

The Nouns and Noun Phrase in Raji

A Thesis submitted to the Central Department of Linguistics
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur
in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Master's
Degree of Arts in Linguistics

By
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Central Department of Linguistics
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Kirtipur, Kathmandu
Nepal
February, 2009

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This is to certify that this thesis entitled ‘The Nouns and Noun Phrase in Raji’ has been completed by Mr. Krishna Kumar Sah under my supervision. I recommend this thesis for evaluation.

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Abstract

Raji is a Tibeto-Burman language of the Himalayish subgroup within Tibeto-Burman group of Sino-Tibetan language family. It is an endangered language since it is spoken by only a small number of speakers. The Rajis primarily reside in different villages nearby the jungle and the river sides of Kailali, Surkhet, Kanchanpur, Bardiya and Banke districts of Mid and Far-Western Development Regions of western Nepal. According to the recent census 2001, the number of mother tongue Raji speakers is 2,413.

The distinction likes, countable/ uncountable and human/ non-human is applicable in Raji. The Raji language has both consonant as well as vowel ending nouns.

The personal pronouns show three pronouns, namely, first, second and third and three numbers viz. singular, dual and plural distinctions. Honorificity is expressed by the use of dual and plural numbers for second persons. The first, second and third persons are marked for possessive on the head (possessed item) with a pronominal suffix that agree with the possessors.

There is no grammatical gender. Nouns inflect for singular, dual and plural. The numeral classifier is $-t^h\lambda u$ which appears next to a numeral. Raji has the split-ergative system. The nominal may be inflected for a number of cases.

Nouns and simple modifiers like adjectives, demonstratives and numerals are the main elements in the noun phrase in Raji. The relative clause is simply a nominalized clause used as a nominal modifier of the head noun.

List of Abbreviations

1	First person
2	Second person
3	Third person
ABL	Ablative
ADJZ	Adjectivizer
CLF	Classifier
CLF1	Classifier One
CLF2	Classifier Two
COR	Correlative
DAT	Dative
DEM	Demonstrative
DET	Determiner
DIST	Distal
DU	Dual
DUR	Durative
ERG	Ergative
GEN	Genitive
IMP	Imperative
INF	Infinitive
INS	Instrumental
LOC	Locative
N	Noun
NATZ	Nativizer
NEG	Negative
NOMIZ	Nominalizer
NUM	Numeral
PL	Plural
POSS	Possessive
PROX	Proximal
PTB	Proto-Tibeto-Burman
QUNT	Quantifier
REF	Reflexive
REM	Remote
SD	Same day
SG	Singular
TB	Tibeto-Burman

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