completely blocked or partially restricted so that there is an audible friction. Consonant sounds are described by their significant phonetic features like; place, manner of articulation, voicing and aspiration.

## Place of Articulation

The place of articulation refers to the point in the vocal tract where the airflow is modified to produce different sounds. In producing consonants these points can be found at the lips, within the oral cavity, in the pharynx, and at the glottis. With the environment of different speech organs, consonants are categorized bilabial, labiodental, dental, alveolar, post-alveolar, retroflex, palatal, velar, glottal etc.

## i. Bilabial

During the production of bilabial sound two lips firm completely closure, when it suddenly release, bilabial sounds are produced. In English /p/, /b/, and $/ \mathrm{m} /$ are bilabial sounds.
ii. Labio-dental

Lower lip makes a narrowing with upper teeth to produced labio-dental sounds. In English /f/ and /v/ are labio-dental sounds.
iii. Dental

Tip of the tongue touches the pack part of the upper teeth to produced sounds. In English, / $\theta /$ and / $\delta /$ are dentals.
iv. Alveolar

Front of the tongue touches or brought near to the alveolar ridge to produced alveolar sounds. In English, /t/, /d/, /n/, /s/, /z/, /r/, are alveolar sounds.
v. Post-alveolar

Front of the tongue raises to the back part of the alveolar ridge to produced post-alveolar sounds. In English, / $/ \mathrm{J} /$ / / $3 /$, / $\mathrm{f} /$ and $/ \mathrm{d} 3 /$ are post-alveolar sounds.
vi. Palatal

Middle of the tongue raises to narrow to palate to produced palatal sounds. In English, /j/ is palatal sound.
vii. Velar

Back of the tongue raises to touch to the velum to produced velar sounds. In English, /k/, /g/ and $/ \mathrm{y} /$ are nasal sounds.
viii. Glottal

Vocal cords become active to produced glottal sounds. In English /h/ is glottal sound.

## Manner of Articulation

Manner of articulation refers to types of structures made in vocal tract while production of consonant. On the basis of structures in vocal tract, consonants are categorized as stop, nasal, fricative, lateral, affricate, trill, tap/flap, approximant.
i. Stop

Stop sounds are produced with the either complete or momentary closure of airflow through the vocal tract. It is also called plosive sounds. In English, /p/, /t/, $/ \mathrm{k} /$, $\mathrm{b} / \mathrm{l} / \mathrm{d} /, / \mathrm{g} /, / \mathrm{m} /, / \mathrm{n} /, / \mathrm{y} /$ are stop sounds.
ii. Nasal

Nasal sounds are produced with the total closure of the oral cavity and passing of airflow through nasal cavity. In English, /m/, /n/, / y/ are nasal sounds.
iii. Fricative

Fricative sounds are produced with the friction when there is made very narrow space in vocal tract. In English, /f/, /v/, / $\theta /$ / / $\delta /, / \mathrm{s} /$, /z/, / / /, / / / / /h/ are fricative sounds.
iv. Affricate

Affricate sounds are produced when speech organs make nearly closure to pass airflow with friction. In English, / $\mathrm{f} /$ and $/ \mathrm{d} /$ / are affricate sounds.
v. Trill

Trill sound is produced when vibrating tip of the tongue taps several times against alveolar ridge and airflow passes in-between of tapping with friction. In English, /r/ is trill sound.
vi. Tap

Tap are also produced just like the trill but in these sounds, there is a single contact or tap between two organs of articulation. In Maithili /r/ is tap sound.
vii. Lateral

Lateral sound is produced without friction, through tip of the tongue makes a light contact with the alveolar ridge to form a closure then the air is released through the mouth along the both lower sides of the tongue. In English, $/ 1 /$ is lateral sound.
viii. Approximant

Approximant are also called frictionless consonants. In the production of approximants there is a quite closure in vocal tract but remain enough gap to airflow without audible friction as nearly same as production of vowels. In English, /w/, /j/, is approximant sounds.

## Voicing

Voicing is a term used to refer to the vibration of the vocal cords during articulation. If a consonant is produced with no vibration in the vocal cords, it is a voiceless consonant. If a consonant is produced with the vibration in the vocal cords, it is called voiced consonants. In English, voiceless and voiced consonants are classified as following:
i. Voiceless /p/, /t/, /k/, /f/, /s/, /f/, / $\theta /$ / /ff/, /h/.
ii. Voiced
/b/, /d/, /g/, /v/, /z/, / उ/, / ð/, / ḑ/, /m/, /n/, / y/, /r/, /l/, /w/, /j/

## Aspiration

In terms of aspiration, consonants are classified in to two types: aspirated and unaspirated while production of aspirated sound's a bunch of force of airflow from the lungs is needed or the feature of [h] sound is accompanied with the articulation of particular sounds. It is audible breath which may accompany a sounds articulation, as when certain types of plosive consonants are released (Crystal, 2009, p.37), unaspirated sounds do not have such feature. Aspiration is symbolized by small raised $\left[^{\mathrm{h}}\right]$.

In English, allophonic variants; $\left[\mathrm{p}^{\mathrm{h}}\right],\left[\mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}\right],\left[\mathrm{k}^{\mathrm{h}}\right]$ of phonemes $/ \mathrm{p} /$, /t/, /k/ are aspirated.

## Minimal Pair

Minimal pair is couple of words, which has identical environment except only one sound; making meaning change or difference. This is one of the discovery procedures used in phonology to determine which sounds belongs to the same class, or phoneme (Crystal, 2009, p.294).

While setting up minimal pair, a pair of words is picked up, which have same sounds except single sound. If the sound is exchanged by same class category sound and meaning changes; those sounds are determined as phoneme. If sounds do not change meaning, those sounds are determined as allophones. In English, /pin/ and /bin/ make a minimal pair. Here, $/ \mathrm{p} /$ and $/ \mathrm{b} /$ sounds are belonging to same category
and except these sounds; other environments are same in the words. Exchange of these particular sounds makes meaning change as /pin/ become /bin/ and vice versa. Now, /p/ and /b/ are phonemes in English. But in the pair of /pin/ and [ $\mathrm{p}^{\mathrm{h}}$ in] meanings do not change in the exchange of $/ \mathrm{p} /$ and $\left[\mathrm{p}^{\mathrm{h}}\right]$. In this case, $/ \mathrm{p} /$ and $\left[\mathrm{p}^{\mathrm{h}}\right]$ are not phonemes; instead, $\left[\mathrm{p}^{\mathrm{h}}\right]$ is allophone of $/ \mathrm{p} /$.

## Inventory of English Consonants

English language has 44 phonemes; having 24 consonants and 20 vowels. Eight vowels are diphthongs. Consonants are of bilabial, labio-dental, dental, alveolar, palatal, velar and glottal in place of articulation and stop, fricative, affricate, nasal, liquid or glide in manner of articulation. Giegerich (2009, p.34) has presented the basic inventory of English consonants as table 1:

## Table 1: Inventory of English Consonants

| /p/ | pie | Pooh | leap | rip | ripe write | mitten |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $/ \mathrm{k} /$ | kye | coo | leak | rick |  |  |
| /b/ | buy | boo |  | rib |  |  |
| /d/ | die | do | lead | rid | ride |  |
| $/ \mathrm{g} /$ | guy | goo | league | rig |  |  |
| /tf/ |  | chew | leech | rich |  | Mitchum |
| /d3/ |  | Jew |  | ridge |  | pigeon |
| $/ \mathrm{m} /$ | my | moue |  | rim | rhyme |  |
| /n/ | nigh | gnu | lean |  | Rhine |  |
| /0/ |  |  |  | ring |  |  |
| /f/ | fie |  | leaf | riff | rife |  |
| /6/ | thigh |  | Leith |  |  |  |
| /s/ | sigh | sue | lease |  | rice |  |
| /5/ | shy | shoe | leash |  |  | mission |
| /v/ | vie |  | leave |  |  |  |
| $/ \mathrm{d} /$ | thy |  |  |  | writhe |  |
| /z' |  | zoo |  |  | rise | mizzen |
| /3/ |  |  |  |  |  | vision |
| / | lie | 100 |  |  | rile |  |
| /r/ | rye | rue | leer |  |  |  |
| /w/ | Wye | woo |  |  |  |  |
| fi |  | you |  |  |  |  |
| /h/ | high | who |  |  |  |  |

## Introduction of Maithili Language

Maithili is one of the most prosperous New Indo-Aryan languages (NIA) spoken in two bordering nation Nepal and India. It is used by around 30 million populace altogether. According to international P.E.N (poets, Essayists and Novelists), it is the $16^{\text {th }}$ largest languages of India. In Nepal, Maithili enjoys the second position in terms of its speakers, Nepali, being the first in rank. Some $12 \%$ of Nepali total population- specially, Terai people seprated in different districts namely Siraha, Sunsari, Morang, Saptory, Udaypur, Dhanusha, Mahotari and Sarlahi use Maithili as their mother tongue. Janakpur is an important linguistic center of Maithili.

