

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 English Language in Nepal

Language is a special gift that all normal human beings are endowed with. Therefore, it is said to be species uniform. And it is only the human beings who can acquire language. Hence, it is the most uniquely human. It is a capacity that distinguishes human beings from other beings. It is a vehicle of power, a means by which we control, create and preserve.

Language is always present in human life. We use it in one form or other when we speak, write, think, recollect something, or even dream during our sleep. It is thus a means of communication. As such, it pervades most of human activities. According to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* "Language refers to the system of sounds and words used by human to express their thought and feelings." *Noam Chomsky* defines "Language is the distinctive quality or mind (human mind) that is so far as we know unique to man. It is set of sentences each finite in length constructed out of a finite set of elements". *Gimson* defines language "a system of conventional signals used for communication by a whole community." According to *Dictionary of Linguistics*, 1954 "A system of communication by sound i.e. through the organs of speech and hearing, among human beings of a certain groups of community, using symbols possessing arbitrary conventional meanings." According to *Mrs Indira Gandhi* "By language I do not mean words or the grammar, but I mean an attitude which understand the people's point of view". (The Hindustan Times, May 8, 1976).

Multiracial, multireligious, multicultural and multilingual societies do exist in this world where different varieties of languages are spoken. English is a variety of language which is spoken by British, Americans and Australian people as their

mother tongue. With the growing use of English in the world community, English is no longer the language of English people. It has gained the status of an international language not only because it is used as a lingua-franca but because people in different parts of the world use it as their mother tongue. As a result, new kind of Englishes have emerged which are different from the English spoken by its native speakers (e.g. British, Americans) and as a result there are Indian English, Kenyan English and so on.

English is the appropriate international language for Nepal, and a vital tool for any students to become successful in local, national and international communication. Undoubtedly, English is the means of international communication and it is also the major world language. " English language has changed. One in five of the world's population speaks English. Approximately 375 million people speak English as their first language. Over 375 million people speak English as their second language. English is the main international language of business, pop music, sports, advertising, academic conferences, travel, airports, diplomacy, science and technology. It is estimated that English is the language of over 80 percent of information stored in the world's computer and 85 percent of internet home pages and English is the language of 68 percent web users " "Encarta world English dictionary" (201).

English language in Nepal was developed by the prime minister Jung Bahadur Rana who was highly influenced by English Education system of England. After his visit to England, he established Durbar Higher School in 1910 B.S. It was the first English school to teach English language in Nepal. Where Rana's children were only allowed to study and It was out of reach from general people's hand. At the change of time, the restriction also changed and it became inclusive school where there is no such restriction. English occupied an important position in the syllabus of the

kingdom. English is taught as a foreign language in all the schools of Nepal starting from Grade One and up to Grade 12. It is also taught as major and compulsory subject up to Bachelor level and Master's level in different Universities of the country. The importance of English in Nepalese education is also indicated by the fact that additional English is one of the optional subject. Schools are of two types. In English medium schools, all subjects except the national language Nepali are taught in English whereas in Nepal government owned public school, all subjects except English language are taught in the national language Nepali. The product of English medium schools feel more comfortable in using English for personal development, communication, understanding the target culture.

Hence, English is the only language with which the educated mass, intellectuals, freedom fighters, and human rights activities can hold their dialogue with the rest of world. People's craving for more English is very intense and irresistible in Nepal. English medium schools have proliferated extensively far and wide to each and every corner of the nation, every district in the hills and inaccessible high mountains as well as the far - flung places of the nation which prove the importance of English is very high in Nepal.

1.2 Maithili Language in Nepal

Nepal is a multiracial, multireligious, multicultural and multilingual country. Nepal though a small country has been very fertile for languages. Even today linguists are discovering new languages in some remote place of the country and probably many more languages are still waiting to be discovered. The census report of 2001 record 102 different ethnic communities and more than 92 languages spoken in the country.

Toba, S (1992) has stated about the sociolinguistic situation of Nepal "The country of Nepal is world famous for several reasons. It is not only the fact that Nepal boasts of the highest mountain in the world, but Nepal also exhibits a remarkable wealth of cultures and languages. Right in the streets of Kathmandu the attentive observer can see a variety of costumes as well as hear a variety of languages spoken by visitors from the hills or from the Terai. This is Nepal's unique heritage and wealth, a reason to be proud."

Grierson (1883a:16) took pains to define and demarcate in exact term the linguistic boundaries of maithili speaking areas:

"Maithili was originally the language of the ancient Mithila, the kingdom of Janaka, the father of sita, which was bounded on the west by the river Gandak, on the north by the Himalaya Mountains, on the east by Koshi, and on the south by Ganges".

Maithili is an eastern Indo-Aryan language spoken by a total of about 21 million people in the eastern and northern regions of the Bihar state of India and the south eastern plains, known as the Terai, of Nepal. In the past, Maithili was regarded either as a dialect of Bengali, or of Eastern Hindi, or as one of the three dialects of a spurious language called "Bihari". Today, however, it is recognized as a distinct language and taught as such in Indian universities of Calcutta, Bihar, Patna, Bhagalpur, Darbhanga and Benares, and in the Tribhuvan university of Nepal. Demographically, maithili is the second most widely spoken language of Nepal, and according to the international P.E.N. and the "Sahitya Akademi", the 16th largest language of India.

Yadava (2001:443-4) has given many factual details about the maithili language:

As its name implies, Maithili, property speaking, the language of Mithila, the prehistoric ancient kingdom, which was ruled by king Janak and was the birth place of Sita or Janaki, lord Ram's wife. This region was also called 'Tairabhukti, the ancient name of 'Tirhut' comprising both Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur districts of Bihar, India.

The alternative names of the Maithili language are 'Tirhutiya', Dehati, Abahata of Apabhramsa. It is spoken mainly in the northern part of the Indian state Bihar and the eastern part of Nepal's Terai region. There are also maithili speaking minorities in adjoining Indian state like west Bengal, Maharashtra and Madhya pradesh and the central Nepal Terai.

There are seven regional dialects of Maithili. They are: the standard, southern, eastern, chikachiki, western, jolhi and the central colloquial dialect. Of them, standard Maithili is spoken in the north of Darbhanga district Bihar State, India, which now forms the part of the Madhubani district. Maithili exhibits social variations in its pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar in terms of the speaker's caste, sex, education, interpersonal relationship, and other social factors.

In both India and Nepal, Maithili has been a subject of study from school to university level of education. In Nepal, there has recently been made a constitutional provision for introducing all mother tongues spoken at primary level of Education. There are about ten districts (Morang, Sunsari, Saptari, Udaypur, Sirha, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Rautahat) where Maithili is spoken.

1.3 Statement of Problem

Maithili is a modern Indo-Aryan language which is the second most widely spoken language in Nepal. Up to the 20th century, the place of this language among the modern indo-Aryan language was very much misunderstood and misrepresented. But today Maithili is recognized as a distinct language which still needs various types

of studies, exploration, researches, conversation and development, which can bring the facts and figures of real situation, concept and attitude of language speaker.

The problem of the study is to explore the distinction and similarities between English and Maithili languages in terms of question formation. This short research raises the following questions

- a. Is the pattern of Maithili question formation equivalent to English question formation ?
- b. Do differences in sentence pattern of both languages bring meaning difference ?

1.4 Objectives of the Research

The main objectives of this research are formulated as follows:

- a. To analyze questions of English language.
- b. To analyze questions of Maithili language.
- c. To compare English and Maithili questions formation.

1.5 Definition of the Questions

According to *A communicative Grammar of English* (110)" Questions are typically sentences by which someone asks his hearer to give information."

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines question as "a sentence, phrase or word that asks for information." Question is a term used in the classification of sentence functions, typically used to elicit information or a response, and defined sometimes on GRAMMATICAL and sometimes on SEMANTIC or SOCIOLINGUISTIC grounds. SYNTACTICALLY, in English, a question is a sentence with INVERSION of the SUBJECT and first VERB in the verb PHRASE (yes - no question, such as is he going ?), Commencing with a question word (WH Question, such as Where is he ?), or ending with a question TAG (e.g. He's going, isn't he ?). Some would include the use of sentences with the rising intonation to be

class of question. SEMANTICALLY, questions express a desire for more information, usually requesting a reply from the listener (exceptions include rhetorical questions e.g. Isn't that awful ?). "A Dictionary of Linguistics and phonetics"(384)

1.6 Review of the Related Language (Literature)

The government of Nepal has not paid much attention to Maithili language. However, there are some linguists, scholars and grammarians who have explored and researched on Maithili language, including questions formation.

Ramawatar Yadav, 'A Reference Grammar of Maithili' States that formation of questions in Maithili language is unique in comparison to English. He discusses various types of questions in Maithili language. For Instance.

i. Neutral yes - No Question

- (Å h) khÅ e - l - Å h ?

- You (H) eat - pst (2H)

- 'Did you eat ?'

ii. Information Question

- (Å h) ke ch- i ?

- You(H) who be -'PRES (2H)

- 'Who are you ?'

iii. Disjunctive Question

- cha le-b ki kSphi ki kokakola ?

- tea take - (FUT-(2H) or coffee or Coca-cola

-Would you like to tea or coffee or coca-cola ?

iv. Biased Yes - No Question

- (U) Å e-l-Å i nÅ i (rÅ u) ?

