SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT IN ENGLISH AND CHEPANG : A COMPARATIVE STUDY

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Education

Saptagandaki Multiple College Bharatpur, Chitwan In Partial Fulfillment for Master's Degree in Education (Specialization in English Language Education)

By Chandra Bahadur Gurung

> Faculty of Education Saptagandaki Multiple College Bharatpur, Chitwan, Nepal 2007

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCEPTANCE

This is to certify that **Mr. Chandra Bahadur Gurung** has worked and completed his M. Ed. dissertation entitled "Subject-Verb Agreement in English and Chepang : A Comparative Study" under my guidance and supervision.

I recommend the dissertation for acceptance.

Date : 2063-10-19

Mr. Prem Prasad Shiwakoti

Lecturer Department of English Education Faculty of Education Saptagandaki Multiple Campus Bharatpur, Chitwan, Nepal.

(Guide)

RECOMMENDATION FOR EVALUATION

This dissertation has been recommended for evaluation by the following Research Guidance Committee:

Dharma Raj Ghimire Lecturer and Head Department of English Education Saptagandaki Multiple Campus

Chairperson

Prem Prasad Siwakoti (Guide) *Lecturer* Department of English Education Saptagandaki Multiple Campus

Member

Rishi Bhakta Gautam

Asst. Lecturer Department of English Education Saptagandaki Multiple Campus Member

Date : 2063-10-22

EVALUATION AND APPROVAL

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

Dharma Raj Ghimire *Lecturer and Head* Department of English Education Saptagandaki Multiple Campus

Chairperson

Dr. Shanti Basnyat *Professor and Chairperson* English and Other Foreign Languages Education Subject Committee

Expert

Prem Prasad Siwakoti (Guide) *Lecturer* Department of English Education Saptagandaki Multiple Campus

Member

Date: _____

DEDICATION

To my parents who devoted their lives to my education and career.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my thesis guides **Mr. Prem Prasad Shiwakoti** and **Mr. Rishi Bhakta Gautam**, lecturers, Department of English, Saptagandaki Multiple Campus, Bharatpur, for their invaluable suggestions, academic help, encouragement and co-operation throughout this study.

I am indebted to **Dr. Shanti Basnyat**, Professor and Chairperson of English and Other Foreign Languages Education Subject Committee for evaluating my thesis and providing me a lot of suggestions.

I am very much indebted to **Mr. Dharma Raj Ghimire**, Head of the Department of English, Saptagandaki Campus, Bharatpur, for his suggestion, inspiration and co-operation for this study.

I would like to express my gratefulness to Mr. Rishi Ram Adhikari, Mr. Ram Kumar Chepang, Mr. Laxman Chepang, Mr. Karkalal Chepang, Mr. Dabilal Chepang and my brotherin-law Mr. Deep Bahadur Gurung for their kind help during the data collection. Similarly, I would like to thank all my dear students and my colleagues of Chaturmukhi Secondary School, Shaktikhor, and Chepang native speakers who co-operated with me during the data collection.

I would like to express my indebtedness to **Mr. Bishnu Bahadur Tamang**, social mobilizer of TRPAP, Chitwan and to **Mr. Khum Narayan Shrestha**, Chairman of STDC (Sustainable Tourism Development Committee) of Shaktikhor VDC for providing me computer service and other kind help.

I would like to thank **Mr. Vikram Thapa Magar** for editing and printing my thesis.

Finally, I would like to thank to my wife **Mrs. Mira Dallakoti (Gurung)** for her academic and household support and her moral encouragement for continuing my further study.

Chandra Bahadur Gurung.

ABSTRACT

The present study entitled "Subject-Verb Agreement in English and Chepang : A Comparative Study" is an attempt to identify the S-V agreement system of Chepang language and to compare the S-V agreement system of Chepang language with that of English. An attempt is also made to point out the possible causes of errors for the Chepang students while learning English.

This study has been divided into four chapters: Introduction, Methodology, Analysis and Interpretation and Findings and Recommendations.

The first chapter deals with the brief introduction of English and Chepang languages, their S-V agreement systems, contrastive analysis and error analysis including the objectives and the significance of the study.

The second chapter includes the methodology adopted during the study. It consists of the sources of data, sample population of the study, tools for data collection, process of data collection and limitations of the study. To carry out the research; fifty Chepang native speakers of East Chitwan were randomly selected as the primary sources of data. The data was analyzed to identify Chepang S-V agreement. Similarly, fifty Chepang speaking students of grade IX and X (twenty five from each class) were randomly selected for error analysis. Likewise, Textbooks, books, articles, reports related to English and Chepang were consulted as the secondary sources. Test-items and interview were primary tools used for data collection.

The third chapter deals with the analysis and interpretation of data in detail. It consists of similarities and differences between English and Chepang Subject-verb agreement systems.

