

TRIBHUVAN UNIVERSITY

Subject-Verb Agreement

A Comparative Study of Dangaura Tharu and English Language

A Thesis submitted to the Department of English,
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Ratna Rajya Laxmi Campus, T.U.
in Partial fulfillment of the Requirements for Degree of Master of Arts in English

By

Man Bahadur Thapa

June 2011.

Tribhuvan University

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Letter of Approval

This Thesis entitled **“Subject-Verb Agreement: A Comparative Study of Dangaura Tharu and English Language”** submitted by Mr. Man Bahadur Thapa to the Department of English, R.R. Campus, T.U. in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Master Degree in English, has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

.....

Prof. Hriseekesh Upadhyay

(Supervisor)

.....

External Examiner

.....

Mr. Rudra Paudel

(Associate Professor)

Head of the Department of
English

R.R. Campus, T.U.

Date:.....

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is a great privilege for me to state my feelings and experiences of this Thesis writing. It has been prepared according to the TU syllabus prescribed for two years course in partial fulfillment for the degree of Masters of humanities.

I could not remain exception, expressing my sincere gratitude to Prof. Hriseekesh Upadhyay, under whose supervision I accomplished this Thesis work. Not only did he provide scholarly guidance but was also kind enough to review the entire writing patiently.

I owe much to my gurus of the same department for their kind support and suggestion that enabled me to bring this Thesis in a complete shape. I thank Mr. Rudra Poudel, who approved my proposal to take up the research.

I feel deeply obliged to Mr. Dipendra Chaudhary, (The General Secretary of Tharu Youth Sabha) and Mr. Dangli Tharu for their expertise as interpreters, and informants who helped me in keeping touch relationship with their communities.

My collegian Amit Kafle also deserves word of gratitude, who helped me on guiding and providing various books. Similarly, Mrs. Deepa Thapa, my wife and my brother Sharad Thapa are also to be thanked for their heartily patient, constant encouragement and support to make this work possible.

Regardless to the source, I wish to express my eternal gratitude to The Tharu people in Tikapur Municipality, ward -8 and 9 and Munuwa VDC who willingly answered my questions, filled the questionnaires, supported and generously offered me their friendship and affection.

I would like to thank Central Department of Linguistics, Indian Library, Mandala Books Point and Nepal Academy for providing me several review and referential books regarding Dangaura Tharu people and their language. My brother-in-law Mr. Janak Budha would not remain exception for his kind help in typing this work being very energetic and alert.

June, 2011

Man Bahadur Thapa

ABSTRACT

The survival of the Tharu language depends on the attitude of the speakers, ethnic commitment and social integration from within the community and research by linguists and language planners. This research provides important background information and introductory analyses on the distinctive features of the language based on the authentic data, fact and minute observations rather than superficial observations and hearsays.

This work entitled “**Subject-verb Agreement: A Comparative Study of**

Dangaura

Tharu and English Language” attempts to describe subject and verb agreement along with their number, person, gender, degree of honorificity, tense and aspects.

The whole thesis has been divided into four chapters. The first chapter includes the general introductory part of the whole study. It presents the general remarks, language identity, and lingual family and so on of the Dangaura Tharu language. The second chapter deals with a description of Dangaura Tharu language, use of personal pronouns, grammatical features and verb agreement with person and gender in Dangaura Tharu language. Chapter three comprises analysis and interpretation of the data. It is the thesis chapter of this thesis. This part is the center of this study in which the subject verb agreement in terms of tense and aspects in Dangaura Tharu language has been presented in detail comparing with English language. The last chapter summarizes the whole thesis and presents a brief conclusion.

Table of Contents

Letter of Approval

I

Acknowledgements

II

Abstract

III

Abbreviations

VII

Chapter- One: Tharus and Dangaura Tharu Language

1-14

1. General Remarks

1

1.1 Tharu Language

5

1.2 Language Identity

6

1.3 Dangaura Tharus' Subject-Verb Agreement

6

1.4 Lingual Family of Tharus and Other Indo-Aryan Languages

7

1.5 Tharus in Nepal

8

1.6 Legal and Educational Position of Tharu Language in Nepal	9
1.7 Statement of Problem	9
1.8 Review of Literature	10
1.9 Methodology	12
1.9.1 Sources of Data	12
1.9.2 Primary Sources of Data	12
1.9.3 Secondary Sources of Data	13
1.9.4 Sampling Procedure	13
1.9.5 Tool for Data Collection	13
1.9.6 Process of Data Collection	13
1.9.7 Limitation of Study	14

Chapter- Two: Dangaura Tharu Language

15-32

2. Description

15

2.1 Personal Pronouns in Dangaura Tharu Language

16

Story: Grapes are Sour

18

2.2 Importance of Grammar

19

2.3 Definition of the Related Terms (Grammatical Features)

20

i) Subject

20

ii) Verb

20

iii) Agreement

21

iv) Honorifics

21

v) Dialect

21

	vi) Inflection
21	
	2.4 Subject Verb Agreement in Dangaura Tharu Language
22	
	2.4.1 Agreement
22	
	2.4.2 Verb Agreement with Person, Number and Gender in Dangaura Tharu Language
	22
	i) Person
22	
	ii) Number
24	
	ii) Gender
27	

Chapter- Three: Analysis and Interpretation

33-49

	3. Subject Verb Agreement: Comparison with English Language
33	
	3.1 Subject Verb Agreement
33	
	3.2 Tense
34	

(i) Past Tense

34

(ii) Present Tense

36

(iii) Future Tense

37

3.3 Aspects

37

3.3.1 Perfective Aspects

38

(i) Past Perfect

38

(ii) Present Perfect

39

(iii) Future Perfect

39

3.3.2 Progressive Aspects

40

(i) Past Progressive

40

(ii) Present Progressive

41

(iii) Future Progressive

41

3.3.3 Inferential Aspect

42

3.3.4 Habitual Aspect

43

(i) Past Habitual

43

3.4 Similarities and Differences Between Dangaura Tharu and

English Subject Verb

43

(i) Agreement

43

(ii) Differences

44

Chapter- Four: Summary and Conclusion

50-53

(i) Conclusion

51

Works Cited

54-55

Appendices

56-57

Questionnaires

58

(1-5)

ABBREVIATIONS

1 st	-	First Person
2 nd	-	Second Person
3 rd	-	Third Person
Aux	-	Auxiliary
F	-	Female
FUT	-	Future Tense
G.N	-	Government of Nepal
H	-	Honorific
HBT	-	Habitual
HH	-	High-Honorific
IMPER	-	Imperative
INFR	-	Inferential
M	-	Male
MH	-	Mid-Honorific
NH	-	Non-Honorific
PERF	-	Perfective
PL	-	Plural
PRES	-	Present Tense
PROG	-	Progressive Aspect
PST	-	Past Tense
SG	-	Singular
VDC	-	Village Development Committee

SVO - Subject Verb Object

SOV - Subject Object Verbs