A DESCRIPTIVE GRAMMAR OF CHHATTHARE LIMBU

A Dissertation
Submitted to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of
Tribhuvan University in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

By
Govinda Bahadur Tumbahang
Central Department of English
Kirtipur, Kathmandu

2007

AKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My gratitude goes first and foremost to my father late Purun Dhoj Tumbahang, who roused an unflinching interest in my mind to contribute something to Chhatthare Limbu at my early stage of life. This interest inspired me to write M..A. thesis on *Noun Phrase Structures in Limbu* in Chhatthare Limbu under the supervision of Prof. Dr.Y.P. Yadava, who was then reader at the Tribhuvan University. More than a decade and a half after my completion of M.A., I was again inspired to pursue Ph. D. course on 'A Descriptive Grammar of Chhathare Limbu'. I am much indebted to Prof. Yadava for this inspiration.

My deepest debt of gratitude is to my supervisor Prof. Dr. Madhav Prasad Pokharel, who made me successful to complete the dissertation giving me the whole vision of language I needed and sensible and sane framework around which my thoughts have been organized. I owe everything to him for his guidance, supervision, challenging criticism, verbally at our meetings which used to stretch for hours and by e-mail while I was outside of the valley. Similarly, I owe much to Prof. Dr. David E. Watters, my co-guide for his untiring effort to make comments on my writing and suggestion for the improvement of the dissertation. My thanks are due to Prof. Dr. Novel Kishore Rai, my co-guide for his continuous inspiration and encouragement while I felt disappointed with my heavy work.

I am grateful to Prof. Dr. Sridhar Prasad Lohani for his suggestions in choosing the right path when I was trapped in complicated situation and to Prof. Dr Abhi Subedi and Prof. Dr. Ramawatar Yadav for their invaluable comments on my seminar paper and literature review. I sincerely appreciate Prof. Chandra Prakash Sharma, the then Head of the Central Department of English, Kirtipur for his kind help in arranging seminar for me on time and encouraging me in my research work.

Former Vice-Chancellor of the Purbanchal University, Biratnagar, Mr. Toran Bahadur Karki helped me in every possible way to carry out the research work and I am sure that without his help the present work would not have been completed. I am grateful to him for his kind co-operation.

In my fieldwork, Tek Chandra Wanem of Dhunge Sanghu, Sita Mademma of Phedap, Dilendra Subba of Panthar and Bharat Subba and Bhairab Angla of Chhathar area were my informants. I should like to thank them for the information of verb paradigms and words they provided me in their mother tongue. Likewise, I owe much to Institute of Nepal National Languages Preservation, Lalitpur for the financial support to conduct a three-day workshop seminar from 12 August to 14 August, 2005 in Mahendra Multiple campus, Dharan on 'A comparative study of the verb paradigms of the Limbu dialects', a part of the thesis. Mr. S.K. Khaling, Director of the institute deserves all my appreciation for the financial support, and my thanks are due to Mr. Junahang Tabebung, Mrs.Tulasi Maya Labung,Mrs. Chandra Mati Limbu,Mr. Hari Samrahang, Mrs. Ashmaya Sangsabo, Mrs. Bhim Kumari Maharesang,Mrs. Mayandi Maden,Mr. Som Phaben,Mr. Harka Subba, Mr. Keshave Angbuhang,Mr. Chhatra Angbuhang and Mr. Pradip Meyangbo from the Taplejung dialect, Mr. Padam Bahadur Sangbahangphe, Mr. Ashok Nembang, Mrs. Hema Lawati, Mrs. Dhanusha Lawati, Mrs. Chandrakala Jabegu, Mr.

Gauri Nembang, Mr. Yam Lawati and Mr. Ambika Sangbahangphe from the Panthare dialect, Mr. Harka jang Kurumbang, Mr. Siri Prasad Khawahang, Mr. Nir Bahadur Mabuhang, Mrs. Sri Maya Theguwa, Mr. Lal Bahadur Lumbhungwa, Mr. Amrit Bahadur Tumbahangphe, Mr. Swarnimhang Phombu, Mr. Chandra Bahadur Limbu, Miss Sita Mademma, Mr. Dil Kumar Hangsrung from the Phedappe dialect and Mrs. Ranamati Tiling Chongbang,Mr. Bakhat Bahadur Tilling Chongbang, Ms. Bal Kumari Maden, Mrs. Ganga Tigela, Ms. Dina Tigela, Mr. Mohan Bikram Tigela, Mr. Samser Bahadur Tumkhewa, Mr. Mokhan Kumar Tumbahang, and Mr. Kamal Tigelafrom the Chhatthare Limbu.