In the past, Maithili was recognized either as a dilect of Bengali (Beames 1872-791 reprint 1966: 84-85 as cited in Y, Ramawatar), or eastern Hindi. Today however it is recognized as a distinct language and taught as such in the Indian university of Calcutta, Bihar, Patna, Bhagalpur, Darbhanga and the Tribhuvan university of Nepal. In the past, Maithili was written in the Mithilaskar script, which is akin to the Bengali writing system. No definite date can be determined as to when Maithili began to be written in the Devanagari script. This is an extrapolation, based on the fact that Beames treats Vidyapati $(1360-1448)$ the greatest Maithili poet as a Bengali poet.

No attempt has yet been made to determine the number of people who can use Maithili as their additional language. Maithili, which is written in the Devnagari script nowadays, has its own script known as Tirhuta or Mithilakshar previously. Besides, Mithilakshar, Kaithi script was also used by Kayasthas, the ease of writers and clerks especially in keeping written records at government and private levels. However, for the sake of ease in learn ability and printing, they have virtually been placed totally by Devanagari. Which is script used in writing some Indo-Aryan languages such as Nepali, Hindi, Bhojpuri etc.(Yadav,1999).

Figure 5: Genetic relation of Maithili to other NIA Languages of Eastern India, based on S. Jha (1958)


## Dialects of Maithili

Maithili varies greatly in dialects. The standard from of Maithili is central Maithli which is mainly spoken in Darbhanga, Begusarai, Madhubani and Saharsa district in Bihar, India. There are different dialect of Maithili like, Baljika, Thethi, Angika, Eastern, Southern and several other dialects of Maithili are spoken in India of Maithili are spoken in India and Nepal including Dehati, Deshi, Kishan, Bantar, Bermeli, Musar, Tati and Jolha. All the dialects are intelligible to native Maithili speakers. Dialect of Maithili is also seems different in respect to the district wise of Maithili speaking areas of Nepal.

## Population of Maithili Mother Tongue

According to the CBS report (2012), the numbers of Maithili speakers are 3,092,532 (distribution is as table 2). This is hugely decreased number in previous census, the number of Maithili speakers were 11053255 in comparison with the number of previous census (2001). It shows the rapid decreasing of the Maithili speakers at present. It is the sign of endangerment to this language in near future.

Table 2: Population of Maithili Mother Tongue

| Urban | 387,884 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Rural | $2,704,646$ |
| Mountain | 3,254 |
| Hill | 85,031 |
| Terai | $3,004,245$ |
| Eastern | $1,560,097$ |
| Central | 1462,298 |
| Western | 52,657 |
| Mid-western | 8583 |
| Far-western | 8895 |

The data shows that Maithili speakers are centralized in eastern, rural and Terai areas. It is the area, where they originally belong. This data makes a picture of migration of the Miathili speakers to urban, Hill and Central regions of Nepal.

## Phonemes of Maithili Language

Maithili language has got some observations regarding number of phonemes. YadavRamawatar (2001) pointed out 8 vowels and 26 consonants as phonemes. Jha, S.K(1993) pointed out 8 vowels and 30 consonant phonemes.

By observing empirical literature of Maithili phonology one can make conclusion regarding inventories of Maithili phonemes as following:

- Vowels i

| i |  | u |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| e | ə | o |
| æ | a | 0 |

- Consonants:

| $p$ | $p^{h}$ | $b$ | $b^{h}$ | $m$ |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $t$ | $t^{h}$ | $d$ | $d^{h}$ | $n$ | $r$ | $s$ | l |


| $t$ | $\underline{t}^{h}$ | $d$ | $d^{h}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| $c$ | $c^{h}$ | $j$ | $j^{h}$ |
| $k$ | $k^{h}$ | $g$ | $g^{h}$ |
| $h$ |  |  |  |

## Contrastive Analysis

Contrastive Analysis (CA) is an approach to the study of SLA which involves predicting and explaining learner's problems based on a comparison of L1 and L2 to determine similarities and differences (Troike Muriel Saville, 2006, p.34). It goal to language teaching is find out or predict the areas of difficulties or possible errors committed by language learner. Robert Lado was the proponent explanatory person of this discipline. In his book "Linguistic Across Culture" published in 1957, Lado has make the following propositions as the functional assumption of his book:
I. Individuals tend to transfer the forms and meaning, and the distribution of form and meaning of their native language and culture to the foreign language and culture both productively when attempting to speak the language and respectively when attempting to grasp and understand the lg.
II. In the comparison between native and foreign language lies the key to ease or difficulty in foreign language learning.
III. The teacher who has made a comparison of the foreign $\lg$ with the native $\lg$ of the students will know better what the real learning problems are and can better provide for teaching them.

Johanrson (2008) concludes the basic ideas of CA as follows:
i. Describe and compare the mother first $\lg$ and second $\lg$.
ii. Predict point of difficulty.
iii. Use the results in order to improve teaching materials.

It is most important for the present time in teaching learning second language. The finding of CA can help teachers to come out of problems in difficulties found in students' learning. Moreover, it is the first and for most important work for language policy makers, curriculum developers, text book writers and stakeholders and present better way to attend in the class of language teaching. The procedures and the implications of CA is summarized as in the following figure:

Figure 6: Procedure and implication of $\mathbf{C A}$


## Review of the Related Empirical Literature

One of the literatures on the phonemic analysis of language from Nepal comparing with English language was found. And get some of the languages around the globe are analyzed with English phonology which has theoretically relation with this study helps me to process this study ahead. Thus, those literatures are reviewed in this study. So, that the purpose of this research is clear on its way.

Rahimpur and Dovise (2010) carried out a research entitled "A Phonological Contrastive Analysis of Kurdish and English" in this research; researchers compared and contrasted the sound systems of Kurdish and English for pedagogical aims. The study has focused on segmental and supra segmental comparison and contrast to find the similarities and differences between the two systems and hence the potential areas of difficulty in teaching English to Kurdish native students. The researchers revealed
the generalization of sound systems of the two languages as consonants are more in Kurdish than English and vowels are more in English than in Kurdish and result teaching English for Kurdish native is not without issue.

Rai (2016) carried out a research entitled "Phonemic Analysis of Bantawa and English Sounds". The purpose of this study is to determine the phonemes of Bantawa language and compare and contrast those sounds with English sounds. The main purpose of this study is to facilitate the Bantawa learners of learning English language. The researcher found that many Bantawa speakers feel English; a most difficult subject. One of the most vigorous difficulties is found in pronunciation. The researcher suggested that phonemic analysis should be done before ELT class.

YadavRamawatar (20011) wrote a book entitled "A Reference Grammar of Maithili". This book covers an inventory of Maithili sounds and other aspects of grammar.

Hoa (1965) carried out a research entitled "A phonological contrastive study of Vietnamese and English". The purpose of the study is to point out the similarities and differences of the English and Vietnamese sound system in order to help Vietnamese and Americans, both teachers and learners alike, to better teach or learn English as a foreign language.

The researcher himself is the main source of his data as he is the speaker of Hue direct of Vietnamese. He used the survey methodology to find out the vowels, consonants prosodic features and tones of his mother tongue and he compared these linguistic features to the English. The researcher pointed out the number of phonemes is different and some of them are unique to next language.

Kwambehar and Waya (2013) carried out a research entitled "A phonemic contrastive analysis of Tiv and English Segmental". The purpose of the research is compare and contrast the consonantal vocalic segmental of both English and Tiv languages, ascertaining some areas of difficulty where the Tiv learner of English is bound to have challenges. The researchers ascertain that the Tiv consonants are more in number than the English comments, while the English vowels are the same in number with those of Tiv with slight differences in quality. The conclusion of the research is that, there exist both phonological differences and similarities and the differences do account for the possible errors committed by English learner of Tiv
speaker Rashid and Zubairu (2015) carried out a research on "Contrastive analysis of the segmental phonemes of English and Hausa Languages". The study aimed to identify the similarities and differences between the segmental phonemes of English and Hausa languages and to predict learning difficulties among the Hausa native to learning English. The researchers pointed out that the Hausa speakers in Lxigeria learn English as a second language has been heavily influence of their native language. The study concluded the cause of difficulty in pronouncing English among the Hausa speakers is the segmental deviation.

Yadav Ramawatar (2001) pointed out 8 vowels and 26 consonants in Maithili in a book entitled "A Reference Grammar of Maithili".

