Structure of Nepali Grammar

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Abstract

This document is an attempt to provide some basic insight of the structure of Nepali Grammar. The report deals with the writing system of Nepali introducing the alphabets and symbols in usage. Similarly the form classes or parts of speech of Nepali is also discussed followed by a detailed discussion on the phrase structure of the Nepali Grammar. Special Characteristics of the Nepali Grammar are well illustrated wherever necessary. The report is concluded by a brief overview of the sentential structure of the Nepali Language.

1. Background

Nepali is the national language of Nepal. It is also a medium of a uniform, nationwide, educational system, public administration and mass communication. The most recent official census conducted by the government of Nepal in 2001 reports that there are around 20 million Nepali speakers in Nepal, out of which, it is spoken as the mother tongue by 11 million people, and as a lingua franca by others. Nepali is also spoken widely in the neighboring countries of Nepal like India, Bhutan and Myanmar. The Indian Constitution has recognized Nepali as a major language of India [1].

In this regard, despite the fact that the diaspora of Nepali speakers is comprised of more than 45 million people in Nepal and elsewhere, the Nepali language still continues to remain a underresourced language. Things seeming to be a matter to be taken granted for other languages like the availability of the digitized text corpora, digitized dictionaries, Natural Language, Image and Speech Processing Applications like the Spell-Checker and the Thesaurus, Grammar Checker, Machine Translation Systems, Optical Character Recognition Systems development for Nepali. Various resources available on the Nepali Grammar have been duly consulted while preparing the report. The resources consulted have been listed in the bibliography section of this report.

2. Introduction

Nepali is an Indo-Aryan language. It takes its root from Sanskrit, the classical language of India. Nepali was previously known as Khas Kura and the language of the Khasa kingdom, which ruled over the foothills of current Nepal during the 13th and 14th centuries. The history of the usage of Nepali in writing dates as back as the 12th century AD. Nepali is written with the Devanagari alphabet, which developed from the Brahmi script in the 11th century AD. Linguistically, Nepali is most closely related to Hindi. A large proportion of the technical vocabulary is shared by Hindi and Nepali. Even the script is more or less the same for both languages and differing with each other in only a few minor details. [2, 3, 6, 7].
2.1. Writing System of the Nepali

Nepali is written in the Devanagari script. The same script is used for Hindi, Marathi and Sanskrit. There are 11 vowels and 33 consonants in the Nepali language. The script being phonetic in nature, and hence the pronunciation closely resembles the writing system. The script is written from left to right. There is no provision of capital and small letters in the script [1,6,7]. The alphabets are written in two separate groups, namely the vowels and the consonants, as shown in the table below.

Table 1. Alphabets of the Nepali Writing System

| Vowels | अ,आ,इ,ई,उ,ऊ,ऋ,ऌ,ए,ऐ,ओ,औ |
| Consonants | क,ख,ग,घ,ङ,च,छ,ज,झ,ञ,ट,ठ,ड,ढ,ण,त,थ,द,ध,न,प,फ,ब,भ,म,य,र,ल,व,श,ष,स,ह |

The three letters ः, ॠ and ऌ are regarded as special clusters and are dealt with separately from the consonants. We would deal with their formation in a later section.

In addition to the alphabets and letters mentioned above, the following signs and symbols exist in the written Nepali as shown in the table below. A brief description on each of the symbol follows.

Table 2. Additional symbols in the Nepali language

| Candrabindu | े |
| Anusvar or Cirabindu | ॆ |
| Vowel signs | आ, इ, ई, उ, ऊ, ऋ, ए, ऐ, ओ, औ |
| Visarga | ॐ |
| Viram or halanta | ॐ |

2.1.1. Candrabindu and Anusvar or Sirabindu

These two signs are the marks of nasalization in the Devanagari Script. Anusvar or Candrabindu is generally used to indicate the nasalization of a vowel [7], e.g.

«संग», pronounced as "saga" and meaning "with"

In Nepali, sirabindu is often used interchangeably with the anusvar, e.g.

«सँग», pronounced as "saga" or «संग», pronounced as "sanga", both meaning "with"

«गाउँ», pronounced as "gaaun", both meaning "village"

The Sirabindu in Nepali is inconsistently used to represent the nasal stops that are homoorganic with the adjacent stops, e.g.

«अंक», pronounced as "anka", both meaning "number"

«अंचल», pronounced as "anchal", both meaning "zone"

2.1.2. Vowel Signs

The vowels in Table 1 and the vowel signs listed in Table 2 are often called the free forms of vowels and the conjunct forms of vowels respectively.

The free forms of the vowels are written when the single vowels constitute the syllables. On the other hand, the conjunct forms of vowels or the vowel signs are written when the vowels are preceded by consonants to constitute Consonant Vowel (CV) syllabic structure [7].

The association between free forms and conjunct forms of the vowels is shown in the table below:

Table 3. Association between free form of vowels and vowel signs or conjunct forms

| Free Forms | अ, आ, इ, ई, उ, ऊ, ऋ, ए, ऐ, ओ, औ |
| Vowel Signs | आ, इ, ई, उ, ऊ, ऋ, ए, ऐ, ओ, औ |

Note that the vowel symbol अ, has no corresponding conjunct form, which means its presence is indicated by nothing but the shape of a bare constant symbol [7].
The text below illustrates the order of the writing system of some of the vowel signs.

The vowel sign ि is written before the consonant after which it is pronounced:

णgनफफब = ि◌ before the consonant ब
िग = ि◌ before the consonant ग

The vowel sign ◌ी follows the consonant:

सी = ◌ी after the consonant स

The vowel signs ◌ु and ◌ू are written at the foot of the consonant:

लु = ल◌ू

When joined to र, the vowels श and ष are written as: र and र◌. The use of the vowel signs in word formation is illustrated below:

द+ि+द+ो◌ी दिदी, pronounced as "Didi" and meaning "Elder sister"

2.1.3. Visarga

The symbol : known as visarga occurs only in a few loanwords from Sanskrit. In most cases, it is disregarded in pronunciation [6]. Examples include, प्राय:, pronounced "praya" and meaning "usually or mostly"

ण, pronounced "dukkha" and meaning "pain"

2.1.4. Viram or halanta

Before we try to explain about viram or halanta, we need to briefly throw light on the background of it's usage. Simple consonant characters represent not "letters" but syllables containing the vowel आ. This vowel is known as the inherent vowel. Thus the character ग represents the syllable "ga" and not merely the consonant "g".

The inherent vowel आ is cancelled by placing the sign "◌ू", known as viram or halanta at the foot of the consonant character. Thus बास is pronounced "bas" as opposite to बस "basa". The viram indicates that the inherent vowel in the consonant is not to be pronounced [6].

With the viram or halanta discussed, it would be appropriate to discuss on the formation of the special clusters, क, घ and ज. The three special clusters are formed by the combination of the other consonants with the viram or halanta playing a significant role in the combination as shown below:

क=क◌ो◌घ
घ=त◌ो◌बर
ज=ज◌ो◌अ

There are some other clusters as well like छ and च but right now have not been considered as clusters officially, though their formation follows the same procedure as above:

छ=श◌ो◌र
छ=द◌ो◌य

2.1.5. Vowels

Vowels, with one exception, each have two symbols [6]:

• vowel character – used in initial position and after other vowels, or when the vowel is isolated.
• vowel signs – used after consonants

The vowel character आ, aa has the corresponding vowel sign आ.

The word aama is then written आमा, the initial vowel being represented by the vowel character आ, and the second vowel by the vowel sign आ, because it occurs after the consonant character म. The addition of
the vowel sign cancels the inherent vowel of the consonant.

2.1.6. Conjunct Consonants

When two or more consonants occur together without an intervening vowel, e.g. रु in रुस्य, baschha (sits) or न्ज in मान्जे, manchhe (man), the combination is written as a single unit, known as a conjunct consonant.

In these two conjunct consonants, the elements (half characters preceding the full characters) are easily recognizable as parts of the consonant characters स and न respectively.

However, the various elements of some conjunct consonants are not so easily recognizable. When □ precedes another consonant, the 'ref' sign is placed directly over the consonant character to which it is joined. If part of that character extends above the top line, the sign is placed to the right of it [6].

For e.g. गाः, गाठन

Some consonants have no special conjunct form. The junction is then effected by means of the viram, छोण, the inherent vowel in ठ being cancelled by the viram. In a compound word like (सगरमाथा) comprising of सगर and माथा, the consonant junction is again effected by the viram.

The consonants are divided into three groups depending upon their formation:

2.1.6.1. Regular conjunct forms of the consonant symbols

The regular conjunct forms of the consonant symbols are written in three ways [7]:

- The first way of writing a conjunct consonant symbol is the one in which the first consonant's symbol is written in half-shape, and the second consonant's symbol is written in full-shape.

For e.g. पक्का,मुख्य,योग्य,नाच्यो,बच्चा,मज्जा,ज्यालाक

- The second way of writing a conjunct consonant symbol is the one in which the first consonant symbol is written full-shape, and the second consonant symbol is written half-shape, or is at least modified.

For e.g. द्याठ,छ्याप्नु,द्याम्को,द्याम्म,डाँयाहा,द्याम्म द्याम्म etc.

- The third way of writing a consonant conjunct symbol is the one in which the second consonant symbol in the (Consonant Consonant CC clusters is written half.

For e.g. गायो, तिघा,प्रश्र,ग्राम्मण etc.

2.1.6.2. Irregular conjunct forms of the consonant symbols

Following are the irregular conjunct forms of different consonant symbols; they are listed in the Devanagari alphabetical order [7]:

भक्त,अक्षर,मज्जा,ज्याला etc.

Additional symbols: bindu, anusvar and visarga. The Devanagari writing system also uses additional symbols which are called bindu, anusvar and visarga(all Sanskrit names).

With the above discussion on the basic writing system of Nepali, we now move to the form classes (lexicon) and the phrase, clause and sentence structures (grammar).

3. Form Classes (Lexicon)

The Nepali Grammar consists of both the inflected and the uninflated forms, sometimes also called as open and closed classes as well. These constitute the parts of speech of the Nepali Grammar. The open class include noun, adjective, verb and adverb whereas pronoun, coordinating conjunction, subordinating conjunction, postposition, interjection, vocative and nuance particle come under the closed class.
3.1. Nouns

Nouns inflect for number (singular and plural) and for the seven cases as listed in the table 4 below. They do not inflect for gender (masculine vs. Feminine). Nepali nouns show inflectional contrasts for singular vs. Plural, e.g. मानस (man -singular), मानसहण (menplural) [7].

Table 4. The number and case suffixes of nouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nominative (Nm)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>हरू</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accusative (Ac)</td>
<td>लाई हुलाई</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental (In)</td>
<td>ले हुले</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dative(Dt)</td>
<td>लाई हुलाई</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ablative(Ab)</td>
<td>बाट हुबाट</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genitive (Gn)</td>
<td>को हुको</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locative(Lc)</td>
<td>मा हुमा</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.1. Function of noun

The nouns function as the heads in the noun phrase (NP) structures. They also function as dependents of postpositions (pp) in the postpositional phrases (pp) [7].

3.1.2. Dependents of noun

The dependents of noun are determiners, i.e. demonstratives, specifiers, and modifiers, i.e. adjectives,numerals and the dependent nominals [7].

3.1.3. Lexical morphology of nouns

The most frequent noun-forming derivational suffixes are याइ,आइ [7]. For eg. भुख्याइ,हसॉइ, हिडाइ.

3.1.4. Special characteristics of Nepali nouns

Here we deal with some of the special characteristics of Nepali nouns [6].

i) The plural suffix -हरू when added to nouns, a plural of the noun is formed. For eg., राजा, king(sing.), राजाहरू, kings(pl.)

ii) The demonstratives यो and त्यो change to यी and ती for plural nouns. For eg., यो मान्चेरे, This man(sing.), यी मान्चेरेरू, These men (pl.)

iii) When preceded by a numeral, the noun usually remains singular. For eg., दुई दिन, 'two days' पाँच साल, 'five years'.

iv) When the noun is qualified by धेरै 'much, many' the addition of the extra suffix -हरू is optional and in spoken Nepali is often ommited. For eg., धेरै किताबहरू, 'many books' or धेरै किताब, 'many books'.

v) In written and sometimes in spoken Nepali -को changes to क before plural nouns. In this respect it behaves like an adjective: For eg.,

| नेपालको मान्चेरू, men of Nepal |
| छोराको किताबहरू, the son's books |
| रामको बहिनीहरू, Ram's sisters |

3.2. Adjectives

Adjectives end in -ो and inflect for gender (masculine vs. feminine), and number (singular vs. plural). Inflections of adjectives is illustrated in the table 5 below [7]:

Table 5. Inflections of adjectives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular number</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
<th>Plural number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>मानो</td>
<td>मानी</td>
<td>मानहरू</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>बाठो</td>
<td>बाठी</td>
<td>बाठहरू</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>लाटो</td>
<td>लाटी</td>
<td>लाटहरू</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>कालो</td>
<td>काली</td>
<td>कालहरू</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>मोटो</td>
<td>मोटी</td>
<td>मोटहरू</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nepali also includes a set of uninflected adjectival forms borrowed from Hindi or Sanskrit, which show the same distribution and functions as adjectives, e.g.

असल केटो असल केटी
असल केटाहु असल केटीहु

### 3.2.1. Function of adjectives

The adjectives function as the heads of the adjective phrase (AdjP) structures. The AdjP’s also function as pre-head modifiers in the noun phrases (NP) structures [7], e.g.

णनफफबरामी मािनस।

### 3.2.2. Dependents of adjectives

The dependents of the adjectives are quantifiers which quantify the adjectives, by showing degrees of intensity including the comparative and superlative forms [7].

### 3.2.3. Lexical Morphology

There are several derivational suffixes that mark the adjectives in Nepali. The suffix इलो derives adjectives from nouns and verbs [7], for eg.

रस+इलो=रिलो
हाँस+इलो=हिलो
मल+इलो=मिलो

### 3.2.4. Special characteristics of Nepali adjectives

Here we deal with some of the special characteristics of Nepali adjectives [6].

1. **Adjectives always precede the noun they qualify:**
   For eg., पुरानो मन्दिर, the/an old temple ठूलो शहर, the/a big city राजो सिनिमा, the/a good film

2. **The demonstrative adjectives are:** यो 'this' and त्यो 'that'. For eg. यो किताब, this book, त्यो देश, that country यो केटा, this boy, त्यो आइमाई, that woman.

3. **The possessive adjectives** मेरो 'my', तिमो 'timro', हामो 'our', like all other adjectives precede the noun they qualify. For eg., मेरो घर त्यहि छ।
   Our country is Nepal.

4. **In written and occasionally in the spoken language, adjectives ending in -o change their endings to -a before a plural noun.** For eg., ठूला राजाहु असल केटो।
   Old temples असल केटो। My sons असल केटो।

5. **In Nepali there are a number of words for 'good'.**
   - रामो, though strictly speaking means 'pleasing to the eye', 'beautiful', is now used in most senses of the English 'good'.
   - मीठो means 'good to the taste' and is only used for food and drink.
   - असल means 'of good quality' or 'morally good'. त्यो रामो असल।
     He's a good-looking man त्यो असल।
     He's a good man (ref. to character) रामो मीठो।
     The water tastes good. पानी असल।
     The water is good (for drinking)
   - वेस and its emphatic form, i.e. stressing on the emphasis वेस। That hotel is good. सिनिमा वेस।
     The film is fairly good.
vi) Repetition of an adjective indicates plurality: For eg. त्यो पसलमा असल असल मात्र छ। There are all kinds of good things in the shop. It should be, however, noted that especially the reduplicated forms सानसाना 'small', and टूलटूला 'big' which always have the plural ending खोलामा सानसाना मात्र छ। In the river there are lots of little fish. भारतमा टूलटूला शहरहरू छैन। In India there are many big cities.

vii) Comparison of adjectives is effected by means of the postpositions भन्दा 'than'.

- Comparative

कलक्ता दिल्ली भन्दा टूलो छ।
Calcutta is bigger than Delhi.

यो तरकारी यो तरकारी भन्दा मात्रै छैन।
These vegetables are not as nice as those vegetables.

तपाईको घर मेरो घर भन्दा रामो छ।
Your house is more beautiful than mine.

- Superlative

This is effected by means of the phrase सब भन्दा 'than all':

स्क़्रिल्को सब भन्दा बढिमान विवाही राम हो।
Ram is the cleverest boy in the school (lit. 'than all clever student')

काठमाडौं नेपालको सब भन्दा टूलो शहर हो।
Kathmandu is the biggest city in ('of') Nepal.

The adjective सब 'all', 'every' usually takes a singular noun:

शहरको सब पसल भन्दा छ।
Every shop in the city is closed.

viii) Questions may be asked by using an interrogative word like कहै 'where?', के 'what?', को 'Who? कुन 'Which?'. Note that कुन is an adjective. कुन देशमा? 'in which country', कुन किलाट 'which book?', कुन किसिम? 'which sort?'

ix) Adjectives ending in ओ and the postposition -को have a feminine singular form in -ई (e.g. बुढी, मेरी-की), which is occasionally used with nouns denoting females. Thus:

मेरी स्वास्ती my wife
बुढी आइमाई an old woman
रामकी छोरी Ram's daughter

The use of a feminine verb with a feminine noun is obligatory:

रामकी स्वास्ती कहाँ छै?
Where is Ram's wife?

मेरी बहिनी मन्त्ररमा छै।
My little sister is in the temple.

तपाईकी स्वास्ती कहाँ छिन्? उनी घरमा छिन्।
Where is your wife? She is at home.

Note: तपाईकी 'of you', 'your'

Feminine forms, though occasionally employed in spoken Nepali, are largely a feature of the written language.

मेरो कोट उसको (कोट) जलो छ।
My coat is like his (coat).

3.3. Verbs

Verbs in Nepali inflect to show contrasts for the first, second and third persons, singular and plural numbers, masculine and feminine gender of a subject in third person singular and tense (present, past and future), for person:

जानछ, जानछ, जानछन, जानछ, जानछ

The verbs also inflect to show contrasts of the grades of honorofics in second and third persons, e.g.

जानछस(LGH), जानछौ(MGH), जानछौ(HGH).
The verbs also inflect for infinitive, e.g. जानु, जानन for perfective participle, e.g. गएको, जाने, जाना, गए

The verbal inflections or verbal inflectional suffixes indicate that there are at least three levels of honorifics reflected in everyday spoken Nepali [7].

3.3.1. Function of verbs

The verbs function as the head of the clause structure. As heads of the clause structure, verbs stand either alone or in construction with various types of complements, e.g. Direct object, object complement and subject complements, adverbial complements, and optional adverbial adjuncts [7].

3.3.2. Dependents of verbs

Verbs show various dependents called complements which subclassify them into three main types: (transitive, equational and intransitive). Transitive verbs take direct objects as complements, equational verbs take subject complements as dependents; and intransitive verbs are marked by the absence of either direct object or subject complements.

Verbs, as heads of the clausal structures, also cooccur with indirect dative complements (dependents) such as adverbial complements, adverbial adjuncts and adverbial disjuncts [7].