I should like to thank Arjun Babu Mabuhang for his help in conducting the workshop seminar and supplying me with essential literature. I owe much to Mr. Khagendra Bahadur Limbu and Mr. Dharma Lal Limbu of Banchare for helping me when I found difficulty in extracting the meaning of Limbu words.

I needed to discuss and disseminate my findings of the programme. Prof. Niraml Man Tuladhar, director of CNAS, arranged a talk program on 'Problem of Classification in Chhatthare Limbu' on June 30, 2006 in CNAS and Dr. Chaitanya Subba, director of the Janajati Mahasangh, Lalitpur, arranged a talk programme on the same topic in Janajati Mahasangh on August 21, 2006. I wish to acknowledge my deepest gratitude to them for the programmes. I should like to thank Mr. Kamal Maden for his assistance in multi-media projection.

Annual conference of Linguistic Society of Nepal and the 12th Himalayan Languages Symposium have been a breeding ground of stimulation and encouragement. My interaction with numerous foreign scholars such as Boyd Mikhailovsky, David Bradley, George Van Driem, Ross Coughley, Stephen Watters, Sueyoshi Toba just to name a few from many nations and wide variety of institutions in the conference and symposium provided invaluable insights into the complex linguistic issues.. Prof. Dr. George Van Driem provided insight into the complex morphological issues of Chhatthare Limbu during my interaction with him in the 12thHimalayan Languages Symposium held in Kathmandu.. Similarly, my indebtedness is to Jeff Webster for his inputs on Limbu language. I am equally grateful to Prof. Dr. Balthasar Bickel for his invaluble inputs on 'postposition'. I would like to thank Dr. Lal Rapacha for his assistance in supplying books and other information related to Kiranti languages. I should like to thank Moti Lal Ghimire and Chhabi Lal Chidi, lecturers at Central Department of Geography, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur for drawing maps of Limbuwan area and Chhatthar area. I owe to Mohan Khajum for the help he provided in course of carrying out the research. Similarly, I am grateful to Dr. Tanka Prasad Neupane for his suggestions and comments on my work. I should like to thank Mrs. Sarita Karki, the librarian at Central Department of Linguistics, Kirtipur for making books readily available and Mrs Goma Banjade, research assistant of Puma and Chhintang documentation project, Kirtipur for her help in computer works.

I am obliged to University Grant Commission for awarding me partial grant to undertake the Ph.D. course. Similarly, I am thankful to The National Foundation for Development of Indigenous Nationalities, Sanepa, Lalitpur and SNV for financial support. I would like to thank my nephew, Ashis Limbu for rendering every kind of service for my comfort while undertaking the job in Kathmandu. Finally, I wish to acknowledge my deepest gratitude to my wife, Mrs. Sangita Subba for her help in my work.

Govinda Bahadur Tumbahang

Date. 29 January, 2007.

ABSTRACT

The Limbus living in the Chhatthar area are called *Chhatthare Limbu* or *Chhatthare Yakthungba* and their language is called *Chhatthare Yakthungba Pan* or *Chhatthare Pan* in the mother tongue and simply as *Chhatthare Limbu* in non-native language. It differs from other Limbu varieties in phonology, morphology and lexical words. Genetically, Chhatthare Limbu belongs to Proto-Limbu (following David Watters personal communication), Kiranti, Mahakiranti, Himalayan, and Tibeto-Burman and Sino-Tibetan group of languages. On the basis of the index of synthesis Limbu falls among the synthetic group of languages and on the basis of index of fusion, it falls among the fusional group of languages with single lexical item plus other affixes or more than one lexical item and multiple affixes.