## Implications of the Review for the Study

Ladefoged (2006, p.33) opines "phonology is the description of the systems and patterns of sounds that occur in language". Winter (2014) mentions two points for phonemic analysis that what exactly it involves; establishing the set of phonemes in a language and figure out the phonological rules that determine the environments where allophones occur. Phonemic analysis has certain principles to carry out. The general principles are: principle of contrastive and complementary distribution, principle of phonetic similarity, principle of free variation, principle of economy, and principle of plausibility are adopted from Yadav (2004).

There are different previous researches works have been reviewed considering them as useful to present research work. These research works have been carried out with different objectives, methodology, and research question and conceptual framework. I got simplified and crucial ideas from the literature. I will go through, my research design, methodology and procedures of data analysis is thoroughly guided by literatures I review here. Hoa (1965) as it was carried out to comparative study of English and a Tibeto-Burman language; Vietnamese. In this study inventories of both languages have made distinctly and made the phonemic analysis in different chapters. In next chapter phonological contrastive analysis has made through common features segments, analysis of clusters etc. Idea has taken through this study to organize the study in context of different levels of analysis. Doraise and Rahimpour (2010) as it made me clear to from the design of this study. Kurdish and English language are
analyzed under the theory of phonological contrastive analysis phonological segments are described differently of each language and then contrasts are analyzed in the following title. As my study is based on determination of phonemic inventories and data collection is based on lexical level. Rai (2016) carried out a research entitled "Phonemic Analysis of Bantawa and English Sounds". The purpose of this study is to determine the phonemes of Bantawa language and compare and contrast those sounds with English sounds. This study gives me to clear ideas to devise my study units and data collection procedures as this study has mentioned the data used in the study in following chapter.

After reserving those research works I updated myself with research process, design and methodological tools which are crucial to enhance my research horizon.

## Conceptual Framework

This study is based on theories of contrastive analysis. The overall conceptual framework of my study is listing out the phonemes of both languages. They will be compared and contrasted and it follows the finding of the comparison for action or application.

Figure 7: Conceptual Framework of the Phonemic Analysis of the Study


## CHAPTER III

## METHODS AND PROCEDURES OF THE STUDY

This chapter comprises the design and method of the study, population sample and sampling strategy, study area/ field, data collection tools and techniques, data collection procedures and data analysis interpretation procedures.

## Design of the Study

This study was based on survey research design. I have surveyed the phonemes of Maithili and compare and contrast them with English. The research design defines identification of the problem to listing the findings. Survey is the research design that is mostly used in social science including in the field of education.

I use the model of research design described by Nunan (2010) as following:

to find out and fix the Maithili and English language phonemes a survey had conducted through chart sheet and almost literatures had used for it.

## Population, Sample and Sampling Strategy

The population of this study were the speakers of Maithili language. In order to determine the phonemes of Maithili language. I had selected 35 fluent native
speakers of Maithili language as the sample. The sample was selected by using judgmental non-random sampling procedure.

## Research Tools

The research tools for this study were comparative wordlists and survey sheet. The purpose of using comparative world lists is to find out the varieties of Maithili sounds, which are transcribed in IPA. Correspondent words, relating English consonants are set out or compared through wordlist transcription. Survey sheet was used for the determination of Maithili phonemes from the different literatures made from the scholars in past days.

## Sources of Data

Data were taken from both sources (primary and secondary). English data were taken from secondary sources and Maithili data was taken from primary as well as secondary sources.

## Data Collection Procedure

First of all, I was prepared the inventories of English phonemes and make the correspondent wordlist of Maithili language then went to the field, took permission from concerned authority, established rapport with respondent, administered the research tools and finally collect the data.

## Data Analysis Procedure

This research had been quantitative than qualitative analysis. Firstly and more prominently, analysis was done manually.

## Ethical Consideration

While conducting research, the following research ethics were followed.
i. Other people's feelings were sensitizing.
ii. I made sure that I got their permission to use the information that I will be gathering.
iii. I was focused on voluntary participation.
iv. No harm to the participants.
v. Professional code of conduct
vi. Respect
vii. I used information from the research only for the purpose for which I asked permission.

## CHAPTER IV

## ANALYSIS OF DATA AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

This chapter comprises analysis of data interpretation of results and summary of the findings.

## Analysis and Interpretation of Data

The analysis made in this chapter is based on the analysis of consonants of Maithili language. The phonemes were collected from secondary sources but they are determined, analyzed and interpreted with the discussion with the informants selected as sample of this study.

## The Consonants of Maithili

There were 8 vowels and 26 consonants in Maithili language (as previously described in p. 20). So, before making phonemic analysis, this study requires determination of Maithili consonants by projecting their phonetic appearance and making out their suspicious pairs.

## Projection of Consonants of Maithili

Possible or tentative presence of consonants sounds/ phonemes in Maithili talking is taken as projection of Maithili consonants in this study. The data below is retrieved from the recorded data from the wordlists (in Appendixes) and other sources of Materials. The projection of the sounds is given in the following table:

Table 3: Projection of Consonants of Maithili.

| Words | Meaning | Possible phonemes |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| [pæbon] | Wind | [p] |
| [ ${ }^{\text {h }} \mathrm{ul}$ ] | Flower | [ $\mathrm{p}^{\mathrm{h}}$ ] |
| [ba:r] | Twelve | [b] |
| [ $\mathrm{b}^{\mathrm{h} u l}$ ] | Forget | [ $\mathrm{b}^{\mathrm{h}}$ ] |
| [mo:gi] | Women | [m] |
| [ta:r] | Below | [t] |
| [ $\mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h} æ \mathrm{n}}$ ] | Yards of cloth | [ $\mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}$ ] |
| [dænfə] | Bite | [d] |
| [dha:n] | Paddy | [d ${ }^{\text {h }}$ ] |
| [nædJdik] | Hear | [n] |
| [rætri] | Night | [r] |
| [sæb] | All | [s] |
| [1 \%:j] | Shame | [1] |
| [top] | Helment | [t] |
|  | Drop | [ $\mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}$ ] |
| [ ${ }^{\text {h }}$ ah] | Jealousy | [ḍ ] |
| [ ${ }^{\text {h }} \mathrm{ah}$ ] | Knock down | [d ${ }^{\text {h }}$ ] |
| [cor] | Thief | [c] |
| [ ${ }^{\text {h }}$ or] | Edge | [ $\mathrm{c}^{\mathrm{h}}$ ] |
| [jor] | Strength | [j] |
| [j ${ }^{\text {h or] }}$ | Soup | [j'] |
| [ka:ri] | Black | [k] |
| [ $\mathrm{k}^{\mathrm{h}} \mathrm{am}$ ] | Pole | [ $\left.\mathrm{k}^{\mathrm{h}}\right]$ |
| [gam] | Village | [g] |
| [ $\mathrm{g}^{\mathrm{h}} \mathrm{am}$ ] | Sweat | [ $\mathrm{g}^{\mathrm{h}}$ ] |
| [hat ${ }^{\text {h }}$ ] | Hand | [h] |

With this projection of Maithili consonants; instances can be seen as appearances of more aspirated sounds and retroflex sounds. Labio-dental, alveolar and plato-alveolar sounds do not come in this projection. Glottal stop sound is found in Maithili lexicon.

## Identification of Minimal pairs

The projected consonant sounds make some same-class minimal pairs for their clear-cut contrast to be the phonemes. Now, the minimal pairs of sounds can be identified as following as suspicious pairs of Maithili consonants.
i. Bilabial plosives

$\mathrm{b} \quad \sim \quad \mathrm{b}^{\mathrm{h}}$
ii. Dental plosives
$\mathrm{t} \quad \sim \quad \mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}$
$\mathrm{d} \quad \sim \quad \mathrm{d}^{\mathrm{h}}$
iv. Retroflex plosives
$t \quad \sim \quad t^{\text {h }}$
$\underset{\sim}{d} \quad \sim \quad ̣^{h}$
v. Velar plosives
k
$k^{h}$
$\mathrm{g} \quad \sim \quad \mathrm{g}^{\mathrm{h}}$
vi. Nasals
$\mathrm{m} \sim \mathrm{n}$
vii. Palatal Affricates

| c | $\sim$ | $\mathrm{c}^{\mathrm{h}}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| j | $\sim$ | $\mathrm{j}^{\mathrm{h}}$ |

viii. Fricatives
s
h

## Minimal pair for Clear- cut Contrast

Those set of suspicious pairs make enough query to set minimal pairs of sounds and prove them to be as phonemes. The minimal pairs, found to those sounds, are as following:

