

**SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT IN ENGLISH AND
PUMA RAI**

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

Submitted By
Priya Chandra Rai

Faculty of Education
Tribhuvan University
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal

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DECLARATION

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

Date: 2068-10-23

Priya Chandra Rai

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that **Mr. Priya Chandra Rai** has prepared the thesis entitled “**A Comparative Study on Subject- Verb Agreement in English and Puma Rai Languages**” under my guidance and supervision.

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my parents.

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Priya Chandra Rai

ABSTRACT

This research work, entitled “Subject –Verb Agreement in English and Puma Rai” aims at identifying the S-V agreement system in the Puma Rai language and compare it with that of the English language.

This thesis consists of four chapters: Introduction, Methodology, Analysis and Interpretation, and Findings and Recommendations. The objectives of this study were to find the Subject-Verb Agreement System of Puma and Compare and contrast it with that of English language. I used both primary and secondary sources to collect required data. I used the native speakers of the Puma Rai language from Diplung, Mauwabote and Devisthan VDCs of Khotang district as the primary source of the data. I adopted the snowball non-random sampling procedure to sample the population. The sample size consisted of sixty native speakers from three selected VDCs ten male and ten female from each VDC. I met Mr. Shree Kumar Rai from Diplung and Parshu Rai from Devisthan, explained them the purpose of my visit and administered the questionnaire translating it into Nepali. After getting information from them, I asked them to identify other informants. I visited them in their villages, asked them the questions from the questionnaire in Nepali and got information. Thus, I visited different villages of Diplung, Mauwabote and Devisthan village development committees. The data received from the primary source was not enough to give this work a complete form. That is why, I had to consult secondary sources of data. I consulted some books, magazines, journals and theses. The major secondary sources were Chomsky (1957), Sapir(1921), Aarts(1997), Yadava(2004).

On completion of this study, I have found some of the findings regarding S-V agreement system of the Puma. Some of the major findings of the study are: Puma verbs agree with the categories of ‘number’, and ‘tense’. The change in a gender and person of a subject does not affect the form of a verb in a sentence or clause. Both English and Puma verbs do not show agreement with the grammatical category of ‘gender’.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AD	Ann Domini
CA	Contrastive Analysis
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CPDP	Chhintang Puma Documentation Project
Exc	Exclusive
Fem	Feminine Gender
FL	Foreign Language
HMG	His Majesty Government
Inc	Inclusive
LSN	Linguistic Society of Nepal
Masc	Masculine Gender
NPT	Non Past Tense
Pl	Plural
Pres	Present Tense
PT	Past Tense
Sing	Singular
SL	Second Language
S-V	Subject- Verb
TU	Tribhuvan University
UN	United Nation
VDC	Village Development Committee
1 st	First Person
2 nd	second Person
3 rd	Third Person
CAH	contrastive analysis hypothesis
Perf	perfect
Cont	continuous
i.e.	that is/ id est
e.g.	examplifi gratia/ for example

viz.	used to introduce a list of things that explain something clearly
S	subject
O	object
V	verb
Etc.	etcetera/ and others
Et al.	and others
L1	first language
L2	second language
Fut.	Future tense
Int.	interrogative
Neg.	negative