In Chhatthare Limbu, there are twenty consonant phonemes and seven vowels with no vowel length contrast. The syllable has basically CV(C) pattern and it extends from one syllable to five syllables with multiple patterns. Morphophonological changes are conditioned by syllable structure and surrounding segments. Nouns inflect for number and case. Dervative adjectives also function as nouns inflecting for number and case. It has human classifier suffixes < -pa> and <-pHu>. The first one is used for a single person and the second one is used for more than one person following the first syllable of the numerals. Pronouns are divided into personal pronouns, interrogative pronouns and demonstrative pronouns. Personal pronouns have eleven categories. Interrogative and demonstrative pronouns have only three categories. Adjectives are derived from verbs, bound adjectives, nouns and adverbs by suffixation. Only a few adverbs are lexical adverbs and rests of them are derivative adverbs formed by suffixation, reduplication and compounding.

The verb has twenty types of verb stems and they have two stem classes-variable and invariable. On the basis of conjugation patterns there are three types of verbs – intransitive, reflexive and transitive – in the language. Intransitive and reflexive verbs exhibit eleven different forms and transitive verb marks 44 different forms out of 75 theoretically possible forms. Voice is differentiated as active and middle.

Chhatthare Limbu finite verbs mark person, number, case, reflexivity, tense, inclusivity and exclusivity by affixes. Each of these affixes occupies a certain slot. Sometimes, more than one affix can also occur in the same slot. Animacy hierarchy plays significant role in setting the order of affixes. There are altogether three slots for prefixes and ten for suffixes. Majority of affixes are portmanteau morphemes.

Tense is marked by the suffix <-a> or <-O> after the main verb stem and after the auxiliary. Progressive aspect is marked by the suffix <-ro~ -lo> and perfect aspect by the suffix <-aN>. Indicative mood is the finite verb form. Other moods are marked by particles and suffixes. However, adhortive mood is expressed by dropping the first person suffix <-a> from the finite verb form.

Infinitives, purposives, converbs and participles are non-finite verbs. Verbal complex includes serial verbs, compound verbs, analytic verbs, sequential verbs, infinitival verbs, purposive verbs and possessive verbs. They show different shades of meaning in the language. Sentences follow certain constituent order and have simple, compound and complex forms. Simple and compound sentences can be included in basic sentence patterns which are formed without any verbal or adverbial conjunctions. Complex sentences, on the other hand, consist of finite and non-finite clauses. Morphologically, Chhatthare Limbu is an ergative language and syntactically, it is almost a head right language because except in a few cases, all the modifiers precede the head.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter of recommendation by the supervisor		ii
Letter of Recommendation by dissertation committee		iii
Acknowledgements		iv
Abstract		vii
List of Tables		xvii
List of Figures		xix
List of Maps		xix
List of Abbreviation		xx

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.	Statement of the Problem	1
2	Objective of the Study	1
3.	Justification of the study	2
4	Limitation of the study	2
5.	Literature review	2
6.	Hypothesis	8
7.	Research Methodology	8
8	Outline of the Study	9

CHAPTER 2. SOCIOLINGUISTIC STUDY OF THE CHHATTHARE LANGUAGE

1.	Introduction	10
2.	Limbu people in general	10
3.	Limbu Area	14
4.	Limbu language	18
5.	Dialects	18
6.	Typology	19
7.	Area of Chhathar	23
8.	About the name Chhatthar	23
9.	Chhatthare Limbu	24
9.1.	Population	24
9.2.	Major clans	25
10.	Chhatthare Limbu language	27
11.	A workshop seminar on comparative study of Limbu dialects	29
11.1.	Comparative phonology	29
11.2.	Comparison of words	30
11.3.	Comparison of verb paradigms	32
11.4.	Findings	36
11.5.	Genetic affiliation of Chhatthare Limbu	39
12.	Bilingualism in Nepali	52
13.	Language use and attitude	53
14.	Language vitality	53

15. Summary 54

CHAPTER 3. PHONOLOGY

1. Introduction 55
2. Consonants 55
3. Minimal pair contrasts 55
4. Distribution of phonemes 59
5. Complementary distributions or allophones 65
6 Consonant phonemes 66
7. Orthographic representation of consonants 66
8. Constraints of consonants 67
9 Vowels 68
10. Minimal pair contrasts 68
11. Distribution of vowel phonemes 70
12. Phonemic inventory of vowels 72
13. Phonemic representation 73
14 Syllable 75
15 Syllable sequences 76
16. Geminates 78
17 Syllable patterns 79
18 Hiatus 80
19. Diphthong 80
20 Loan words 81
21. Summary 81

