

# **CASE IN ENGLISH AND LIMBU: A COMPARATIVE STUDY**

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education,  
University Campus, Kirtipur, in Partial Fulfillment for the Master's  
Degree in Education  
(Specialization in English Language Education)

By  
Birendra Kumar Limbu

Faculty of Education  
Tribhuvan University  
Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal  
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## RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that **Mr. Birendra Kumar Limbu** has completed his M.Ed. thesis entitled "CASE IN ENGLISH AND LIMBU: A COMPARATIVE STUDY" under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend the thesis for acceptance.

.....

**Dr. Anjana Bhattarai**

(Guide)

Lecturer

Department of English

Education

Faculty of Education

University Campus

T.U., Kirtipur

Date.....

## RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION

This Thesis has been recommended for evaluation by the following Research Guidance Committee.

Signature

**Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra**

.....

Reader and Head

Chairperson

Department of English Education

T. U., Kirtipur

**Dr. Anjana Bhattarai** (Guide)

.....

Lecturer

Member

Department of English Education

T. U., Kirtipur

**Mr. Balkrishna Sharma**

.....

Lecturer

Member

Department of English Education

T. U., Kirtipur

Date: .....

## EVALUATION AND APPROVAL

This thesis has been evaluated and approved by the following Thesis Evaluation Committee.

Signature

**Dr. Chandreshwar Mishra**

.....

Reader and Head

Chairperson

Department of English Education

T. U., Kirtipur

**Dr. Jai Raj Awasthi**

.....

Professor

Member

Department of English Education

T. U., Kirtipur

**Dr. Anjana Bhattarai** (Guide)

.....

Lecturer

Member

Department of English Education

T. U., Kirtipur

Date: .....

## **DADICATED**

To

My parents, Gurus/Gurumas  
and elders whose blessing  
is with me forever.

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## ABSTRACT

The researcher in his thesis entitled “**Case in English and Limbu: A Comparative Study**” tried to identify cases in the Limbu, and compared and contrasted those with that of English. The cases identified in the Limbu are ergative, absolutive, instrumental, genitive, comitative, locative, dative, and vocative. The comparison shows case system in Limbu is more complicated than that of English.

The researcher collected data from forty Limbu native speakers of two VDCs: Bhogateni and Letang of Morang district for Panchthare dialect of Limbu. The researcher used the secondary sources for the data of English cases.

This thesis consists of four chapters. The first chapter deals with general background in which the languages found in Nepal, introduction to Limbu language, importance of CA on language teaching, case, basic concepts of case grammar, case marking system, cases in the English language, review of the related literature, objectives of the study, significance of the study and definition of the specific terms are included.

The second chapter is related to the methodology applied to carry out the research, it deals with the source of data, population of the study, sampling procedure, tools for data collection, processes of data collection, and limitations of the study.

The third chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of the data. The researcher has used descriptive style to present the Limbu cases and he has compared and contrasted the Limbu and English cases with examples.



The fourth chapter deals with the findings and recommendations made in the light of analysis and interpretation. On the basis of the findings, some recommendations have been made for pedagogical implication.

The researcher does not claim that this study is perfectly satisfactory and complete. Because of limited time and resources, there may be some limitations and shortcomings in the study.

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## ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

| <b>Term</b> | <b>Gloss</b>         | <b>Term</b> | <b>Gloss</b>                  |
|-------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| A           | agent                | op          | operator                      |
| ABL         | ablative             | obj         | object                        |
| ABS         | absolutive           | P           | patient                       |
| CA          | contrastive analysis | pl          | plural                        |
| COM         | comitative           | Que         | question                      |
| DAT         | dative               | S           | single argument               |
| Def         | definite             | sg          | singular                      |
| dl          | dual                 | sub         | subject                       |
| e.g.        | for example          | TV          | transitive verb               |
| ERG         | ergative             | UNO         | United Nations Organization   |
| excl        | exclusive            | V           | verb                          |
| fem         | feminine             | VDC         | Village Development Committee |
| GEN         | genitive             | viz.        | that is to say                |
| Indef       | indefinite           | VOC         | vocative                      |
| i.e.        | that is              | 1           | 1 <sup>st</sup> person        |
| incl        | inclusive            | 2           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> person        |
| INS         | instrumental         | 3           | 3 <sup>rd</sup> person        |
| IV          | intransitive verb    | *           | ungrammatical                 |
| masc        | masculine            | 2           | zero morph                    |
| neut        | neutral              |             |                               |
| NO          | number               |             |                               |
| NOM         | nominative           |             |                               |
| NP          | noun phrase          |             |                               |