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VI. DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS

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*BAKA, Madhu

--M. Phil, Linguistics
--Punjabi University, 1982.

Title: "Phonological Study of Kangra Dialect"

In the present study an attempt has been made to describe the Phonological Pattern of Kangra Dialect spoken in Himachal Pradesh, India.

The first chapter of the study describes the geography of the region, situation, various western Pahari dialects, socio-economic factors and reviews previous studies briefly. It shows how the socio-economic factors are significant in bringing the change in the attitude and behavior of people living in rural areas. The peculiar features of the dialect are also highlighted.

The second chapter deals with the consonantal phonemes of the dialect. It points out the establishment of consonantal phonemes on the basis of minimal pairs. A detailed description of consonantal phonemes and geminated consonants is also given.

The third chapter presents the allophonic variants of consonants with various possible examples.

The fourth chapter deals with the syllabic structure of the dialect. This chapter points out the possible syllabic patterns available in monosyllabic words of Kangra dialect and consonant clusters which occur in all the three positions i.e. in word initial, medial and final positions.

The fifth chapter presents the inventory of vowels, their classification and description. Diphthongs and triphthongs have also been discussed.

The last chapter gives a detailed exposition of the supra-segmental features (i.e. three way tonal system, nasalisation, juncture, stress and intonation, etc.) in a systematic way.

The thesis ends with appendices and a select bibliography.

*PRADHAN, Krishna Lall Bhai

--Ph.D., Linguistics
--University of Wisconsin - Madison, 1982

Title: "The Structure of the Simple Clause in Nepali"
The topic of this thesis is the simple clause, more specifically, its structure. The outline of the structure of the simple clause as I visualize it, in this thesis, is this.

Every simple clause has a verb and at least one argument, and there is a certain order between them which is basic or dominant. When there is more than one argument, they exhibit a certain order between themselves, as well as in relation to the verb according to their functions (Subject, etc.). Chapter I deals with this aspect of Nepali syntax.

Some processes in the verb may change the number of arguments in a clause. Causativization and passivization illustrate this in Nepali. These processes are the subject of Chapter II.

The arguments not only show an order-relationship to a verb, but also a functional relationship. The latter relationship is manifested in various ways, one of which is case marking. Chapter III presents the grammatical and semantic functions of those arguments that are necessary constituents of the simple clause; Chapter IV discusses what the case markers are, and how the system of case marking reflects the structure of the simple clause in Nepali.

I assume that a formal analysis of a language must wait till more extensive research is done on it. This research should include topics like adjuncts, negation, verb aspect/tense, derivations of nouns, and possibly complex structures. Therefore, I have chosen to present this thesis by way of description rather than by formalism, although I have kept some theoretical orientation in mind, as well as concern for possible pedagogical use.

My preference for description over formalism stems from two considerations. First, there are not enough facts known about Nepali; second, no current 'generative' model or theory is so reliable that it can be trusted to specify the complete structure of a language; the truth of this assertion is not altered by the fact that there are some models that have proven to be more efficient than others in representing some aspects of a language or languages, and are widely used—with, I feel, misplaced confidence in their ultimate validity. Furthermore, a description is the starting point of an analysis, and in no way says any less than a formal statement.

The initiative for addressing this topic came from the problems I faced over the years while teaching the most basic structures of Nepali. I realized that the rules or prescriptions presented by teachers (including myself) were too simplistic or turned out to be misleading and hasty generalizations. I will note just a few points:

1. The fact that Nepali is a verb final language is taken for granted. The variant orders and their implication for discourse have never been worked out (see Chapter I, Section 2).

2. The treatment of passives by writers who follow the mold of Sanskrit grammar books is bizarre. We find examples of passives in their books which are never heard. The passive has a very general distribution, but these writers miss the crucial fact that there is a strict restriction on the specification of the agent, and a condition of the subject of the active verb, which blocks the use of passives corresponding to many actives (see Chapter II, Section 2.1.2).

3. The rule for the case marker /-le/ in traditional grammars is simply put as follows: Add /-le/ to the agent of a transitive verb in the Simple Past.

This rule admittedly has no exceptions, but it is not inclusive enough; in particular it does not account for the fact that in some situations the agent of a transitive verb in the Simple Present also must have /-le/. Furthermore, the agent of an intransitive verb also may have /-le/ when it comes with a modal element (see Chapter IV, Section 2.1).