CHAPTER 4. MORPHOPHONOLOGY

1. Introduction 82
2. Phonological process conditioned by syllable structure 82
2.1. Deletion 82
2.2. Epenthesis 88
3. Phonological process conditioned by surrounding segments 91
3.1. Assimilation 92
3.2. Distant assimilation 97
3.3. Intervocalic voicing 98
3.4. Voicing assimilation 98
3.5. Labialization 99
4. Summary 99

CHAPTER 5. MORPHOLOGY OF NOUN

1. Introduction. 100
2. Gender 100
3. Numerals and classifiers 102
4. Number 105

5. Diminutive 107
6. Compounding 107
7. Pronominalization in nouns 108
8. Derivative adjectives as nouns 110
9. Case 110
9.1. Absolutive 110
9.2 Ergative 112
9.3 Instrumental 114
9.4. Genitive 115
9.5 Vocative 119
9.6. Locative 120
9.7. Comitative 120
9.8. Mediative 121
9.9. Ablative 122
9.10. Allative 122
9.11. Directive 123
9.12. Comparative 123
10. Summary 125

CHAPTER 6. MORPHOLOGY OF PRONOUNS

1. Introduction 126
2. Personal pronouns 126
2.1. Case system in pronouns 129
2. 2. Possessive pronouns 130
3. Demonstrative pronouns 133
3.1. Proximate demonstrative 134
3.2. Remote demonstrative 134
4. Interrogative pronouns 134
4.1. Interrogative human pronoun 134
4.2. Interrogative general pronouns 135
5. Summary 136

CHAPTER 7. MORPHOLOGY OF ADJECTIVES
1. Introduction 137
2. Derivation of adjectives 137
2.1. From verbs 137
2.2. From bound adjectives 142
2.3. From adverb roots 145
2.4. From noun roots 149
3. Case 150
4. Summary 151

CHAPTER 8. MORPHOLOGY OF ADVERBS

1. Introduction 152
2. Kinds of adverbs 152
2.1. Lexical adverb 152
2. 1.1. Temporal Adverbs 152
2.1.2. Locational adverbs 154
2.1.3. Manner adverbs 154
2.1.4. Posture adverbs 155
2.1.5. Truth value adverbs 155
2.2 Derived adverbs 156
2.2.1. Derivation of adverbs by affixation 156
2.2.2. Derivation of adverbs by compounding 160
2.2.3. Derivation of adverbs by compounding and Suffixation 163
2.2.4. Derivation of adverbs by compounding and reduplication 163
2.2. 5. Derivation of adverbs by compounding, reduplication and suffixation 166
2.2.6. Derivation of adverbs by reduplication 169
2.2.7. Derivation of adverbs by reduplication and suffixation 170
2.2.8. Derivation of adverbs by reduplication and prefixation 171
2.2.9. Derivation of adverbs by reduplication with the prefixed root 172
3. Summary 172

CHAPTER 9. VERB INFLECTIONS

1. Introduction 174
2. Verb stems 174
3. Stem classes 174
3.1. Variable stem class 174
3.1.1. Deletion 175
3.1.2. Assimilation 176
3.2. Invariable stem class 176
4. Kinds of verbs 177
4.1. Intransitive verb 177
4.1.1. Conjugation of monosyllabic intransitive verb 177
4.1.2. Conjugation of polysyllabic intransitive verb 180
4.1.3. Schematic form of intransitive verb 182
4.2. Reflexive verb 183
4.2.1. Conjugation of monosyllabic reflexive verb 184
4.2.2. Conjugation of polysyllabic reflexive verb 186
4.2.3. Schematic form of reflexive verb 188
4.3. Transitive verb 189
4.3.1. Conjugation of monosyllabic transitive verb 193
4.3.2. Conjugation of polysyllabic transitive verb 199
4.3.3. Schematic forms of transitive verb 207
5. Voice 211
6. Summary 214