- he(NH) come - PST - (3NH) not voc - (2NH)

-'He came, didn't he ?'

Similarly, '**Maithili Vyakaran aur Racana**' (Maithili Grammar and Composition) (1989) by Yogeshwar Jha is yet another grammar of the Maithili language in which Jha, like, yadav, talks, about various grammatical topics in Maithili language.

Greenbaum Sidney in "*The Oxford English Grammar*" asserts that the word order in interrogative sentence differs from other sentences. Geoffery Leech and Jan Svartvik, "*A Communicative Grammar of English*", Randolph Quirk and Greenbaum Sidney's "*A university Grammar of English*", "*The Grammar Book*" by Marianne Celce Murcia and Diane Larsen Freeman also express their views on the formation of questions and its types in English language.

1.7 Significance of the Study

The present study will be useful and helpful for language teacher, future generation researchers, readers, syllabus designers, etc. Who are involved in learning and teaching English and Maithili languages.

1.8 Research Methodology

The method of the study will be '*Contrastive Analysis*' which is a branch of applied linguistics that compares two languages typologically in order to find out the points of the similarities and differences between them and then to predict the areas of ease and difficulty in learning one by the speakers of the other language. Contrastive Analysis collects data of the two given languages. (Like Maithili and English) and compares them in terms of their phonological system, grammatical system or semantic system.

To meet the objectives of the topic, field research as well as libraries, newspaper, journals, reviews etc. will be taken as sources of materials. Similarly, the suggestions and guidelines of the respected lecturers and professors will be taken.

1.9 Limitation of the Study

No Research is universal. It becomes matter of critique. The present study is based on the Maithili linguistic practice in sarlahi, Mahottari, Dhanusha, Siraha, Saptary, Sunsari and Mornag. The study will be based on certain materials, locality, and restricted time as a result, It will focus mainly on questions formation in English and Maithili languages and will not cover whole area of study.

1.10 Organization of the Study

The organization of the study will be as follows:

Chapter 1 : Introduction

Chapter 2 : Questions in English and Maithili languages

Chapter 3 : Contrastive Analysis of Questions formation in English and Maithili languages.

Chapter 4 : Summary and Conclusion

CHAPTER TWO

2.1 Questions in English

Many scholars and Grammarians have explored, researched and discussed on this topic. Randolph Quirk and Sidney Greenbaum in their book "*A University Grammar of English*" have asserted that 'simple sentences' may be divided into four major syntactic classes, whose use correlates with different communicative functions:

a. STATEMENTS are sentences in which the subject is always present and generally precedes the verb.

e.g. 1.i. Ravindra will speak to the boss today.

ii. Shyam goes to campus.

iii. Ram loves Sita.

(Sub. + V + obj)

b. QUESTIONS are sentences marked by one or more of these three criteria:

1. The placing of operator immediately in front of the subject,

e.g. 2.i. Will sachindar speak to the boss today ?

ii. Does Ram love Sita ?

(Aux + Sub + M.V + O ?)

2. The initial positioning of an interrogative or wh-element.

e.g.: 3.i. Who will you speak to ?

ii. What is your name ?

iii. How old are you ?

3. Rising intonation

4.e.g. You will speak to the BO↔ss ?

ii. The guests have had something to e↔at ?

c. COMMANDS are sentences which normally have no overt grammatical subject and whose verb is in the imperative,

e.g. 5.i. Speak to the boss today.

ii. Go there.

iii. Come here.

iv. Don't cry. (V¹ + O)

d. EXCLAMATIONS are sentences which have an initial phrase introduced by what or how, without inversion of subject and operator.

e.g. 6.i. What a noise they are making !

ii. How beautiful girl she is !

iii. How sweetly she sings !

(Wh - word + obj + sub + aux.v. !)

Geoffery leech and Jan Svartvik in their book "*A Communicative Grammar of English*", define question as "Sentences by which someone asks his hearer to give Information", *Oxford Advanced learner's Dictionary* defines question as "A Sentence, phrase or word that asks for information". Similarly, *A Dictionary of linguistics and phonetics* by David Crystal defines question as "A term used in the classification of sentence function, typically used to elicit information or a response, and defined sometimes on SEMANTIC or SOCIOLINGUISTIC grounds. SYNTACTICALLY, In English, a question is a sentence with inversion of the subject and first verb in the verb phrase, commencing with a question word, or ending with a question tag. Some would include the use of sentences with a 'Rising Intonation' to be a class of question. SEMANTICALLY, Question expresses a desire for more Information, usually requesting a reply from the listener. The term is usually contrasted with three other

major sentences functions: Statement, Command, and Exclamation. In grammatical discussion, question is usually referred to as interrogative in form.

2.2 Kinds of Questions

Many grammarians have talked about the kinds of questions in English language. *Geoffery Leech* and *Jan Svartvik* discuss various kinds of questions in English (Yes-No question, wh-question, Alternative question, question in Statement form, Tag-question, polite question, short question and Echo-question). Similarly, In '*A University Grammar of English*' Randolph Quirk and Sidney Greenbaum have talked about kinds of questions. They have grouped the questions in major types of questions i.e. yes-no-question, tag question, declarative question, wh-question and alternative question and Minor types of question i.e. exclamatory question and rhetorical question.

Marianne Celce - Murcia and Daine Larsen - Freeman in their book "*The Grammar Book*" also express their views on yes/no question, wh-question and other structures that look like questions i.e. tag question, alternative question, exclamatory question and rhetorical question but that function differently from the yes-no and wh-question.

After going through the different Grammars and views of Grammarians, we found following kinds of questions in English:

- i. Yes - No question
- ii. Wh- question
- iii. Alternative question
- iv. Tag question
- v. Declarative question
- vi. Exclamatory question

- vii. Rhetorical question
- viii. Short question
- ix. Echo question
- x. Indirect question and
- xi. Polite question

2.2.1 Yes-No Question

Yes-no questions are the type of questions which can be answered in either yes-or no. Yes-no questions require subject operator Inversion. This subject operator inversion is not found in all languages. Yes-no question is limited. Only one of two answers (Positive 'Yes' or Negative 'No') is possible. e.g.

- 7.i. Are you doing anything tomorrow ?
- ii. is shyam reading the novel ?
- iii. Will you go to market ?

The operators used in English language are listed below:

- i. AM : Am I a student ?
- ii. IS : Is she dancing ?
- iii. ARE : Are they going to market ?
- iv. WAS : Was he sleeping ?
- v. WERE : Were they eating ?
- vi. HAVE : Have I done homework ?
- vii. HAS : Has he bought a book ?
- viii. HAD : Had she sold her car ?
- ix. WILL : Will you go to Janakpur ?
- x. SHALL : Shall I buy a book ?
- xi. MAY : May I come in ?
- xii. MUST : Must you keep quiet here ?
- xiii. CAN : Can I sing a song ?

- xiv. COULD : Could you give me a pen ?
- xv. WOULD : Would you read this letter ?
- xvi. SHOULD : Should I cut my hair ?
- xvii. MIGHT : Might It rain today ?
- xix. USED (to) : Did you use to smoke ?
- xx. OUGHT (to) : Ought I to write to say thank you?
- xxi. DARE : : Did she dare (to) look at me ?
- xxii. DO : Do you love me ?
- xxiii. DOES : Does she love me ?
- xxiv. DID : Did you love me ?

2.2.1.1 The Form of Yes-No Questions

a. Subject - operator Inversion with an Auxiliary verb. If there are two auxiliaries, the first auxiliary functions as an operator; e.g.

- 8.i. Will they be playing tomorrow ?
- ii. Will he have gone ?
- iii. Will she have been worrying ?

b. With the be copula:

'Be' copula can function as an operator in Yes-no question as well.

- 9.i. Was he a teacher ?
- ii. Is this a book ?

c. With other verbs:

If there is no auxiliary verb or be, the verb 'do' is introduced as an operator.

Operator addition is also needed for some phrase modals: used to and 'have to' are such phrasal Modals.

10.e.g i. Ram Plays football.

- Does Ram play football ?

- ii. Ram played football.
- Did Ram play football ?
- iii. They play football.
- Do they play football ?

In Yes-No question, the first auxiliary verb in the sentence should appear before the subject and carry the tense of the question. If there is no auxiliary verb or be copula, then 'do' must be Introduced as an auxiliary to make subject operator inversion possible.

d. Intonation in Yes-No questions

Yes-No questions have rising intonation e.g.

- 11.i. Has the boat LEFT ?
- ii. Does she Like shatrudhan ?
- iii. Is Shyam reading a book ?

2.2.1.2 Functions of Yes - No questions

The primary functions of Yes-No question are: to seek new information and to clarify or confirm given or shared Information. Besides these, Yes-No questions are associated with number of other function which are given below:

12.i. as Direct request

Can I get a ride home with you ?

ii. as less direct request.

Could I get a ride home with you ?

iii. as offer or invitation :

would you like to sit for a while ?

iv. as command :

Would you please stand up straight ?

v. as reprimands

Aren't you little old to be doing that ?

vi. as Complaint

Have you ever stayed home all day with a two year old ?

vii. as Surprise

Couldn't you drive straight ? (I thought you could, but apparently you can't !).

The function of yes-no question depends on the context and intention of the speaker.