| p | $\sim$ | $\mathrm{p}^{\text {h }}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| /p/ | /pul/ | 'bridge' |
| $/ \mathrm{p}^{\text {h/ }}$ | /phul/ | 'flower' |
| b | $\sim$ | $\mathrm{b}^{\text {h }}$ |
| /b/ | /bul/ | 'walk' |
| $/ b^{\text {h/ }}$ | /bhul/ | 'forget' |
| t | $\sim$ | $\mathrm{t}^{\text {h }}$ |
| /t/ | /tan/ | 'music' |
| $/ \mathrm{t}^{\text {h }}$ / | /than/ | 'yards of cloth' |
| d | $\sim$ | $\mathrm{d}^{\text {h }}$ |
| /d/ | /dan/ | 'charity' |
| $/ \mathrm{d}^{\text {h/ }}$ | /dhan/ | 'paddy' |
| t | $\sim$ | $t^{\text {h }}$ |
| /t / | /t ik/ | 'pigtail' |
| $/ \mathrm{t}^{\text {h }}$ / | $/ t^{\text {h }} \mathrm{ik} /$ | 'true' |
| d | $\sim$ | $\mathrm{d}^{\text {h }}$ |
| /ḍ / | /ḍ ol/ | 'small bucket' |
| / d ${ }^{\text {h/ }}$ | /ḍ ${ }^{\text {h}} \mathrm{ol} /$ | 'drum' |
| k | $\sim$ | $k^{\text {h }}$ |
| /k/ | /kam/ | 'work' |
| /k $\mathrm{k}^{\text {/ }}$ | /kham/ | 'pole' |
| g | $\sim$ | $\mathrm{g}^{\text {h }}$ |


| /g/ | /gam/ |  | 'village' |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| / g ${ }^{\text {/ }}$ | /gham/ |  | 'sweat' |
| c | $\sim$ | $c^{\text {h }}$ |  |
| /c/ | /cor/ |  | 'thief' |
| $/ \mathrm{c}^{\text {h/ }}$ | /chor/ |  | 'edge' |
| j | $\sim$ | $\mathrm{j}^{\text {h }}$ |  |
| /j/ | /jor/ |  | 'strength' |
| /j ${ }^{\text {h/ }}$ | /jhor/ |  | 'soup' |
| m | $\sim$ | n |  |
| /m/ | /mam/ |  | 'mother's brother' |
| /n/ | /nam/ |  | 'name' |
| S | $\sim$ | h |  |
| /s/ | /sat/ |  | 'paste' |
| /h/ | /hat/ |  | 'market' |
| 1 | $\sim$ | r |  |
| /1/ | /laj/ |  | 'shame' |
| /r/ | /raj/ |  | 'nation/ state' |

From these above instances all of the projected sounds get minimal pairs to be the phonemes of Maithili language.

## Determination of Maithili phonemes

Maithili consonants can be determined now from the minimal pairs given (p.31-32). That have clear-contrast with the sounds in the identical environment. Presence of phonemic aspiration, nasal, Tap, fricatives and lateral are found. It proves that 26 consonants are found in Maithili language altogether as following.

Table 4: Consonants of Maithili Language

| p | $\mathrm{p}^{\mathrm{h}}$ | b | $\mathrm{b}^{\mathrm{h}}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| t | $\mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}$ | d | c |
| t | $\mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}$ | d | $\mathrm{a}^{\mathrm{h}}$ |
| k | $\mathrm{k}^{\mathrm{h}}$ | g | $\mathrm{g}^{\mathrm{h}}$ |
| c | $\mathrm{c}^{\mathrm{h}}$ | j | $\mathrm{j}^{\mathrm{h}}$ |
| m | n |  |  |
| s | h |  |  |
| l | r |  |  |

The phonemes found in the Maithili language can be categorized under place of articulation and manner of articulation. Place of articulation represents the involvement of speech organs during pronunciation and manner of articulation denotes the types of stricture or nature of the sound that describes how they produced while articulation. All the consonants of Maithili language can be analyzed in Inventory of Maithili phonemes in following table.

Table 5: Consonant of Maithili in IPA chart inventory
Consonants

|  | Bilabial | Dental | Retroflex | Palatal | Velar | Glottal |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stops | p | t | $t$ |  | k |  |
|  | ph | th | th |  | kh |  |
|  | b | d | d |  | g |  |
|  | bh | dh | ḍ |  | gh |  |
| Affricates |  |  |  | c |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | ch |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | j |  |  |
|  |  |  |  | jh |  |  |
| Nasals | m | n | (n) |  | ( $)$ |  |
| Tap |  | r | (r) |  |  |  |
| Fricatives |  | s | (s) | (s) |  | h |
| Lateral |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |
| Approximants | (w) |  |  | (y) |  |  |
| Vowels |  | Front | Central | Back |  |  |
| High |  | i |  | u |  |  |
| Mid |  | e | 2 | o +/- | nasaliza |  |
| Low |  | $\boldsymbol{x}$ | a |  |  |  |

In the above table, all consonants of Maithili language, found in this study are presented with category and features they carry. Voiced sounds are placed in right corner and aspirated sounds are placed in upper corner.

Among the 26 consonants, 14 are voiced sounds and 10 are aspirated. The discussion of Maithili phonemes in terms of place and manner of articulation is given below:

## Place of Articulation in Maithili Language

There are 6 types of places of articulation take place in Maithili languages. They are bilabial, dental, retroflex, palatal, velar, and glottal. Bilabials are produced with the contact of two lips. They are 5 in numbers in this language; $\mathrm{p}, \mathrm{p}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{b}, \mathrm{b}^{\mathrm{h}}$, and m Dental are produced with the tip or blade of the tongue touching the upper front teeth and alveolar ridge $\mathrm{t}, \mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{d}^{\mathrm{h}} \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{r}, \mathrm{s}$, and l . Retroflex sounds are produced by touching the hard palate by curved blade of the tongue. They are 4 in number in Maithili language as $t, t^{\mathrm{h}}, \underset{̣}{d}, \mathrm{~d}^{\mathrm{h}}$ central part of the tongue raised to touch the palate to produced palatal sound. $\mathrm{c}, \mathrm{c}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{j}, \mathrm{j}^{\mathrm{h}}$ in this language and back of the tongue raised to contact with velum to produced velar sounds; $\mathrm{k}, \mathrm{k}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{g}, \mathrm{g}^{\mathrm{h}}$. Glottal h sound is produced by compressed and suddenly released in the production of glottal sound.

## Manner of Articulation in Maithili Language

There are 6 types of manner of articulations made during the production of Maithili consonants. They are stops or plosive affricate, nasal, tap, fricative, and lateral. Stops or plosive are produced when two speech organs make tightly contact and suddenly release. In Maithili language, 16 sounds are plosives among the 26 consonants. They are $\mathrm{p}, \mathrm{p}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{b}, \mathrm{b}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{t}, \mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{d}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{t}, \mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{d}_{\mathrm{d}}, \mathrm{d}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{k}, \mathrm{k}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{g}$, and $\mathrm{g}^{\mathrm{h}}$. Stops are made in different five places in the speech production; viz lips, alveolus, hard palate, palate, velum and glottis. When two speech organs come very closely together and air from lungs passes with stricture, then affricate sounds produced. They are four in number in the Maithili language. They are $\mathrm{c}, \mathrm{c}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{j}$, and $\mathrm{j}^{\mathrm{h}}$.

Nasal sounds are produced when the air from the lungs make the air from the lungs make the passage through nose. The sounds $m$ and $n$ are nasals of Maithili language. The tap sound ' $r$ ' is produced just like the trills but in this sound there is
single contact or tap between two organs of articulation. Fricatives's' and 'h' produced when two organs come to so close together that the air moving between them produces some audible friction. Lateral ' 1 ' is produced with the escape of air from the two sides in the mouth when closures made in the mouth in the production.