3.3.3. Lexical Morphology

The verbs have simple or compound stems, marked by the infinitive suffix -नु when they are cited in the dictionary, e.g. खानु, लाउनु, सुनु, रुनु, कराउनु etc. The forms खा, ला, सुन, रु are simple stems and नु marks their citation forms. In compound verb stems, the first stem is suffixed with न and the second verb stem नि. Then follows the citation form marker नु. Verbs derived from nouns and adjectives are marked by the derivational suffix -आउ, e.g. रोग (ना), रोगाउनु(क्रि). The derivational suffix आउ also marks the causative verb stems [7], e.g. गानु/गराउनु

3.3.4. Special Characteristics of Nepali Verbs

Here we deal with some of the special characteristics of Nepali verbs [6].

i) The third person singular forms छ and हो both mean 'is'. The difference between them is that, generally speaking, छ locates (i.e. indicates where someone or something is) and हो defines (i.e. indicates how. Who or what someone or something is). The verb usually comes at the end of the sentence.

For eg.,

किताल कहाँ छ?
Where is the book? (छ locates)
कलम राखो हो
The pen is good. (हो defines)
नोकर त्यहाँ छ
The servant is there. (छ locates)
त्यहाँ मान्द्रो की हो?
Who is that man? (हो defines)

ii) छ is often used in contexts where according to the above rule हो would be expected. For instance, it would be quite correct to say कलम राखो छ without any real difference being made to the sense. In certain idiomatic expressions like ठीक छ 'it's all right', हो would infact be incorrect. In statements, therefore, छ is often used in place of हो to define. In questions asking for a definition (usually with के 'what?' and को 'Who?') हो is invariably used. Thus in the question निम्नो नाउ के हो? 'What is your name?' छ would be incorrect.

In spoken Nepali, the same sentence may be expressed:
पुस्तकालयमा ठीक किताल छ.

iii) Nepali verbs have special negative forms. The negative forms corresponding to छ and हो are छैन and होइन respectively. The plural negative forms are छैनन् and होइनन् respectively.

For eg.,
The Nepali verb has several infinitives. The
infinitive by which the verb is referred to in
dictionaries ends in the suffix -तूँ. Thus गर्नू ‘to do’,
आउनू ‘to come’, जानू ‘to go’. As noted earlier, the
verbs छ छ and हर share a common infinitive
हुन ‘to be’.

vi) The Primary Base of the verb, to which suffixes
are added to form certain tenses and participles, is
taken from the infinitive by dropping the suffix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group Infinitive</th>
<th>Primary Base</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>गर्नू बस्नू</td>
<td>गर to do, बस् to sit, to stay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>खानू जानू दिनू उभिनू</td>
<td>खा to eat, जा to go, दि to give, उभिनू to stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ढुनू रुनू</td>
<td>ढ to wash, रु to weep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>बिरसिनू दुहुनू</td>
<td>बिरस to forget, दुहु to milk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>आउनू पटाउनू पिउनू</td>
<td>आउ to come, पटाउ to send, पिउ to drink</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-तूँ as shown below:

Nepali verbs are then divided into five groups
according to the nature of their primary base:

a) Base ending in a consonant: गर, बस्
b) Base ending in the vowels-आ, इ: खा, जा, दि
c) Base of one syllable ending in the vowel -उ: ढु, रु
d) Base of more than one syllable ending in the
   vowels -अ, उ: बिरस, दुहु
e) Base ending in the vowels आउ, इउ: पटाउ, पिउ

Verbs belonging to the last three groups c, d and e also
have a secondary base.
The Secondary Base of the verbs belonging to group (c) is formed by changing the Primary Base vowel -u to -o. That of verbs belonging to groups (d) and (e) is formed by dropping the final vowel of the Primary Base. Thus:

Table 8. Formation of the Secondary Base of verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infinitive</th>
<th>Primary Base</th>
<th>Secondary Base</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>c) दू नु</td>
<td>दू</td>
<td>दू</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d) बिर्सनु</td>
<td>बिर्स</td>
<td>बिर्स</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e) आउनु</td>
<td>आउ</td>
<td>आउ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The group (b) verb जानन (Primary Base जा) has an irregular Secondary Base गर्. The personal suffixes of the Simple Past Tense, which are added to the Primary Base of Verbs belonging to groups (a) and (b) and to the Secondary Base of Verbs belonging to groups (c), (d) and (e) are as follows:

Table 9. Personal suffixes of the Simple Past Tense

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pronoun</th>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>म</td>
<td>- ए</td>
<td>- ईन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तै</td>
<td>- इस्</td>
<td>- इन्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उ,त्यो,यो</td>
<td>-यो</td>
<td>-एन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>हामी (=-हर्)</td>
<td>-यो</td>
<td>एनो</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तिमी (=-हर्)</td>
<td>-यो</td>
<td>एनो</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उनी (=-हर्)</td>
<td>-ए</td>
<td>एन्</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The HGH forms of the Simple Past Tense have the suffixes -भि (affir m.) and भ्य (neg.) added to the infinitive. The subject of a transitive verb in the simple Past Tense always takes the postposition-ले. The Simple Past Tenses of गर्नु (transitive) and आउनु (intransitive) are thus:

Table 10. Simple Past Tenses of गर्नु (transitive) and आउनु (intransitive)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a) गर्नु</th>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>माले</td>
<td>गरे</td>
<td>गरिन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तैले</td>
<td>गरिस्</td>
<td>गरिस्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उसले</td>
<td>गरो</td>
<td>गरेन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>हामीले</td>
<td>गरोै</td>
<td>गरेनै</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तिमीले</td>
<td>गरोै</td>
<td>गरेनै</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उन्ले, उनीहरुले</td>
<td>गरे</td>
<td>गरेनूङ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तपाईले, बहाले</td>
<td>गरुन्भरो</td>
<td>गरुन्भरैन</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>b) आउनु</th>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>म</td>
<td>आएँ</td>
<td>आइनेन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तै</td>
<td>आइस्</td>
<td>आइनस्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उ</td>
<td>आयो</td>
<td>आएन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>हामी</td>
<td>आयोै</td>
<td>आएनै</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तिमी</td>
<td>आयोै</td>
<td>आएनै</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उनी (=-हर्)</td>
<td>आए</td>
<td>आएनूङ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तपाईैँ, बहाँै</td>
<td>आउतन्भरो</td>
<td>आउतन्भरैन</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It should be noted that when the verb is transitive, the pronouns take the postposition-ले. Note that म and तै with -ले become माले and तैले.

Third person forms have the following optional feminine suffixes:

Table 11. Third Personal forms and the feminine suffixes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pronoun</th>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>उ</td>
<td>-ई</td>
<td>ईन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उनी</td>
<td>-इङ्</td>
<td>इङन्</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Simple Past Tense denotes action completed at some time in the past.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pronoun</th>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>म</td>
<td>नियम</td>
<td>नियमन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ले</td>
<td>नियम</td>
<td>नियमन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उ</td>
<td>नियम</td>
<td>नियमन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>हामी</td>
<td>नियम</td>
<td>नियमन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तिमी</td>
<td>नियम</td>
<td>नियमन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उनी (-हरू)</td>
<td>नियम</td>
<td>नियमन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. उ</td>
<td>नियमन</td>
<td>नियमन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उनी(-हरू)</td>
<td>नियमन</td>
<td>नियमन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGH तपाईै, बहाँ</td>
<td>हुनुहुन्त्यो</td>
<td>हुनुहुन्त्यो</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that the HGH suffixes -हुन्त्यो (affirmative) and -हुन्त्यो (neg.) are added to the infinitive. थियो is used both to locate and define

अस्तिको शुक्रबार म रामकही थिए।
Last Friday, I was at Ram's place.

मेरी बहिनी सिकिङस्त बिरामी थिए।
My little sister was seriously ill.

The base म is used only with past tense and past participle suffixes. Strictly speaking म- functions as the Secondary Base of the verb हुनौ तौ though usage of the tenses and participles formed from this base should be carefully noted. The Simple Past Tense is formed from the base म – regularly:

भयो म जिरामी थिए। I became ill/ I felt ill.

But म जिरामी थिए। I was ill.
The affirmative suffixes of the Simple Indefinite Tense are as follows:

1 sing. (म) -छौँ
1 plur. (हमी इत्यदृ) -छौँ
2 sing. (तै) -छौँ
2 MGH (तिमी इत्यदृ) -छौ
3 sing. LGH (ऊ इत्यदृ) -छौ
3 MGH. Plur. (उनी, उनीहरू) -छन्

There are also four special feminine suffixes:

2 LGH -छ�  3 LGH -छे  2 MGH -छोँ  3 MGH – छिन्

It should be noted that the suffixes of the Simple Indefinite are identical to the forms of छौँ.

The suffixes are added directly to the Primary Base of the verbs belonging to Group (a).

म गाईँछौँ I do.
तै बस्ने मृसौँ You sit
तिनीहरू सुस्ने They sleep
Verbs belonging to Group

I (b), (c), (d) have निन्द्रित between the vowels of the Primary Base and the suffix:

म खाँछौँ I eat
हमी बिस्न्द्रोँ We forget.
उ दिन्ने She gives
त्यो जान्छौँ He goes
Verbs belonging to Group

(e) have the second vowel of the Primary Base nasalised before the suffix:

म पठाँछौँ I will send.
मी आउँछौँ We come.
तिनीहरू बिउँछौँ They drink.

HGH (तपाईँ, करँ इत्यदृ) forms of all groups have the suffix -छौँ added to the infinitive:

तपाईँ गर्नुहुन्छँ। You do.

वहैहरू आउँछौँ। They come.

मेरो बुझा पटाउँछौँ। My father sends.

The full conjugation of the Simple Indefinite Tense of गर्नु is as follows:

| Table 13. Full conjugation of the Simple Indefinite Tense of गर्नु |
|---|---|---|
| 1 sing. | म | गन्नु |
| 1 sing. LGH | तै | गन्नु (माँग्नु) |
| 3 sing. LGH | उ, त्यो, यो | गन्नु |
| 1 plur. | हमी (हरू) | गन्नु |
| 2 sing. pl. MGH | तिमी (हरू) | गन्नु, गन्नोँ |
| 3 sing. MGH | उनी, तिनी, पिनी | गन्नु (गन्निन) |
| 3 plur. LGH, MGH | उनीहरू | गन्नु |
| 2 sing. pl. HGH | तपाईँ-हरू | गन्नुहुन्छ |
| 3 sing. pl. HGH | त्योहरू (हरू) | गन्नुहुन्छ |

Similarly:

म खाँछौँ
तै खाँछौँ
म खुन्छौँ
तै खुन्छौँ
म बिस्न्द्रोँ
तै बिस्न्द्रोँ
म आउँछौँ
तै आउँछौँ

The Simple Indefinite Tense refers to action performed at regular intervals or as a matter of habit. It can often be translated by the English simple present tense. ‘I do, I eat, I go’ etc.
The verb liquid, is frequently used in the context of alcohol.

The present continuous tense is then formed as follows:

The verb पिउँ 'to drink', though it may be used for any liquid, is frequently used in the context of alcohol.

The final vowel of the 1'st person singular suffix is nasalised घ

The negative suffixes are added directly to the base of verbs belonging to group (a): गर्दै, गर्दैनस्, गर्दैन, गर्दैनो, गर्दैनी, गर्दैनन्.

The negative suffixes are added directly to the base of the verbs belonging to the group (a): गर्दिन, गर्दिनस्, गर्दिन, गर्दिनो, गर्दिनी, गर्दिनन्.

The final vowel of the 1'st person singular suffix is sometimes nasalized दिन.

The negative suffixes are added directly to the base of the verbs belonging to the group (a): गर्दिन, गर्दिनस्, गर्दिन, गर्दिनो, गर्दिनी, गर्दिनन्.

The final vowel of the 1'st person singular suffix is sometimes nasalized दिन.

The negative suffixes are added directly to the base of the verbs belonging to the group (a): गर्दिन, गर्दिनस्, गर्दिन, गर्दिनो, गर्दिनी, गर्दिनन्.
When the base ends in an unvoiced consonant, i.e. क, ख, च, छ, ट, ठ, ड, ढ, प, फ, झ, ञ, the द of the suffix may be ‘devoiced’ to त, i.e. -दिन becomes तिन. Thus म बसतिन ‘I do not sit’, उ सुतेन ‘he does not sleep’. There is however, a growing tendency to use the suffix in –द-, whatever the nature of the base and बसतिन is now commonly written and spoken.

Verbs belonging to all other groups (i.e. with primary bases ending in a vowel) have the final vowel nasalized before the suffix is added:

For eg.,

म जादिन
I do not go
तै खादनस्
You do not eat
उ धूदिन
He does not wash
हामी विसर्छिनौ
We do not forget
उनीहू हाउदेनान्
They do not come.

HGH forms have the suffix –हुः added to the infinitive in –नु

तपाई जानुहूः
You do not go
बहाँ देखुः
He does not see
मेरो बुझा निस्कुर्छुः
My father does not go out

The negative of the Simple Indefinite Tense has the following feminine forms:

3 sing. LGH उ गारिन,
3 sing. MGH उनी गारिनान्

Verbs belonging to the groups (b), (c), (d) and (e) have alternative negative forms of which the suffixes are:

उ -ञ
हामी -ञ्नौ
तिमी -ञ्नौ
उनी (हरू) -ञ्नू

These suffixes are added directly to the Primary Base.

म जान्
तै आउनस्
उ खान्
उनी पिउन्न्
हामी धुरौ
तिमी विसर्छौ
उनीहरू जाउन्

Verbs which may take a direct object are known as transitive verbs. For eg.,

गरु, ‘to do’,
बेटु ‘to meet’,
चिट्ठु ‘to hit’,
हेतु ‘to look at’

dहुन ‘to milk’ are all transitive verbs.

Verbs which cannot take a direct object, such as जानु ‘to go’, आउनु ‘to come’, विद्नु ‘to sit/remain’, are known as intransitive verbs.

When the object of a transitive verb is:

(1) a proper noun (राम, गोपो इत्यादि) or

(2) a noun or pronoun referring to the person (मान्चव, बहिनी मुल्लो, इत्यादि), the postposition -लाई must be added to the object of the verb.

xii) A Simple Indefinite Tense is also regularly formed from the Primary Base हृ as shown in the table below:
Next week all the offices in the city will be closed, but the shops will not be.

The Simple Indefinite Tense

Table 14. Simple Indefinite Tense from the primar base हुँ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>म हुँनुँ</td>
<td>हीदन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तै हुँनस्</td>
<td>हैदनस्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उ हुँन्छ</td>
<td>हैदन</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>हामी हुँन्छौ</td>
<td>हैदननो</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>मिमी हुँन्छौ</td>
<td>हैदननो</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उनी(हरु) हुँन्छन्</td>
<td>हैदनन्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तपाई हुनुँन्छ</td>
<td>हुनुँल</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>बहाँ हुनुन्छ</td>
<td>हुनुँल</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The alternative negative forms are:

हुन्छो
हुनस् हुन्छो
हुन हुनन्

हुन्छ, though usually translated as 'is' differs from छ and हो in that it is used to denote a general fact or occurrence. For this reason हुन्छ is frequently used with adverbs like अफस (often), सय 'always', and धरेजसी (mostly, usually). For example, the sentence 'mangoes are sweet' states a general fact. They are sweet by nature. This is rendered in Nepali as अफिगुलियो हुन्छ. In the sentence 'This mango is sweet', a particular instance is referred to: यो अफिगुलियो छ or हो।

The Simple Indefinite Tense हुन्छ is also used with reference to future time. Thus म हुन्छ also means 'I shall be' etc.

आउने हसा शहरको सबै अड्रा बन्द हुन्छन तर पसल बन्द हैदनन्।

The four verbs which can be translated by the English verb 'to be':

a) हो used only to define and obligatory in questions of the type: के हो?, को हो?, 'What is?', 'Who is?'
b) छ used mainly to locate, but also frequently in statements in place of हो to define;

c) हुन्छ used to denote a generality or a regular occurrence, and also with reference to future time.

d) रहेछ used in place of छ and हो indicating surprise.

Table 14. Simple Indefinite Tense from the primar base हुँ

The four verbs which can be translated by the English verb 'to be':

a) हो used only to define and obligatory in questions of the type: के हो?, को हो?, 'What is?', 'Who is?'
b) छ used mainly to locate, but also frequently in statements in place of हो to define;

c) हुन्छ used to denote a generality or a regular occurrence, and also with reference to future time.

d) रहेछ used in place of छ and हो indicating surprise.

xiii) The HGH imperative is formed by adding -होस् to the infinitive of the verb:

बाँटोस् -> do
बाटोस् -> sit
आउनोस् -> come
मित्र पाल्नोस् -> please come in

Note that मित्र is used both as an adverb and a postposition “in”, “inside”

म मित्र जानछ। I'll go outside.
हामो घरमित्र inside our house.
काउटमाणोगलियः inside Kathmandu.

xiv) The negative of the HGH imperative is formed by adding the prefix न to the positive form.

नालाटिनोस् do not panic
नालावालनोस् do not be angry

The ending -नुहोस् is often pronounced and sometimes written as -नोस्:

पालनुहोस् or पालनोस् come, go
नालाउनुहोस् or नालावालनोस् do not come
गानुहोस् or गानोस् do

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xv) Many Nepali verbs have passive or impersonal counterparts which are formed by adding the suffix छ to the base of verbs belonging to groups (a) and (b) and to the secondary base of the verbs belonging to groups (c), (d) and (e). Thus the active verb गर्नु ‘to do’ is made passive by extending the base with the suffix –छ; गरिन्छु ‘to be done’. Such verbs are often referred to as ‘I-stem’ verbs.

In general only the infinitive, 3’rd person forms and certain participles of such verbs are used.

I-stem verbs are conjugated like other verbs belonging to group (b) with a base ending in छ, e.g. दिनु, and have the full range of tenses and participles. The I-stem forms of गर्नु are considered below.

Table 15. Formation of verbal conjugates from I-stem base verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I-Stem base</th>
<th>गरि.</th>
<th>To be done</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infinitive</td>
<td>गरिन्छु</td>
<td>It is done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simp. Indef. 3 s. aff.</td>
<td>गरिन्छु</td>
<td>It is not done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simp. Indef. 3 s. neg.</td>
<td>गरिन्छन्</td>
<td>They are done.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simp. Indef. 3 pl. aff.</td>
<td>गरिन्छन्</td>
<td>They are not done.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simp. Indef. 3 pl. neg.</td>
<td>गरिन्छन्</td>
<td>It was done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simp. Past 3 s. aff.</td>
<td>गरियो</td>
<td>It was not done, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simp. Past 3 s. neg.</td>
<td>गरियन्</td>
<td>To be used</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above applies to other verbs like: भन् ‘to say’, सुन् ‘to hear’, देखि ‘to see’

Note that all I-Stem verbs may have the alternative Simple Indefinite negative forms:

गरिन्छ, देखि, चाहिन्छ, पाउन्छ

The transitive verb पाउन्छ means ‘to find’, ‘to receive’, ‘to get’, ‘to earn money’ etc.

Thus:

मैले गएको मझलाउन तरिको किंठी पाउँछ।
I received your letter last Tuesday.

म चालाई सूचिया पाउँछ।
I earn forty rupees.

तिमीले के पायो? कैसी पनि पाइनौ।
What did you get? I got nothing at all.

The Simple Past forms of the transitive verb पाउने, पाउने ‘he got’, ‘he did not get' must be carefully distinguished from the impersonal forms, पाइने ‘it was found', पाइने ‘it was not found'.

म चालाई सूचिया पाउँछ।
I earn forty rupees.