2.2.1.3 Kinds of Yes-No questions :

1. Positive Yes-No question.
2. Negative Yes-No question.
3. Uninverted Yes-No question
4. Focused Yes-No question and
5. Elliptical Yes-No question

1. Positive Yes-No questions are neutral questions i.e. they don't have any presupposition. They are also called "Open Question" (Chalker 1984). They are used for confirmation.

13. Is Ram going to University ?

Will you read this book ?

2. Negative Yes-No questions are not natural like positive Yes-No question. With negative Yes-No question, the speaker may be hoping for positive answer but not really expecting. Because the prior expectations have not met, negative Yes-No question can express 'disappointment or annoyance. (Quirk et al. 1985). e.g.

- 14.i. Aren't we going to the Movie? (I thought we had agreed to.)
- ii. Didn't you say that the test would be next week ? (I thought that was what you had announced.)

3. Uninverted Yes-No questions are another type of marked Yes-No question.

This type of question also has presupposition regarding the reply.

15. A : I just got back from sundar pur.

B: You had a good time there ?

(Excepting confirmation of positive presupposition)

The speaker using these questions has certain presupposition. So, using uninverted questions suggest that the speaker knows the other persons well to have some prediction.

4. Focused Yes No questions are marked question. These question have certain presupposition. Which can be more focused in their query. However, Neutral yes-no questions query the whole state, activity or event e.g.

16.i. Did *Megan* play a practical joke on pat ?

(or did someone else ?)

ii. Did Megan *play* a pratical joke on pat ?

(or only plan one?)

iii. Did Megan Play a *Pratical joke* on pat ?

(or Something else?)

iv. Did Megan play a pratical joke *on pat* ?

(or on someone else ?)

This shows that any element in focused yes-no question can be focused.

5. Elliptical Yes-No questions are questions without an overt initial auxiliary verb. Such types of questions are used in informal conversation. They don't have any pre-supposition and express no particular emotion. e.g.

17.i (Are) you going the Movie ?

ii. (Do) you know Yubraj Singh ?

2.2.2 Wh - question : Form of Wh-question

The question which begins with wh-word is called wh-question. Michael Swan in his Book '**Basic English usage**' (382)' asserts that wh-question begins with an interrogative word: who, what, when etc. and normally have falling Intonation. The operator normally comes just after the wh-elements. e.g.

18.i. Who are you ?

ii. What is your name ?

iii. Which book do you like ?

iv. How did they look ?

v. When did she come ?

vi. Where did you live ?

vii. Why are you late ?

Wh-question is unlimited, because any number of answers can be given, so long as they give information required by the wh-words i.e. who, what, where, where, why, and How. The wh-words may be a pronoun, an adverb, a determiner, an object, or a complement etc. The following is an inventory of common wh-words and their syntactic /semantic correspondence:

Subject NP (+ human) → who - Who did it ?

Subject NP (-human) → What - What went wrong ?

Subject Noun predicate (+human) → who - Who is that ?

Subject Noun predicate (-human) → What	- What is that ?
Object NP (+human) → Who(m)	- Whom did you tell ?
	- To whom did you tell the story ?
Object NP (-human) → What	- What did she say ?
det (possessive) → Whose + NP	- Whose idea was it ?
det (demonstrative) → (Which + (NP)	- Which excuse did they give ?
(What + NP)	- What colour did they use ?
det (quantifier; - count) → How much + NP	- How much (money) did they get ?
det (quantifier, + count) → How many + (NP)	- How many thieves were there ?
det (quantifier) + measure word → How long	- How long did it take them ?
ADJ (quality) → (how)	- How did they look ?
(what ... like)	- What did they look like ?
ADJ (type) → what kind of (NP)	- What kind of mask did he wear ?
ADJ (color, Size, nationality) → What + NP	- What color was it ?
intensifier	How + ADJ - How calm did they seem ?
	How + ADJ - How fast did they work ?
VP → What do	- What did they do next ?
Advl (Means) → How	- How did they get away ?
Advl (direction) → where	- Where did they go ?
Advl (position) → where	- Where did they hide ?
Advl (time) - when	- When were they discovered ?
Advl (manner) → How	- How did she take the news ?
Advl (reason) → why	- Why did they confess ?
Advl (purpose) - What ... for	- What did they do that for ?
Advl (frequency) → How often	- How often does it end this way ?

2.2.2.1 The use of Wh-questions

Yes-No questions query the whole proposition, and wh-questions query a specific part of the proposition. **Murcia and Freeman** (251) have discussed the use of wh-questions in their book *'The Grammar Book'*. For them wh-questions are used for:

i. Social interaction

What is your name ?

ii. For getting direction.

Where's the post office ?

iii. Seeking Explanation

Why is the plane late ?

iv. Eliciting Vocabulary

What's that ?

v. Introduction

How do you do ?

vi. Greetings

How are you ?

Some shortened wh-question are used for specific purposes:

vi. Making suggestion

How about playing tennis ?

vii. Responding to suggestion

Why not ?

viii. Seeking opinions

How about you ?

ix. Asking for clarification

What about It ?

x. Expressing Perplexity.

What to do ?

If the question seeks more than one piece of information, It may contain more than one wh-expression. e.g.

19.i Who's bringing what ?

ii. How and when did you arrive ?

iii. Who is going where ?

2.2.3 Alternative Question

The question in which 'OR' is used is called Alternative question. **Murcia and Freeman** (1999:263) have defined that Alternative questions are also called 'or question', or 'choice questions because they offer listeners a choice between two alternatives. e.g.

20.i. Would you like coffee or tea ?

ii. Shall we go by bus or train ?

iii. Are you a boy or a girl ?

Quirk and Greenbaum in their book '**A University Grammar of English**' have classified Alternative question into two types:

i. Resembling yes-no question and

ii. Resembling wh-question

examples of both alternative questions are given below e.g.:

21.i. Would you like CHO☐COLate, VaNI☐Lla, or STRA☐Wberry (ice-cream) ?

ii. Which ice-cream would you li☐ke ? CHO☐Colate, VaNi☐Lla, or STRA☐Wbery ?

The first type differs from a 'yes - no question' only in 'Intonation', instead of the final rising tone, it contains a separate nucleus for each alternative, a rise occurs on each item in the list, except the last, on which there is a fall, indicating that the list is complete.

The second type of alternative question is really a compound of two separate questions: a wh -question followed by an elliptical alternative question of the first type. Thus 'Might' can be taken as a reduced version of:

21-ii.

Which ice-cream would you LIKE ? would you like CHOCOLATE, VANILLA, or STRAWBERRY ?

Any positive 'Yes - No question' can be converted into an alternative question by adding 'or not' or a matching negative clause:

22.i. Yes No Question: Are you coming ?

Alternative: Are you coming or NOT ?

ii. Yes-No question: Was he a teacher?

Alternative: Was he a teacher or NOT?

2.2.4 Tag - Question: Form of Tag Question

Tag-question comes after the statement or command to conform to the wishes of others. It is attached to a clause that is not interrogative. In English, tag question is normally clause final. When a sentence is written, a comma separates the main clause from the tag. For instance:

23.i. Subodh's a teacher, isn't he ?

ii. Subodh isn't a teacher, is he ?

iii. Ramesh teaches science, doesn't he ?

As those examples illustrate, If the main clause is affirmative, the tag is negative; If the main clause is negative, the tag is affirmative.

Tag question consists of operator plus pronoun, with or without a negative particle; the choice and tense of the operator are determined by verb phrase in the main clause. The pronoun repeats or refers back to the subject of the statement. e.g.

- 24.i. Ram reads a book, doesn't he ?
- ii. She is cooking food, doesn't she ?
- iii. They are sleeping, aren't they ?
- iv. I didn't eat, did I ?

2.3.4.1 Use of Tag Question

Tag question occurs much more frequently in oral discourse than in written discourse. **Brown's** (1981) corpus of oral and written data found tag question fulfilled five major functions:

i. Indicating inference

e.g. So, therefore, that proves malice, doesn't it ?

ii. Seeking agreement

e.g. They keep coming back, don't they ?

iii. Inviting confirmation

e.g. English is your favorite subject, isn't it ?

iv. Expressing doubt

e.g. They can't get that big, can they ?

v. Expressing opinion

e.g. But that makes a mockery of belief ? doesn't it ?

and six minor functions

- i. Keeping the conversation going
- ii. Expressing interest
- iii. Expressing humor or sarcasm

- iv. Expressing surprise
- v. Beginning a conversation
- vi. Making a polite request

2.3.4.2 The intonation of Tag question

Two different types intonation patterns are used in tag question.

i. Rising - Falling

25.i.e.g. Binod Wanted to play, didn't he ?

ii. Shambhu wanted to eat, didn't he ?

ii. Rising

26.i.e.g. Binod wanted to play, di↗dn't he ?

ii. Shambhu wanted to eat, di↔dn't he ?

If the speaker uses rising intonation, the expectation is weak. If the speaker uses rising falling intonation, the presupposition of confirmation is strong.

If the statement or command starts with the words of 'Column A' than the tag question's subject will be according to column 'B'.

