# QUESTIONS FORMATION IN ENGLISH AND MAITHILI LANGUAGES

## A

## **Dissertation**

## **Submitted To**

The Central Department of English
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
In the Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for
Master's Degree in English
2<sup>nd</sup> year paper X (Eng 510-13)

 $\mathbf{B}\mathbf{y}$ 

**Arun Kumar Prasad Shah** 

Central Department of English

Tribhuvan University

Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

2008

## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Date:

This is to certify that **Mr. Arun Kumar Prasad Shah** has completed this thesis on the topic "**Questions Formation In English and Maithili Languages**" under my guidance and supervision. I recommend this thesis for evaluation.

Dr. Yogendra Prasad Yadava

Professor and Head

Central Department of Linguistics

Tribhuvan University

Kathmandu, Nepal

## **Tribhuvan University**

## **Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences**

## **Central Department of English**

The undersigned members of the thesis committee h	ave approved this thesis entitled			
"Questions formation in English and Maithili La	anguages" submitted by Mr Arun			
Kumar Parsad Shah to the Central Department of	English, Tribhuvan University in			
partial fulfillment of the requirement for M.A degree in English.				
Dissertation Supervisor				
External Examiner				
Head of the Central Department of English				
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal				
<b>D</b>				

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I would like to express my sincere and cordial gratitude to Prof. Dr Yogendra Prasad Yadava, the head of the central department of linguistics for the continuous encouragement and invaluable suggestions. I am deeply indebted for his continuous help during the preparation of this dissertation. Truly Speaking without him, this work would have been incompleted as well as worthless.

I am also grateful to Dr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, the head of the central Department of English, for his valuable guidelines for the preparation of this thesis.

I would like to express my special thanks to all the teachers and friends who directly or indirectly helped and encouraged me for the preparation of this thesis.

I express my deep gratitude to my parents Mr. Bishwanath Prasad Shah and Mrs. Mithelesh Devi Shah and my brother, Mr. Shatrudhan Prasad Shah who devoted their whole life to make me what I am today.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Rajiv Maharjan (Friends Computer Service) for fairly typing and printing.

**Arun Kumar Prasad Shah** 

#### **ABSTRACT**

Maithili belongs to the Eastern sub-group of the Indo-Aryan group within the Indo- Aryan family. It forms a sub-group with Bhojpuri and Magahi and is linguistically closer to Assamese, Bangla and Oriya than to its more contiguous language, namely Hindi and Nepali. It is the second major language of Nepal. English is an international language which is a common lingua franca as well. It has played a crucial role in international communication of thought, ideas and sentiments. It is spoken as a first, second and foreign language all over the world.

This work entitled "Questions formation in English and Maithili languages" attempts to describe the questions in both languages along with their kinds, syntactic structures their semantics and their functions.

This thesis is divided into four chapters. The first chapter gives the introduction of both English and Maithili languages. It also gives an outline of the entire study. The Second chapter is the focal point of this dissertation which deals with questions in English and Maithili languages in detail. The third chapter deals with the Contrastive Analysis of questions formation in English and Maithili languages. The fourth and the last chapter summarizes the whole thesis and presents a brief conclusion.

## **CONTENTS**

			Page
CHA	PTER (	ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-9
1.1	Englis	sh Language in Nepal	1
1.2	Maith	ili Language in Nepal	3
1.3	Staten	ment of Problem	5
1.4	Objec	tives of the Research	6
1.5	Defin	ition of the Questions	6
1.6	Revie	w of the Related Language (Literature)	7
1.7	Signif	Ficance of the Study	8
1.8	Resea	rch Methodology	8
1.9	Limita	ation of the Study	9
1.10	Organ	nization of the Study	9
СНА	PTER T	rwo	10-44
2.1	Quest	ions in English	10
2.2	Kinds	of Questions	12
	2.2.1	Yes-No Question	13
	2.2.2	Wh - Question : From of Wh-Question	18
	2.2.3	Alternative Question	21
	2.2.4	Tag - Question : From of Tag Question	22
	2.2.5	Declarative Question	26
	2.2.6	Exclamatory Question	26
	2.2.7	Rhetorical Question	27
	2.2.8	Short Question	29
	2.2.9	Echo Question	29

	2.2.10 Indirect Question	30
	2.2.11 Polite Question	30
2.3	Questions in Maithili Language	31
	2.3.1 Kinds of Questions in Maithili	32
2.4	Conclusion	43
СНА	PTER THREE	45-57
3.1	Contrastive Analysis of Maithili and English Questions	45
3.2	The similarities and dissimilarities	46
	3.2.1 Similarities between English and Maithili questions	46
	3.2.2 Dissimilarities between Maithili and English questions	49
СНА	PTER FOUR: SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION	58-59
4.1	Summary	58
4.2	Conclusion	59
REF	ERENCES	60-61

#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

2H = Second Person Honorific

2NH = Second person Non-Honorific

3NH = Third person Non-Honorific

ACC/DAT = Accusative-dative

ADJ = Adjective

Advl = Adverebial

Aux = Auxiliary

B.S = Bikram Sambat

Count = Countable

Det = Determiner

e.g. = for example, for instance. (Latin Exempligratia)

Emph = Emphatic Marker

Eng = English

etc = Et cetera (and so on)

Et.al = And other people or things

FUT = Future Tense

H = Honorific

i.e. = that is

Imperf = Imperfective aspect

M = Am

M.V = Main Verb

NH = Non-Honorific

NP = Noun phrase

O = Object

Obj = Object

P.E.N = Poets, Essayists and Novelists

PRES = Present Tense

Prof = Professor

PST = Past Tense

S = Subject

Sub = Subject

U.S.A = United States of America

V = Verb

Voc = Vocative

VP = Verb Phrase