CHAPTER 10.IDENTIFICATION OF MORPHEMES

1.	Introduction	215
2.	Marking of covert affixes in intransitive conjugation	215
3.	Marking of covert affixes in reflexive conjugation	217
4.	Marking of covert affixes in transitive conjugation	219
5.	Animacy hierarchy	225
6.	The order of affixes	228
7.	Person markers	230
7.1.	The first person morpheme	230
7.2.	The second person morpheme	232
7.3.	The third person morpheme	233
7.4.	The third person plural morpheme	235
7.5.	The second person morpheme	236
7.6.	The third person object morpheme	237
7.7.	The first person exclusive portmantaux	238
7.8.	The first person plural exclusive subject or agent morpheme in the past form	241
7.9.	The first person non-dual negative morpheme	242
8.	Number markers	244
8.1.	Singularity of subject or object	244
8.1.1.	Singularity of first person subject or object	244
8.1.2.	Singularity of second person subject or object	244
8.1.3.	Singularity of third person subject or object	245
8.2.	Duality of subject or object or agent	245
8.2.1.	Duality of the first person subject or object	246
8.2.2.	Duality of the second person subject or object	246
8.2.3.	Duality of the third person subject	246
8.3.	The morpheme of third person object non-singularity	247
8.4.	Plurality of subject or object	247
8.4.1.	Plurality of the first person subject or object	247
8.4.2.	Plurality of the second person subject or object	248
8.4.3.	Plurality of the third person subject	248
8.5.	Singularity of agent	248
8.5.1.	Singularity of the first person agent	248
8.5.2.	Singularity of the second person agent	249
8.5.3.	Singularity of the third person agent	249
8.6.	Duality of agent	249
8.6.1.	Duality of the first person agent	250
8.6.2.	Duality of the second person agent	250
8.6.3.	Duality of the third person agent	250
8.7.	Third person non-singular agent	250
8.8.	Plurality of the speech act participant agent	251
8.9.	Plurality of the third person agent	252

9. Copied morphemes 252
10. The morpheme of reflexivity/reciprocity 253
11. The inclusive and exclusive morphemes 256
12. Negative marker 258
12.1. Negative morpheme <man- -ban> 259
12.2. Negative morpheme <ma-~-nEn~-n> 259
12.3. Negative morpheme <m-~n-~N- -nEn~ -n> 261
13. Tense morphemes 263
14. Summary 264

CHAPTER 11. TENSE-ASPECT AND MOOD

1. Introduction 266
2. Tense 266
3. Aspect 266
3.1. Progressive 266
3.2 Perfect 271
4. Mood 281
4.1. Declarative mood 281
4.2. Imperative 281
4.2.1. Intransitive imperative 281
4.2.2. Reflexive imperative 282
4.2.3. Trasitive imperative 282
4. 3. Hortative 283
4. 4. Irrealis 284
4.5. Optative mood 286
4.6. Interrogative mood 287
5. Summary 288

CHAPTER 12.NON-FINITE VERBS

1. Introduction 289
2. Non-finite verbs 289
2.1. Infinitive 289
2.2 Purposive 290
2.3. Converb 290
2.4. Participle 291
2.4.1. Active participle 291
2.4.2. Passive participle 291
3. Verbal complex 292
3.1. Serial verbs 292
3.2. Compound verbs 297
3.3. Analytic verbs 298
4. Summary 307

CHAPTER 13. SENTENCE PATTERNS

1.	Introduction	308
2.	Constituent order	308
2.1.	Complement – head	308
2.1.1.	Subordinate clause-main clause	308
2.1.2.	NP-VP	308
2.1.3.	Noun-postposition	309
2.1.4.	Main verb-vector	309
2.1.5.	Main verb-auxiliary	309
2.1.6.	Root/stem-suffix	310
2.1.7.	Indirect object-direct object	310
2.2.	Modifier-head	310
2.2.1.	Adjective- noun	310
2.2.2.	Adverb- adjective	311
2.2.3.	Number-noun	311
2.2.4.	Genitive-noun	311
2.2.5.	Adverb-verb	311
2.2.6.	Kinship nouns- proper nouns	312
2.3.	Head – modifier	312
2.4.	Chronological order	312
2. 5.	Alpha-movement and constituent order in Limbu	313
2.6.	Marker right language	314
2.6.1.	Sentence- markers	314
2.6.2.	XP-marker	314
2.6.3.	Focus marking particles	314
3.	Basic sentence patterns	315
3.1.	Copular sentences	315
3.2.	Interrogative sentence	320
3.3.	Participant coding	322
3.3.1.	Prononminal verb affixes	322
3.3.2.	Case markers	323
3.3.3.	Split ergativity	327
3.4.	Nominalized sentences	329
3.5.	Coordination of constituents	330
3.6.	Transitivity and demotion	331
3.7.	Particle sentences	332
4.	Clause combining	341
4.1.	Non-finite clauses	341
4.1.1.	Infinitive clauses	341
4.1.2.	Purposive clauses	341
4.1.3.	Converb	342
4.1.4.	Participial clauses	343
4.2.	Finite clauses	343
4.2.1.	Nominalized clauses	343
4.2.2.	Temporal clauses	344