Column 'A'	Column 'B'
Main Clause	Tag Question
Pronoun (Personal)	Appropriate pronoun
There	There
One	One
Someones, Somebody, these, anyone, anybody, no one, nobody, none, everyone, Everybody, all, those	They
Everything, something, anything, nothing, this, that, all	It
Some of you, one of you, you and he	You
None of us, you, he and I, you and I	we
None of + plural Noun/3rd person's pronoun	They
Let's	we
Let us	you

The following examples will make more clear.

- 27.i. e.g. He is a teacher, isn't *he* ?
- ii. *Shambhu* is a boy, isn't *he* ?
- iii. There is a pen, isn't *there* ?
- iv. *Nobody* can do this work, can *they* ?
- v. *Everything* is fine, isn't *it* ?
- vi. *Let's* go for a walk, shall *we* ?
- vii. *Let us* go for a walk, will *you* ?
- viii. Stop that noise, will *you* ?

If the statement is positive, the Auxiliaries of tag question will change accordingly.

Positive Statement	Auxiliary of Tag
Auxiliaries	Auxiliaries with 'not'
am, 'm, 're	aren't
will	won't
shall	shan't
used to	usedn't, didn't
'S + V ³	hasn't
's + ...	isn't
've + ...	haven't
'll + ...	won't /shan't
dare ...	don't
need	don't
'd + better	hadn't
'd + rather	wouldn't
d + V ¹	Wouldn't
V ¹	don't
V ²	didn't
V ⁵	doesn't

2.2.5 Declarative Questions

David Crystal (2003:124) defines 'A term used in the grammatical classification of sentence types, and usually seen in contrast to imperative, interrogative etc. It refers to verb forms or sentences /Clause types typically used in the expression of 'statement'.

The declarative question is an exceptional type of yes-no question identical in form to a statement, except for the final rising question Intonation e.g.

- 28.i. He didn't finish the RACE ?
- ii. You got home Safely then ?
- iii. You've got the EXPLOSIVE ?
- iv. The guests have had something to eat ?
- v. The shops weren't open ? (You might say this on seeing someone comes home with an empty shopping basket.)

2.2.6 Exclamatory Question

According to **Murcia and Freeman** (1999:265) "An exclamatory question is not really a question at all. It is an exclamation. It gets its name from the fact that like questions in English, It undergoes subject operator inversion" e.g.

- i. Isn't that grand !
- ii. Wasn't she angry !

However, in writing, It is usually punctuated with an exclamation mark (!). It is more 'emphatic' than tag questions, they both invite confirmation of the underlying proposition. Exclamation question can also be like 'Wh-question: e.g.

- 29.i. What a beautiful garden !
- ii. How big it is !
- iii. What a good idea (that is) !
- iv. How silly (it all seems) !

Quirk and Greenbaum have categorized Exclamatory question in minor types of question. They asserted that the exclamatory question is question in form, but is functionally like an exclamation. The most characteristics type is a 'negative yes-no question' with falling tone instead of rising tone:e.g.

- 30.i. Hasn't she GROWNN !
- ii. Wasn't it a marvelous COUncert !

These examples invite the listener's agreement to something on which the speaker has strongly positive feelings.

A 'Positive Yes-no question', also with a falling tone, is another way of expressing a strong positive conviction. e.g.

- 31. i. 'AM 'I HUUNGry !
- ii. 'HAS 'She GRoUwN !

Since Such exclamations report a personal experience, they would be only acknowledged, not confirmed.

2.2.7 Rhetorical Question

The Rhetorical Question is one which functions as a forceful statement. A 'positive' rhetorical question is like a strong' negative assertion', while a 'negative' question is like a strong positive one. For Instance:

- 32.i. Positive : "is that a reason for despair ? (Surely that is not a reason)
- ii. Negative : is no one going to defend me ? (Surely someone is going to defend me)
- iii. Who can't do this work ? (Someone can, surely)

Murcia and Freeman (1999:265) define it as "A Rhetorical question is similar to exclamatory question in form but not in function. It is used by speaker to assert something without anticipating a response from the listeners". For instance:

- 33.i. Just because you've failed the test, is that reason to give up ? (No that 's no reason to give up)

Unlike Exclamatory questions, these rhetorical question usually have the normal rising intonation of yes - no question. There is also a rhetorical wh-question, which is equivalent to a statement in which the 'Q' element' is replaced by a negative element. e.g.

- 34.i. Who Knows ? (Nobody knows)
- ii. What difference does it make ? (It makes no difference)

According to **Fodesen and Eyring** (1997), rhetorical questions may be employed by a speaker or writer for two main purposes.

- i. **To introduce /Shift topic:**
 - Can the Democrate save medicare ?
 - Remember the great fluoride debate ?
- ii. **To focus on a main point:**
 - Haven't we had enough wars ?
 - How much longer can we ignore the signs of global warming ?

2.2.8 Short Question

Leech and Svartvik (1991:114) have stated that short questions can be used as responses to statements, when the hearer, wants more information than has been given. Like other responses, these question are often shortened by omitting repeated matter. They can often be shortened to the question word alone for inslance:-

35.i. A : The old lady's buying a house.

B : Whe_n ? /Whe_{re} ?/ Why ? / Whi_{ch} house ?/ what old lady ?

There are also two word questions with an end-placed preposition e.g.

36.i. A: I am going to write an adventure story.

B : What fo_r ?/ Who fo_r ?/ What abo_{ut} ?

2.2.9 Echo Question

David crystal (2003:154) defines "A term used in some grammatical description to refer to a type of sentence which repeats, in whole or in part, what has just been said by another speaker. Such Echo utterances include 'echo-question" e.g.

37.i. A: I saw a ghost.

B : you saw what ?

Echo question is a type of response question, in which we ask the speaker to repeat some information (usually because we failed to hear it, but sometimes also we can't believe our ears). e.g.

38.i. A : I didn't enjoy that meal.

B : Did you say you didn't enjoy it ?

We can also use a wh-echo questions indicating by the wh-word the part of the sentence that you didn't hear. e.g.

- 39.i. A: He is a teacher.
B: What's is he ?
- ii. A: It cost five dollars.
B: How much does (you say) it cost ?

2.2.10 Indirect Question

There are direct or indirect questions. The rules for indirect speech apply to Indirect questions as well as to indirect statements. The only difference is that for individual question, a wh-clause is used instead of that clause. e.g.

- 40.i. Do you live here ? (Direct question)
- ii. Why won't you marry me ?"

Indirect question of the examples are as follows:

- i. She asked him if (or whether) he lived there.
- ii. He asked her why she wouldn't marry him.

Indirect yes-no question (40.i) is introduced by 'If or whether. Indirect wh-question (40.ii) is introduced by 'wh-word' which begins the question in direct speech.

2.2.11 Polite Question

We can make a question more <polite> (e.g. when addressing a stranger) by adding 'Please' or by using an introductory formula like 'could you tell me': e.g.

- 41.i. What is your name, please ?
- ii. Would you mind telling me your name ?
- iii. Please could I have your address and telephone number ?
- iv. May /could I ask you If you are driving to the station ?
- vi. Would you mind If I opened a window ?
- vii. May we smoke in here ?

- viii. Would you please be quiet ?
- ix. Could you open the door, please ?

2.3 Questions in Maithili Language

Question is called */prā dnā/* in Maithili language. As in English language, question in Maithili language is a sentence type by which someone asks his hearer to give information. The formation of questions in Maithili language is 'unique' in comparison to English. In Maithili language, we don't use subject operator inversion rule to make questions. For Instance

- a. *(Āh) khĀ e - l - Āh ?*
 You (H) eat - PST - (2H)
 'Did you eat ?'
- b. *kĀ tĀ jae - b ?*
 Where go - FUT - (2H)
 'Where do you want to go ?'
- c. *babu jibit-e ch-Ā ith ki mĀ ir ge - l - ah ?*
 Father alive - EMPH be - PRES - (3H) or die -go PST (3H)
 Is your Father alive or did he die ?
- d. *(u) Ā e - l - Ā i, nĀ i (rĀ u) ?*
 he (NH) come - PST (3NH) not voc - (2NH)
 'He came, didn't he ?'

The word order of Maithili language is not similar to English. The basic unmarked word order of the major constituents of the sentence in Maithili is 'SOV' (i.e. Subject, Object, Verb). It is sometimes claimed that word order in Maithili is fairly free- that the order of the constituents in a sentence can be changed without causing an appreciable change in meaning. For instance, S, Jha (1958:616) concludes

that "words in Maithili can be arranged in any manner in a sentence by the speaker".

Thus, the constituents of sentence may be arranged as shown below:

SOV - ram am kh↔e - l - ↔inh '

Ram mango eat - PST (3H)

Ram ate a mango.

OVS - am kh↔e - l - ↔inh ram

OSV - am ram kh↔e - l - ↔inh

VOS - Kh↔e - l - ↔inh am ram

VSO - kh↔e - l - ↔inh ram am

SVO - ram kh↔e - l - ↔inh am

Y.P. Yadava (1982b:9) has argued on the word order that "the only word order which may remain neutral with respect to phonological changes and their subsequent semantic effect (i.e., topicalization and focusing) is SOV ..." e.g.

ram am kh↔e -l-↔inh

Ram mango ate

2.3.1 Kinds of Questions in Maithili

Ramawatar Yadav, in his book "*A Reference Grammar of Maithili* (1996:281)" has talked about the types of Maithili sentences and their way of formation under the topic 'sentence types'. He has discussed three major sentence types (declarative, imperative and interrogative) and some minor types of sentence in Maithili (i.e. exclamative, horative and impercative).