तिमीले के पायो? कैसी पनि पाइनौ।
What did you get? I got nothing at all.

The Simple Past forms of the transitive verb पाउने, पाउने ‘he got’, ‘he did not get' must be carefully distinguished from the impersonal forms, पाइने ‘it was found', पाइने ‘it was not found'.


In sentences as shown below, the 3’rd person singular of the transitive verb भन्छ may also be used:

यसलाई नेपालीमा के भन्छ। यसलाई किताब भन्छ।
What do they call this in Nepali? They call it kitab.

प्रयोग गर्ने ‘to use' प्रयोग गरिन्छ ‘to be used’

The I-Stem verb चाहिन्छ ‘to be required', 'to be needed is' formed from the comparatively rarely used transitive verb चाहिन्छ ‘to want’

The Simple Indefinite form चाहिन्छ is mainly used to express 'it is generally required' or 'it will be required'. Thus:

मान्छेहुलाई रोटी साखे चाहिन्छ।
Men always need bread.
In spoken Nepali पुरुष्ठ and पुर्णेन are often used impersonally instead of their I-Stem counterparts:

केलुकासम पुरुष्ठ कि पुर्णेन?
Can we get there by evening or not?

Strictly speaking पुरुष्ठ and पुर्णेन would be correct.

In the same way, पाउँछ is often used in place of पाइन्छ.

The transitive verb खोलनु 'to open' has an intransitive counterpart खुलनु 'to be opened', 'to come open'

कोटामा गर्मी छ। म ड्याल खोलनु। It is hot in the room. I'll open the window.

But the adjective खुला means 'open'. बाटो अहिले खुला छ रे। they say the road is now open.

xvi) The imperative forms of the Nepali verbs also require special attention:

1) The LGH (िँ) imperative is formed as follows:

a) Verbs belonging to groups (a) and (b) – the LGH imperative is identical with the base of the verb:

   गर्न do वस् sit down
   खा eat उभि stand

b) Verbs belonging to groups (c) and (e) -the LGH imperative is identical with the Secondary Base of the Verb. For eg.,

   धो wash पटा send
   पिड drink आ come

c) Verbs belonging to the group (d) in most cases have the suffix ई ई added to the secondary base of the verb: For eg.

   हुदै milk विसिङ्ग forget
   सम्झी remember
di, and di have irregular LGH imperatives: दे 'give', ले 'take'. The LGH imperative of आउँ is sometimes आउ as well as आ.

2) The MGH (तिमी) imperative is formed as follows.
   a) Verbs belonging to group (a) have the suffix -a added to the base: गर दो बस sit down
   b) Verbs belonging to group (b) have the suffix -u and sometimes the suffix -o added to the base: खाउ eat जाउ go उभाउ or उभाउ stand up
   c) Verbs belonging to the groups(c) and (e) have the suffix -u added to the base: घोउ wash आउ come ल्याउ bring

3) Verbs belonging to group (d) have the suffix -a added to the base: ठुँ milk विरू forget समझ remember

di and di have irregular imperative forms for the MGH: देउ give लेउ take

The verb हो has the imperative forms:

LGH हो MGH हो be
The negative of the imperative is formed by adding the prefix न.
नगर नखाउ नद्रू नआ नहोउ नविरूइ

Examples of the imperative

LGH

भात खा त नानी
Eat your dinner, won't you, child.

यता आइउ त ल्याहै नवमै
Come here. Do not sit there.

MGH

यी कोटामा गमी छौ पंखा खाउ तै
It is hot in this room. Switch on the fan, please.
the participle may literally be translated 'having done', 'having come' etc.

भात खाएर म घर जान्नु।
Having eaten dinner, I shall go home.

The conjunctive participle in ई may be used in exactly the same way.

म हवाई जहाजमा चढी बेलायत गए।
I boarded the plane and went to Britain.

When a long narrative contains several conjunctive participles, the participle in ई is often used to avoid the monotonous repetition of the syllable -एर.

The particle in -ईकन is more emphatic than the other two forms and is used rather less frequently: For eg.,

भात खाईकन घरबाट हिडो।
We left as soon as we had eaten.

घरमा पसीकन त्यसलाई खुब झांट।
I went straight into the house and scolded him.

3.4. Adverbs

Adverbs in Nepali are uninflected forms. Adverbs show the gradation of comparative and superlative degrees by syntactic means of their dependents (quantifiers or adverbs of quantity).

3.4.1. Function of adverbs

Adverbs occur as independent of or as the head of an adverbial phrase (AdvP) structure, and function as dependents of the verb, i.e. As complements or adjuncts, e.g रामरी खाउँ। Adverbs also function as quantifiers (or intensifiers) of adjectives, e.g. साँह रामो, or other adverbs, e.g.साँह छिट्टो। The adverbs which function as quantifiers of adjectives or quantifiers of other adverbs are "adverbs of quantity" [7].

The comparative and superlative formations of the adverbs are syntactic, not morphological, e.g.

Comparative: अलि बिस्तारी वा झान् बिस्तारी
Superlative: ज्यादेद बिस्तारी

3.4.2. Dependents of adverbs

The dependents of the adverb are quantifiers that indicate the gradation of adverbs, e.g. बिस्तारी वा झान् बिस्तारी। Such constructions with adverbs as heads and their dependent adverbs (quantifiers) are called analytic comparative and superlative constructions [7].

3.4.3. Lexical Morphology

Adverbs are marked by the derivational suffixes -अरि, -साथ, बिलिके, -पूर्वक। Those adverbs, which are not so marked by derivational suffixes are adverbials. Adverbials function and distribute in the same way as adverbs in phrasal and clausal constructions [7].

3.4.4. Special Characteristics of Nepali Adverbs

Below, we present some of the special characteristics of Nepali Adverbs [6]:

i) The interrogative adverb कहिले means 'when?' For eg.

तपाई मुल्कही कहिले आउनुहुन्छ?
When are you coming to my house?

राम दिल्ली कहिले जान्नु?
When is Ram going to Delhi?

The phrase कहिले कहिले means 'sometimes'

ल्यो कहिले कहिले मात्र मासु खान्नु।
He eats meat only sometimes.

म कहिले कहिले नेपाल जान्नु।
I sometimes go to Nepal.

कहिले पनि followed by a negative verb means 'never', 'not ever':

म त कहिले पनि रक्षी पिउदिन।
I never drink spirits.  
हामी उसलाई काहीले पण भेट्दैन।
We never meet him.

Similarly, the adverb कतै 'somewhere' followed by a negative verb may be translated nowhere', 'not anywhere'

त्यो त कतै जान।
He does not go anywhere/ he goes nowhere.

i) The interrogative adverb कसै 'how? ', 'by what means?' must be distinguished from the adjective कसै 'how', 'of how quality?' 'in what state'.

Compare the following:

कसै जानुहो र म हामी जहाँमा जानुहो?
How are you going? I am going by aeroplane.

सिनेमा कसै छ? बसै छ।
What is the film like? It is not too bad.

Note that the adverbs and adverbial phrases often directly precede the verb they qualify:

तपाईं कतै जादै हुनुहो? म त कतै जान।
Where are you going? I'm not going anywhere.

iii) जस्तो 'like', 'such as' may be used as an adjective and an adverb.

When used adverbially जस्तो immediately precedes the verb:

उसको कुरा सौंची जस्तो छैन।
What he says does not sound true.

आज पानी पर्नुस् जस्तो छैन।
It does not look like it will rain today.

Note that कुरा may mean 'a thing' in the general sense, but often refers to something said. Thus तपाईंका कुरा may be translated ' what you said'. The expression कुरा गन्नै means 'to talk', 'to have a word':

म भोलिए तपाईंसंग कुरा गन्नै।
I will have a word with you tomorrow.

3.5. Pronouns

Pronouns constitute a small closed class of forms that inflect for case and number in a way analogous to nouns. Pronouns belong indirectly to the gender of nouns to which they anaphorically refer. The gender of pronoun, like the gender of a noun, is shown syntactically in the third person by its cross reference tie to verb for which they function as subject [7].

3.5.1. Function of pronouns

Pronouns, as heads of the Pronoun phrase (ProP), and function as subject, or (direct or indirect) object complements, and adjuncts of verbs [7].

3.5.2. Dependents

Pronouns, as heads of the Pronoun phrases (ProP), do not occur with dependents such as determiners since the pronouns are inherently definite or determined. It should be noted, however, that in contrast, the common nouns as the heads of the common noun phrases (CNPs) do take the determiners as their dependents [7].

3.5.3. Lexical Morphology

Pronouns are marked by their simple (underived) forms that distinguish them from other form classes. The traditional grammars sometimes speak about pronominal adjectives as if they were pronouns [7], e.g. त्यो, यो, कुन।

3.5.4. Special Characteristics of Nepali Pronouns

Here we deal with some of the special characteristics of Nepali pronouns [6].

i) यो and त्यो are used as third person singular pronouns 'he', 'she', 'it'. यो refers to the person or thing nearer the speaker, and त्यो to the person or thing farther away. When no such distinction is implied, त्यो is usually employed. For eg.,

त्यो को हो? Who is he?
What is this? Or, what is it? He/She/It is there. Obviously the translation he, she, it will depend on the context.

Unless ambiguity is likely to arise, the pronomial subject of the verb may be omitted. Thus छ, हो could mean "he/she/it is". The translation will be decided by the context.

Where is our servant? He is there.
Where is my book? It is there.
Who is that man? He is the washerman.

The Nepali Pronominal System with its three honorific grades and special forms

The Nepali Pronominal System with its three honorific grades and special forms requires special attention. Second person pronouns (you') and third person pronouns ('he', 'she', 'it', 'they') may be grouped into three major honorific grades:

i) Low Grade Honorific (LGH) pronouns:

ii) The interrogative pronouns को 'who?' and के 'what?' have no separate plural forms. Plurality is indicated by repeating the pronoun. For eg.,

Who (i.e. what people) are in your house?

What things are in the shop?

iii) The Nepali Pronominal System with its three honorific grades and special forms

This form is used mainly for children in one's own family, family retainers and animals.

b) Middle Grade Honorific (MGH) pronouns:

This form is used mainly for other children, social inferiors, younger relations and intimate friends.

c) High Grade Honorific (HGH) pronouns:

This form is used mainly for older relations, acquaintances of equal status, and people to whom one owes a measure of respect.

For example, a family servant, one's own daughter might be addressed as तै 'you' (LGH). The pronoun can equally be used to insult or to express endearment. A child belonging to someone else, a waiter in the hotel or a taxi driver might be addressed as तिमी 'you' (MGH). An elder relation, one's father, teacher or any other older acquaintance would be addressed as तपाई 'you' (HGH).

The honorific scale also extends to third person pronouns. Thus उ 'he/she' is LGH, उन 'she' is MGH, and उन 'he' and उन 'she' are HGH. Whereas in third person pronouns there is no distinction of gender (उ, उन mean both 'he' and 'she'), a distinction of nearness and farness is maintained.

In most cases, plural pronouns are formed by adding the plural suffix -हरु to the singular form. Thus तपाई sing HGH, तपाईहरु plur. HGH.

The following is a complete list of the personal pronouns:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>1'st person</th>
<th>2'nd person</th>
<th>3'rd person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>म</td>
<td>तै</td>
<td>उ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>i</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>he/she</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3'rd person MGH घनी, ठिनी, ठुनी he/she
3'rd person HGH यहाँ, या हाँ he/she

Plural

1'st person हामी, हामीस्तू We
2'nd person LGH/ MGH तिमी, तिमीस्तू You
2'nd person HGH तपाईहरू You
3'rd person LGH/ MGH तिनीहरू, तिनीस्तू, उनीहरू They
3'rd person HGH यहाँहरू, यहाँस्तू They

The 2'nd person LGH pronoun तै has no plural form. Instead, the MGH form is used. The 3'rd person LGH pronoun उ and the 3'rd person plural pronouns refer only to persons and not to things.

The affirmative and negative forms of Nepali verbs are greatly influenced and dependent on the Nepali pronominal system involving three different honorific grades. Given below in the tables 17 and 18, we will see the illustrations for the two verbs "छ" and "हो" , both meaning "is".

From the above tables it will be clear that the 3'rd person MGH pronouns (उनी, तिनी, घनी) require the 3'rd person plural verb forms छन् and होन् and that all the HGH pronouns (तपाई, यहाँ etc.) take the same forms. It will also be noted that the HGH forms of छ and हो are identical.

The two verbs also share a common infinitive होन् 'to be'. In English both verbs are translated as 'I am', 'you are', 'he/she is' etc., but as we have already seen, the function of छ is to locate and that of हो is to define.

The personal pronoun may be omitted in cases where confusion is not likely to arise as evident from the following example.

म अंग्रेज हूँ।
हिन्दुस्तानी होन्ह।
I am English, not Indian.

2'nd singular LGH तै 'you' is reserved for social inferiors usually in the family. Children and servants of the speaker's family are often addressed as तै. It is also used when speaking to animals and often used in poetry, something like English "thou". For eg.,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal pronoun</th>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>म</td>
<td>हुन्</td>
<td>होइन्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तै</td>
<td>होस्</td>
<td>होइनस्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उ</td>
<td>हो</td>
<td>होइन्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उनी</td>
<td>हुन्</td>
<td>होइनन्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तपाई</td>
<td>हुनुहरून्</td>
<td>हुनुहरून्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>हामी</td>
<td>हो</td>
<td>होइनोँ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तिमी</td>
<td>हो</td>
<td>होइनोँ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उनीहरू</td>
<td>हुन्</td>
<td>होइनन्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>यहाँ, या हाँ</td>
<td>हुनुहरून्</td>
<td>हुनुहरून्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>यहाँहरू, या हाँ</td>
<td>हुनुहरून्</td>
<td>हुनुहरून्</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 17. Affirmative and Negative forms of the verb "छ"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personal pronoun</th>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>घनी, ठिनी, ठुनी</td>
<td>हुन्</td>
<td>होइन्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तिनीहरू, तिनीस्तू, उनीहरू</td>
<td>हुनुहरून्</td>
<td>हुनुहरून्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>यहाँ, या हाँ</td>
<td>हुनुहरून्</td>
<td>हुनुहरून्</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>यहाँहरू, या हाँ</td>
<td>हुनुहरून्</td>
<td>हुनुहरून्</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
People are addressed as a group, the singular forms are used.

2'nd Singular MGH तिनिम 'you' is reserved for social inferiors and for children not of the speaker's family. It may be used to address younger members of the family (sisters, brothers etc.). A man may address his wife as तिनिम but she would not generally use it for the husband. A foreigner would do well not to use तिनिम when addressing adult strangers.

2'nd Singular HGH तपाई 'you' is used for anyone to whom respect is due. It is becoming customary to use तपाई for any adult stranger regardless of his/her social status. A woman usually addresses her husband as तपाई तपाई हिँो आज कहाँ हुनुन्छ विषाया? Where are you these days, Mr. Bista?
ए दाइ तपाई बाहन हुनुन्छ? Excuse me, are you a Brahmin?

2'nd Plural MGH and HGH तिनिमहुँ तपाईहुँ 'you' are used to address several people who would individually be addressed as तिनिम and तपाई. Occasionally in books and speeches, when a number of people are addressed as a group, the singular forms are used.
तपाईहुँ बिघारहुँ हुनुन्छ? Are you students?
तपाईहुँ छेत्री हुनुन्छ? Are you Chhetris?

Note that the noun in predicative position remains singular.

1' st Plural हामी 'we' and the form हामीहुँ are in most respects synonymous and interchangeable. If there is any difference हामी means 'we as a group'; हामीहुँ 'we as individuals'. Occasionally हामी may be used by the speaker to refer to himself, in which case it would be translated as 'I'.

हामी मनदुः हो। We are labourers.
हामी नेपाली हो। We are Nepalis.

3'rd singular LGH उ 'he/she', यो उ 'he/she/it'.
We have already seen that the demonstratives may be used as 3'rd person singular pronouns. When proximity or distance is not implied त्यो is used rather than यो. These pronouns refer to persons, to whom no particular respect is due, and to things. उ is only used for persons.

उ घरमा छ। He/She is at home.

त्यो दार्जीलिङ्गमा छ। He/She is in Darjeeling.

त्यो घरे राम्रो हो। That's very good.

यो नेपालमा छ तर त्यो भारतमा छ। He is in Nepal, but he (the other one) is in India.

3'rd singular MGH यिनी, तिनी, उनी 'he/she' are used for persons to whom a certain measure of respect is due. They are frequently used to refer to persons in novels and historical narrative, but not usually to refer to the royalty of Nepal or their ancestors. यिनी refers to the person nearer the speaker and तिनी to the person farther away. उनी is more or less synonymous with तिनी and perhaps used more frequently in speech.

यिनी को हुन्? Who is he/she?

उनी लन्डनमा छन। He is in London.

तिनी कहाँ छन।
Where is he?

Nouns denoting persons who would be referred to with a MGH pronoun take a 3’rd person plural verb:

राम कहाँ छून्?

Where is Ram?

उनी घरमा छून्।

He is at home.

The plural verb in the question and the use of उनी in the answer makes the sentences more polite than if the singular छो had been used.

3’rd singular HGH यहाँ चाहहो (sometimes written उहाँ) ‘he,she’ are used to refer to people who would be addressed as तपाई in the second person. The difference between यहाँ and उहाँ is again one of proximity.1

यहाँ अझदा हनुमन्छ।

He is at the office.

उहाँ बाह्रन हनुमन्छ।

He (the person here) is a Brahmin.

Nouns denoting persons referred to with a HGH pronoun require the homorphic form of the verb.

मेरे ज्वा कलकतामा हनुमन्छ।

My father is in Calcutta. He is a minister.

मेरी दिदी घर हनुमन्छ।

My elder sister is at home. She is ill.

When such a noun is preceded by the postposition -को in written and occasionally in spoken Nepali, -को becomes का (the plural concord denotes respect).

जापानका राष्ट्रपति बेलायतमा हनुमन्छ।

The Prime Minister of Japan is not in Tokyo.

3’rd plural LGH/ MGH विनीहरु, तिनीहरु, उनीहरु ‘they’ are used only for persons:

पिनीहरु बाह्रन हुन्छ।

They are Brahmins.

उनीहरु हिजो आज विद्याधारालाई छैनन्।

They are not at the university nowadays.

मेरो (मेरा) किताबहरु कहाँ छन्? यहाँ छन्?

Where are my books? They are here.

In colloquial speech the singular forms of the adjectives and verbs may be used:

पिनीहरु कहाँ छिन्?

मेरो किताबहरु कहाँ छिन्?

3’rd plural HGH यहाँहरु, उहाँहरु correspond to their singular counterparts.

बहाँहरु दरबारमा हनुमन्छ।

iv) कोही ‘someone’ and केरी ‘something’ are 3’rd person singular indefinite pronouns. In English they may be translated ‘anyone’, ‘anything’, and in negative sentences ‘no one’, ‘nothing’.

ढोकाका कोही छ?

Is there anyone at the door?

घरमा कोही छैन।

There isn’t anyone at home.

हिजो आज पसलहरु केरी छैन।

There is no one at the door.

1 यहाँ and उहाँ are occasionally used in place of तपाई to address a second person, in which case, of course, they would be translated ‘you’ in English. This usage is felt to be extra polite.
In negative sentences, the indefinite pronouns are often emphasized with the adverb पनि ‘at all’, ‘also’:

मेरो खपाउले मानौँ।
There’s nothing at all in my pocket.