Interpretation of all the consonant sounds in the use of Maithili language is made below with the numerous examples from the Maithili lexicon flowingly.

| Bilabial voiceless stop: / p / |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| / par / | 'across' |
| / a'per / | 'upper' |
| /sap / | 'snake' |
| Bilabial voiceless aspirated stop: / $/{ }^{\mathrm{h}} /$ |  |
| / $\mathrm{p}^{\mathrm{h}} \mathrm{ar} /$ | 'ploughsare' |
| /phul/ | 'flower' |
| / sap ${ }^{\text {/ }}$ | 'clean' |
| Bilabial voiced stop: / b/ |  |
| / babu/ | 'father' |
| / jib / | 'soul' |
| / sb ${ }^{\text {h }}$ bak / | 'lesson' |
| Bilabial voiced aspirated stop: / $\mathrm{b}^{\mathrm{h}} /$ |  |
| / $\mathrm{b}^{\mathrm{h}} \mathrm{ul} /$ | 'forget' |
| / jib ${ }^{\text {h / }}$ | 'tongue' |
| / səb ${ }^{\text {hek }}$ / | 'of every one' |
| Dental voiceless stop: /t/ |  |
| / tarbora / | 'rainbow' |
| / patər / | 'thin' |
| / pat/ | 'leaf' |
| Dental voiceless aspirated stop: / $\mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}$ / |  |
| / $\mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}} \mathrm{an} /$ | 'yards of cloth' |
| / patt ${ }^{\text {h}}$ r/ | 'stone' |
| / pat ${ }^{\text {/ }}$ | 'shape' |
| Dental voiced stop : / d / |  |
| /dan/ | 'charity' |
| / udar/ | 'generous' |


| / bad/ | 'after' |
| :---: | :---: |
| Dental voiced aspirated stop: /d ${ }^{\text {h }}$ |  |
| / d $\mathrm{d}^{\text {an/ }}$ | 'paddy' |
| / u'd ${ }^{\text {har }}$ / | 'on credit' |
| / bad/ | 'lands surrounding a village' |
| Retroflex voiceless stop: / t / |  |
| / ṭop/ | 'helment' |
| / paṭi / | 'wooden board' |
| / kat / | 'cut' |
| Retroflex voiceless aspirated stop: / t ${ }^{\text {h/ }}$ |  |
| $/ t^{\text {h }}$ op/ | 'drop' |
| / pat ${ }^{\text {hi }}{ }^{\text {/ }}$ | 'she goat' |
| / kat ${ }^{\text {h }}$ / | 'wood' |
| Retroflex voiced stop: / ḍ / |  |
| / ḍol/ | 'small bucket' |
| Retroflex voiced stop aspirated stop: / d ${ }^{\mathrm{h}} /$ |  |
| / $\mathrm{d}^{\text {hol }}$ / | 'drum' |
| Velar voiceless stop: / k/ |  |
| / kam/ | 'work' |
| / kəkri/ | 'a fruit' |
| / bik/ | 'sell' |
| Velar voiceless aspirated stop: / $\mathrm{k}^{\mathrm{h}} /$ |  |
| / k ${ }^{\text {ham/ }}$ | 'pole' |
| / $\mathrm{k}^{\mathrm{h}} \mathrm{ek}^{\mathrm{h}} \mathrm{ri}$ / | 'paddy without rice' |
| Velar voiced stop: /g/ |  |
| /gam/ | 'village' |
| /gagri/ | 'small pitcher' |
| /bag/ | 'garden' |
| Velar voiced aspirated: /gh/ |  |
| /g ${ }^{\text {ham / }}$ | 'sweat' |
| $/ g^{\text {h }}$ əg ${ }^{\text {h }} \mathrm{ri} /$ | 'skirt' |
| / bagh/ | 'tiger' |
| Voiceless palatal affricate: /c/ |  |
| / cor/ | 'thief' |


| /o'car / | 'pickle' |
| :---: | :---: |
| / bic/ | 'center' |
| Voiceless palatal aspirated affricate: / $\mathrm{c}^{\mathrm{h}} /$ |  |
| $/ \mathrm{c}^{\mathrm{h}}$ / | 'edge' |
| $/ \partial^{\prime} c^{\text {har }} /$ | 'shower' |
| / $\mathrm{bic}^{\text {h }}$ / | 'pick up' |
| Voiced palatal affricate: / j/ |  |
| / jor/ | 'strength' |
| / bojəl / | 'spoken' |
| / bij/ | 'seed' |
| Voiced palatal as affricate: /j ${ }^{\text {h/ }}$ |  |
| /j ${ }^{\text {h or / }}$ | 'soup' |
| / baj ${ }^{\text {h }}$ l / | 'entangled' |
| / bij ${ }^{\text {/ }}$ | 'rust' |
| Bilabial nasal": / m/ |  |
| /mam/ | 'mother's brother' |
| / name/ | 'famous' |
| / kam/ | 'job' |
| Dental nasal: / n/ |  |
| / nam/ | 'name' |
| / nani/ | 'mother's mother' |
| /kan/ | 'ear' |
| Dental tap: / r/ |  |
| / raj/ | 'nation/ state' |
| / mara/ | 'a kind of fish' |
| / mar/ | 'beat' |
| Dental voiceless fricative: / s/ |  |
| / surja/ | 'the sun' |
| / kəst/ | 'pain' |
| / kos/ | 'treasury' |
| Glottal voiceless fricatives: / h/ |  |
| / hos/ | 'sence' |
| / barhiya/ | 'nice' |
| / pərh/ | 'read' |

Dental voiced lateral: / l/

| /laj/ | 'shame' |
| :--- | :--- |
| /mala/ | 'garland' |
| /mal/ | 'cattle' |

With these plenty use of the lexicons; one can conclude that Maithili language has 26 clear consonant sounds. Aspiration is highly phonemic in this language. Among the 26 consonants, 10 are aspirated phonemes. Four retroflex sounds are found in this language.

Among the 210 words collected in the data; $\mathrm{t}, \mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}, \underset{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}}, \mathrm{d}^{\mathrm{h}}$ sounds come less frequently. Instead of uses of those sounds, sometimes $\mathrm{t}, \mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{d}^{\mathrm{h}}$ can work. It can be assume that the phonemic aspiration is likely to develop or already developed in this language in some considerable extent.

## Comparison and Contrast of Phonemes in Maithili and English Language

In the section above, plenty of discussion on Maithili phonemes has been carried out. In this section, phonemes of Maithili and English have compared and contrasted. To compare the status of phonemes, two comparative tables of phonemes of both languages is made on the basis of place of articulation in table 6 and manner of articulation in table 7 in next page.

Table 6: Comparative table of Maithili and English Consonants Based on Place of Articulation

| Place | Maithili | English |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Bilabial | $\mathrm{P}, \mathrm{p}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{b}, \mathrm{b}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{m}$ | $\mathrm{p}, \mathrm{b}, \mathrm{m}$ |
| Labiodentals |  | $\mathrm{f}, \mathrm{v}$ |
| Dental | $\mathrm{t}, \mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{d}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{r}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{l}$ | $\theta, \mathrm{d}$ |
| Alveolar |  | $\mathrm{n}, \mathrm{t}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{s}, \mathrm{z}, \mathrm{r}, \mathrm{l}$ |
| Plato-alveolar |  | $\mathrm{s}, \mathrm{3}, \mathrm{f}, \mathrm{d}$ |
| Retroflex | $\mathrm{t}, \mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{d}_{\mathrm{d}}, \mathrm{d}^{\mathrm{h}}$ |  |
| Palatal | $\mathrm{c}, \mathrm{c}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{j}, \mathrm{j}^{\mathrm{h}}$ | j |
| Velar | $\mathrm{k}, \mathrm{k}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{g}, \mathrm{g}^{\mathrm{h}}$ | $\mathrm{k}, \mathrm{g}, \mathrm{y}, \mathrm{w}, \mathrm{h}$, |
| Glottal | h | h |

Table7: Comparative Table of Maithili and English Consonants Based on Manner of Articulation.

| Manner | Maithili | English |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Stop | $\mathrm{p}, \mathrm{p}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{b}, \mathrm{b}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{t}, \mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{d}^{\mathrm{h}}, \underline{t}, \mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{c}^{\text {h }}$ | $\mathrm{p}, \mathrm{b}, \mathrm{t}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{k}, \mathrm{g}$ |
|  | $\mathrm{k}, \mathrm{k}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{g}, \mathrm{g}^{\text {h }}$ |  |
| Affricate | $\mathrm{c}, \mathrm{c}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{j}, \mathrm{j}^{\text {h }}$ | ts, ds |
| Nasal | m, n | $\mathrm{m}, \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{y}$ |
| Trill |  | r |
| Tap | r |  |
| Fricatives | s, h | f, v, $\theta$, д, s, z, s, $3, \mathrm{~h}$ |
| Lateral | 1 | 1 |
| Approximants |  | $\mathrm{r}, \mathrm{j}, \mathrm{w}$ |

i. Number of Phonemes and their Status

Maithili language has 26 consonants, while English language has 24 consonants. Maithili has 8 dental sounds regarding place of articulation and 16 stop sounds regarding manner of articulation. Which are highest frequent numbers in the segments. English also has high number of alveolar sounds; as place of articulation. But it has fricative sounds are higher in number regarding manner of articulation.

In place of articulation there are 6 categories for Maithili and 8 categories for English. But regarding, manner of articulation, there are 6 categories for Maithili and 6 categories for English.
ii. Aspiration and Voicing

Voicing is regarded as phonemic features both in English and Maithili languages. For most of the consonants, English has pairs of two sounds, which are voiced and voiceless. Maithili has mostly 2 pairs of sounds in one category because aspiration matters in this language and a pair of aspirated sounds come under. English does not counted for aspiration as it is not distinctive feature for this language.