According to him, there are four types of questions (interrogative sentence) in Maithili, according to the types of reply expected. They are as follows:

- i. Neutral - Yes - No question
- ii. Information question
- iii. Disjunctive question and

iv. Biased Yes-No question

2.3.1.1 Neutral - Yes-No Questions

Yadav (1996:290) defines "Questions that expect a positive or negative answer to the questioned statement are Yes-No questions. These questions are neutral with respect to the answer the speaker expects and therefore will be called "Neutral Yes-No questions" e.g.

1.i. (Å h) khÅ e - l - Å h ? (Sub + MV ?)

You (H) eat - PST - (2H)

'Did you eat ?' (Aux + Sub + MV ?)

ii. ki Å ha khÅ e - l - Å h ?

What you (H) eat - PST - (2H)

'Did you eat ?'

2.3.1.1.1 The form of Neutral yes-No Questions

As the form of English Yes-No question, the form of Maithili neutral Yes-No questions do not require subject operator inversion and the 'Do' support is not used even though there are no auxiliaries in the sentence. In Maithili questions, subject precedes the verb, which is followed by question mark.

The most striking property of one type of natural Yes-No question is its rising final intonation. e.g.

2(i) (Å h) cÅ il Å e - l - Å h ? (Sub + V ?)

You (H) walk come (PST) - (2H)

'Did you come back ? (Aux + Sub + MV ?)

ii. Cah piÅ -b?

tea drink- FUT (2H)

'Would you like to have some tea ?'

2(i) and (ii) may be described as "bare" yes-no questions in that they lack the question word 'Ki' 'What'. Another type of neutral yes-no question is characterized by the use of a sentence initial question word 'Ki' 'what' and falling final intonation. e.g.

3.i. *ki O bĀ hut bimar ch-Ā ith ?*

What he(H) very ill be PRES-(3H)

'Is he very ill ?

ii. *ki O-ho rĀ h - Ā ik ?*

What he (NH) - EMPH be

'was he also there ?'

iii. *ki t khĀ e -l -e ?*

What you (NH) eat (PST) (2NH)

'Did you eat ?'

Neutral Yes-No question forms are also used for 'rhetorical questions' e.g.

iv. *re, hĀ m tohĀ r bhĀ uji ch-iĀ uk ?*

VOC-(2NH -I You (NH)-GENIT brother's wife be PRES - (1+2NH)

'Oh Ye, am I your brother's wife ?

3.iv. may be uttered by a women who is being unjustifiably teased and vexed by a younger boy the implication being that he has no social authority to tease her in that Manner.

2.3.1.1.2 Functions of Neutral Yes-No Question

Neutral Yes-No question can be used for the following functions:

1. as direct request

e.g. i. *hÅ m Å h sÅ_e ghÅ r ja sÅ ki chi*
?

I you(2H) with home go (IMP) can be
Can I get a ride home with you ?

2. as offer or Invitation

e.g. i. *kÅ ni kal bÅ isÅ -b ?*
littletime sit - FUT (2H)

Would you like to sit for a while ?

ii. *cah piÅ -b ?*

tea take FUT (2H)

Would you like to have some tea ?

3. as complaint

e.g. i. *kÅ hio din bhÅ ir bhukhÅ le rÅ hÅ l chi-se ?*

on what day - all - hungry - stay - PERF AUX PRES

Have you ever been hungry all day ?

4. asking permission

e.g. *(hÅ m) bhitÅ r absÅ ki chi ?*

I inside come (IMP)

May I come in ?

2.3.1.2 Information Question

Yadav (1996:290) defines "Questions that expect a reply from an open - ended range of replies are 'information questions'".

e.g. *kÅ tÅ jae - b ?*

Where go FUT (-2H)

Where do you want to go ?

2.3.1.2.1 The form of Information Question

Maithili information question is similar to wh-question in English. In English, wh-question begins with wh-word and operators normally come after the wh-elements but such restriction is not in Maithili information question. Information questions are formed with the use of 'Ke' proform question words which is followed by verb. Information questions don't require subject - operator inversion.

These question words are:

- a. Pronominal interrogative : Ke 'who' and its accusative - dative form $k \leftrightarrow kra$ 'whom' and genitive form $k \leftrightarrow k \leftrightarrow r$ 'whose', ki 'what', and kon 'which'.
- b. Pro-adverbial interrogatives: $K \leftrightarrow kh \leftrightarrow n$ 'when', $k \leftrightarrow hia$ 'on which day', $k \leftrightarrow t \leftrightarrow$ 'where', $komh \leftrightarrow r$ 'in which direction', kona 'how', $keh \leftrightarrow n$ 'of what type' $ki \Theta(k)$ 'why'.
- c. Pro-numeral interrogatives: $K \leftrightarrow te(k)$ 'how ;much/many', $k \leftrightarrow tni/k \leftrightarrow tne$ 'how little', and so on.

These are illustrated below:

- 4.i. - *ke* $\check{A} e - l - ah ?$ (subject)
 - who come - PST - (3H)
 - 'who came ?'
- ii. - *O* *ke* *tharh* *ch- \check{A} ith ?* (predicate complement)
 - he(H) who standing be PRES (3H)
 - Who is he who is standing (there) ?
- iii. - *(t)* *k \check{A} k - ra* *de-l-hi ?* (indirect object)
 - You(NH) who-ACC/DAT give - PST (2NH + 3NH)
 - 'To whom did you give ?'

- iv. *kÅ-kÅ r kitab ch-Å ik ?* (possessive modifier)
 this who - GENIT book be - PRES (3NH+3NH).
 'Whose book is this ?'
- v. *ki bhe - l ?*
 What become - PST (3NH)
 'What happened ?'
- vi. *Å h ki kin-l-Å h ?*
 You(H) what buy PST (2H)
 'What did you buy ?'
- vii. *kon chŞra phek-l-Å k ?* (Modifying a human noun)
 Which boy throw - PST (3NH)
 Which boy threw (it) ?
- viii. *kon kitab le - b ?* (Modifying a non-human noun)
 Which book take - FUT (2H)
 Which book will you take ?
- ix. *kÅ khÅ n Å u-t-ah ?* (Time)
 he (H) when come - FUT (3H)
 'When will he come ?'
- x. *kÅ hia Å e-l-Å h ?* (Time)
 On what day come PST (2MH)
 'When did you come ?'
- xi. *kÅ tÅ ge-l-Å h ?* (Place)
 Where go - PST -(2H)
 'Where are you ?'
- xii. *etek jeldi kona aib ge-l-Å h ?* (means)
 this much soon how come go PST (2H)
 'How did you arrive back so soon ?'
- xiii. *ki b(k) khisia ge-l-ah ?* (reason)

Why be angry go-PST -(3H)

Why was he angry all of a sudden ?'

xiv. *t kÅ tek dhÅ ua le-b-e ?*

(Quantity)

You (NH) how much money like - FUT (2NH)

'How much money do you want ?'

xv. *kÅ tne khÅ ini de-l-e ?*

how-little tobacco give - PST (2NH)

'How little tobacco did you give ?'

The 'Ke' - question word occurs immediately before the verb phrase except in cases where it functions as a determiner.

Information Questions can also be negative: e.g.

5.xvi *cah ke nÅ I pi-l-Å ith ?*
- tea who not drink - PST - (3H)
-'Who didn't drink tea ?'

Information Questions may also be rhetorical e.g.

6.xvii *ke puch - t - Å uk - to-ra ?*
- Who ask - FUT (3NH+2NH) You (NH) - ACC/DAT
- Who will ask you ?'

The answer of the above question is usually in the negative, i.e., the answer is that 'no one will ask you'.

More than one 'ke' question word may be used in an information question. e.g.

7.xvii. *ke kÅ h-Å l - kÅ ik kÅ k - ra ?*
- Who say - PST (3NH + 3NH) whom - ACC/DAT
- 'Who spoke to whom ?'.

2.3.1.2.2 The Functions of Information Question

Information question can be used for the following functions:

1. Social Interaction

e.g. *Å h ke nam ki Å ich ?*

Your (2H) name what be - PRES

What is your name ?

2. For getting direction

e.g. *hulak kÅ tÅ Å ich ?*

post office where be - PRES

Where is the post office ?

3. For eliciting vocabulary

e.g. *i kÅ thi hÅ i ?*

this what be - PRES

What's this ?

4. Greeting

e.g. *Å h kona chi ?*

You (2H) how be - PRES

How are you ?

5. Convey indignation

e.g. *mÅ ir nÅ i kiØk ja-it che- ?*

die not why go - IMPERF - AUX - PRES (2NH)

Why don't you die ?

6. Eliciting personal reaction

e.g. *sinema kehÅ n lag-Å l ?*

cinema of what type feel PST - (3NH+2H)

How did you like the movie ?

7. In seeking explanation

e.g. *bās kb(k) Åber Åich ?*

bus why late be PRES

Why is the bus late ?

8. Making Suggestion

e.g. *kriket khelÅl kona Åich ?*

cricket playing How be - PRES

How about playing cricket ?