यो गाउँमा कोही पनि छैन।
There is not anyone in that village.

v) The oblique case of the 3'rd person pronouns is used before -लाई. For eg.

केवालाई किन मित्रहों?
Why do you beat the boy?

म रामलाई हेर्नु।
I am looking at Ram.

म तपाईलाई एउटै नजिकमा भेद्नु हु।
I'll meet you at about one o'clock, shall I?

Note the postposition -तिर 'towards', 'about', 'approximately'.

vi) The oblique forms of को? 'Who?' कोको 'who?' (Plural), and कोही 'someone' are कसकसां and कसै respectively.

vii) The oblique forms are used before postpositions: For eg.,

कसको किताब? Whose book?
कसकसकहाँ? at whose places?
म कसैलाई विदिन। I shall not give it to anyone.

के “what?” And केही 'anything' have no oblique forms.

केमा जानुल्ला? हबाईजहाँजमा जानु।
How (in what) are you going? I'm going by air.

केही हत्तपत? What's the hurry (lit. 'of what ...')?

3.6. Coordinating conjunctions

The co-ordinating conjunctions are a closed class of uninflected forms. They are the following [7]:

अनि, कि, निले, निक्रिया, तर, बा, अथवा, कि... कि, न... न, परन्तु, तैपनि, यदृच्छिकि, तथा, या.

3.6.1. Function of co-ordinating conjunctions

The co-ordinating conjunctions function as connectors of equal level constituents at all levels - word, phrase, and clause level. The items which precede coordinating conjunctions and those that follow them need not both be of the same filler class, but both fill the same functional slot [7].

3.6.2. Dependents of co-ordinating conjunctions

The words, phrases and clauses connected by the co-ordinating conjunctions are not dependents since the co-ordinating conjunctions are not the heads of such constructions, but connect coordinate structures [7].

3.6.3. Lexical Morphology

As uninflected and underived class, the co-ordinating conjunctions are marked by their simple stems or complex stems (e.g. अथवा, तैपनि) and lack of lexical morphology [7].

3.7. Subordinating conjunctions

Subordinating conjunctions are a closed uninflected class. The closed list is: कि, अनि, परिवर्तनि, अथवा, पनि, यदृच्छिकि etc [7].

3.7.1. Function of subordinating conjunctions

The function of subordinating conjunctions is to mark dependent (adverbial or noun) clauses as subordinate to the principal clause in sentential structures [7].

कि marks noun clause;
अथवा marks adverbial clause;
परिवर्तनि marks adverbial clause;
अनि marks adverbial clause;
पनि marks adverbial clause;
यदृच्छिकि marks adverbial clause.
3.7.2. Dependents of subordinating conjunctions

The dependent of a subordinating conjunction is a subordinate clause. The subordinate clause may be a relative adjectival clause, relative adverbial clause, adverbial clause or a noun clause [7].

3.8. Postpositions

Postpositions (comparable to prepositions in English) are called postpositions (pp) in Nepali since they occur after the nouns or noun phrases (Nps) with which they stand in construction. Postpositions are an uninflected, simple, or complex closed class of forms which function as the head of adverbial postpositional phrases (PPs) which function as adverbial complements or adjuncts to the verbs in clausal structures [7].

3.8.1. Function of postpositions

The postpositions (pps) function as head in the postpositional adverbial phrase (Pps) structure. The Pps are dependent on verbs since they stand in the clausal construction as adverbial adjuncts, e.g. घर अगाडि "at the door"

3.8.2. Dependents of postpositions

The dependents of the postpositions are nouns or noun phrases (Nps) or pronoun phrases (ProPs) of which the postpositions are heads [7].

3.8.3. Lexical Morphology

Postpositions are simple, or complex closed class without inflectional morphology [7].

3.8.4. Special characteristics of Postpositions in Nepali

Below, we try to present some special characteristics of Postpositions in Nepali [6].

i) Words like 'मा 'in, at, on', 'सित 'with', 'सैं 'with', follow the word they govern and are known as postpositions. In writing they are joined to the word they follow. For eg.,

नेपालमा in Nepal
स्कूलमा at school
टेबलमा on the table

'बाट' and 'देखि' both mean 'from'.

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नेपालमा in Nepal
स्कूलमा at school
टेबलमा on the table

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vii) The postposition -लाई 'to/for' is used idiomatically in expressions like:

मलाई याहा छ।
I know ('to me there is knowledge')

उसलाई याहा छैन।
He/She does not know ('to him/her there is not knowledge')

निधित्ता 'Certainty'

Note also the following expressions:

तपाईलाई कस्तो छ?
How are you? ('to you how is it?')

रामलाई कस्तो छ?
How is Ram?

ix) The postposition – सम्म means 'up to', 'as far as', 'until'; for eg.

तपाईैसाँलाई कस्तो छ?
How long (lit. 'how much') will you stay in Nepal?

जूनसम्म बस्छ।
I'll stay until June.

x) When the object of a verb is a noun denoting a thing or an animal, the postposition -लाई is not usually required: For eg.

राम गाई दुःख्न।
Ram milks the cow.

उसको सिनेमा हेडैन।
He does not watch films.

हाम्रो दिनहुँ काम गएँ।
We work ('do work') every day.

xi) The postposition ले deserves special attention. It may be translated 'by', 'with', 'from', 'of', 'in' etc. according to the context in which it occurs. It is encountered in many idiomatic expressions. Note the following:

- आजले मर्नु to die of malaria
- पानीले थप्जेको soaked with water
- टूलेयो स्वरूपले बोलनु to talk in a loud voice.
- मान्छेहरुले भरिभराउँ packed with people.

The postposition ले is often added to the third person subject of a transitive verb in the Simple Indefinite: For eg.

- प्रधानमन्त्रीले आज भाषण गर्नुहोस्।
  The Prime Minister will make a speech today.

- टपाखाँले कति लिन्छ?
  How much will the taxi take (i.e. 'how much will it cost by taxi?')

- लिनु 'to take' त्यो बाटोले कही कहाँ लानु हुँ?
  Where does that road lead to?
- लानु 'to take away'. The repetition of कहाँ implies 'to which different different places?' हुँ is an interrogative particle, something like English 'huh', 'eh'.

When the 3'rd person singular pronouns are used ले requires the oblique case: उसले, यसले, उनले, तिनले, तिनले.

- उसले मलाई चिन्दैन।
  He does not know me.
- उसले मलाई भन्छ।
  He says to me/tells me.

When ले is added to the pronouns म and ने, their forms are मैले and तैले respectively.

xii) The indirect object of a transitive verb is indicated by the postposition लाई 'to', 'for'. For eg.,

- म लिमीलाई पैसा दिन्छु।
  I'll give you some money.
- त्यसले मलाई केही पनि भन्दैन।
  He does not tell me anything at all ('say to me').

The verb भन्छु 'to say' with an indirect object may be translated to tell. For eg.

- म यसलाई भन्छु।
  I'll tell him.
- उसले मलाई भन्छ।
  He will tell me.

xiii) The postposition -तिर 'towards, about' is used in expressions of time for a rough approximation:

- तीन बजेतिर at about three o'clock
- साँझ पौँच बजेतिर at about half past five.

-तिर is also used with reference to place:

- म खुबूटिर जाइ छ।
  I am going towards Khumbu/ I'm heading for Khumbu.

xiv) The postposition -मा is used in the following expressions:

- बस दुई दुई घण्टामा आउँछ।
  The repetition of the numeral implies that the bus comes at regular intervals:

- रेल कति कति बेलामा आउँछ?
  How often do the trains run?
- रेल हरेक घण्टामा आउँछ।
  The train comes every hour.

Note: हरेक 'every': हरेक मान्छे 'every man', हरेक किसिम 'every kind' हरेक दिन 'every day'

xv) Certain postpositions or postpositional phrases consist of two or more words, the first of which is
This, however, is entirely restricted to the written language and consistency is not always observed.

xix) The postposition -बाट is used idiomatically in certain expressions like:

बसबाट by bus
हवाईहाटबाट by air
यो बाटोबाट by this road
कुन बाटोबाट by which road?

-बाट is also used with adverbs like बाहिर 'outside', जः 'nearby'

पर्यटकहरु जे र तैलो काटमाण्डौबाट बाहिर जाउँ।
Tourists do not usually go outside Kathmandu.

यहाँबाट सब भन्दा नजःको गाउँ कुन हो? Which is the nearest village to here?

नजःक may also be used as a postposition:
त्यो मेरो घरनजःक बस्न। He lives near my house.

3.9. Interjections

Interjections constitute a small closed class of forms which show no inflection, dependents or lexical morphology. They function as syntactically independent parenthetical minor sentences, semantically complete but structurally reduced. Thus the interjections are in a way syntactically complete and syntactically independent of other elements in phrasal or clausal structures. The most frequent interjections in Nepali are [7]:

अ, अह, ओहो, अवृद्ध, लीहुँ, जह्नु:, प्रत्येकरिता, ला, अरण्या, लोङ्का, धर्म, जा, ला.

3.9.1. Special characteristics of Nepali interjections

Below, we try to list down some special characteristics of Nepali interjections [6]:

भो, which is a past tense form of the verb हुँ (to be) is also used as an interjection, meaning 'enough', 'stop'.
In this case it is usually pronounced भो.
3.10. Vocatives

Vocatives are also uninflected forms. They differ from interjections in that the vocatives, e.g. अर्थेत, अर्थे, अर्थ may stand in construction with the nouns, e.g.अर्थ गोपाल, अर्थे इश्वर to form independent parenthetical minor sentence types. The forms सरकार, सर! are also used as vocatives. Noun stems without inflectional or derivational suffixes (i.e. Nominative forms) also function as vocatives [7], as गोपाल!

3.11. Nuance particles

Nuance particles belong to a small closed set of uninflected forms, showing no characteristic lexical morphology and occur in a syntactically independent way in phrases and statements. They are characterized by their having no dependents. The nuance particles in Nepali are [7]: अरे, चाहिए, हे, कि, कमाँरे, लौ, ना, न, नि, पो, र, त.

3.11.1. Special Characteristics of Nuance particles

Below, we try to list down the characteristics of Nuance particles [6]:

i) Nepali possesses a number of particles, which are mostly monosyllabic words like पो, नि, हे, त etc. The meaning given to these particles depends very much on the context in which they are used, and may often be rendered in English merely by a change of tone.

a) पो, usually precedes the main verb of the sentence and implies a contradiction of something that has already been said. For example, if someone says त्यो होटेल रामो छ, 'that hotel is good', when you have found that it is not, you may contradict the statement by replying नरामो पो छ। 'it's not, I tell you'. The pitch on which पो is uttered is higher than that of the other words in the sentence. The sentence तपाईं ब्राह्मण पो हुनैल्छ might be translated as 'Oh, I see you are a Brahmin (whereas I thought you were something else). Note that ब्राह्मण is a literary form of ब्राह्म 'a Brahmin'.

b) The particle नि usually comes at the end of the sentence. In statements it implies that the information given is common knowledge and may be translated 'you know'.

त्यो समरामा हो नि।
That's Mt. Everest, you know.

In short interrogative phrases, it may be translated 'what about …'

यो होटेल रामो छैन। त्यो होटेल नि।

c) The particle त, which never stands as the first word in the sentence, has a number of functions. One is to emphasize the word or phrase it follows.

म त ब्राह्मण हृ।
I am a Brahmin.

मेरो भाइ त कलेजमा छै।
My brother is at the college.

When linking two sentences, त may be translated ‘but’

तपाईं धनी हुनैल्छ, म गरील्छ छ।
You are rich but I am poor.

होइन त? (Or simply होइन?), standing at the end of a sentence turns the statement into a question.

त्यो समरामा होइन त?
That's Mt. Everest, isn’t it?

राखील भारतमा छ, होइन?
Raxaul’s is in India, isn’t it?

The affirmative answer to such a question is हृ 'yes'. त and पो may occur in the same sentence, giving emphasis to an assertion:

त्यो होटेल त रामो पो छ त।
But that hotel is nice, I tell you.

d) The particle है is interrogative, often used on polite requests.

म जाँछौँ है त।
All right if I go now?

ii) The particle नै emphasises the word it follows. It may often be translated 'only' when it follows a noun.

Most Nepali words have emphatic forms. They are formed thus:

1. When a word ends in a vowel, the final vowel is changed to एँ thus:

बिहान एँ > बिहानेँ
गानुँ एँ > गानेँ
म एँ > मैँ

2. When a word ends in a consonant, the syllable एँ is added to the word:

घर एँ > घरेँ
त्यस एँ > त्यसें
सब एँ > सबें

Many emphatic forms have special or modified meanings, which cannot be explained simply in terms of emphasis. For eg.,

घरेँ 'at home', बिस्तार 'slowly', एकावार 'early in the morning', बिहान बेलुङ 'morning and evening'.

The emphatic form मानेँ is used in preference to the ordinary form मान 'only'. लेहा बिहाने बेलुङके दिनको दुई पटक नै दाल र भात खान्छन्।

Villagers eat rice and lentils twice a day morning and evening. Note the expressions:

'two times a day' - दिनको दुई पटक
'four times a month' - महिनाको चार पटक

The particle नै, itself an emphatic form, adds further emphasis.

त्यो त घरेँ नै लामो बाटो छ।
But that's an extremely long way round (lit. 'long road')

In some cases, the final consonant of a word may be doubled before the emphatic suffix एँ. For example, निको 'good', 'well' निकैँ 'extremely well', 'very much'.

iii) The particles न and नै, following the imperative, have the effect of making the command less brusque. They may be rendered in English as 'won't you?', 'please' etc.

खानो खानौँसौँ ।
Please tell me.

बिरा खानौँसौँ ।
Have some tea, won't you?

iv) The particle र (always coming at the end of the sentence) indicates that the words which precede it are reported or that the information is at the second hand. It may be translated: 'they say that...', 'he says that...', I hear that ...etc

भेद पानी पढ़ौँ।
They say that it's going to rain this evening.

आउँने हामा बिरा छ र।
I hear that there's a holiday next week.

उसको खानीमा केही खैन र।
He says that he's got nothing at all in his pocket.

के र। What does he say?

3.12. Numerals

The numerals in Nepali may be divided into [7]:

1) cardinal adjectives or adjectivals,answering how many
2) ordinal adjectives answering "which one of a series"
3) distributive adjectives answering how many each
4) ordinal adverbials answering which time of a series.
All the instances for all the four cases mentioned above is illustrated for number "1" in the table 19 below:

Table 19. Four different numeral cases of the number "1"

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cardinal adjectives</th>
<th>Ordinal adjectives</th>
<th>Distributive adjectives</th>
<th>Ordinal adverbials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>एक</td>
<td>पहिले</td>
<td>एक-एक</td>
<td>एक पलट</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The numbers multiplied by ten are written in the following way:

1 सय
10 दश
100 लाख
1,000 हजार
10,000 दश हजार
1,00,000 एक लाख
10,00,000 दश लाख
1,00,00,000 करोड़
10,00,00,000 दश करोड़
..............

Note: The adverbial marker पलट has several dialectal variants: पटक, चोटी, ताली, वार

3.12.1 Special Characteristics of numerals

Here, we try to list down the special characteristics of numerals [6]:

i) All numerals take the classifiers -जना and -बटा

For eg.

पाँचसज्जना सिपाही ‘twenty-five soldiers’
उन्नन्तीसवटा किताब ‘twenty-nine books’

ii) The most important fractions are:

पाँच -> a quarter
तिहाई -> a third
आठ -> half

These function in the same way as other numerals:

अड़हाई -> two and a half

The word रुपया may also be written and pronounced रुपया

iii) The words सबा ‘plus one quarter’, साहcd, ‘plus one half’, पौनि ‘less one quarter’ are always followed by another numeral.

सवा चार -> 'four plus one quarter' or four and a quarter
साहcd चार -> 'four plus one half' or four and a half
पौनि पाँच -> 'five less one quarter' or four and three quarters

Occasionally साहcd एक और साहcd दुई are used in place of डेड (1 ½) and अड़हाई (2 ½)

In telling time, divisions of the hour are expressed as follows:

चार बजे at four o'clock
सबा चार बजे at a quarter past four
साहcd चार बजे at half past four
पौनि पाँच बजे at a quarter to five

In other words, one says 'at four and a quarter o'clock' etc. Note in particular:

डेड बजे or साहcd एक बजे at half past one
अड़हाई बजे or साहcd दुई बजे at half past two

Minutes to and past the hour are expressed as follows:

चार बजनलाई पाँच मिनेट छौँ 
It is five to four.

चार बजनलाई पाँच मिनेट बौँकि हुँदा
At twenty-five to twelve.
Note that चौँकी is an adjective meaning "left over, remaining":

iv) Some more points with regards to time:

a) ठीक with expressions of time means 'exactly, precisely' For eg.,

ठीक छ बजे at exactly six o'clock.

b) The adverbs बिहान 'in the morning', दिउँसो 'in the afternoon', भर 'this evening', बेलुका 'in the early evening', रात्रि 'at night' precede the expression of time: For eg.

म ह्या सात जुनितर तपाईहरुले आउँछ।
I'll come and see you this evening at about seven.

3.13. Prefixes and suffixes

The prefixes precede the forms to which they are attached, e.g. नैर, अन् as in नैरकर, निर्देश, अद्वय. The suffixes follow the forms to which they are attached, e.g. री as in गोरी, गोली. Prefixes and suffixes are not treated as separate class of forms since they are bound to one or other of the major form classes or parts of speech [7].

3.13.1. Special Characteristics of Nepali Prefixes and Suffixes

Here, we list down the special characteristics of Nepali Prefixes and Suffixes [6]:

i) The suffix चौँकी may be added to adjectives, nouns and pronouns.

a) When added to adjectives, चौँकी has the effect of turning them into nouns, and may usually be rendered into English as 'the ... one'

मेरो चौँकी 'mine, my one'

In the same way चौँकी may be added to the demonstrative and pronomial adjectives, and to a possessive formed with the postposition -को

त्यो चौँकी that one
मेरो चौँकी this one
कुनै चौँकी which one?
रामको चौँकी Ram's one.

b) When added to nouns and pronouns, चौँकी has the effect of emphasizing them and may be translated in English as 'as for', or simply by a change of tone.

मेरो चौँकी as for me
गर्मिमाना चौँकी in the hot season (as opposed to others)

Note the use of चौँकी in the following sentences:

त्यो गाउँ मा कुन चौकी चिन्याप्सल सज भन्दा रामो छ।
Which (one) is the best tea shop in that village?

यो गर्दै रामो हो तर त्यो चौँकी त्यती रामो होइन।
This watch is nice but that one is not so nice.

Note that त्यति is an adverb which modifies an adjective: त्यति दूलो 'so big', त्यति रामो 'so nice'

ii) The suffix -होला instead of -होस् may be used to convey extra politeness.

मोटर जिस्तौर हौलाहोल।
Please drive the car slowly.

नर्साउस्वहोला।
Please do not be angry.

iii) The days of the week

आइतबार Sunday
सोमबार Monday
महालबार Tuesday
The suffix –बार is often written बार. Note the expression: आज के बार? What day of the week is it today?

Three days have alternative literary forms, which are often used in newspapers and the other official contexts:

- रविबार Sunday
- बुधबार Thursday
- शनिवार Saturday

4. Nominal Structures

After having dealt with the form classes (lexicon) in considerable detail, we now move to the phrase structure of the Nepali Grammar. We start with nominal structures which includes the common-noun phrase, proper noun phrase, pronoun phrase and dependent nominials functioning as modifiers in large nominals.