The last chapter reflects findings and recommendations of the study.

CONTENTS

	Page
Recommendation for Acceptance	I
Recommendation for Evaluation	II
Evaluation and Approval	III
Dedication	IV
Acknowledgement	V
Abstract	VI
Abbreviations and symbols	VII
Contents	VIII

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-15
1. General Background	1
1.1 English Language in the World and in Nepal	1
A) English Language in the World	1
B) English Language in Nepal	2
1.2 Chepang people, their origin and Chepang Language	3
A) Chepang people and their origin	3
B) Chepang Language	4
1.3 Importance of Grammar	6
1.4 Rules of Subject-Verb agreement in English	6
1.5 Review of related literature	8
1.6 An introduction to contrastive analysis	10
1.7 An introduction to error analysis	11
1.7.1 Sources of Errors	12
1.8 Objectives of the study	13
1.9 Significance of the study	13
1.10 Definition of the terms	14

CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY	16-19
2. Introduction	16
2.1 Sources of Data	16
A. Primary sources	16
B. Secondary sources	16
2.2 Sample Population	17
2.3 Tools for Data Collection	17
2.4 Process of data collection	17
2.5 Limitation of the study	18
CHAPTER THREE: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	20-35
3. Introduction	20
3.1 Rules of Subject-Verb agreement in Chepang	20
3.2 Nominative forms of the personal pronouns	22
3.3 Accusative forms of the personal pronouns	23
3.4 Contrastive Study of Verbs in English and Chepang	24
3.5 The Primary Verbs of English and Chepang	24
3.6 Similarities between English and Chepang subject-verb	
agreement	25
3.7 Differences between English and Chepang subject-verb	
agreement	27
3.8 Analysis of errors committed by the students	29
3.8.1 Item wise comparison	29
3.8.2 Class wise comparison	31
3.8.3 Holistic comparison	33
•	

CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS 36-37	
4. Introduction	36
4.1 Findings of the study	36
4.2 Recommendations	37
BIBLIOGRAPHY	38-40
APPENDICES	41-53

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

App.	: Appendix
F	: Female
h	: Honorific
hh.	: High honorific
imperf.	: Imperfective aspect
L_1	: First language
Μ	: Male
nh.	: Non-honorific
Nom.	: Nominative
0	: Object
Prest.	: Present
Pron.	: Pronoun
Pl.	: Plural
S.	: Subject
Sing.	: Singular
V	: Verb
VDC.	: Village Development Committee
1^{st}	: First person
2^{nd}	: Second Person
3 rd	: Third Person
*	: Asterisk (It indicates an unacceptable
	form/expression)
a	: अ
	: आ
i	: इ
ng.	: ङ

CONTENTS

	Page
Recommendation for Acceptance	Ι
Recommendation for Evaluation	II
Evaluation and Approval	III
Dedication	IV
Acknowledgement	V
Abstract	VI
Abbreviations and symbols	VII
Contents	VIII

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1-15
1. General Background	1
1.1 English Language in the World and in Nepal	1
A) English Language in the World	1
B) English Language in Nepal	2
1.2 Chepang people, their origin and Chepang Language	3
A) Chepang people and their origin	3
B) Chepang Language	4
1.3 Importance of Grammar	6
1.4 Rules of Subject-Verb agreement in English	6
1.5 Review of related literature	8
1.6 An introduction to contrastive analysis	10
1.7 An introduction to error analysis	11
1.7.1 Sources of Errors	12
1.8 Objectives of the study	13
1.9 Significance of the study	13
1.10 Definition of the terms	14

CHAPTER TWO: METHODOLOGY	16-19
2. Introduction	16
2.1 Sources of Data	16
A. Primary sources	16
B. Secondary sources	16
2.2 Sample Population	17
2.3 Tools for Data Collection	17
2.4 Process of data collection	17
2.5 Limitation of the study	18
CHAPTER THREE: ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	20-35
3. Introduction	20
3.1 Rules of Subject-Verb agreement in Chepang	20
3.2 Nominative forms of the personal pronouns	22
3.3 Accusative forms of the personal pronouns	23
3.4 Contrastive Study of Verbs in English and Chepang	24
3.5 The Primary Verbs of English and Chepang	24
3.6 Similarities between English and Chepang subject-verb	
agreement	25
3.7 Differences between English and Chepang subject-verb	
agreement	27
3.8 Analysis of errors committed by the students	29
3.8.1 Item wise comparison	29
3.8.2 Class wise comparison	31
3.8.3 Holistic comparison	33
3.9 Error committed by the students and their possible causes	34

CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION	NS 36-37
4. Introduction	36
4.1 Findings of the study	36
4.2 Recommendations	37
BIBLIOGRAPHY	38-40
APPENDICES	41-53