

TRIBHUWAN UNIVERSITY

English and Nepali Plosive Sounds: A Comparative Study

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English, Prithvi Narayan Campus,
Pokhara in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of
Master of Arts in English

by
Bhanu Bhakta Aryal

Department of English
Prithvi Narayan Campus, Pokhara
December, 2008

TRIBHUWAN UNIVERSITY

faculty of humanities and social science

This thesis entitled **English and Nepali Plosive Sounds: A Comparative Study**: A thesis

Submitted to the Department of English, Prithivi Narayan Campus, Tribhuwan University,

by **Mr. Bhanu Bhakta Aryal**

has been approved by the undersigned members of the research committee.

Members of the Research Committee

Advisor

External Examiner

Head,

Department of English

Prithivi Narayan Campus,

Pokhara

Date:

TRIBHUWAN UNIVERSITY

faculty of humanities and social science

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Letter of recommendation

This is to certify that **Bhanu Bhakta Aryal** has prepared this thesis entitled *English and Nepali Plosive Sounds : A Comparative Study* under my guidance and supervision. I, therefore, forward to consider it for final evaluation, approval and acceptance.

.....

Homa Nath Sharma Paudyal

Teaching Assistant in English

Prithivi Narayan Campus

Pokhara

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This comparative study has added a new adventure to my academic life. The present form of this thesis has been accomplished with full cooperation, suggestion and guidance from my teachers. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of them. I am delighted to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Mr. Homa Nath Sharma Paudyal Teaching Assistant in English, P.N. Campus, for his scholarly guidance, genuine suggestions, warm responses and of course for his constant encouragement for bringing this thesis into its present form.

I would like to express my profound gratitude to Mr. Man Bahadur K.C., Head of Department of English P.N. Campus for his invaluable suggestion and kind co-operation in course of my thesis writing. I am equally indebted to Mr. Krishna Prasad Aryal Reader in English. P.N. Campus for his kind cooperation, advice and encouragement to my thesis.

I am equally grateful to Dr. Ram Nath Ojha, Lecturer in Nepali, P.N. Campus and Mr. Radha Krishna Gaire, Lecturer in Nepali, Vindabashini Sanskrit Vidhyapith, Pokhara for their valuable suggestions and genuine guidance about Nepali plosives.

At this time I would like to remember my parents, Mr. Purushottam Aryal and Mrs. Jit Maya Aryal for their selfless contribution in my life. Similarly due respect goes to my elder brother Mr. Nawaraj Aryal for his constant encouragement and good support in course of whole study of my life. Likewise I would like to recall my sister-in-Law Mrs. Nirajala Aryal, my wife Mrs. Gita Bhattarai and my younger brother Mr. Pashupati Aryal for their equal emotional empowerment.

Finally, I am very thankful to Mr. Youbraj Banstola, the Managing Director of Everest Computer Center for his hard labour to type my thesis.

December, 2008

Bhanu Bhakta Aryal

CONTENTS

	Page
Recommendation for Acceptance	
Acknowledgement	
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1-10
1.1 General Background	1
1.2 Literature Review	4
1.3 Objectives of the Study	9
1.4 Hypothesis	9
1.5 Methodology	9
1.6 Statement of the Problem	10
CHAPTER 2: ORGANS OF SPEECH INVOLVED TO	
 PRODUCE PLOSIVES	11-26
2.1 <i>The Lungs</i>	12
2.2 <i>The Larynx</i>	12
2.3 The Vocal Cords	13
2.4 States or Positions of the Glottis	13
2.4.1 Open Glottis	14
2.4.2 Narrow Glottis	15
2.4.3 Closed Glottis	15
2.5 The Nasal Cavity	16
2.6 The Oral Cavity	17
2.6.1 The Palate	18
2.6.2 Alveolar Ridge:	18

2.6.3 Hard Palate:	19
2.6.4 Soft Palate:	19
2.6.5 The Teeth	19
2.6.6 The Tongue	20
2.6.7 The Lips	21
2.7 Airstream Mechanism	21
2.7.1 Pulmonic Airstream Mechanism	22
2.7.2 Glottalic Airstream Mechanism	23
2.7.3 Velaric Airstream Mechanism	25
CHAPTER 3: CLASSIFICATION OF PLOSIVES IN ENGLISH	27-39
3.1 Background	27
3.2 Plosives on the Basis of Place of Articulation	27
3.2.1 Bilabial Plosives	27
3.2.2 Alveolar Plosives	28
3.2.3 Velar Plosives	29
3.3 Plosives on the Basis of Voicing (Voiced & Voiceless)	30
3.3.1 Voiceless Plosives	31
3.3.2 Voiced Plosives	32
3.4 Plosive on the Basis of Strength of Production	33
(Fortis & Lenis)	
3.5 Allophonic Variants of English Plosives	36
3.5.1 The Allophonic Variants of English Voiceless Plosives	37
3.5.2 Allophonic Variants of English Voiced Plosives	38
CHAPTER 4: CLASSIFICATION OF PLOSIVES IN NEPALI	40-58
4.1 Background	40
	4.2
Plosives on the Basis of Place of Articulation	Nepali
	41
	4.2.1
Plosives	Bilabial
	41

	4.2.
2	Velar
Plosives	42
	4.2.3
	Dental
Plosives	43
	4.2.4
	Retroflex
Plosive	44
4.3	46
Nepali Plosives on the Basis of Vibration of the Vocal Cords	
4.3.1	46
Voiced Plosives	
4.3.2	47
Voiceless Plosives	
4.4	49
Nepali Plosives on the Basis of Aspiration	
4.4.1	50
Aspirated Plosives	
4.4.2	50
Unaspirated Plosives	
4.5	51
Nepali म्/m/, न्/n/ and ङ्/ / as Plosives	
4.6	54
Allophonic Variants of Neapli Plosives	
CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION	59-65
5.1	59
Findings	
5.1.1	60
Similarities	
5.2	61
Differences	
<i>Works Cited</i>	