4.1. Common-noun phrase

The internal structure of the common-noun phrase follows the following formula [7]:

Common-noun phrase (CNP) = Optional Determiner (Det.) + Optional Modifier (Mod.) + Obligatory Head

The structural formula of the CNP is illustrated by the following examples:

- त्यो विशाल भवन, That huge building
  Det.+Mod.+Head

4.1.1. Common nouns as heads

The common nouns as heads have further internal structure as shown in the formula below:

- Head = Obligatory common noun stem+ Optional plural marker हु+ Optional inflectional suffix for cases

This implies that the common noun head is either singular or plural and that the plural suffix is occurrent in the environment of some heads, nonoccurent in that of other heads. The inflectional suffix is required to convey the semantic meaning, e.g.

मानिस, मानिसहु, मानिसहुलाई

The common nouns ending in -ो like डोको, डोका, डोक्तर etc. have their allomorphs ending in -a such as डोका, डोका, डोक्तर etc.

When they are followed by the optional plural marker, or by a case inflection, they follow the pattern as shown below in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
<th>Inflectional forms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>डोको</td>
<td>डोका</td>
<td>डोकामा</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>डोकते</td>
<td>डोकाते</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>डोक्रा</td>
<td>डोक्रा</td>
<td>डोक्रालाई</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.1.2. Gender as nouns

Every noun (proper or common) in Nepali belongs to either masculine or feminine gender. Only these two genders (masculine and feminine) as reflected morphologically in the verbs, although traditional grammars talk about masculine, feminine, neuter and common genders [7].

In other words, the gender of nouns is indicated morphologically by the form of verbs, not by the form of nouns, e.g.

- दुर्गा गर्यो (m) दुर्गा गइ (f) लक्ष्मी गर्यो (m) लक्ष्मी गइ (f)

Thus in the above case, दुर्गा and लक्ष्मी may be the names of both men or women and is distinguished only after looking at the form of the verbs they take.

Exceptions hold professional titles and persons belonging to a certain caste, in which case the males
4.1.3. Determiners in the CNP

The determiners in the CNP generally follow the linear order as presented below [7]:

a) demonstratives (pronomial adjectives);
b) limiters;
c) quantifiers which are the numerals (cardinal or ordinal);
d) Optional classifiers (human or non human).

Hence determiner has the following formula [7]:

Determine = Optional demonstratives+ Optional limiters+ Optional quantifiers + Optional classifiers

Let us look at the following example:

यी+ मेरा+ चार+ जना+(सभी प्रय भिगसहह)
These + my +f our + human + (very + dear + friends)
Demonstrative+ limiter+quantifier+classifier

4.1.3.1. Demonstratives

Demonstratives form a small closed subset of determiners which are inflected for number. They are (proximate): यी, यी, तो, ती

4.1.3.2. Limiters

Limiters are a closed set of forms which, as determiners follow the demonstratives in the linear order of occurrence. The limiters are either definite such as: हरेक 'each', प्रत्येक 'each' or indefinite such as: कही 'some', केवल 'only', एक 'one', अन्य 'other', कुई 'certain', अन्तिम 'last', अन्तिम 'final', अलिकति 'a little', बेस 'all'. The nouns and pronouns in possessive forms also function as limiters.

4.1.3.3. Quantifiers (numbers) and classifiers

The quantifiers are cardinal numbers such as एक, दुई, तीन followed by one of the two classifiers (human classifier, non human classifier). The quantifiers followed by the classifiers distribute like adjectives when they stand in construction with the head nouns in the common-noun phrase.

The classifier जना occurs with countable human nouns; the classifier बटा occurs with countable non human nouns e.g.

Table 22. Classifiers जना and बटा

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Human Classifier</th>
<th>Non Human Classifier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>पाँच जना मानिस</td>
<td>पाँच बटा कलम</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that the form of एक of non human classifier is एक. Other forms show two free variants each, e.g.

दुई बटा  दुई बटा  

............

दश बटा  दश बटा

Classifiers do not occur with expressions of telling time or with nouns which denote periods of time, e.g.

एक बजे; दश विक्रांत

4.1.3.4. CNP's functioning as quantifying determiner

Noun-phrases denoting units of quantity or measure occur as quantifying determiners and are embedded CNP's in higher level CNP [7]. For instance,

एक किलो + रामो आलु

one kilo + good potato/potatoes

and females would be differentiated by means of the derivational suffixes as shown in the table below:

Table 21. Derivational suffixes applicable to males to form female titles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>घरी</td>
<td>घरीनी</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>नेबार</td>
<td>नेबानी</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>साकी</td>
<td>साकिनी</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>डाक्टर</td>
<td>डाक्टरनी</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>चाकर</td>
<td>चाकरनी</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note that the form of एक of non human classifier is एक. Other forms show two free variants each, e.g.

दुई बटा  दुई बटा  

............

दश बटा  दश बटा

Classifiers do not occur with expressions of telling time or with nouns which denote periods of time, e.g.

एक बजे; दश विक्रांत

4.1.3.4. CNP's functioning as quantifying determiner

Noun-phrases denoting units of quantity or measure occur as quantifying determiners and are embedded CNP's in higher level CNP [7]. For instance,

एक किलो + रामो आलु

one kilo + good potato/potatoes
Note that the common noun phrase (CNP) एक जिल्ला occurs as a quantifying determiner to the higher level common noun phrase (CNP) रामो आलु.

4.1.3.5. Modifiers in the CNP

The modifiers in the CNP are expansions of the basic CNP structure. These expansions are dependent on a higher level CNP, e.g. झुकी सागर 'ocean of pain'. A common-noun phrase stands in conjunction with optional modifiers. These optional modifiers are either nouns or noun phrases subsumed as 'nominals', adjectives or adjective phrases subsumed as 'adjectivals', postpositional phrases or clauses [7].

4.1.3.6. Nouns or noun phrases as modifiers in CNP

Nouns (common or proper) or noun phrases function as modifiers in the CNP when they cooccur with a common noun. In such constructions, the first noun is the modifier, and the final noun is the head of the CNP [7], e.g.

नेपाली भाषा 'Nepali Language'
भक्तपुर जिल्ला 'Bhaktapur District'
गण्डकी अञ्चल 'Gandaki zone'

4.1.3.7. Adjectives or adjective phrases as modifiers

Adjectives as modifiers occur after the determiners and before the head of the CNP, e.g.

त्यो विशाल भवन
That huge building

Besides the adjectives and the adjective phrases, dependent adjectivals also modify nouns and noun phrases [7].

4.1.3.8. Clauses as modifiers

The clauses that function as adjectives are dependent modifiers of the noun. For instance,

सुभद्रा दुल्हनी भएर आउँैवाको ब्रह्म
The time when Subhadra came as a bride

Here the clause सुभद्रा दुल्हनी भएर आउँैवाको modifies the item ब्रह्म.

4.2. Proper-noun phrase

The proper-noun phrase has the following internal structure [7]:

Proper-noun Phrase (PNP)= Optional Modifier + Obligatory Proper noun head

The modifier is optional, and is filled by adjectives or adjectivals. The head is obligatory and is filled by the place and person names (person names are personal names given by parents).

Person and place names in Nepali do not cooccur with determiners (demonstratives, limiters, quantifiers), e.g.

त्यो देविरामन 'That Deviraman',
यो सुभद्रा, 'This Subhadra'
मेरी न्याउँली, 'My Nyauli'
कृति लक्ष्मी, 'How many Laxmis?'
दुई मुग्धिल 'Two Sushils'.

Proper names as such are inherently determined as definite, and thus do not cooccur with any of the determiners that the common nouns cooccur with. However, the person names do occur with the modifiers (adjectives or adjectivals). The formula for PNP is exemplified by the following instances:

बिच्छी सुभद्रा;
Poor Subhadra
कहाल देविरामन
Penniless Deviraman

4.2.1. Person names as heads

When functioning as heads, person names consist of an obligatory person name with optional modifiers but without plural number. In other words a person name does not inflect for number since the person name is inherently singular as it refers to an individual (who has been given the name) is inherently singular. When the plural number suffix -हरु occurs with a person name, it does not stand as plural number marker; it stands for the other (unspecified) names
For instance, देवीरमण, नौलीहरू
Deviraman, Nauli and others

Person names, like common nouns, have a syntactic property of gender which is in one-to-one correspondence with the sex of the individual that is referred to by the name. The gender of the person names is reflected in the gender concord they have with the forms of verbs, e.g.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{भारदव} & \text{ गयो(म)} \\
\text{Sharada went.} \\
\text{दुर्गा} & \text{ गयो(म)} \\
\text{Durga went} \\
\text{शारदा} & \text{ गई(फ)} \\
\text{Sharada went.} \\
\text{दुर्गा} & \text{ गई(फ)} \\
\text{Durga went}
\end{align*}
\]

When the person names of masculine gender such as भारदव प्रसाद and दुर्गा प्रसाद are reduced as शारदा and दुर्गा, their gender is ambiguous as they can refer to females of the same names. Their gender is disambiguated by the finite form of the verb in the clausal structure.

Person names are chosen by the parents based on such factors as caste, position in the family, and sex of the child. So it may be sometimes possible to guess the caste of a person from the name if the person's first name is a typical one. However, there is not much rigidity in caste adherence in Nepal. Moreover, the names given to men and women cut across caste distinctions. So one cannot always be right in one's guess.

The family names indicate the caste of the person more accurately, though not infallibly. Some typical family names are:

- Brahmans: आचार्य 'Acharya', अधिकारी 'Adhikari', आर्य 'Aryal' etc.
- Kshatriyas: अधिकारी 'Adhikari', बस्नेत 'Basnet', भाट 'Bhat' etc.
- Vaisyas: जोशी 'Joshi', बस्त 'Basnet' etc.
- Sudras: सुन्दरस 'Sundas', 'नेपाली 'Nepali' etc.

The Nepalese give their children two names, a first name, e.g. बिहानाथ, नीकानाथ इत्यादि.

4.2.2. Place name as heads

Place names when functioning as heads consist of an obligatory place name. As with the person names, place names do not inflect for numbers as they refer to one geographical place name, as काटमार्ग, गोरिखाट etc.

4.3. Pronoun Phrase

The pronoun phrase follows the following internal structure [7]:

Pronoun Phrase (ProP) = Optional Modifier + Obligatory Pronoun Head

In certain instances, the optional modifier occurs after the head. This applies to a few personal pronouns. The plural number suffix -हरू occurs with त्रिमित्र, तिनी, तिनै, तिनै। The plural number suffix -हूँ occurs optionally with the pronoun हामी, which shows an alternative form हामीहरू.

4.3.1. Pronouns as heads

The pronouns (pro) constitute a small closed class and belong indirectly to the gender (masculine vs. feminine) of the nouns which they substitute, but are not inflected for gender. The gender of the pronouns is expressed morphologically by the verbs with which they stand in syntactic construction. Compared to nouns, pronouns inflect more irregularly for case and number. Following are the personal pronouns and their honorific forms [7]:

- Brahmans: आचार्य 'Acharya', अधिकारी 'Adhikari', आर्य 'Aryal' etc.
Table 23. Personal Pronouns and their honorific forms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Person</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>म</td>
<td>हामीहरू</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of respect</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Grade Honorific</td>
<td>ती</td>
<td>तिमीहरू</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Grade Honorific</td>
<td>ती</td>
<td>तिमीहरू</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Grade Honorific</td>
<td>ती</td>
<td>तिमीहरू</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>उनीहरू, तिमीहरू</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>तिनी तिमीहरू</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>बहाँ बहाँहरू</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In formal conversation तपाईँ and तपाईहरू (second person HGH) show variants यहाँ and यहाँहरू.

The Royal honorific used to refer to the king and his family राजकुमार is used as both second person and third person pronoun, and follows the regular pattern.

4.3.2. Modifiers in the pronoun phrase

Pronouns do not occur with the determiners (demonstratives, numerals and classifiers), but they do cooccur with certain modifiers [7]. The following modifiers precede the pronouns they stand in construction with:

खाली 'only',

The following modifiers follow the pronouns they modify:

एकले 'alone'
माझे only, alone'
दुवे 'both'
सबै 'all'
आफ्ने 'oneself'

4.4. Dependent nominals functioning as modifiers in larger nominals

Dependent nominals function as modifiers in larger CNPs. These dependent nominals are divided into four subgroups [7]:

i) characterizing modifiers;
ii) appositive modifiers;
iii) genitive modifiers;
iv) delimiting modifiers.

The order of the functional constituents of the larger nominals with dependent nominals as modifiers is presented in the following formula:

Larger Common Noun Phrase (CNP) = Modifier + obligatory head (dependent nominals)

The modifiers could be the following [7]:

i) The characteristic modifiers are adjectives, adjectival phrase or adjectival clauses.
ii) The appositive modifiers are nouns.
iii) The genitive modifiers are marked by the genitive case forms of nouns and pronouns.
iv) The delimiting modifiers are pronomial adjectives. When they occur independently in a syntactic structure, they occur like pronouns (with anaphoric reference), inflecting for cases, and distribute as complements or adjuncts of the verbs. But when they occur in the CNP structures they function as modifiers as they stand in construction with the nouns (heads).
4.4.1. Characterizing modifiers

Characterizing modifiers, that is modifiers describing the head (noun), are formally different from other modifiers. The characterizing modifiers are adjectivals, or participial forms of verbs with their complements [7]. For instance,

पाउँँछ + छिमेकीहुँ
village + neighbours

नरमाइलो लाग्नु पनेँ +कुरा
the matter to be unhappy about

सच भन्दा हुँलो + सन्तोष
the greatest + satisfaction

अङ्गरामा चाँगौरुङ्ग + परेना
the pigeons + wandering in the courtyard

तीन गनेँ इच्छा
a desire to go on + a pilgrimage

4.4.2. Appositive modifiers

Appositive modifiers occur in noun phrases which are double-headed constructions consisting of two or more heads, all obligatory, filled by two or more juxtaposed noun phrases which show the same case. This may be represented as follows:

Appositive Modifiers = Obligatory Head:NP+Obligatory Head:NP

Although structurally apposition consists of no more than the simple juxtaposition of two noun phrases each filling a head, the noun phrase in the second head serves to identify more completely the noun phrase filling the first, e.g.

हरिबंश पुराण"Haribamsha the legend"
फागुन महीना"the month of Falgun"
नाउँली घरिनी"Nauli the slave"
माघ महिना"The month of Magh (January-February)"
काले कामी"Kale the blacksmith"

4.4.3. Genitive Modifiers

Genitive modifiers are marked by the genitive case suffix -को of nouns, or genitive cases of pronouns; as मेरो,हाम्रो,तिम्रो,आफ्नो. Thus the genitive case of nouns and pronouns represents the adjectival use of nouns and pronouns [7], e.g.

्रुपैको कोक
देवीरमणको जित
उनको अभिमान

The genitive case markers -को, -रो, -नो show their allomorphs (variants of minimal grammatical units) – का, रा, ना when the genitive modifiers modify the nouns in plural number, or nouns in oblique cases, e.g.

सन्तानको आशाले
देवीरमणको औँखा

Since the genitive modifiers function as adjectives, they show inflections not just for number but also for gender. For instance, the genitive case markers -को, -रो, -नो show their allomorphs -की, -री, -नी when they stand in construction with the nouns of feminine gender:

घरकी पुरानी चाकनी
सुभ्रात्री सुखुँ-खकी साथी

4.4.4. Delimiting Modifiers

The difference between the characterizing modifiers and the delimiting modifiers is that the characterizing modifiers are adjectives, adjective phrases, clauses. The delimiting modifiers are only pronominal adjectives in nominal case [7], e.g.

हरेक उपाध 'every effort'
अर्को बिहाउ 'another marriage'
पल्टो कोटा 'the next room'
कुनै दिन 'certain day'

5. Adjectival Structure

5.1. The Adjective Phrase
The internal structure of the adjective phrase is as follows [7]:

Adjective Phrase (AdjP) = Optional Modifier + Obligatory Head (Adjective) Eg.

\[ \text{क्रोधित + पतिपरायणा} \]
\[ \text{very + loyal (to husband)} \]

\[ \text{ज्यादा भयेक} \]
\[ \text{more + dreadful} \]

\[ \text{साधौ नरभो} \]
\[ \text{very + bad} \]

\[ \text{केही शान्त} \]
\[ \text{somewhat + pacified} \]

\[ \text{एकदम साफ} \]
\[ \text{very + clean} \]

5.2. Adjectives as heads

Within the internal structure of the adjective phrase, an obligatory adjective occurs as the head, e.g.

\[ \text{रामो 'handsome'} \]
\[ \text{अग्लो 'tall'} \]
\[ \text{होनो 'short'} \]
\[ \text{क छाल 'poor'} \]
\[ \text{विरमी 'sick'} \]
\[ \text{असल 'good'} \]

Adjectives ending in -o which occur in the head reflect the gender and number of the noun with which they stand in construction. In other words, they simply manifest those morphological changes to mark the syntactic relationship to the gender of nouns with which they stand in construction with, e.g.

\[ \text{रामो केटो 'handsome boy'} \]
\[ \text{रामी केटी 'beautiful girl'} \]
\[ \text{रामा केटाहरु 'handsome boys'} \]
\[ \text{रामा केटाहरु 'beautiful girls'} \]

The Nepali adjectives which end in -o show inflected 'evaluative' forms ending in -अ which show an evaluative degree of quality. These evaluative forms are not allomorphs but are similar to the syntactic comparative and superlative forms. Then an evaluative connotation 'fairly' or 'more or less' is added to the meaning of such adjectives, e.g.

\[ \text{टुरो 'big'} \text{ टुरो 'fairly big'} \]

\[ \text{साो 'small'} \text{ साो 'fairly small'} \]
\[ \text{होसो 'short'} \text{ होसो 'fairly short'} \]
\[ \text{अग्लो 'tall'} \text{ अग्लो 'fairly tall'} \]
\[ \text{मोटो 'fat'} \text{ मोटो 'fairly fat'} \]

The adjective सब, although not ending in -o, also shows an inflection for its evaluative form ending in -अ which adds to its meaning the connotation 'fairly' or 'more or less'. For instance, सब 'all' -सबे 'more or less all' [7].

5.3. Quantifiers in the AdjP

Quantifiers in the AdjP are divided into four categories [7]:

1) adverbs of quantity;
2) comparative quantifier phrases;
3) superlative quantifier phrases;
4) elative superlative quantifier.

5.3.1. Adverbs of quantity

The adverbs of quantity are the following [7]:

अझ more', अलिक 'somewhat', अलिकलि 'a little', घेरे 'many', के ही 'some', सोम 'somewhat', बहुत 'very', ज्यादै 'very', साठ 'extremely'

These adverbs of quantity function as quantifying determiners in the CNP, e.g.

\[ \text{अझ गाउने काम 'more difficult task'} \]
\[ \text{अलिक फरक कागज 'somewhat different paper'} \]
\[ \text{अलिकलिलि लामो बाटो 'a little long way'} \]
\[ \text{बहुत पतिपरायणा रामण 'a very loyal wife'} \]
\[ \text{घेरे नरभो खबर 'very bad news'} \]
5.3.2. Comparative quantifier phrases

Comparative quantifier phrases are divided into two groups [7]:

i) comparatives with भन्द्रा;

ii) comparatives with ज्ञन, अज्ञा.