Among the 26 consonants, 14 sounds are voiced in Maithili and 15 sounds are voiced in English. English has no aspirated sounds but there are 10 aspirated sounds for Maithili. Maithili voiced sounds are $b, b^{h,} d, d^{h}, d^{4}, d^{h}$, $\mathrm{j}, \mathrm{j}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{g}, \mathrm{g}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{m}, \mathrm{n}, \mathrm{r}$ and l , while English voiced sounds are b, d, g, v, z, 3, б, ds, m, n, $\mathrm{y}, \mathrm{r}, \mathrm{l}, \mathrm{w}$ and j .

In those sounds, all aspirated and retroflex sounds of Maithili are unique to English and dental ' $\partial$ ' is not found in Maithili which English has.
iii. Plosive

Maithili language has large numbers of plosive stops among the other sounds. There are altogether 16 plosive sounds where most of the aspirated sounds fall under. Each set has 2 pairs regarding place of articulation. Maithili plosive are $\mathrm{p}, \mathrm{p}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{b}, \mathrm{b}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{t}, \mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}$, $\mathrm{d}, \mathrm{d}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{t}, \mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}, \underset{\text { d }}{ }, \mathrm{d}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{k}, \mathrm{k}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{g}$ and $\mathrm{g}^{\mathrm{h}}$. English has only 6 stops; $\mathrm{p}, \mathrm{b}, \mathrm{t}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{k}$ and g . since aspiration is distinctive phonemic feature in Maithili, large number of aspirated sounds are plosives.

Maithili has 4 types of plosives under place of articulation; /p, $\mathrm{p}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{b}, \mathrm{b}^{\mathrm{h}}, /$ bilabial, /t, $\mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{d}, \mathrm{d}^{\mathrm{h}} /$ dental, /t $, \mathrm{t}^{\mathrm{h}}, ~ d ̣, \mathrm{~d}^{\mathrm{h}} /$ retroflex $, / \mathrm{k}, \mathrm{k}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{g}, \mathrm{g}^{\mathrm{h}} /$ velar. On the other hand, English has only 3 types of plosives bilabial p, b, alveolar t, d, and velar k, g both systems of plosives are variant under aspiration and retroflex system.
iv. Affricates

Maithili language has four affricates. Unlike this, English has only two affricate sounds. The sounds $\mathrm{c}, \mathrm{c}^{\mathrm{h}}, \mathrm{j}, \mathrm{j}^{\mathrm{h}}$ and $\mathfrak{y}$, ḑ are Maithili and English affricates respectively. The affricates found in both languages are distinct in terms of place of articulation.

Maithili affricates are palatal but English affricates are plato-alveolar. Being varience in number is became the phonemic features of aspiration in Maithili. The two sounds ch, $\mathrm{j}^{\mathrm{h}}$ are aspirated affricates in Maithili which English lacks.

Nasals

Maithili language has two nasal sounds where as English language has three nasals sound. The sound $\mathrm{m}, \mathrm{n}$ and y are Maithili and English nasals respectively. They are similar in terms of manner of articulation. The sounds $m$ is similar in terms of
place of articulation but n is different. The sound n is dental in Maithili where as n is alveolar in English.
v. Tap / Trill

A tap sound is found in Maithili; ' $r$ '. But English does not have this sound. English ' $r$ 'comes under approximant. The tap is dental voiced in Maithili. It has no aspirated counterpart on this regard.
vi. Fricatives

The fricatives have vast differences in two languages in terms of numbers and place of articulations. Maithili has only two fricatives; dental ' $s$ ' and glottal ' $h$ '. Unlike this, English has nine fricatives. They are labio-dental f, v, dental $\theta$, ð, alveolar s, z, plato-alveolar s, 3 and glottal h. Maithili fricatives are both voiceless but first sound of each gottal ' $h$ 'pair with $g l$ are voiceless and other are voiced.

Fricatives raise the issue to the English learning to Maithili speakers. Learner seems get more difficulties in pronunciation of labio- dental, alveolar and platoalveolar sounds of English. Labio-dental sounds get likely to more errors as they seems to produced as bilabials and alveolar stops can be produced as dental of Maithili. Plato-alveolar sounds are likely to be produced as affricates of Maithili.
vii. Lateral

There is single lateral sound in each languages; the ' 1 '. It is voiced. It is different in terms of place of articulation. In Maithili ' 1 ' is dental where as in English 1 is alveolar. Being slightly different it may create problematic in ELT class.

## viii. Approximants

Maithili language has no any approximants and English has three approximants; $\mathrm{r}, \mathrm{j}$ and w . It also create problem in ELT class of Maithili learner.

## Summary of the Findings

In this study, phonemic analysis of Maithili and English sounds are carried out. The analysis is only based on consonant sounds of both languages. After analyzing and interpreting the data collected from primary and secondary sources, I
have summarized the major finding in following points. From this study the summary of the findings are presented as following:
i. In Maithili language, there were 26 consonants. This number was larger than that of English; 24 consonants
ii. Aspiration was phonemic in the Maithili language.
iii. Unlike English, retroflex sounds were found in Maithili language.
iv. Place of articulation was different in Maithili and English. In Maithili, there are six places of articulation while English has nine.
v. As in English, alveolar, labio-dental and plato-alveolar sounds were not found in Maithili language.
vi. Number of fricatives sounds were limited in Maithili but varied in English.
vii. All the stop sounds were aspirated in Maithili with phonemic value but aspiration in English was not distinction feature. Aspiration of stops in English is allophonic.
viii. Nasal consonants of both languages are different as both Maithili; has two nasal sound; 'm' bilabial, ' $n$ ' dental where as English has tree nasal sounds; $m$ bilabial, $n$ alveolar, and $\mathfrak{n}$, velar.
ix. Lateral consonants of both languages are different in terms of place of articulation. Maithili lateral ' $l$ ' is dental where as English lateral ' $l$ ' is alveolar.
x. Approximant sound is not found in Maithili but it is found English language.
xi. Pronunciation of English labio-dental, alveolar, and plato-alveolars might cause problem for Maithili speakers. English labio-dentals. English labiodentals might be pronounced as bilabial stops, alveolar stop might be pronounced as dental stops. Plato- alveolar may be produced as affricates.
xii. Most of the Sanskrit origin show alternation between [y] and [j] like [yes] $\sim[j \partial s]$.

## CHAPTER FIVE CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

On this chapter, conclusion of the study has made and possible recommendations are suggested.

## Conclusion

Phonemic analysis is the most and very first step to the study of any language. It covers the determination of phonemes, their contrastive and complementary distribution, phonetic similarity, free variation, economy, pattern congruity and plausibility. It states the rules of possible occurrences of phonemes in the structures of sounds and syllables. This study has picked up the first principles of phonemic analysis; contrastive distribution; Firstly, determination of Maithili phonemes are made through identification of phones and their suspicious pairs for contrast their phonemic values. Further, they are analyzed by making their comparison and contrast with the English consonants sounds. All these analysis are followed by findings of the study.

This study is based on survey research design. The researcher had surveyed the phonemes of Maithili in different previous studies. The model of research design was adopted from the Nunan (2010). The researcher had taken 35 fluent native speakers of Maithili language as the sample by using non-random sampling procedures. The primary data is taken from Maithili speaking area of Bariyarpatti of Siraha district by using determined word lists and survey sheet. The researcher had adopted prominently quantitative analysis than qualitative analysis. The covering field of the study related to ELT, development of literacy and foreign language teaching.

From this study, distinct features of Maithili and English languages are found. The number and their place and manner of articulations of Maithili and English are varied. In comparison to English language, Maithili language has the exclusive features of phonemic aspiration. Aspiration has the phonemic values in Maithili. Moreover, all aspirated sounds are phonemes in Maithili languages. Unlike English, Maithili language has more stop sounds and less fricative sounds. Maithili has not labio-dental, alvelor and plato-alveloar sounds which English do exist.CA is seen must needy work to carry out before the ELT to Maithili native speakers.

I found this research is worthy to carry out as I am Maithili native speaker who experienced difficulties in English learning. I found many Maithili speakers feel English; a most difficult subject. One of the most vigorous difficulties is found in pronunciation. I now conclude the reason behind this as it is related to the distinct phonemic system of Maithili and English languages. If phonemic systems of both languages are analyzed in proceeding of ELT, it will certainly work for better achievement in target.

## Recommendations

On the basis of the findings and conclusions made after phonemic analysis of Maithili and English sounds, this study has made three sorts of recommendations in next page.

## Policy Level

Nepal is the name to diverse mother tongues. But some minority languages are not identified yet. The numbers of languages are surprisingly increasing in resent CBS reports. In this regard, this study recommends the policy related recommendations as following;

- Linguistic survey should be done in the nation to identify all the languages spoken in the nation.
- The government should have policy to carry out documentation of all these languages, so that CA of all languages with the English language can be done.
- English language teacher should be of same mother tongue at least in primary levels.