4.2.3. Sequential clauses 344
4.2.4. Manner clauses 345
4.2.5. Conditional clauses 345
4.2.6. Concessive clauses 346
4.2.7. Quote clauses 346
5. Summary 347

CHAPTER 14. CONCLUSION 348

APPENDIX 351

REFERENCES 364

LIST OF TABLES

		Page
1.	Population of Chhatthare Limbu	25
2.	Consonant phonemes of Chatthare Limbu	30
3.	Vowel phonemes of Chhatthare Limbu	30
4.	Demonstrative pronouns of Limbu variants	31
5.	Limbu variants of Swadesh words	32
6.	Comparative verb paradigms of Limbu variants for 'to beat' in non-past form	33
7.	Comparative verb paradigms of Limbu variants for 'to beat' in past form	34
8.	Comparative negative verb paradigms of Limbu variants for 'to not beat' in non-past form	36
9.	Phonetic inventory of consonants	55
10.	Phonemic inventory of consonants	66
11.	Orthographic representation of consonants	66
12.	Phonetic inventory of vowels	68
13.	Phonemic inventory of vowels	73
14.	Case markers	124
15.	Personal pronouns	129
16.	Case markers of first person pronouns	129
17.	Case markers of second person pronouns	130
18.	Case markers of third person pronouns	130
19.	Case markers of proximate demonstrative pronouns	134
20.	Case markers of remote demonstrative pronouns	134
21.	Case markers of interrogative human pronouns	135
22.	Case markers of interrogative general pronoun hwiN 'which'	135
23.	Case markers of interrogative general pronoun hE 'what'	135
24.	Case markers of a derivative adjective kagHuppa	150
25.	Stem final alterations	174
26.	Deletion of the post-syllabic consonants	175
27.	Deletion of stem final consonants	175
28.	Voicing assimilation of stem final consonants	176
29.	Stem final alternation due to its assimilation for place and manner of articulation	176
30.	Invariable verb stems	176
31.	Conjugation of intransitive verb	179
32.	Conjugation of poly-syllabic intransitive verb	182
33.	Schematic form of intransitive verb	183
34.	Conjugation of monosyllabic reflexive verb	186
35.	Conjugation of polysyllabic reflexive verb	188
36.	Schematic form of reflexive verbs	189
37.	Conjugation of aspirated and unaspirated stop initial verbs in past and non-past forms	190

38. Conjugation of monosyllabic transitive verb l□mma ‘to beat’ 198
39. Conjugation of polysyllabic transitive verb *silapma* ‘to ask’ 206
40. The schematic form of the transitive verb in non-past 207
41. The schematic form of the transitive verb in past 208

42. The schematic form of the transitive verb in negative non-past 209
43. The schematic form of the transitive verb in negative past 210
44. Comparative paradigms of active and middle verbs 211
45. Comparative schematic forms of active and middle verbs 212
46. Comparative paradigms of transitive verbs in middle voice and intransitive verb. 212
47. Schematic forms of transitive verbs in middle voice and intransitive verbs 213
48. Marking of covert affixes in the conjugation of intransitive verb lok-ma ‘to run’ 217
49. Marking of covert affixes in the conjugation of reflexive verb *l□mcHimma* ‘to beat oneself’ 219
50. Marking of covert affixes in transitive verb *l□mma* ‘to beat’ 225
51. Slots of prefixes 229
52. Slots of suffixes 230
53. Comparative paradigms of transitive and reflexive verbs *l□mma* ‘to beat’ and *l□m-cHim-ma* ‘to beat oneself’ 254
54. Conjugation of transitive and reflexive verbs 255
55. Conjugation of intransitive verb *yuNma* ‘to sit’ 255
56. Inclusive and exclusive paradigms of intransitive verb *lokma* ‘to run’ 257
57. Inclusive and exclusive paradigm of the transitive verb *l□mma* ‘to beat’ in 3s→1forms. 257
58. Inclusive and exclusive paradigm of the transitive verb *l□mma* ‘to beat’ in 1→3s forms. 258
59. Paradigm of intransitive verb *te* in progressive aspect 267