9. Seeking opinions

e.g. *Åh ke bicar ki Åich ?*

your (2H) what opinion be - PRES

How about you ?

10. Conveys advice

e.g. *kathmandu kibk nÅi cÅil ja-it ch-i ?*

Kathmandu why not walk go - IMPERF-AUX-PRES(2H)

Why don't you go to Kathmandu ?

2.3.1.3 Disjunctive Questions

Yadav (1996:290) defines "Questions that expect as a reply the answer drawn from the list of mutually exclusive alternatives provided in the questions are "Disjunctive questions". e.g.

i. *pas bhe-l-e ki - Åhu sal phel-e ?*

pass become - PST(2NH) or this EMPH year Fail - EMPH

did you pass, or did you fail again this year ?

2.3.1.3.1 The form of Disjunctive Question

Disjunctive questions are formed by the use of the disjunctive particle *Ki*, 'or'. The disjuncts of a disjunctive question may be a NP, a sentence, a VP, as will be apparent from the given below. e.g.

8.i. *pas bhe-l-e ki - Å hu sal phel-e ?*
pass become - PST(2NH) or this EMPH year Fail - EMPH
Did you pass, or did you fail again this year ?

ii. *Åh cŞklet le-b ki dudh ki cah ki kŞphi ?*
You(H) chocolate take - FUT - (2H) or milk or tea or coffee.
-'What will you take, chocolate or milk or tea or coffee ?'

The most striking property of the disjunctive question form is that while all non-final yes-no question have rising intonation, the final question has falling intonation in order to suggest that the list is complete.

2.3.1.4 Biased Yes - No Question

Yadav (1996:290) defines 'Questions that expect confirmation or disconfirmation of statements made by the speakers are tag-like questions: These questions are however, biased in that the speaker uses them to influence the hearer in favour of a positive or negative answer, and will therefore be called 'Biased yes - no question'. e.g.

i. *suga uir ge-l- Å u (k) nÅ i ?*
Parrot fly go - PST -(3NH + 2NH) not
(Your) parrot flew away, didn't it?'

2.3.1.4.1 The form of Biased Yes -No Question

Biased yes-no questions are formed by the use of a declarative statement followed by a tag question word 'n↔i' not' or 's ce', 'really', optionally followed by vocative *yðu* (2H), *h↔* (2MH), and *r↔u* (2NH). for instance.

- 9.i. *suga uir ge-l- Å u (k) nði ?*
 Parrot Fly go - PST -(3NH + 2NH) not
 (Your) parrot flew away, didn't it?
- ii. *Å h pÅ rsu jae-b nei yÅ u ?*
 You(H) day after tomorrow go - FUT (2H) not voc - (2H)
 You are going day after tomorrow, aren't you ?
- iii. *O Å merika cÅ il ge-l-ah s ce ?*
 he(H) America walk go-PST - (3H) really
 'He left for the U.S.A., did he/really ?'
- iv. *t bis-ta am kha- l -Å it chÅ ik s ce rÅ u ?*
 You(NH) twenty CLAS mango eat take IMPERF
 AUX-PRES - (2NH+3NH) really VOC -(2NH)
 You manage to eat twenty mangoes, do you/is that so ?

In 9. (i-ii), the speaker presumes to be certain about the truth of the statement and uses the biased -yes- no question merely to ask for confirmation of the statement by the hearer. Such, however, is not the case in 9. (iii-iv), where in the biased yes-no questions express some doubt about the truth of the statement and invite the hearer to say what the truth is.

In leading questions, where positive answers are expected, disjunctive negative polarity tags are used by repeating the finite form of the verb of the declarative statement: e.g.

- 10.v. *u to-ra khub pit - Å l- kÅ u (k) pit - Å l- kÅ u (k)*
 he(NH) You (NH) - ACC/DAT Much beat PST (3H+2NH) beat - PST
ki nÅ i ?
 (3H+2NH) or not.
 'He beat you severely, didn't he ?'

In questions whose answer are presumed to be negative, the finite form of the verb of the declarative statement is repeated and is followed by an appropriate vocative.

vi. *u to-ra nĀ i pit - Ā l - kĀ u (k) pitt - Ā l - kĀ u(k)*
rĀ u ?

he(NH) You (NH) ACC/DAT not beat PST (3NH + 2NH) beat - PST -
 (3NH + 2NH) VOC - (2NH)

'He didn't beat you, did he ?'

2.3.1.4.2 The Functions of Biased Yes-No question

Maithili biased yes-no question functions similar to English tag question which occurs more frequently in oral discourse than in written discourse. The function of biased yes-no question are as follows:

i. Seeking agreement

e.g. *suga uir ge-lĀ u (k) nĀ i ?*
 parrot fly go - PST. (3NH + 2NH) not
 (Your) parrot flew away, didn't it ?

ii. Inviting Confirmation

e.g. *Ā h prĀ su jae-b nĀ i yĉu ?*
 You(H) day after tomorrow go FUT (2H) not VOC (2H)
 You are going day after tomorrow, aren't you ?

iii. Expressing doubt

e.g. *O Ā merika cĀ il ge-l-ah s ce ?*
 He(NH) America walk go-PST (3H) really
 He left for the U.S.A., really/did he ?

2.4 Conclusion

To recapitulate, I have presented types of questions and their formation in both Maithili and English languages in this chapter. In 2.1, I have defined question as a sentence, phrase, or word that asks for information. I have tried to extend my analysis

on English questions. After going through the different grammars and views of Grammarians, I found following kinds of questions (Yes - No question, wh- question, tag question, Alternative question, Declarative question, Exclamatory question, Rhetorical question. Echo Questions, Indirect question and polite question) in English.

In 2.3, I have discussed about questions in Maithili language. I have also demonstrated that the word order in a simple Maithili sentence, which appears to be fairly free at surface, is in fact fixed (i.e. SOV) at the base. In 2.3.1, I have presented four kinds of questions (Neutral Yes-No question, Information question, Disjunctive question and Biased Yes-No question) in Maithili language. I have also analyzed the formation of Maithili questions which are unique in comparison to English. There is no subject operator inversion rule in Maithili questions like in English.

CHAPTER THREE

3.1 Contrastive Analysis of Maithili and English Questions

Contrastive Analysis is a branch of applied linguistics. It compares learner's two languages viz, mother tongue and target language, find out their similarities and differences and then predict the areas of ease and difficulty. It is the study of two or more languages in order to find out their similarities and differences. There are no two languages similar in the world. They always vary in one system or the whole system. C.A collects data of the two given languages and compares them in terms of their phonological system, grammatical system or semantic system.

This chapter consists of the analysis and interpretation of the collected data. The analysis of 'English questions' is done on the basis of secondary data collected basically from '*A university Grammar of English (1973)*, *The Grammar Book (1999)*, *A Communicative Grammar of English (1991)*, *The Oxford English Grammar (1996)*, and '*Practical English Usage (1980)*. Maithili questions formation are analyzed on the basis of secondary data collected from '*A Reference Grammar of Maithili (1996)* and *Maithili Vyakaran Aur Rachana (1989)* and *Issues in Maithili Syntax (1998)*.

This chapter aims at exploring the similarities and dissimilarities between English and Maithili languages in terms of questions formation. The sentences by which someone asks his hearer to give informations are called question in English, and /prθΣnθ/ in Maithili. Both languages have their own unique sentence patterns.

- e.g.1. i. Sub M.V ?
 (ᱫᱷᱟ) khᱫᱟe - l - ᱫᱷᱟ ?
- ii. Did you eat ?
 Aux Sub M.V. ?

Syntactically analyzing the given examples we found e.g. (i) (s+v+?) consists of subject (ᱫᱷᱟ) 'you' and verb (khᱫᱟe-l-ᱫᱷᱟ) 'ate' followed by a question mark whereas, e.g. (ii) (AUX+S+MV+?) consists of Auxiliary (Did) first followed by subject (You) and main verb (eat) at last with question mark. The given examples

prove that both Maithili and English questions differ in term of syntax level. Maithili question (i) begins with subject whereas English question (ii) begins with Auxiliary.

3.2 The similarities and dissimilarities

The similarities and the dissimilarities between the English and Maithili questions can be explored basically at the level of syntax, phonology and semantic.

The similarities and dissimilarities between them are as follows.

3.2.1 Similarities between English and Maithili questions

1. The questions in both English and Maithili languages are used by speaker to ask his hearer to give information.

e.g. 2. i. (ᱫᱷ) ke ch-i ?

You (H) who be PRESS (2H)

Who are you ?

In this given example (i) the speaker is willing to know the name or profession of the listener.

2. Both English and Maithili Questions use question mark(?) at the end of the sentence.

e.g. 3.i. kᱠᱠᱠ jae - b ?

Where go (FUT) (2H)

Where do you want to go ?

3. Rising intonation is used in both English Yes-no question and Maithili bare - Yes -no question.

e.g.4.i. ᱫᱷ cᱠil ᱫ-1-ᱫᱷ ?

You (H) walk come PST (2H)

Did you come back ?