5.3.3. Comparative with भन्द्रा

Comparative quantifier phrases with भन्द्रा consist of two obligatory nominals, i.e. common noun, proper noun, pronoun, plus a comparative degree quantifier भन्द्रा and a head filled by an adjective. The order of these obligatory constituents is shown in the formula [7]:

\[
\text{CompP-भन्द्रा} = \text{Obligatory nominal} + \text{Obligatory comparative भन्द्रा} + \text{Obligatory nominal} + \text{Obligatory head(adj)}
\]

सागरामाया भन्द्रा अर्लो पहाड़ हो।

This order of the constituents of the superlative quantifier phrases indicates a statistical order (the most frequent order). However, the position of the subject is changeable. This is illustrated by the following example:

सब भन्द्रा दूरी सत्तोप यही हो।

This is the greatest satisfaction.

5.3.4. Superlative quantifier phrases

Superlative quantifier phrases with सब भन्द्रा consist of an obligatory subject, the superlative सब भन्द्रा and an adjective head. The order of the constituents is shown in the formula [7]:

\[
\text{SupP-सब भन्द्रा}=\text{Obligatory subject}+\text{Obligatory superlative(सब भन्द्रा)}+\text{Obligatory complement}
\]

The order of the constituents of the superlative quantifier phrases is used in expressions with more emphatic connotations than the superlative quantifiers express [7], e.g.

यो घर सुमझालाई संसारमा सबै भन्द्रा प्यारो बस्तु घियो।

This house was the dearest thing in the world for Subhadra.

6. Dependent adjectivals functioning as modifiers within CNPs

The dependent adjectivals modify the CNPs. The internal structures CNP with the dependent adjectivals as modifiers is present in the following formula [7]:

\[
\text{CNP(with DepAdjls)}=\text{Obligatory Modifier} + \text{Obligatory Head}
\]

Dependent adjectivals are derived from verbal adjectives (participles). The participles are divided into two subclasses: (1) imperfect participle marked by the suffix -ने (2) perfect participle marked by the suffix -एको. The imperfect participle marked by the suffix -ने, functioning as a dependent adjectival is not inflected for tense, person, number, gender and aspect. The
perfect participle marked by the derivational suffix -
-एको is not inflected for tense and person, but it is
inflected for number, and gender, e.g.

**Table 24. Perfect Participle and the derivational
suffix-एको**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masculine</td>
<td>Feminine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>एको</td>
<td>एकी</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the cases where the mode (nonprogressive vs.
progressive) is marked, the imperfect participial
suffixes -ने, and perfect participial suffix -एको follow
the progressive mode marker -इरह- The
nonprogressive mode is unmarked, e.g.

**Table 25. Progressive and Nonprogressive modes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nonprogressive mode</th>
<th>Progressive mode</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Imperfect participle</td>
<td>Perfect participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ने एको(male singular)</td>
<td>-इरहने एकोह(male singular)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ने एकी(female singular)</td>
<td>-इरहने एकीह(female singular)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ने -एका (pl.)</td>
<td>-इरहने -एकाह(plural)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The internal structure of all participles consists of
the stem of the verb, and with the addition of one of
the participial suffixes, i.e. -ने or एको.

### 6.1. The imperfect participle -ने as modifier.

The dependent adjectivals characterizing the head
(noun) with the imperfect participle -ने consist of an
obligatory derived verbal adjective, that is a verb with
imperfect participle -ने, and an obligatory head (noun)
[7].

**Table 26: Adjectivals formed from the imperfect
participle -ने, modifying nouns in the CNP
structures.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb stems</th>
<th>Imperfect participle -ने</th>
<th>Head (noun)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>खा</td>
<td>खाने</td>
<td>कुरा</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>जानू</td>
<td>जाने मान्छे</td>
<td>जाने मान्छे</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>लेखु</td>
<td>लेखे कलाम</td>
<td>लेखे कलाम</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>पढ़िनु</td>
<td>पढ़ने किताब</td>
<td>पढ़ने किताब</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dependent adjectivals with the imperfect participle
-ने may cooccur with the obligatory direct
object(+DO), if the verb (in the imperfect participial
form) is a transitive verb, and the head filled by a
noun. The order of the functional constituents of the
CNP with dependent adjectivals is shown in the
formula [7]:

CNP (with DepAdjl-ने) = Obligatory direct
object+Predicate: transitive verb – imperfect
participle form (-ने)+ Head: common noun

The formula is illustrated by the following example:

दुःखी अन्माउने बेला

Adjectivals formed from the perfect participle -ने
frequently occur in Nepali.

**Table 27. Adjectivals formed from the perfect
participle -ने**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct Object</th>
<th>Verbs in Imperfect participle -ने</th>
<th>Head noun modified by the DepAdjl</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>दुःखी</td>
<td>अन्माउने</td>
<td>बेला</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>दुःख</td>
<td>पीछे</td>
<td>भीडो</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
6.2. The perfect participle -ने as modifier

Dependent adjectivals marked with -एको which characterize the head noun consist of an obligatory past participle -एको and an obligatory head.

Table 28. Perfect participle -एको marking the dependent adjectivals modifying the head noun.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb stems</th>
<th>Perfect participle</th>
<th>Head noun</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>चुड़ा</td>
<td>चुड़ाहेको</td>
<td>कोठा</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>सोध्यु</td>
<td>सोध्युहेको</td>
<td>प्रश्न</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>देख</td>
<td>देखेको</td>
<td>कुरा</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dependent adjectivals with the perfect participle -एको may cooccur with an optional complement, the predicate filled by a verb (marked by the perfect participial suffix -एको), and the head filled by a noun. The order of the functional constituents of the CNP with dependent adjectivals is shown in the following formula [7]:

\[
\text{CNP(\text{with DepAdjl-एको})= Obligatory Modifier(Complement)+Predicate:verb-एको+ Head: common noun}
\]

The complement, an optional element, can be a noun in instrumental case, dative case, ablative case, locative case, or any noun phrase or postpositional phrase filling the same functional slot, i.e. complement. For instance,

Instrumental complement:

7. Adverbial Structures

The internal structure of adverb phrase (AdvP) is as follows [7]:

\[
\text{Adverbial Phrase (AdvP)= Optional Complement +Optional Modifier+ Head (Adverb)}
\]

The following adverbial phrase shows that the optional complement is realized in it:

घरबाट घेरे टाढा
very far from home

7.1. Simple adverbs

Simple adverbs act as the head in an adverb phrase and are divided into two categories [7]: (1) derived adverbs, and (2) nonderived adverbs.

7.1.1. Derived adverbs

The derived adverbs are grouped into three subclasses:

i) adverbs ending in -अरी;
ii) adverbs ending in -साथ;
iii) adverbs ending in -पूर्वक;

The derived adverbs consist of a stem (adjective, adverb or noun) and one of the following suffixes: -अरी, -साथ, and -पूर्वक. The suffix -अरी occurs with the Nepali stems; the suffix -साथ occurs with stems borrowed from Hindi; and the suffix -पूर्वक occurs with stem borrowed from Sanskrit.
Adverbs ending in -अरी

Adverbs ending in -अरी in a manner are derived from Nepali adjectives, and Nepali adverbs. The underlying linear order consists of an adjective stem, or an adjectival stem, or an adverb stem plus the adverb suffix -अरी in a certain way or manner, i.e.

### Table 30. Adverbs ending in -अरी

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nepali Adverb stem</th>
<th>Derived adverbs in -अरी</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>कसो</td>
<td>कसरी</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>जसो</td>
<td>जसरी</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>त्यसो</td>
<td>त्यसरी</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adverbs ending in -साथ

Adverbs ending in -साथ are derived from Hindi adjective or nouns. The underlying linear order consists of a Hindi adjective or noun stem plus the adverb suffix -साथ, e.g.

### Table 31. Adverbs ending in -पूर्वक

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sanskrit noun stems</th>
<th>Derived adverbs in -पूर्वक</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>उत्साह</td>
<td>उत्साहपूर्वक</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>आनन्द</td>
<td>आनन्दपूर्वक</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>धैयय</td>
<td>धैययपूर्वक</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.1.2. Nonderived adverbs

Nonderived adverbs are adverbials since they do not show the derivational suffixes that characterize the adverbs. The adverbials are distinguished from the adverbs only on the basis of their forms (morphology). In terms of the distribution, the adverbials fill the same functional slots as the adverbs do.

### Table 32. Adverbials of most frequent occurrence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>अब 'from now on'</th>
<th>अबेला 'late'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>अहिले 'now, at this time'</td>
<td>आज 'today'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>अधि 'before, previously'</td>
<td>आफूलुखिय 'voluntarily'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>अहिले 'now'</td>
<td>अकसमात 'suddenly'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>आखिर 'finally'</td>
<td>अलि 'a little'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>अत्यन्त 'extremely'</td>
<td>अहिले 'right now'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>चारवार 'frequently'</td>
<td>भोलु 'tomorrow'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>भएपरि 'although'</td>
<td>बहुत 'very'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>भ础हर 'recently'</td>
<td>आखिर 'outside'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ज्वितिक 'as soon as'</td>
<td>चईडै 'soon, quickly'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>एकल 'alone'</td>
<td>चटक 'completely'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>एकदम 'completely'</td>
<td>जहाँ 'where'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 33. Interrogatives, relatives and demonstratives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>K-Interrogatives</th>
<th>J-Relatives</th>
<th>D-Demonstratives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>कहै 'where?'</td>
<td>जहै 'where'</td>
<td>त्यहै, यहै 'there', 'here'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>कहिले 'when?'</td>
<td>जहिले 'when'</td>
<td>उहिले, आहिले, 'then', 'now'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>कसरी 'how?'</td>
<td>जसरी 'which way'</td>
<td>त्यसरी, यसरी 'that way', 'this way'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>कला 'which way?'</td>
<td>जता 'which way'</td>
<td>त्यता, यता 'that way' 'this way'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7.1.4. Compound adverbials

Compound adverbials are combinations of two adverbs. The fact that they are compound adverbials is indicated by the hyphen (-) in their transcribed form although there is no hyphen in their Devanagari orthography [7], e.g.

अगाडि परिचि 'in front'
आमने सामने 'face to face'
मानिर 'upward'
मुनिर 'downward'
पारि परिचि 'on the other side'
अंचलिर 'in front'
बिचबिचमा 'intermittently'

The traditional Nepali grammars call the second element in such compound adverbial postpositions, comparable to prepositions in the English language. When they occur alone, they are called compound adverbials, or adverb phrases (AdvP), i.e. as fillers of the optional adverbials adjunct (AA:) in the clausal structures, e.g.

उ अगाडिरिनुम्न।
He moved in front.

अंचलिर नन्स।
Do not sit in the front.
उनीहु आमने सामने उन्निहु।
They stood face-to-face.
8. The adverbial postpositional noun phrase

Postpositions are equivalent to prepositions in English. The postpositional phrase consists of a noun or a noun phrase (NP) acting as obligatory complement (+C:) and a postposition (PP) filling the obligatory head (+H:) slot. The internal structure of the postpositional phrase (PP) is as follows [7]:

Postposition(PP)=Obligatory
Complement:+Obligatory head (postposition):

The formula is illustrated in the following instance,

घर अगाडि
In front of the house

8.1. Postposition and its complements (NPs)

A postposition filling the obligatory head of the postpositional phrase (PP) stands in construction with the noun phrase (NPs) filling the optional complement slot. Some of the postpositions, e.g. अभि or पछि, which may occur alone filling an optional adverbial complement or adjunct slot in a clausal structure may also occur as nonderived adverbials [7].

The forms अभि and पछि, which may occur with clausal constructions are classified as subordinating conjunctions. They are homophous forms which belong to different classes (subordinating conjunctions, postpositions, or adverbials).

Table 34. A list of Nepali postpositions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>अनुसार 'according to'</th>
<th>बाबु 'in spite of'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>वदला 'instead'</td>
<td>अहिक 'except'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>बाहिर 'outside'</td>
<td>बाहो 'according to'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>भर (भरा) 'throughout'</td>
<td>भरी 'all over, in full'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>भिन्न 'inside, in, into'</td>
<td>देखि 'since'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>जल्लै 'like'</td>
<td>जल्लो 'like'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.2. Postpositions occurring with the NPs in genitive case

A small group of postpositions which belong to this group occur with the complements (NPs) in genitive case. These postpositions occur with the NPs in genitive case only if the NPs refer to human beings. They do not occur with NPs in genitive case if the NPs refer to non human beings [7].

The following are examples of these postpositions cooccurring with complements (NPs) only in the genitive case:

अगाडि 'in front of' भेरो अगाडि नबस
'Do not sit in front of me.'
9. Conjunctions: Coordinate and Subordinate

Conjunctions serve as the connector function, and conjoin two or more structures (words, phrases, or clauses). Conjunctions are of two types: coordinating conjunctions conjoining any two equal structures, and subordinating conjunctions conjoining unequal structures, e.g. a clause dependent on a word, phrase, or clause. The structures conjoined by conjunctions are called conjunctive structures (CX). The internal structure of the coordinating conjunctive structures (CoCX) is presented in the following formula [7]:

\[ \text{CoCX} = \text{Obligatory Head: Optional Head : Optional Head : Optional Head} \]

The items which fill the head preceding and following the connector may be words, phrases, clauses, or sentences. The preceding and the following heads need not both be of the same filler class but both always fill the same functional slots.

9.1. Coordinating conjunctions

The coordinating conjunctions conjoin any two equal structures: words, phrases, clauses or sentences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>कहाँ 'in, at location'</th>
<th>बाहिर 'outside'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>नाहेक 'except'</td>
<td>भर 'throughout'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>वमोजिम 'according to'</td>
<td>भिन 'inside, in, into'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>भरी 'all over, in full'</td>
<td>जस्तो 'like'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>देखिन 'since'</td>
<td>द्वारा 'by'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>हे 'like'</td>
<td>मध्ये 'among'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| मन 'under'     | मध्यि 'on, above, over' |
| मुन 'under'    | नजिक 'near' |
| निर 'very near' | नर 'near' |
| निर 'hear'     | पारि 'across (a river or road)' |
| पछि 'after'   | पटिद 'on the side of' |
| सँग 'with'     | सम्म 'up to' |
| सिन 'with'    | तल 'below, under' |
| निर 'toward'  | बोर 'about' |
| बिना 'without' | बाहि 'on the closer of two sides' |
| बाबिपारी 'around' |
Nepali coordinating conjunctions are presented alphabetically below.

Table 36. Coordinating conjunctions and the element they conjoin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coordinating conjunctions</th>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Phrases</th>
<th>Clauses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>अनि</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>अवश्या</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>कि</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>कि ...कि</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>किन्तु</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>न .... न</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>नकि</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>परन्तु</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>र</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तैपनि or यद्यपि...ैपनि</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तर</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>तथा</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>बा</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>या</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The figure above indicates what elements are conjoined by which coordinating conjunctions. The coordinating conjunctions अनि, नकि, परन्तु, तैपनि, तर conjoin only clauses and sentences. The coordinating conjunctions अवश्या, कि and र conjoin words, phrases and clauses. Following are examples of coordinating conjunctions in use:

अनि के भयो?
And then what happened?
अवश्या त्यस अपरापि जस्तो प्रियो।
Or, it was like that criminal..

जानिन ैं किजैदिनियन्
Whether she would go or not.
कि त्यो जानिन ैं म जानिन।
Either he goes, or I will go.
किन्तु … बीचैलाई तुल भयो।
But it disappeared in the middle...

न ऊ आफे आफे न कसैलाई पठाइ।
Neither he came himself, nor did he send anyone.
मानिसको पाणिन्त्य अरुलाई उपेश गर्नेमा काम लागिनै नकि आफुलाई परिहार गर्नुहोस्।
A man's wisdom is useful in advising others, but not himself.
परन्तु देबिमानको कपालमा अको बिचारको दोन्त हुन लागेको भयो।
But in Deviraman's mind, another troubling thought arose.
आबिजलक्षी र सुम्प्र कलाई पनि साधनमा लिए।
In the end, he took Laksmi and Sushil as well.

तैपनि सुभद्राको कोख सफल हुन सकेन।
Even then Subhadora's womb could not be fruitful.

A clause, occurring with the co-ordinating conjunction तैपनि 'even then', stands in construction with the preceding clause which is redundantly and optionally marked by यद्यपि which is glossed as 'although' and wrongly treated as subordinating conjunction by traditional grammars of Nepali. However, the following illustration proves that यद्यपि is not a subordinating conjunction and that it only redundantly marks the first of the two co-ordinate clauses connected by the coordinating conjunction तैपनि 'even then'.

यद्यपि कुरा सत्य हो तैपनि मलाई राखो लागेन।
Although it is a true fact, even then I do not like it.

तर अपूर्ति भनेको सुनै बितिकै
But as soon as he heard someone calling him 'childless',

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9.2. Subordinating conjunctions

The subordinating conjunctions अर्थि 'before', अगाडि 'before', भने 'if', पछि 'after', and पनि 'although' occur at the end of the subordinate clause. The subordinate clauses marked by these subordinating conjunctions occur before the principal clause.

Subordinating conjunctions क ‘that’ and कि ‘because’ occur at the beginning of the subordinate clause. The subordinate clause marked by these subordinating conjunctions occur after the principal clause [7].

The following are illustrations of the subordinating conjunctions in context:

डॉक्टर आउनु अर्थि निरामी थर्चिकेको दियो।
The patient had died before the doctor came.

The subordinating conjunction अगाडि 'before' also distributes the same way as अर्थि 'before'.

सुभद्रालाई ठाड्रा गर्नु भने।
If he rebuked Subhadra

उसले भन्यो कि खचिर झुटो हो।
He said that the news was incorrect.

आफ्नी आमालाई दुलाही भन्यो कि निरामी घरमा स्थान भएको तुलाही बज्यै भन्ये।
He called his own mother 'dulahi' because everyone at home called Laksmi 'Dulahi Bajyai'.

तिमीले कया भने पछि मैले दुर्वे। When you told the story, I understood (it).

घरमा चबलाश्री भइकन पनि देवीरमणका सन्तान विपुलन्।
Although there was plenty of wealth at home, Deviraman had no children.

As an exception to the formula for the subordinate clause in Nepali, the subordinating conjunction यदि 'if' (borrowed from Sanskrit) occurs at the beginning of the subordinate clause, and such a clause also occurs before the principal clause. However, such a clause is also marked according to the normal structure of the Nepali subordinate clause by भने 'if' thus making यदि optional and redundant.

यदि तिमी आउँदै भने म पनि आउँदै।
If you come, I will also come.

10. Interjections, vocatives, and nuance particles

The Nepali Interjections, vocatives and nuance particles are uninflected, small, closed sets of forms which show no inflections, dependents, or lexical morphology. Interjections are syntactically free, and function as minor sentences, semantically complete but structurally reduced.

Vocatives like interjections, are syntactically free, and can be treated as interjections, representing minor sentences. Vocatives are, however, treated as different from interjections only on the basis that they can also occur in vocative phrasal constructions.

Nuance particles are also uninflected, and a small, closed set of forms. They are characterized by their having no dependents, show no characteristic lexical morphology, and occur in a syntactically independent way in phrases or sentences as optional elements and add to the meaning of a phrase or statement with which they cooccur [7].