60. Paradigm of the transitive verb l□m in progressive aspect 271
61. Paradigm of the intransitive verb te in perfect aspect 273
62. Paradigm of transitive verb *l□m* in perfect aspect 281
63. Paradigm of experiencer possessive verb ya?lEma ‘to be angry’ 307
64. Conjugation of identity operator 316
65 Negative conjugation of identity operator 316

LIST OF FIGURES

1. Family tree of Limbu 18
2. Family tree of Chhatthare Limbu following Grierson 40
3. Family tree of Chhatthare Limbu following Shafer 1966**.** 41
4. Family tree of Chhatthare Limbu following Benedict 1972 42
5. Family tree of Chhatthare Limbu following Egerod 1974 43
6. Family tree of Chhatthare Limbu according to Hansson 1991 44
7. Family tree of Chhatthare Limbu following Matisoff 1991 45
8. Family tree of Chhatthare Limbu following Bradley 1997 46
9. Family Affiliation of Chhatthare Limbu according to Ebert 2003 47
10. Family tree of Chhatthare Limbu following LaPPola 2003 48
11. Family tree of Chhatthare Limbu following Thurgood 2003 49
12. Family tree of Chhatthare Limbu following Gordon, Raymond, G. 2005 50
13. Family tree of Chhatthare Limbu following Watters 51
14. Classification of verbs 213
15. The division of *aNga* into inclusive and exclusive pronouns 256
16. Tense morphemes 264

MAPS

1. Map of the Limbuwan Area 16
3. Map of village development committees of the Limbuwan area 17
3. Map of the Chhatthar Area 23

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

1	First person
1e	First person exclusive
1de	First person dual exclusive
1pe	First person plural exclusive
1i	First person inclusive
2	Second person
3	Third person
3O	Third person object
3nsA	Third person non-singular agent
3nsO	Third person non-singular object
3pA	Third person plural agent
3pS	Third person plural subject
A	Agent
ABL	Ablative
ABS	Absolutive
ADH	Adhortative
Adj	Adjective
Adv	Adverb
ALLT	Allative
AP	Active participle
C	Consonant
COM	Comitative
COMPR	Comparative case
CLSF	Classifier
CONV	converb
dA	Dual agent
DEF	Definite
DIM	Dimunitive
DIR	Directive case
dO	Dual object
dS	Dual subject
ERG	Ergative
FEM	Feminine gender
GEN	Genitive case
IMP	Imperative
INF	Infinitive
INST	Instrumental case
LAT	Lative
LOC	Locative case
MASC	Masculine
MED	Meditative case
NEG	Negative
NML	Nominalizer

NPT	Non-past
NUM	Numeral
O	Object
OPT	Optative
P	Patient
pA	Plural agent
PART	Particle
PP	Passive participle
pO	Plural object
POSS	Possessive case
Prg	Progressive aspect
PrV	Prefix vowel
pS	Plural subject
PT	Past
PTB	Proto-Tibeto-Burman
PURP	Purposive
R	Root
RECIP	Reciprocal
REFL	Reflexive
Rel	Relativizer
RV	Round vowel
S	Subject
s	Singular
SEQ	Sequential aspect
StV	Stem vowel
TB	Tibeto-Burman
U	Undergoer
V	Vowel
-V	Voiceless
+V	Voiced
VDC	Village development committee
VOC	Vocative case

{ w, r, y, h}→Ø/ / $] means that these sounds are deleted at the syllable-final position. The curly bracket says that one of the four sounds is deleted at a time.