## Practice Level

English is considered as difficult subject in Nepal. Students seem always afraid with the subject as they think it is difficult to learn. School dropout state is ever increasing in country sides. One of the main reasons is reported as medium of instruction in the school for this problem. Students are facing afraid of English as they do not pronounce or write correctly the English words. Native speakers are not aware
of the phonemes and their structures. In this regard, this study recommends the policy related recommendations as following.

- Content of phonemes should be included in mother tongue education.
- Teaching pronunciation based on phonemes of target language should be emphasized.
- Audio- visual teaching material should be produced by local experts based on need of the students and relevant to the course.
- In ELT classroom, contrastive analysis should be done for Maithili native speakers to enhance effectiveness of English teaching and learning.
- One of the reasons, Maithili speakers commit errors in learning English is the system of phonemic differences in Maithili and English languages. ELT should be carried out from the beginning of the phonemic analysis of the all the phonemes (including vowels) of Maithili and English languages for Maithili native speakers.


## Further Research

Phonemic analysis is the crucial factor to ELT. But researches regarding these issues are not getting attention to the country. The need to the study can be fulfill by carrying out researches in the field with different topics. In this regard, this study recommends the policy related recommendations as following:

- Phonemic Analysis of Maithili consonants based on the rest of the phonemic principles and based on vowel sounds should be carried out.
- Phonemic Analysis of all the mothers' tongues of Nepali with English language should be carried out.
- Phonemic Analysis of Nepali language; compulsory medium of instruction in Nepal with other mother tongues of Nepal should be carried out.


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## APPENDIX I

COMPARATIVE WORDLIST

| SN | English Phonemes | English Words | Maithili Words |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | /p/ | Pin | Pul |
| 2 | /t/ | Tiny | Tan |
| 3 | /k/ | Kite | Kam |
| 4 | /b/ | Bite | Bul |
| 5 | /d/ | Dog | Dan |
| 6 | /g/ | Glue | Gam |
| 7 | / $9 /$ | Chit |  |
| 8 | / ds/ | Zink |  |
| 9 | /m/ | Mouth | Mam |
| 10 | /n/ | Nice | Nam |
| 11 | /y/ | Spring |  |
| 12 | /f/ | Fine |  |
| 13 | / $\theta$ / | This |  |
| 14 | /s / | Site | Sat |
| 15 | / $/$ / | Shine |  |
| 16 | /v / | Vine |  |
| 17 | /ð/ | That |  |
| 18 | /z/ | Zoo |  |
| 19 | /3/ | Bridge |  |
| 20 | /1/ | Line | Laj |
| 21 | /r/ | Road | Raj |
| 22 | /w/ | Wine |  |
| 23 | /j/ | Yatch |  |
| 24 | /h/ | Hide | Hos |

## APPENDIX II

## SURVEY OF MAITHILI CONSONANTS IN LITERATURES

| SN | Title of Literature | Name of the Writer/ <br> Researcher | Name of Consonants |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 1 | A reference grammar of <br> Maithili | YadavRamawatar | 26 |
| 2 | CNAS Journal (The <br> Maithili Consonants) | Sunil Kumar Jha | 30 |

## APPENDIX III

COMPARATIVE WORDLIST

| SN | Meaning | English Transcription | Maithili Transcription |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 | Body | [badi] | [der] |
| 2 | Head | [h' $\varepsilon$ d ] | [m æ ${ }^{\text {¢ }}$ ] |
| 3 | Hair | [h\% ə] | [k\& $]$ |
| 4 | Face | [fe is] | [mk^ha:d] |
| 5 | Eye | [ai] | [neıən] |
| 6 | Ear | [i ə ] | [kæn] |
| 7 | Nose | [nəuz] | [næk] |
| 8 | Mouth | [mave] | [mju:hə] |
| 9 | Flower | [flav ə] | [fıl] |
| 10 | Tongue | [ti: ${ }^{\text {] }}$ | [dз'rb] |
| 11 | Breast | [tcy ] | [ $\theta \mathrm{a}:$ ən] |
| 12 | Belly | [brest] | [pst] |
| 13 | Arm | [c:m] | [dzn] |
| 14 | Elbow | [ $¢ 1 \mathrm{lb}$ ә] | [kehu:ni] |
| 15 | Palm | [pa:m] | [tærahæt $\theta$ i] |
| 16 | Finger | [fingə] | [^\ga:ri] |
| 17 | Leg | [leg] | [tæy] |
| 18 | Skin | [skin] | [tfæm] |
| 19 | Bone | [boun] | [hædi] |
| 20 | Heart | [ha:t] | [ka:dhar] |

The key concept of basic wordlist is the 100 basic core vocabularies as set out by Morris Swadesh in 1957 first. With this concept, 210 wordlists are using now for
checking the level of lexical status. Actually the list comprises basic nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives etc. this is the key concept to all languages irrespective of cultural differences, most likely to have these words and least likely to have borrowed from other languages.

| 21 | Blood | [blıd] | [k^n] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 22 | Urine | [jıərın] | [mstre] |
| 23 | To go | [gə兀] | []ji:b |
| 24 | Village | [vilıd3] | [gæm] |
| 25 | House | [həus] | [gri] |
| 26 | Roof | [ru:f] | [t¢æ $\theta$ ] |
| 27 | Door | [də:(r)] | [kabad] |
| 28 | Firewood | [fəəพwd] | [ḑarnə] |
| 29 | Broom | [bru:m] | [bcdni] |
| 30 | Mortal | [mo:tl] | [mcra:ru] |
| 31 | To kill | [kıl] | [mæræb] |
| 32 | Hammer | [hæวэmə(r)] | [hæə๐:di] |
| 33 | Knife | [narf] | [[tfaku] |
| 34 | Axe | [æks] | [k^dha:rri] |
| 35 | Rope | [rəup] | [ræsə] |
| 36 | Thread | [ $\theta \mathrm{red}$ ] | [do:rə] |
| 37 | Needle | [ni:dl] | [su:ə:] |
| 38 | Cloth | [klo日] | [kæpa:də] |
| 39 | Ring | [riv] | [kædi] |
| 40 | Sun | [s^n] | [ $\int 3 \mathrm{r} \wedge$ d3] |
| 41 | Moon | [mu:n] | [tfæn] |
| 42 | Sky | [skər] | [asæmən] |
| 43 | Star | [sta(r)] | [ta:rrə] |


| 44 | Rain | ［rein］ | ［ba：rkə］ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 45 | Water | ［wo：tə（r）］ | ［ḑæl］ |
| 46 | River | ［rivə（r）］ | ［di：ha：r］ |
| 47 | Cloud | ［klaod］ | ［mıg］ |
| 48 | Lighting | ［l9ətn］ | ［sænhıpæn］ |
| 49 | Rainbow | ［rembər］ | ［ta：rbo：rə］ |
| 50 | Wind | ［wind］ | ［pæbən］ |
| 51 | Stone | ［stəun］ | ［pæ өa：r］ |
| 52 | Path | ［pa：日］ | ［ræstta］ |
| 53 | Sand | ［sænd］ | ［bo：1］ |
| 54 | Fire | ［farə（r）］ | ［agin］ |
| 55 | To hear | ［ h I ə（r）］ | ［s＾næh］ |
| 56 | Ash | ［æ］］ | ［smər］ |
| 57 | Mud | ［m＾d］ | ［ $\theta$ æl］ |
| 58 | Dust | ［d＾st］ | ［djorrə］ |
| 59 | Gold | ［gəuld］ | ［s n ］ |
| 60 | Tree | ［tri：］ | ［gætfə］ |
| 61 | Leaf | ［li：f］ | ［pa：t ə］ |
| 62 | Roof | ［ru：t］ | ［d3eId］ |
| 63 | Throne | ［日r ə əun］ | ［raḑsınhæsən］ |
| 64 | Hand | ［hænd］ | ［hath］ |
| 65 | Fruit | ［fru：t］ | ［fæl］ |
| 66 | Mango | ［mæygə兀］ | ［a：m］ |
| 67 | Banana | ［bəna：nə］ | ［kiərə］ |
| 68 | Wheat | ［wi：t］ | ［gæhəm］ |
| 69 | Barley | ［ba：li］ | ［c］ |
| 70 | Rice | ［rais］ | ［di：hæn］ |