10.1. Interjections

Interjections constitute a small closed class of independent particles. They function as minor sentences, semantically complete but structurally reduced. Thus, interjections are syntactically complete, and independent of any other element in phrasal, or
clausal structures. The most frequent interjections in Nepali are [7]:

- अर (approval)
- अहुँ (disapproval)
- अङ्गका (great surprise)
- अनु (fear)
- अन्तथा (frustration)
- अज्ज्ञाना (indignation)
- जी (regret for forgetfulness)
- लो (vindication)

10.2. Vocatives

Vocatives, like interjections, are marked by the absence of inflection, dependents, and lexical morphology. The vocatives are attention drawers. The Nepali vocatives are: ए, आइ, हे, ओ, ओइ. The vocatives are similar to interjections as they occur alone and are syntactically free. The vocatives are slightly different from interjections as they may also occur with nouns in unmarked case, and may be constituents of a vocative phrase as: ए गोपाल, 'Hey Gopal!'. However, even in such instances it can still be argued that vocatives are not different from the interjections they still function like interjections (as minor sentences) [7].

10.3. Nuance particles

Nuance particles belong to a small closed set of uninflected forms, show no characteristic lexical morphology, and occur as syntactically dependent upon phrases or statements, but are characterized by their having no dependents of their own. The nuance particles in Nepali are [7]:

- अर 'they say so' (in reporting speech)
- हे 'okey'
- व्याय 'probably, I guess (noncommittal)'
- न 'simply'
- नि 'and how about (question)'
- र 'in confirmation questions'
- चाहिँ 'this, that particular one'
- कि 'expression of doubt'
- लाउ 'granted that…'
- नै really (emphatic particle)
- पौ 'emphatic'
- त (rather)

Certain nuance particles occur only in phrases, others occur in certain types of statements. So in terms of their distribution, the nuance particles are grouped as phrasal nuance particles and statement nuance particles.

Table 37. Phrasal and Statement nuance particles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nuance particles</th>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>Types</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>अर, र</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Declarative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>चाहिँ</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>हे</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Declarative, Imperative , Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>कि</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>व्याय</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Declarative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>लाउ</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Declarative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>न</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Imperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>नै</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>नि</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>पौ</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>र</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Question</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>त</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>Imperative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10.3.1. **Phrasal nuance particles**

As evident from the above, certain nuance particles occur only with phrases, while others occur in different types of sentences (declarative, interrogative and imperative). Those nuance particles which occur only with the phrases are phrasal nuance particles [7].

The phrasal nuance particles are: चाहे, नै and पो।

**Sushil in particular**

Long before

Rather me

The nuance particle नै occurs in a phrase as well as question and imperative statements, e.g.

In the phrase:

मलाई पो

'For me in particular'

In a question statement

तपाईलाई गोष्टि कस्तो लाग्नु पो?

'How did you like Gorkha?'

In an imperative statement:

त्यो क्रियाक लेउ पो।

'Please pass on that book'.

10.3.2. **Statement nuance particles**

Those nuance particles that occur only with statements are statement nuance particles. They are: ओँ, है, कि, व्याख्या, नै ति and र। These statement nuance particles are subdivided as imperative statements, nuance particles, declarative statement nuance particles, and question statement nuance particles [7].

10.3.2.1. **Imperative statement nuance particles**

The only nuance particle occurring in an imperative statement is नै। The following example illustrates its use [7]:

मलाई अलिकरि चिया दिनोस् नै। 'Give me some tea please'.

10.3.2.2. **Declarative statement nuance particles**

The declarative statement nuance particle is व्याख्या। The following example illustrates its use [7]:

शायद ब्रह्मावादीहुँ वसेलाई आगापार्न सा मूगतुथ्या भन्नु क्याको।

The Vedanta school philosophers call it a snare of hope or mirage, I guess.

10.3.2.3. **Question statement nuance particles**

The question statement nuance particles are: कि, नै, and र। They are exemplified in the following instances [7]:

Question statements:

जान्नराउँ कि?

Will you also go?

सानो बात कस्तो छौ नै?

And how about the little boy?

कुन दौलतको चैन परेकी छौ रै?

Am I enjoying any wealth?

The nuance particle है cooccurs with all the three types of statements: declarative, imperative, and question statements, e.g.

In a declarative statement है adds the nuance of warning:

त्यो तिमी जत्तै छौ है।

He is just like you. (be careful).
In an imperative statement
 adds to the nuance of emphasis:

होश गर्छै कैदी भाला।

Be careful, the prisoner may run away.

In an imperative statement with first person singular, हे changes the statement into a question:

जाैँ हे?
May I go please?

The nuance particle न occurs in the phrases as well as in statements, e.g.

बलाई एक किलो चिनी दिनोख्ला।

'Indeed a burning fire'

When the nuance particle न cooccurs with a statement, it cooccurs only with an imperative statement.

मलाई एक किलो चिनी दिनोख्ला।

'Please give me a kilo of sugar'.

11. Verbal Structure

The internal structure of the verb phrase (VP) is as follows [7]:

Verb-nonfinite=Optional negative (न- ...
... इकन)-Obligatory stem verb+Optional causative+Obligatory voice+Obligatory aspect

Verb Phrase-finite=Optional Prefix (Optional negative न-)+Obligatory stem verb+Optional causative+ Obligatory voice+ Obligatory mode+ Obligatory aspect + Obligatory Auxiliary suffixes(Obligatory person+ Obligatory number + Obligatory gender+ tense(Obligatory negative न-)

The nonfinite forms are:

i) infinitives marked by the infinitive suffix -नौर-नु,

ii) participles marked by the suffixes -एको, -ने,
-दे, -ते, -ये, -ई, -इकन;

iii) conditionals marked by the suffix -ए

Infinitive forms:

जान or जानु 'to go'
खान or खानु 'to eat'
गान or गानु 'to do'

Participial forms:

गरेको - (perfect participle) 'done'
लेने - (imperfect participle) 'doing'
गर्दै (conjunctive participle) 'doing'
गर्दैर (absolutive participle) having done'
गरिकन 'absolutive participle) having done'

Conditional forms

गए 'if go'
खाए 'if eat'
गरे 'if do'

The verb stems in Nepali are grouped, into three types:

i) 1'st Conjugation;
ii) 2'nd Conjugation;
iii) 3'rd Conjugation.

1'st Conjugation type:

Verbs with bases which end in consonants. The bases of these verbs have only one form. For instance:

gर- 'do', बस -'sit', दर्गुर -'run'.

2'nd Conjugation type:

Verbs with bases which end in the following vowels: -ई and आ, with a single exception of जागो'.
The bases of these verbs have only one form. For instance, त्रिग-give, लित-take, खा-eat, तिसी-forget.

3'rd Conjugation type:
Verbs with bases which end in the following vowels: अ, ग, र, and र्ग in the single case of जा-'go'. These bases have two variant forms which are known as primary and secondary.

Table 38. Conjugate types of verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1'st Conjugation</th>
<th>2'nd Conjugation</th>
<th>3'rd Conjugation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>गर  'do'</td>
<td>खा  'eat'</td>
<td>आउ'come'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>बस  'sit'</td>
<td>ला  'take away'</td>
<td>पाउ'get'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>देख  'see'</td>
<td>दि  'give'</td>
<td>पटाउ'send'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>सुन  'hear'</td>
<td>लि  'take'</td>
<td>घु  'wash'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>भन  'say'</td>
<td>भुँ 'stand'</td>
<td>रु  'weep'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>दुसुर  'run'</td>
<td>निसी 'forget'</td>
<td>दुघ 'milk'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>खस  'drop'</td>
<td>उम्ली 'boil'</td>
<td>जा'go'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11.1. Verbs as heads

The simple finite verb forms are the heads of the verb phrases. Thus the verb as a grammatical word may be represented as [7]:

Verb = Optional Prefix + Obligatory Stem Verb + Optional Causative + Obligatory Voice + Obligatory Mode + Obligatory Aspect + Obligatory Suffix

The finite forms of the verbs are inflected for the following categories: causative, voice, mode, aspect, tense, person, gender and number. The verb shows whether it is a noncausative form (unmarked) or causative (marked by the suffix -क्ष), and one of two voices: active (unmarked) vs. passive (marked by the suffix -स), e.g. गर  'do' vs. गरी  'be done'. If the non-causative stem is considered as a normal consonantal C stem, the causative form can be called the A stem. Likewise, if the active (unmarked) stem can be considered normal consonantal C stem, the passive form can be called the I stem because the -स is suffixed to the normal stem to make it a passive stem. Thus, the causative and the passive forms can be regarded as parts of the stem, and they can be grouped as A stems and I stems respectively, e.g.

Table 39. Verb stems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C stem</th>
<th>A stems</th>
<th>I stem</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>गर</td>
<td>गराउ</td>
<td>गर</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>बस</td>
<td>बसाउ</td>
<td>बस</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>देख</td>
<td>देखाउ</td>
<td>देख</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The verb shows one of the two modes: nonprogressive (unmarked) vs. progressive (marked by the -इरह-) and one of two aspects: nonperfect (unmarked) vs. perfect (marked by -एको). The verb also shows person, number, tense and gender (at least in third person singular) by a portmanteau suffix (one morpheme which simultaneously represents many categories, e.g. person, number, tense and gender).

The verbs show one of the three persons (first, second or third), one of the two numbers (singular vs. plural), one of the two genders (masculine vs. feminine), in the third person singular, and one of the three tenses (past, present or future). The past tense is further divided into simple past, habitual past, and unknown past. The unknown past refers to an activity once unknown to the speaker. The future tense is further divided into future definite and future nondefinite. The future definite indicates stronger probability than the future indefinite.

11.2. Auxiliary verbs in the Verb Phrase

The auxiliary verbs in Nepali are: पाउँ 'should, must', हुँ 'be' and सवनु 'can, may'. Auxiliary verb पाउँ 'should, must' is inflected for tense, but uninflected for aspect, person, number or gender [7], e.g.

पाउँ (present) 'should, must'
पाउँ (simple past) 'had to'
पाउँ (habitual past) 'had to'
पाउँ (unknown past) 'had to'
पाउँ (future) 'will have to'
The auxiliary verbs हुन् 'be' and सकन् 'can, may' are inflected for aspect, person, number and gender.

With the auxiliary हुन् 'be' the head of the Verb Phrase carries the perfect participial suffix -एको, which inflects like an adjective for gender, and number, e.g. -एको (masculine singular), -एकी (feminine singular), and -एका (plural).

With the auxiliary सकन् 'can, may' and पनु 'should, must' the head of the verb phrase is in the infinitive form.

11.3. The negative verb forms

The negative verb forms are formed at the morphological level and the morpheme -न- is prefixed (to the imperative, infinitive, conditional, and participial forms), or is suffixed (to the verb stems elsewhere) [7].

11.3.1. The negative prefix -न-

The negator -न- 'not' is prefixed to imperative, infinitive, conditional, and participial forms, e.g.

**Imperative:**
- खानोस् 'Please eat.' नखानोस् 'Please do not eat.'
- जानोस् 'Please go' नजानोस् 'Please do not go'
- गानोस् 'Please do it' नगानोस् 'Please do not do it'

**Infinitive:**
- जान 'to go' नजान 'not to go'
- खान 'to eat' नखान 'not to eat'
- गान 'to do' नगान 'not to do'

**Conditional forms:**
- खाए 'if eat' नखाए 'if not eat'
- गर्ने 'if do' नगर्ने 'if not do'

**Participial forms:**
- नमरिको 'perfect participle) not done'
- नररो 'imperfect participle) not doing'
- नरिद्रा 'conjunctive participle) not doing'
- नराण 'absolutive participle) having not done without doing'
- नराङ 'absolutive participle) having not done, without doing'
- नराङ्कन 'absolutive participle) having not done, without doing'

11.3.2. The negative suffix -न-

The negative -न- is suffixed to the verb stem elsewhere, e.g.
- गद्येन 'He does not do it'
- खद्येन 'He does not eat it'
- जद्येन 'He does not go.'
- यद्य मात्र 'They do not do it'
- खद्येन 'They do not eat it'
- जद्येन 'They do not go'

In the third person plural forms the negative -न- is followed by the third person plural suffixes.

11.4. Verbs which require the obligatory fronting of the dative complement

Verbs which require the fronting of the dative complements (nouns, noun phrases, pronouns, or pronoun phrases in dative case) belong to the class of d -secondary verbs. The following is a list of the most frequently occurring d-secondary verbs which require the obligatory fronting of the dative complement [7]:

- भोक लागू 'feel hungry'
- दिक लागू 'feel sad'
- गाखो लागू 'find difficult'
- जिको लागू 'be well, cured'
- खकाइ लागू 'feel tired'
- डर लागू 'be afraid'
- दिशका लागू 'have diarrohea'
- मन पृथ 'like'
- धक्खिन लागू 'get drunk'
- लिख्का लागू 'feel thirsty'
11.5. Modifiers in the Verb Phrase

Modifiers in the verb phrase are either adverbs (adv), adverbial phrases (AdvP), or postpositional phrases (PP) [7], e.g.

**Adverb:**

सुस्तरी भनिन्।
She said faintly.

**Adverbial Phrase:**

एक एक गरी हेर।
He examined one by one.

गए सात हरिवंश पुराण लगाए।
He listened to the Harivamsha purana last year.

**Postpositional phrases (PP)**

सुशील तुलसीको मट्टनेर खेलिरहेको थियो।
Sushil was playing near a mound of earth in which the sacred Tulsi plant was growing.

Nepali has relatively few modal verbs as compared to English. The English modals 'will' and 'shall' are expressed through the Nepali future tense. The English modal 'would' is expressed through the Nepali habitual past tense. The English modal 'might' is expressed through the Nepali nondefinite future tense.

12. Clausal Structures

The internal structure of the clause may be represented by the following formula [7]:

Clause (Cl)= Optional Adverbial Disjunct+ Optional Exclamation+ Optional Connector+ Optional Subject+ Optional Instrumental Adjunct+ Optional Locative Adjunct+ Optional Ablative Adjunct+ Optional Adverbial Adjunct+ Obligatory Locative Complement+ Obligatory Dative Complement+ Obligatory Direct Object+ Obligatory Subject Complement+ Obligatory Object Complement+ Obligatory Predicate+ Optional Nuance Particle

The clauses in which the verb phrases occur may be categorized as:

i) transitive;

A clause and its verb may be characterised as 'transitive' if the verb cooccurs with the direct object.

ii) Equational;

A clause and its verb may be characterised as 'equational' if the verb cooccurs with a subject complement.

iii) Intransitive;

A clause and its verb is characterised as 'intransitive' if the verb cooccurs without a direct object and without a subject complement.

Each of these three types of clauses and verbs may be further subcategorized according to other obligatory complements which cooccur in the clause.

The constituents which are obligatory to the clause are:

i) predicate;

ii) obligatory complements of the predicate.

12.1. Verbals as predicates

The nucleus of a clause is a verb phrase which is either a finite or nonfinite form (infinitive, participle, conditional). The verb phrase is either a simple verb phrase or a complex verb phrase (main verb plus auxiliary).

12.2. Subjects in the clause

In Nepali the verb which fills the nuclear predicate of a finite clause is marked for the person and number of the Subject. Further specification of the subject by the occurrence of a niminal in the nominative cases is optional. If the subject is further specified, the form or forms which fill the optional Subject are nominal forms in nominative case, e.g. Nouns, pronouns, nominalized adjectives, noun clauses, etc. which show a cross reference tie to the verb in person, number and gender.

12.3. Complements in the clause

The complement functions in a clause are: direct object (DO), object complement (OC), subject complement (SC), dative complement (DC) and
locative complement (LC). These functions are filled by nouns and pronouns in different cases, adjectives in nominative and accusative cases, and phrases (AdjPs, NPs and PPs).

12.3.1. Transitive verbs and their complements

All transitive verbs occur with an obligatory direct object. The transitive verbs are subcategorized as follows on the basis of other obligatory complements they take besides the direct object:

i) transitive verb-1;
ii) transitive verb-2;
iii) transitive verb-3;
iv) transitive verb-4.

11.3.1.1. Transitive-1 verbs

Transitive-1 verbs are verbs which occur with an obligatory direct object. Direct objects which are animate are marked by the accusative case marker -लाई. Objects which are not animate are not marked by the accusative case marker -लाई, i.e. The nominative and accusative cases of nonanimate nominals are identical in both the singular and plural. The constituents of the clause with the transitive-1 verbs are:

Optional Subject: + Obligatory Direct Object: accusative + Obligatory Predicate: transitive verb-1

म आफनो छोरालाई पढाउँछु।
I teach my own son.

म भाट खाउँछु।
I eat rice.

12.3.1.2. Transitive-2 verbs

Transitive-2 verbs are verbs which occur with an obligatory dative complement besides an obligatory direct object complement. The dative complement of a transitive-2 verb is marked by the dative case marker -लाई while the direct object of the transitive-2 verb is not so marked. The constituents of the clause with the transitive-2 verb are:

Optional Subject + Obligatory Dative Complement + Obligatory Direct Object + Obligatory Predicate: transitive-2 verb

कन्न्यावशस्त्र मानिसले दुल्हीलाई डोरीमा हसिदिए।
The people of the bride put her in the litter.

मुखमा मुखमा हसिदिनिन।
Subhadra put the mouthfuls of food in the mouth.

12.3.2. The equational verbs

The equational verbs (i.e. verbs which cooccur with 'subject complement' (SC) in Nepali are हुन 'be', देखिनु 'appear, seem', and लाईनु 'feel'). The equational verb-1 हुन 'be' has two forms:

Subhadra was giving away wages to the musicians and the litter-bearers.

Subhadra छोरालाई भाट खुबाइरेकी बिधन।
Subdhra was feeding rice to her son.

12.3.1.2. Transitive-3 verbs

Transitive-3 verbs are verbs which occur with an obligatory direct object in accusative case and an obligatory object complement in the accusative case. The constituents of the clause with the transitive-3 verb are:

Optional Subject: + Obligatory Direct Object: accusative + Obligatory Object Complement: accusative + Obligatory Predicate: Transitive-3 verb

देविरमण आफनो वैमालाई तुच्छ समझने।
Deviraman considered his wealth as worthless.

सुशील आफनी आमालाई दुल्हीभन्न भन्न।
Sushi called his own mother 'dulahi'

12.3.1.3. Transitive-4 verbs

Transitive-4 verbs are verbs which occur with an obligatory direct object and an obligatory locative complement. The constituents of the clause with the transitive-4 verb are [7]:

Optional Subject: + Obligatory Direct Object + Obligatory locative complement + Predicate: Transitive-4 verb

कृपापशक्ति मानिसले दुल्हीलाई डोरीमा हसिदिए।
The people of the bride put her in the litter.

मुखमा मुखमा हसिदिनिन।
Subhadra put the mouthfuls of food in the mouth.

12.3.2.1. Identificational हुन 'be'

The function of the identificational हुन is to identify the subject.

उ नेपाली हो।
He is a Nepali.

12.3.2.2. The existential हुन 'be'

The function of the existential हुन is to indicate the existence of the subject or locate it.

उ बाटो छ।
He is clever.

12.3.2.3. The equational verbs-2 देखिनु and लागनु 'appear'

The equational verbs देखिनु and लागनु occur with an obligatory subject complement plus an obligatory direct complement.

देविरमणलाई कोटा नैलो लाग्यो।
The room appeared strange to Deviraman.