4. Maithili neutral yes-no question and English yes-no question can be used for the same functions such as

- direct request
- offer or invitation

- complaint and
- asking permission

e.g.5. i. *kḌni kal bḌisḌ-b ?*

little time sit FUT (2H)

Would you like to sit for a while ?

ii. *hḌm bhitḌr - u ?*

I inside come IMP

May I come in ?

iii. *hḌm Ḍh sḌ_e ghḌr ja sḌki chi ?*

I You(2H) with home go IMP can be

Can I get a ride home with you ?

iv. *kḌhio din bḌir bhukhḌle rḌhl chi-se ?*

On what day - all - hungry - stay - PERF AUX PRES

Have you ever been hungry all day ?

Syntactically the above given examples are different but semantically they have similar sense or meaning.

5. Information question of Maithili is similar to English wh-question in terms of functions. Both Maithili information questions and English wh-questions can be used for the following functions:

- i. Social interaction
- ii. For getting direction
- iii. For eliciting vocabulary
- iv. Greeting
- vi. Convey indignation
- vii. Seeking explanation
- viii. Making suggestion
- vix. Seeking opinions
- ix. Convey advice

6. e.g. i. *Ḍh ke nam ki Ḍich ?* (Social interaction)

Your(2H) name what be - PRES

What is your name

ii. *I ki chḌi ?* (for eliciting volabulary)

This what - be - PRES

What's this ?

iii. *mḌir nḌ kiḌk ja-it che-ē ?* (convery indignation)

die not why go - IMPERF - AUX - PRES (2NH)

Why don't you die ?

iv. Convey advice

kathmandu kiḌk nḌi ceil ja-it ch-i ?

Kathmandu why not walk go - IMPERF-AUX PRES (2H)

Why don't you go to Kathmandu ? etc.

6. Disjunctive questions and Alternative questions are similar in terms of using the word 'or', 'ki'. Both questions offer listener a choice between two alternatives. In both questions, a rise occurs on each item in the list, except the last, on which there is a fall, indicating that the list is complete.

e.g.7. i. *Cah le-b ki kḌphi ki kokakola ?*

tea take FUT (2H) or Coffee or Coca-Cola ?

ii. Would you like to have te↔a or co↔ffee or co↑ca-cola ?

7. Both languages manifest confirmation and disconfirmation with reference to tag questions/biased Yes - no questions.

e.g.8. i. *(u) Ḍe - l - Ḍi, nḌi (rḌu) ?*

he (NH) come PST (3NH) not VOC (2NH)

ii. He came, didn't he ?

Both tag questions and biased yes-no questions are formed by the use of a declarative statement followed by a tag question. In the above examples [(U) ̠-l-̠i] and [He come] are declarative statement and [n̠i (r̠u) ?] and [didn't he ?] are tag questions.

8. Tag questions /Biased yes-no questions occur much more frequently in oral discourse than in written discourse.

9. Like English Wh - question, Maithili information question can be used as rhetorical questions.

9.e.g.i. *Ke puch - t - ̠uk to-ra ?*

Who- ask FUT (3NH + 2NH) You (NH) - ACC/DAT

Who will ask you ? (no one will ask you)

ii. *Ke K̠h ̠i-k̠uk ja-e la?*

Who say - PST (3NH+2NH) go - Inf for

Who asked you to go ?

(Nobody asked you to go, you shouldn't have gone).

10. Like English yes-no question, Neutral yes no question are also used for rhetorical questions.

e.g.10.i. *re, h̠m toh-̠r bh̠uji chi-i̠uk ?*

VOC-(2NH) I You (NH)-GENIT- Brother's wife be - PRES (1+2NH)

Oh ye, am I your brother's wife (I am not).

This may be uttered by a women who is being unjustifiably tersed and vexed by a younger boy-the implication being that he has no social authority to tease her in that manner.

3.2.2 Dissimilarities between Maithili and English questions

There are no two languages similar in the world. They always vary in one system of the whole system. The form of Maithili questions are unique in comparison

to English questions. The dissimilarities between the English and Maithili questions are as follows.

1. Subject - operator Inversion

English yes-no questions follow the subject - operator inversion but in Maithili questions no subject - operator inversion are realized.

e.g.11. i. Bishbas is teaching

'Is' Bishbas teaching ?

Aux + Sub + M.V. + O ... ?

ii. (*ðh*) *khðe - l- ðh* ?

You (H) eat (PST) (2H)

Sub + V ?

In example 11 (i) subject - operator inversion is applied where operator (is) placed before subject (Bishbas). But in example 11 (ii) there is not applied the subject - operator inversion rule. Where subject (*ðh*) you' precedes (*khðe - l - ðh*) 'ate' verb.

2. Do - support

If there is no auxiliary verb or be verb, the 'do' is introduced as an operator in English questions whereas Maithili questions do not follow 'do' support and be inversion.

e.g.12. i. Sanjay plays football.

Does sanjay play football ?

In the given example (12)(i) no operation is used, therefore, 'do' support is used as the auxiliary to make subject - object inversion.

12.ii. (*ðh*) *khðe - l-ðh* ?

You (H) eat (PST) - (2H)

In Maithili questions 'Do' support is not applied. In the given example 12 (ii) no 'do' support is used as an auxiliary to make subject object inversion.

3. The **wh-word order** of Maithili questions don't bear one to one correspondence with English question. Generally, English questions place wh-

word in the initial position except display question while wh-words may be placed in initial or Middle position in Maithili language

e.g.13.i. *Who* are you ?

ii. *Why* are you late ?

iii. *Which* book do you like ?

In the given examples, wh-words are placed in initial position which are followed by Auxiliaries.

e.g.14. i. (Ðh) *ke chi* ?

You (H) who be PRES)(2H)

ii. *O ke tharh ch-Ðith* ?

he (H) who standing be-PRES (3H)

iii. *ki bhel* ?

What become - PST (3NH)

iv. *Kon kitab le-b* ?

Which book take - FUT (2H)

Whereas in the given examples 14 (i-ii), wh - words (ke) are used in the middle position, and in the examples 14 (iii-iv) Wh-words are used in the initial position. There are no such restrictions as in English to use the wh-word in initial position only.

4. Tag-formation in Maithili does not require the **use of pronominals and Auxiliaries**. It is generally characterized by *nði* 'not', or *s ce* 'really', optionally, followed by vocative *yðu*, *hðu* and *rðu*. But Tag in English compulsorily requires pronominals and auxiliaries. If the subject of the main clause is not a pronoun, It must be pronominalized in tag.

15.e.g.i. *Suga uir ge-l-Ðuck nði* ?

Parrot fly go- PST (3NH+2NH) not

ii. *ðh pðrsu jae-b nði yðu* ?

you (H) dayafter tomorrow go fut (2H) not voc -(2H)

In the given example 15 (i-ii), No Auxiliaries and pronominals are used in the tag according to the subject of the Main clause. But in English tag question we must use auxiliaries and pronominals.

e.g.16.i. Ram is playing football, isn't he ?

ii. She reads a book, doesn't she ?

iii. I didn't eat meat, did I ?

In the given example 16 (i-iii), Auxiliaries and pronominals are used according to the tense and subject of the main clause respectively. We don't use proper noun in the tag therefore, 'Ram' in the example 16 (i) is pronominalized into 'he' in the tag question. Negative particles in the examples are contracted because auxiliaries and negative particles are written together.

5. English language does have Exclamatory question which undergoes subject operators inversion in yes-no question but not in wh-question. English exclamation question is usually punctuated with an exclamation mark (!). But we don't find Exclamatory question in Maithili which undergoes subject operator inversion.

e.g. 17. i. Isn't that grand !

ii. How big it is !

iii. hasn't she grown !

These examples invite the listener's agreement to some thing on which the speaker has strongly positive feelings.

6. Honorificity

Maithili language does have honorific forms of pronouns and verbs which are also used in question formation but such honorific forms are not used in English language. e.g.

18.i. (Ðh) ke ch-I ?

You (H) who be PRES (2H)

Who are you ?

ii. *ki to khDe - l-e?*

What you (NH) eat (PST) - (2NH)

Did you eat ?

iii. *(U) De - l-DI, nDI (rDu) ?*

he (NH) come - PST (3NH) not voc - (2NH)

He come, didn't he ?

In the given examples, (*ðh*), 'You' is honorific second person singular number, (*tõ*), 'you' is nonhonorific second person singular number and (U) 'He' is nonhonorific third person singular number. The use of honorific pronouns depend on kinship and the speaker's estimation of his /her own self vis-à-vis the **age, position, education background, profession, economic status, caste** etc. of the addressee. Whereas we don't find this type of use in English language. The same pronoun may be used for all persons. The address's caste, economic status, profession, position, educational background don't determine the use of pronoun in English.

The similarities and the dissimilarities between the English and Maithili Questions are shown in the table.