| 71 | Potato | [pətertər] | [alhar] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 72 | Eggplant | [egpl a:nt] | [beıgən] |
| 73 | Chilly | [ f Ili ${ }^{\text {] }}$ | [ma:r tfi] |
| 74 | Turmeric | [t3:m' $\varepsilon$ rık] | [ha:rdi] |
| 75 | Garlic | [ga:lık] | [la:sın] |
| 76 | Onion | [ $\Lambda$ njən] | [раюə ○: ¢3] |
| 77 | Cauliflower | [k'0:lıfl, avor] | [bafulkour] |
| 78 | Tomato | [təma:tə๐] | [tæmætə] |
| 79 | Cabbage | [kæbi d3] | [tækorbar] |
| 80 | Oil | [ә1] | [ttl] |
| 81 | Salt | [s o:lt] | [n^n] |
| 82 | Meat | [mi:t] | [mænz] |
| 83 | Fat | [fæt] | [[tJa:rbar] |
| 84 | Fish | [fis] | [mæ tfə] |
| 85 | Chicken | [tfikın] |  |
| 86 | Egg | [Eg] | [dım ə] |
| 87 | Cow | [kav] | [gi:] |
| 88 | Buffalo | [bıf $\partial \mathrm{l}$ วu] | [ba:z] |
| 89 | Milk | [milk] | [d $\lambda$ dh ə] $^{\text {] }}$ |
| 90 | Horn | [ h ):n] | [ba:mh ə] |
| 91 | Tail | [terl] | [ $\mathrm{p} \wedge \mathrm{t}$ ]] |
| 92 | Goat | [g әut] | [bækri] |
| 93 | Dog | [d a:g] | [kju:r ə] |
| 94 | Snake | [snerk] | [sæp] |
| 95 | Monkey | [m^yki] | [bæn ə] |
| 96 | Mosquito | [m әski:t әЈ] | [m əski:t əठ] |
| 97 | Ant | [ænt] | [tfi:ri] |
| 98 | Spider | [spardə(r)] | [mækda] |


| 99 | Name | [nerm] | [næm] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 100 | Man | [mæn] | [a:da:mi] |
| 101 | Women | [womən] | [mo:gi] |
| 102 | Child | [tfarld] | [bıdræ ] |
| 103 | Father | [f a: ðə(r)] | [ba:bu] |
| 104 | Mother | [m^ ðә(r)] | [mi:] |
| 105 | Elderbrother | [eldəbr^ ðə(r)] | [berja] |
| 106 | Eldersister | []eldə(r)Sistə(r) | [b æ hi:n] |
| 107 | Down | [daon] | [ ${ }^{\text {h }}$ əh] |
| 108 | Son | [s^n] | [bertə] |
| 109 | Daughter | [d 0:tə(r)] | [bati] |
| 110 | Husband | [hzbənd] | [si:] |
| 111 | Wife | [warf] | [ b 0:] |
| 112 | Boy | [ b э] | [tfa:ju:də] |
| 113 | Girl | [gg3:1] | [ $\int$ ovi] |
| 114 | Day | [der] | [di:n] |
| 115 | Night | [natt] | [rætri] |
| 116 | Morning | [mə:nımy ] | [bo:r] |
| 117 | Noon | [nu:n] | [da:fa:r] |
| 118 | Evening | [i:vŋı] | [sæ d3] |
| 119 | Yesterday | [jestədeI] | [kæli] |
| 120 | Today | [təder] | [a:i:] |
| 121 | Tomorrow | [təm arəu] | [kæli] |
| 122 | Week | [wi:k] | [] |
| 123 | Month | [m^n $\theta$ ] | [mæs] |
| 124 | Year | [1ə(r)] | [ba:rkə] |
| 125 | Old | [əuld] | [pjorrən] |
| 126 | New | [nju:] | [nbæ] |
| 127 | Good | [god] | [ni:k] |
| 128 | Bad | [bæd] | [ka:rræp] |
| 129 | Wet | []wet | [gil] |


| 130 | Dry | [draI] | [rukə] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 131 | Long | [lon] | [næmhar)] |
| 132 | Short | [ $\int$ ว:t] | [tfəout] |
| 133 | Hot | [hat] | [garam] |
| 134 | Cold | [kəuld] | [thænd] |
| 135 | Right | [rart] | [ $\mathrm{I}_{\mathrm{I} \mathrm{k}}$ ] |
| 136 | Left | [left] | [ber] |
| 137 | Near | [nıə(r)] | [næ ḑdık] |
| 138 | Far | [fa(r)] | [djur] |
| 139 | Big | [bIg] | [mæhæn] |
| 140 | Small | [smə:l] | [tfa:t] |
| 141 | Heavy | [hevi] | [ba:rri] |
| 142 | Light | [lart] | [hælık] |
| 143 | Above | [əb $\wedge$ ] | [u:pə] |
| 144 | Below | [bıləั] | [ta:r] |
| 145 | White | [watt] | [u:d3 ta:r] |
| 146 | Black | [blæk] | [kærri] |
| 147 | Red | [red] | [læl] |
| 148 | One | [WAn] | [ $\varepsilon \mathrm{k}]$ |
| 149 | Two | [tu:] | [du:] |
| 150 | Three | [日ri:] | [tin] |
| 151 | Four | [fo(r)] | [tfer] |
| 152 | Five | [faıv] | [pæ tf] |
| 153 | Six | [siks] | [ [ft] |
| 154 | Seven | [seven] | [sæt] |
| 155 | Eight | [eIt] | [ $\mathrm{a}: \mathrm{\theta}_{\mathrm{z}}$ ] |
| 156 | Nine | [næın] | [næb] |
| 157 | Ten | [ten] | [dæJ] |
| 158 | Eleven | [Ilevn] | [ $\varepsilon \mathrm{g}$ a:r] |
| 159 | Twelve | [twelv] | [ba:r] |
| 160 | Twenty | [tenti] | [bif] |


| 161 | Hundred | [h^ndrəd] | [sæt] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 162 | Who | [hu:] | [ku:n] |
| 163 | What | [wat] | [ker $\theta \mathrm{i}]$ |
| 164 | Where | [wee(r)] | [ka:] |
| 165 | When | [Wen] | [kæb] |
| 166 | How many | [haumeni] | [ki:] |
| 167 | Which | [wi tf] | [ku:n] |
| 168 | This | [ðis] | [i:] |
| 169 | That | [ðæt] | [u:] |
| 170 | These | [ði:z] |  |
| 171 | Those | [ðәЈz] |  |
| 172 | Different | [difrənt] | [bi:n] |
| 173 | Whole | [haul] | [porrə] |
| 174 | Broken | [brəukən] | [ $\mathrm{f} \wedge \mathrm{r}$ ] |
| 175 | Few | [fju:] | [ $\mathrm{kkæd}$ ] |
| 176 | Many | [meni] | [bæh ${ }^{\text {ct] }}$ |
| 177 | All | [ə:i] | [sæb] |
| 178 | To eat | [i:t] | [ka: $\varepsilon$ b] |
| 179 | To bite | [bart] | [dænf $\mathrm{\partial}$ ] |
| 180 | To be hungry | [hıy gri] | [ka:nhən] |
| 181 | To drink | [drınk] | [p\&ræb] |
| 182 | To be thirsty | [ $\theta$ ع:sti] | [ti:bæsal] |
| 183 | To sleep | [sli:p] | [s $\wedge$ tb] |
| 184 | To lie | [lai] | [dзerh^ $\theta$ ] |
| 185 | To sit | [stt] | [beısæb] |
| 186 | To give | [giv] | [d\&b] |
| 187 | To burn | [b \&:n] | [ ${ }_{\text {djæ reb }}$ |
| 188 | Strength | [dar] | [mæræb] |
| 189 | Soup | [su:p] | [jhor] |
| 190 | Work | [w3:k] | [kam] |
| 191 | Pole | [poul] | [kham] |
| 192 | Sweat | [sw $\varepsilon$ ¢] | [gham] |
| 193 | Fame | [fæım] | [j əs] |


| 194 | If | [If] | [jədi] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 195 | Yadav | [jadah] | [jadəb] |
| 196 | Travel | [træv al] | [jatra] |
| 197 | Shame | [Jerm] | [Il2:j] |
| 198 | Helment | [helh ont] | [t!ap] |
| 199 | Drop | [dra:p] | [ṭhap] |
| 200 | Jealously | [ḑilizsli] | [d ə:h] |
| 201 | We | [wi:] | [hæmsæb] |
| 202 | They | [ðег] | [i:sæb] |
| 203 | Walk | [wə:k] | [tfælæb] |
| 204 | Forget | [fərget] | [bhul] |
| 205 | Music | [mju:zık] | [tan] |
| 206 | Yards of cloths | [ ${ }^{\prime}$ 'a:İdsəfkl, $0 \theta \mathrm{~s}$ ] | [than] |
| 207 | Small bucket | [sm'o:l b' $\mathrm{kktr}^{\text {d }}$ | [dol] |
| 208 | Drum | [dr^m] | [dhol] |
| 209 | Thief | [ $\theta i: f]$ | [cor] |
| 210 | Edge | [ E d 3 ] | [chor] |