12.3.3. Intransitive verbs and their complements

Intransitive verbs are verbs which do not stand in construction with a Direct Object or a Subject Complement. Nepali has three types of intransitive verbs [7]:

i) Intransitive-1 verbs
ii) Intransitive -2 verbs
iii) Intransitive -3 verbs

Intransitive-1 verbs

Intransitive-1 verbs are verbs which occur with no complements.

सुभद्रा रोइनु।
Subhadra cried.

Intransitive-2 verbs

Intransitive-2 verbs are verbs which occur with an obligatory dative complement, e.g.

देविरमणलाई चाहिये निध्रा पयो।
Deviraman fell asleep soon.

Intransitive-3 verbs

Intransitive-3 verbs are verbs which occur with an obligatory locative complement.

देविरमण खाटमा पल्टे।
Deviraman lay in the bed.

12.4. Subject-predicate linking by person-number-gender-honorific level inflection

The subject and the predicate of a clause are linked by person, number, gender, and honorific level inflection of the verb in the third person singular. The categories person, number, gender, tense, and honorific level are shown only in finite forms of the verbs. In nonfinite clauses these categories are not reflected.

12.5. Optional adverbial adjuncts

The clausal structure (transitive, equational, or intransitive) may also cooccur with one or more optional adverbial adjuncts, namely instrumental adjunct (IA), locative adjuncts (LA), ablative adjuncts (AbA) or adverbial adjunct (AA).

Following are the examples of each of these optional adverbial adjuncts:

Instrumental adjuncts

आत्मगतीलाई राख्नु हुन्थे।
He used to be inflicted by sorrow.
Locative adjuncts

भाग्यले यो उमेशमा उनलाई फेरि दुलाहा बनायो।
Destiny made him (Deviraman) a bridegroom again at this age.

Ablative adjuncts

यसबाट उनको भलो कुमलो के हुने हो।
Whether good or evil would result from this.

Adverbial adjuncts

भाग्यले यो उमेशमा उनलाई फेरि दुलाहा बनायो।
Destiny made him (Deviraman) a bridegroom again at this age.

12.6. Other optional elements

The other optional elements in clausal structure are [7]:

i) adverbial disjuncts;
ii) exclamations;
iii) connectors;
iv) subjects.

12.6.1. Adverbial disjuncts (AD)

The adverbial disjunct consists of an adverbial clause which is marked by the verb with absolutive participial suffixes -इ, -एर, -इकन, imperfect participial suffix -ौ or the conditional form suffix -ए followed by subordinate conjunctions यदि 'if' and पनि 'although'.

For eg.,

घरमा चबलाङ्गी भइकन पनि
Although there was wealth in his house.

12.6.2. Exclamations

The optional function of the exclamation is filled by the interjections and the vocatives. For eg.,

दृढ़! सुभद्रको आजीवन सेवाको पुरस्कार यही हो?
Fie! Is this the reward for Subhadra's life-long service?

12.6.3. Connectors

The optional connector function is filled by either coordinate conjunctions or subordinate conjunctions. For eg.,

घरमा चबलाङ्गी भइकन पनि
Although there was wealth in his house.

12.6.4. The Subjects

The functional slot of the subject filled by nouns, noun phrases, pronouns, or noun clauses is optional. The subject is optional because it is marked in the finite form of the verbs.

For eg.,

आत्माकानिले पानी हुन्छ।
He used to be inflected by sorrow.

In the above example, the form हुन्छे in mid level honorific indicates that the subject referred to by it is a third person, singular, masculine gender. Hence the subject is not necessary to explicitly mention.

13. Special type of clauses

Special type of clauses include [7]:

i) passive clauses;
ii) imperative clauses;
iii) question clauses;

13.1. Passive Clauses

In Nepali the passive clause has a passive form of a verb which is marked by the derivational suffix -इ-. For instance,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active stem</th>
<th>Active form</th>
<th>Passive stem</th>
<th>Passive form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>छ्क्र -</td>
<td>छ्क्र ए 'he blocks'</td>
<td>छ्क्री</td>
<td>छ्क्रिक्री</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 40. Active and Passive Stems and forms
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active stem</th>
<th>Active form</th>
<th>Passive stem</th>
<th>Passive form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'block'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>'is blocked'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>पा - 'get'</td>
<td>पाउँछ 'he gets'</td>
<td>पाइ 'is gotten'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>पुछ्छ - 'wipe'</td>
<td>पुछ्छ 'he wipes'</td>
<td>पुछ्छ 'is wiped'</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When the passive form of a verb is used in a passive clause, the object of the verb in active clause occurs as subject; and the number, gender, person of the noun or pronoun filling the subject function slot are shown syntactically in the third person by their reference tie to the verbs, e.g.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passive clause</th>
<th>Active clause</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>स्वर्गको बाटो छेकिँदै</td>
<td>स्वर्गको बाटो छेकिँदै</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>फलेफूलेको देख पाओस</td>
<td>फलेफूलेको देख पाओस</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>उनको आँसु पुछ्छै वियो</td>
<td>उनको आँसु पुछ्छै वियो</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 13.3. Question clauses

The question clauses in Nepali are of two types:
1) K-question clauses;
2) हो-होइन question clauses.

#### 13.3.1. K-question clauses

A K-question clause has a word which begins with a 'क' and asks an information question. The following is a list of common information questions.

- को 'who?'
- कहाँ 'where?'
- किन 'Why?'
- कसै 'how?'
- किलाई 'when?'
- कति 'how much, how many?'
- कसौ 'what kind?'

#### 13.3.2. Ho/Hoïna question clauses

Ho/hoïna questions are so called because the answer to these questions is either हौ 'yes' or होइन 'no'. The ho/hoïna question clauses are divided into two categories: ho/hoïna questions with question intonation, and ho/hoïna questions with हमी.

#### 13.3.2.1. Ho/Hoïna question with question intonation

The ho/hoïna question has the same grammatical or syntactic structure as the declarative sentence, but is differentiated by the shift in intonation, e.g.

Declarative: नेपाल एक हिन्दू देश थियो | Nepal was a Hindu country.
Question: नेपाल हिन्दू देश थियो? Was Nepal a Hindu country?

#### 13.3.2.2. Ho/Hoïna question with the tag हमी

The ho/hoïna question with the tag हमी has the same structural description as the declarative clause. The tag हमी, 'wouldn't it, isn't it, aren't you, etc', occurs in the final position in the sentence, and makes the clause a question clause, e.g.
Declarative: नेपाल हिन्दू देश थियो। 'Nepal was a Hindu country.'

Question: नेपाल हिन्दू देश हाँ? 'Nepal was a Hindu country, wasn't it?'

14. Finite Dependent clauses: Nominal, adjectival, and adverbial

A finite clause has a finite form of verb filling the predicate slot. A finite dependent that fills the object slot or subject slot in the principal clause is a finite dependent noun clause; a finite dependent clause that fills the modifier slot in the principal clause is a finite dependent adjective clause; and a finite dependent clause that fills the adverbial adjunct slot in the principal clause is a finite dependent adverbial clause [7].

14.1. Finite dependent noun clause

The dependent noun clause functions either as an object or subject to the verb in the principal clause like a noun or noun phrase except that this is a clausal structure.

Dependent noun clause functioning as object to the verb in the principal clause has a finite verb in it. The verb in the principal clause is a transitive verb. The dependent noun clause functioning as object to the transitive verb in the principal clause is connected to the principal clause by कि भनेर, or quotation marks in written Nepali, e.g.

मनोमन्त्रे भनेर, के सुभ्रालाई साँची मनले सल्लाह रिद्दिको हो? 'He said to himself, "Did Subhadra give her consent sincerely?"'

In Nepali a dependent noun clause functioning as subject to the verb in principal clause has a verb only in nonfinite (infinitive) form, and is, therefore, a nonfinite clause.

14.2. Finite dependent adjective clause

The finite dependent clause functioning as an adjective clause fills the modifier slot in the sentence and modifies the noun or noun phrase in the principal clause: such a dependent adjectival clause has a finite verb or verb phrase at its nucleus. The dependent clause is marked by the J-class substitute forms, e.g. जो 'who', जसलाई 'whom' जसले 'who', जसबाट 'from whom', जसको 'whose', जुन 'which', जहाँ 'where' and जहिले 'when'.

आज देवीरमण्डको गति त्यस बालक छायाको जतो विद्यो जो पहिलो दिनको पात बिसेर अनेका गुरुकहाँ पुजुर। 'Today, Deviramans situation was like that of a little boy who forgetting his previous lesson, arrives late at his guru's place.'

Finite dependent adverbial clause with भने 'if, किन्नैकिन्‍नको बने 'because'. Finite dependent adverbial clauses with भने 'if' किन्नैकिन्‍को बने 'because' fill the slot of adverbial adjunct in the principal clause, e.g.

लक्मीलाई ताडाना गहनौ भनेनु पुज्याली पत्री चिन्न। 'If he rebuked Laksni, she was his wife with a son'.

अपनी आमालाई "दुलाही" भन्ने, किन्नैकिन्‍को लक्मीलाई घरमा सवेजना "दुलाही बज्यो" भन्ने। 'He called his own mother "Dulahi" because everyone in the family called Lashmi "Dulahi Bajyai".

14.3. Finite dependent adverbial clause with भने 'if', किन्नैकिन्‍को भने 'because'

Finite dependent adverbial clauses with भने 'if', किन्नैकिन्‍को भने 'because' fill the slot of adverbial adjunct in the principal clause.

For eg.,

यो योजना नेपालमा संयुक्त छैन किन्नैकिन्‍को त्यहाँ पूज्रियोंको कमी छ। This plan is not feasible in Nepal because there is a shortage of capital here.

15. Nonfinite dependent clauses: Infinitive, participial, and conditional

Nonfinite dependent clauses are of three types [7]:

i) nonfinite dependent noun clause;
ii) nonfinite dependent adverbial clause with a verb in either infinitive form -नृ, न plus ले, or perfect participial form -एको plus ले, or imperfective participial form -ने plus ले functioning as adverbial adjuncts;

iii) nonfinite dependent adverbial clause with a verb in conditional form functioning as adverbial adjuncts.

15.1. Nonfinite dependent noun clause with a verb in infinitive form

A dependent noun clause that fills the subject slot in the principal clause in Nepali has a verb only in nonfinite (infinitive) form. Such a noun clause functioning as subject is connected to the principal clause by भनु or भनेको, e.g.

सोइलाको रीसले पोइको नाक काटनु भनेको यही हो।

This is like cutting the nose of one's husband because of anger at one's co-wife.

बिहानमा घुम्नु गर्नौ हो।
To walk in the morning is good.

15.2. Nonfinite dependent adverbial clause as adverbial adjunct.

Adverbial clauses fill the functional slot of adverbial adjunct to the principal clause. Such dependent adverbial clauses are marked with the perfective participial form -एको plus -ले or imperfective participial form -ने, plus -ले, or imperfective participial forms or infinitive forms -नु, -न of a verb plus -ले 'because', e.g.

बिरामी भएकोले हिङ्ग म सख्तै आइन।
(Because was sick), I did not come to school yesterday.

The verb phrase consisting of a particular -एको and auxiliary हुन in its infinitive हुन्छ with the suffix -ले also marks a dependent adverbial clause, functioning as an adverbial adjunct, e.g.

सरकारले रोकेको हुनाले आज जुगुण भएन।
Because the government had prevented it, there was no demonstration today.

15.3. Nonfinite dependent adverbial clause with a verb phrase in conditional form

The dependent clause with conditional form occurs in a simple verb, or a verb phrase form marked either by the conditional suffix -नु to a simple verb stem or complex verb stem, or by a verb phrase with the main verb in perfective form marked by the perfective aspect suffix -एको, imperfective form suffix -ने, or infinitive form marked by -नु, or नै and the auxiliary verbs in conditional form in the dependent clause.

Verb phrase with the main verb in perfective participial form marked by -एको and auxiliary verbs in conditional form:

एक बचन सोइको सम्म एको अधुनु पिढिने वियो।
'If she was asked a word, her tears would have been wiped.'

Verb phrase with the main verb in imperfective aspect marked by -ने and auxiliary verbs in conditional form:

उनीहरु जाने भए जाउन।
'If they are going, let them go.'

Verb phrase with the main verb in infinitive form marked by -नु and auxiliary verbs in conditional form:

छोडि न परे छोडिने उला।
'If I must leave, I will leave.'

Nonfinite dependent clauses with negative conditional form is connected to the principal clause by subordinate conjunction पनि or पछि which follows the verb (in conditional form, or absolutive participial form) in the dependent clause.

घरमा चह्रलाई भएको ननि देखररणका सन्तान विभेदन।
'Although there was plenty of wealth at home, Deviraman did not leave the house.'

'पनि नै घर छाडिन |

Although it was voluntary, Nauli did not leave the house.

तर दैवले नसूनिदिए पछि कसको के लागदो रहेछ र?

'But if God does not listen, who can do anything?'

Note:

In Nepali the dependent clause may not precede the principal clause as it does in English, e.g.

उनीहरू गए भने म पनि जान्छ।

I'll also go if they go.

The subordinate conjunction 'although' should not be confused with the homophonous 'also' which is an adverbial.

16. Dependent clauses in expression of comparison

Dependent clauses in expressions of comparison represent basically two degrees of comparison: comparative degree and superlative degree. Thus, the expressions of comparisions are subdivided into two types: Comparisons of inequality and Comparisons of equality [7].

16.1. Comparisons of inequality

Comparisons of inequality are structurally divided into two types: Symmetrical comparison and Asymmetrical comparison. Both types of comparisons consist of the comparative quantifiers अझा, भन्दा and त्वन in comparisons of two items.

The quantifier सबभन्दा, or its variant सबै भन्दा 'more than all' occurs in the superlative degree of comparison (comparing one item against many other items in symmetrical comparisons)

16.1.1. Symmetrical comparisons

In symmetrical comparisons one item is described as exceeding, or falling short of, another item with respect to some specified property or behavior. In such comparisons, there are two clauses (one is reduced to the form of a phrase). The first is the principal clause, the second is the reduced dependent clause. The constituents of the two clauses perform identical functions within their respective clauses. The constituents being compared with each other may be subjects, objects, complements, or predicates [7].

i) Comparision of subjects

नेपाल भन्दा अमेरिका तूलो छ।
America is larger than Nepal.

ii) Comparision of objects:

म भात भन्दा ठाकूरी ठेय खान्छ।
I eat more vegetables than rice.

iii) Comparision of subject complements:

उ धनी भन्दा पनि कुणै छ।
He is more happy than he is rich.

iv) Comparision of predicates

लैख भन्दा बढी पह।
Read more than you do writing.

Superlative degree comparison has the same structural pattern as the comparatie degree comparison in Nepali. The superlative degree comparison is marked by सबभन्दा or सबै भन्दा 'than all'

सगरमाथा सबभन्दा अर्लो पहाड हो।
Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest) is higher than all (the highest) mountains.

16.1.2. Assymetrical comparisons

In the asymmetrical comparisions the compared item in the principal clause does not have anything overt to compare with. The compared item is said just to exceed the extent expected, apparent,understood. Such assymmetrical comparisions are marked by अझा and त्वन 'further'.

यो किटाव अझ राखे छ।
This book is even better(than one expected).
Nepali sentences as speech acts can be divided into two main categories on formal basis:

1. Direct speech acts, which are unmarked and
2. Indirect speech acts, marked by lexical items: 'रे, अरे, and भनेर'; in such indirect speech acts the speaker reports the speech of another speaker.

Sentence as speech acts also have structure pragmatically reduced to a mere word or phrase, called elliptical sentences.

17.1. Direct speech act

The direct speech acts are speech acts in which the speaker makes his own statements as opposed to reporting the speech act of someone else, including mainly four types of sentences [7]:

1. Declarative speech acts;
2. Interrogative speech acts;
3. Imperative speech acts (Commands);
4. Exclamatory speech acts. For instance,

Declarative speech acts (Statements)

विप्रृः सुभद्रा पति खिद्र विद्वन्।
Poor Subhadra also was sad.
17.2. Indirect speech acts

Indirect speech act is the act of reporting what a third person has said. There are two ways of reporting speech in Nepali [7]:

i) Using the particle रे or अरे 'is said,they say';
ii) Using the absolutive participle भनेर 'having said'.

17.2.1. Indirect speech acts with रे or अरे

The nuance particle अरे or रे occurs at the end of the statement to signify information that is received indirectly about a subject. It carries the meaning of 'I hear that...' or 'They say ...', e.g.

"यस्तो हुनेछ्" अरे।
They went yesterday, they say.

"यस्तो बुझ्नेछ्" अरे।
It is a very bad disease, they say.

17.2.2. Indirect speech act with भनेर

The most frequent way to report a speech in Nepali is to use the absolutive participle भनेर ('having said'). The use of भनेर is divided into two ways [7]:

1. Reporting the actual speech, and
2. Reporting the intention.

17.2.2.1. Reporting the actual speech act

The absolutive participle form भनेर of the verb भन्दै 'say' is employed to report the words actually uttered by the speaker. The reporter does not change the words of the speaker. So the written Nepali texts present the reported speech in quotation marks, e.g.

"मेरो राजा" भनेर म्वाई खाइन्।
She kissed the boy saying "My Raja".

17.2.2.2. Reporting the intention

The absolutive participle भनेर is also employed in the speech act to report the intention of the speaker. The words reported by means of भनेर in such sentences are not the actual speech acts of the person being reported about, but the speech acts of the reporter who translates in his own words the intention of the person. The fact that only the intention is reported is also reflected in written Nepali where the reported intention is not put within the quotation marks, e.g.

"ब्यास को गर्नार भनेर चौंकली बुझ्ने।
Thinking that they may have to fall, they disappear between the sky and the earth.

कसैले देख्नुहोस् कि भनेर ओइँनेरे छोपेकी खिन्न।
Thinking that someone may see it, she covered it (the bundle) with her shawl.

17.3. Elliptical sentences as declarative speech acts

Reduced sentential structures are elliptical sentences which lack either the subject and objects, or the predicate. Such sentences as declarative speech acts are complete semantically because the redundant element in them is deleted since these elements are anaphoric to a prior sentence.

17.3.1. Reduced sentences with elliptical subject and object

Reduced sentences with elliptical subject and object consist of a verb phrase which is a repetition of the verb form of the question. e.g.

तिमी काम गर्नुहोस्? Would you like to do the job?
Reduced sentence with elliptical subject and object:

Yes, I would like to do that job.

17.3.2. Reduced sentences with elliptical predicate

In speech acts of declarative statements made as short answers to the questions asked to the speaker the predicate may be elliptical in Nepali. When the predicate becomes elliptical, the optional element is obligatory [7]. Consider the following conversation for instance.

Table 42. Interrogative and Declarative Speech Act

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interrogative speech act (Question)</th>
<th>Declarative speech act (Answers)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>को संग आइस्? Who did you come with?</td>
<td>रातमाटे भण्डारीका जहाँसैंग With Ratmate Bhandari Pandit's family.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>कैले जायस्? When will you go?</td>
<td>भोलि जिहानै Tomorrow morning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18. Conclusion

This report does not in any sense capture all the aspects of the Nepali Grammar structure. Furthermore, the findings of the study presented might be subjected to changes and corrections as well as newer concepts and ideologies emerge. However, this report can serve as a strong base document for further research. The findings are but sure to serve as an invaluable source for the development of the grammar checker and other Natural Language Applications for Nepali.

19. Reference
