

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Aspects of Past Tense in English and Maithili: A Comparative Study

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

Jitendra Kumar Yadav

Central Department of English

Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

April 2014

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of English
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Letter of Recommendation

It is certified that Mr. Jitendra Kumar Yadav has prepared this thesis entitled "Aspect of Past Tense in English and Maithili: A Comparative Study" under my supervision. I recommend this thesis for approval to the research committee.

Prof. Dr. Dan Raj Regmi
Central Department of Linguistics,
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Date: 2071/01/

Tribhuvan University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Central Department of English

Letter of Approval

The thesis entitled "Aspects of Past Tense in English and Maithili: A Comparative Study" by Mr. Jitendra Kumar Yadav submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University Kirtipur, has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of the research committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English,
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

Date: 2071/01/

Acknowledgments

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to my thesis supervisor Prof. Dr. Dan Raj Regmi, the Head of Central Department of Linguistics Kirtipur for his continuous encouragement, guidance, invaluable suggestions and inspiration. His enforcement and feedback proved a boon to me for the preparation of thesis under his kind guidance and supervision.

I am also grateful to Dr. Amma Raj Joshi, the Head of the Central Department of English Kirtipur for providing me an opportunity to work in the present thesis.

Jitendra Kumar Yadav

Abstract

The main objective of this thesis is to present the analysis of aspects of past tense in English and Maithili. The analysis of the aspects of past tense in English and Maithili is based on the primary and secondary data. With the help of secondary data collected from *A Reference Grammar of Maithili* (1997), *A University Grammar of English* (1990), *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (1985), the researcher sets the rules of aspects of past tense in Maithili, then tests those rules by collecting the written data from Maithili speakers of Dhanusha district. By making the comparative analysis of the aspects of past tense in English and Maithili, it also predicts the errors that Maithili speakers are likely to commit while learning aspects of past tense in English and Maithili. It also calculates the errors actually committed by 40 Maithili speaking students of grade IX and X of Dhanusha district through errors analysis. Finally, it points out the correlation between the predictions of errors and the actual occurrences of error.

The sample population for this study consists of 40 Maithili speaking students of grade IX and X of Dhanusha District from four different schools. In this work, both primary and secondary sources are used for the collection of the data. After collecting the data, the responses of the students are marked systematically and errors committed by them and tabulated.

The researcher claims that this study is satisfactory and complete. Because of limited time and research, there may be some limitations and shortcomings in the study.

Table of Contents

Page No.

Letter of Recommendation	
Letter of Approval	
Acknowledgements	
Abstract	
Abbreviations	
CHAPTER ONE: Introduction	1-8
CHAPTER TWO: Aspects of Past Tense in English	9-22
CHAPTER THREE: Aspects of Past Tense in Maithili	23-29
CHAPTER FOUR: Aspects of Past Tense in English and Maithili:	
A Comparative Study	30-34
CHAPTER FIVE: Pedagogical Implication	35-43
CHAPTER SIX: Summary and Conclusion	44-45
Works Cited	
Appendix I: Interview Questionnaire	

Abbreviations

1	First Person
2	Second Person
3	Third Person
AUX	Auxiliary Verb
C.D.	Central Department
Etc	et cetera
FUT	Future
H	Honorific
IMPERF	Imperfect
NH	Non Honorific
Viz.	Namely
O	Object
P.P	Plural Subject and Plural Verb
PERF	Perfective
PRES	Present
PROG	Progressive
S.	Subject
S.S.	Singular subject and singular verb
V	Verb
VOL	Volume