Similarities

English Questions	Maithili Questions
1. Used by speaker to ask his hearer to give information e.g. - Is this a book ? - What is your name ?	1. Maithili questions are also used by speaker to ask his hearer to given information. e.g. - <i>ðh ke ch-i ?</i> you(H) who be PRES-(2H) - <i>kDhia ð-l-ðh ?</i> On what day come PST (2MH)
2. Use question make (?) e.g. - Is Ram reading a book ? - Why are you late ?	2. Maithili Questions also use auestion mark. e.g. - <i>ðh ke ch-i ?</i> You(H) who be PRES - (2H)

<p>3. Use rising intonation in Yes-no question e.g.</p> <p>- Has the boat left ?</p> <p>- Did you come back ?</p>	<p>3. Maithili question also use rising intonation in bare yes-no question. e.g.</p> <p>- <i>Cah piḍ-b ?</i></p> <p>tea drink (FUT-(2H))</p> <p>- <i>Ḍh cḍil ḍe-l-Ḍh ?</i></p> <p>You(H) walk come PST (2H)</p>
<p>4. Yes-no question functions as direct request, offer - invitation, complaint asking permission etc. e.g.</p> <p>- would you like to sit for a while ?</p> <p>- Have you ever been hungry all day ?</p> <p>- May I come in ?</p>	<p>4. Neutral yes-no question also have same functions. e.g.</p> <p>- <i>kḍni kal bḍisḍ-b ?</i></p> <p>little time sit FUT (H)</p> <p>- <i>hḍm bitḍr a-u ?</i></p> <p>I inside come IMP (I)</p> <p>May I come in ?</p> <p>- <i>kḍhio din bhḍir bhukhḍle</i></p> <p>on what day - day - all - hungry</p> <p>- <i>rḍhal chi-se ?</i></p> <p>stay - PERF AUX PRES.</p>
<p>5. Wh - questions are used for social interaction, for getting direction, for eliciting vocabulary, greeting, convey indignation, seeking explanation, making suggestion, seeking opinions, convey advice etc. e.g.</p> <p>- Where is the post office ?</p> <p>- Why is the bus late ?</p> <p>- How about you ?</p>	<p>5. Information questions are also used for the same functions. e.g.</p> <p>- <i>Ḍh ke nam ki ḍich?</i></p> <p>your(H) what name what be AUX PRES (U)</p> <p>- <i>Hulak kḍtḍ ḍich ?</i></p> <p>post office where be- PRES</p> <p>- <i>Bḍs kḍ(k) ḍber ḍich ?</i></p> <p>Bus why late be- PRES.</p> <p>- <i>Ḍh ke bicar ki ḍich ?</i></p> <p>your (H) what opinion be PRES</p>
<p>6. Alternative Questions offer listeners a choice between two alternatives e.g.</p> <p>- Would you like tea or coffee ?</p>	<p>6. Disjunctive Questions also offer listner a choice between two alternatives e.g.</p> <p>- <i>Cah le - b ki kḍphi ?</i></p> <p>- tea take FUT (2H) or coffee</p>

<p>7. Alternative questions use 'OR' e.g. Would you like tea or coffee ?</p>	<p>7. Disjunctive questions also use 'Ki' 'or'. e.g. - <i>Cah le-b ki kŞphi ?</i> tea take FUT or coffee</p>
<p>8. Tag question expects confirmation and disconfirmation of statement made by the speaker. e.g. - Ravi is a student, isn't he ? - I will buy a car, won't I ?</p>	<p>8. Biased yes-no question also expects confirmation and disconfirmation of statement made by the speaker e.g. - <i>Suga uir ge - l - Ðu(k) nÐI ?</i> poarrot fly PST (3NH+2NH) not - <i>O Ðmerika cÐil ge-l-ah s ce ?</i> he(H) America walk go - PST (3H) really</p>
<p>9. Tag question occurs much more frequently in oral discourse than in written.</p>	<p>9. Biased Yes-no question also occurs much more frequently in oral discourse than in written.</p>
<p>10. Ta question comes after statement or command e.g. He came, didn't he ?</p>	<p>10. Biased yes -no question also come after statement or command <i>(U) b-l-Ði nÐI (rÐu) ?</i> he (NH) come PST (3NH) not voc (2NH) - <i>ja - eb nÐI ?</i> go - FUT not.</p>
<p>11. Yes - no question can be used as rhetorical question e.g. is that a reason for despair ? (Surely that is not a reason)</p>	<p>11. Neutral yes-no question can also be used as rhetorical question. e.g. <i>re, hÐm toh-Ðr bhÐuji</i> VOC (2HN) I You (NH) GENIT - brother's <i>ch- iÐuk?</i> wife be PRES - (1+2 NH)</p>
<p>12. Wh - question can be used as rhetorical question e.g. Who will ask you ? (No one will ask you)</p>	<p>12. Information question can also be used as rhetorical question e.g. - <i>ke puch -t-Ðuk - to - ra?</i> who ask FUT (3NH+2NH) You (NH) ACC/DAT</p>

Differences

English Questions	Maithili Questions
<p>1. Follow subject operator - In- version e.g. - Is Raj teaching English ? - Has Ram gone home ? - Aux + Sub + MV + Obj + ... ?</p>	<p>1. Don't follow subject operator Inversion e.g. - (Ðh) <i>khÐe - l-Ðh</i> ? - You (H) eat PST) - (2H) - Sub + MV ?</p>
<p>2. Follow Do - Support. e.g. Ravi eats mangoes. Does Ravi eat mangoes ?</p>	<p>2. No Do-support is followed e.g. (Ðh) <i>khÐe - l - Ðh</i> You (H) eat (PST) - (2H)</p>
<p>3. Wh-words are compulsorily used in the initial position. e.g. i. Who are you ? ii. How are you ? iii. Why are you late ? iv. What is this ? v. When will you go ?</p>	<p>3. Such compulsion is not found in Maithili e.g. i. <i>O ke thar ch-Ðith</i> ? He(H) who starding be PRES (3H) ii. <i>Ðh ki kin-l-Ðh</i> ? You(H) what buy - PST(2H) iii. <i>Kon kitab le-b</i> ? Which book take - FUT(2H)</p>
<p>4. In Tag question, Auxiliary and pronominals are used according to the tense and subject of the mainclause respectively. e.g. - You are a student, aren't you ? - She will sing, won't she ? - He ate rice, didn't he ?</p>	<p>4. We don't find such use in Maithili. e.g. <i>Suga uir ge-l-Ðuk nÐi</i> ? Parrot fly go PST (3NH+2NH) not <i>Ðh pÐrsu jae-b</i> You (H) day after tomorrow go FUT (2H) <i>nÐi yÐu</i> ? not VOC - (2H)</p>
<p>5. No Honorific form of pronoun and verb are used. e.g. Do you teach English ?</p>	<p>5. Make use of Honorific form of pronoun and verb. e.g. <i>Ðh ke ch-i</i> ? You(H) who be PRES (2H) <i>tō kÐtek dhÐua le-b-e</i> ? You(NH) howmuch money take FUT</p>

	<p>(2NH)</p> <p>(<i>Ḍh</i>) <i>cḌil Ḍe-l-ah</i> ?</p> <p>You(H) walk come - PST (2H)</p> <p>Use of Hononific form depend on kinship and the speaker's estimation of his/her own self vis-à-vis the age, position, educational background, profession, economic status, caste etc. of the addressee.</p>
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CHAPTER FOUR

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

4.1 Summary

This chapter aims at summarizing the whole dissertation and presenting a brief conclusion of it. The introducing chapter of the present dissertation has shed light on the entire thesis. It has introduced both English and Maithili languages along with their importance and historical facts. It has given an outline of the whole thesis giving information about the statement of problem, the objectives of the research, significance of the study, the review of related (literature) language, research methodology, delimitation of the study, and the organization of the whole study.

The second chapter which is one of the focal points of this dissertation deals with the questions in English and Maithili languages. It has presented a study of the questions formation in English and Maithili languages at the level of syntax and semantics. This chapter has made a formal/syntactic analysis of the questions in English and Maithili languages. This chapter has also dealt with the kinds, functions and the meanings/semantics of the questions in English and Maithili languages in detail. While dealing with the kinds of the questions in English, in response to different grammarians, we found eleven kinds of questions in English.

This chapter has not only deal with the formal/syntactic classification of the question in English but it has also presented the classification of Maithili questions. While dealing with the kind of the questions in Maithili, Ramawatar Yadav has classified Maithili, questions into four kinds. This chapter has also dealt with the function of Maithili questions and their form. The change in syntactic structure or forms of questions in Maithili and English do not cause the change in meaning. While dealing with questions in English and Maithili languages, the grammars of Randolph

Quirk and Sidney Green Baum, Marianne Celce-Murcia and Daine Larsen- Freeman, Geoffrey Leech and Jan Svatrik, Ramawatar Yadav, Yogendra Prasad Yadava, and Yogeshwar Jha, has generalized about the questions formation in English and Maithili languages and talked about eleven kinds of English questions which are not categorically given in their work. The discussion about the functions of Maithili questions are a kind of finding or an exploration by the researcher.

The third chapter which is also a focal point of this dissertation, has founded out some similarities and similarities in English and Maithili languages in terms of the questions formation. In this connection it has been observed that English and Maithili questions behave semantically alike. However, they strikingly differ in terms of syntactic structure. Since English and Maithili are two different language, the dissimilarities between them are natural. This chapter has presented some 10 similarities, and 6 dissimilarities between them in terms of the question formation. This shows that both English and Maithili questions are more similar in terms of function than form.

4.2 Conclusion

To conclude, the questions are typically sentences by which someone asks his hearer to give information. English and Maithili questions, in spite of being two different languages, are more similar in terms of function. Though they are different in terms of syntactic structure. English question follows subject operator-inversion whereas Maithili questions don't follows subject operator inversion. Although this work itself is very small and limited and has not covered the area what is needed, it will certainly, as I hope, be helpful for further works in Maithili.

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