The transliteration used in the thesis is almost phonemic, if not totally phonemic. Where it deviates from autonomous phonemic representation, it is by way of transcription of the native orthography. For instance, gernu 'do' and pedhnu 'study' although in the latter /dh/ is a flap.

Thus, the slashes used in the text should not be taken as marking pure phonemic units. The slashes are used to separate the units of Nepali expressions from English gloss or text for the flow of reading.

Finally, I must apologize for the inconsistency in the specification of markers. Sometimes they are separated by a dash or a space, but at other times they are put together with the preceding word, following orthography. However, they are distinctly glossed and I hope they cause no problem for the reader.
Summary of thesis conclusions:

1. Nepali is a SOV language; it has postpositions; modifiers including genitives precede modifieds; relational markers follow property markers; word order in statements and questions is invariant; and the order of multiple duplicate questions is strictly SOY.

   The concepts of new/unknown vs. old information explain variant orders like OSV. The former concept is termed focus. Focus is normally placed next to the verb. Q-words have focus, which explains why a q-word and the corresponding response have the same position.

2. The morphological processes of causativization and passivization augment and decrease, respectively, the valency of both transitive and intransitive verbs.

   Causatives are either affixial, periphrastic simple, or periphrastic double. Two semantic parameters (manipulative-directive and direct-mediated causation) distinguish them; affixal causatives imply manipulative and direct causation; periphrastic simple causatives imply directive and direct causation; whereas periphrastic double causatives imply directive and mediated causation.

   The passive formation in Nepali has a very general distribution, and has no effect on the word order. However, some situations must be described by the passive only, and others by active. There are also restrictions on the specification of the agent.

3. Grammatical relations—subject, DO and IO—and semantic relations—agent, patient, theme, force, and recipient—are necessary to specify the arguments in a clause. The former is governed by verb-agreement, word order, and case marking; the latter is defined by the paired features source-goal, cause-effect, and controller-controlled.

4. The markers that often realize these relations are /-le/ and /-lai/. /-le/- marking with agents is influenced by factors like transitivity, +human, aspect, and modality. In one-object sentences, animate objects are marked with /-lai/. But processes like animatization and deanimatization produce converse situations. In two-object sentences only the IO is marked with /-lai/. Experiencers also have /-lai/. This reveals a dichotomy of action-prominence vs. event-prominence and the concept of directionality in Nepali at the discourse level. This phenomenon neatly ties in with the peculiarities of the passive and happen vs. do clauses.

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--Diss. number 6989 (Eidgenoessische Technische Hochschule)

Title: "Building in Developing Countries as Seen in the Example of Bhaktapur"

A contribution to the discussion of the problems of "appropriate technology," "building in a historical context" as well as the "transfer of technology."

By means of a case study of a small town in Nepal, a methodical way of completely covering and finding a solution to the problem is set forth to illustrate the current state of the problems of building in the Third World Countries. The treatise deals with the following problems:

- How much of the available traditional architecture and its building methods is it sensible to take over or improve for the inhabitants of Bhaktapur of today?
- To what extent must appropriate technology be imported or newly developed?
- What consequences can be foreseen therein for architecture and town planning?

The treatment of these problems takes place in three main chapters, a basic part, an analytical part and a synthetic part. This is preceded by an expose and concluded by a summary.

The author deals thoroughly with the influence of social epochs on the types of buildings and the residential areas that arose out of these. As a new aspect he includes building and material techniques as a basis for a careful description of the material and constructive components of the building culture including the principles and traditions of the trade.

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An outline of the customary building techniques is followed by a thorough analysis of the present day aspects of building in Bhaktapur. Factors of construction costs and function are also the subject of examination. Current tendencies in construction are examined and analyzed with respect to potential dangers, in particular negative developments in town-planning. The compilation of all the areas of construction problems shows that the root causes are to be found in several fields of study.

In the fourth chapter suggestions for solutions based on material and construction technique as well as of an architectural and town-planning nature are developed.

The technical solutions put forward are along the lines of appropriate technology.

Parallel suggestions concerning the sphere of problems of construction in the historical context are developed and discussed.

The treatise closes with a summary of its findings and with recommendations for general application to building in developing countries as well as specifically referring to the local situation.

Length of the paper is 323 pages with 132 illustrations and tables. Original text in German (English translation possible), titled: Bauen in Entwicklenslaendern am Beispiel Bhaktapur.