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A grammar of Sunwar : descriptive grammar, paradigms, texts and glossary

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A Grammar of Sunwar

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A GRAMMAR OF SUNWAR

Descriptive grammar, paradigms,
texts and glossary

Dörte Borchers

2007

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Abbreviations

Σ	stem		and morpheme, complete
[]	phonetic transcription	-	components of a <i>portemanteau</i> morph
//	phonemic transcription, e.g.		and morpheme;
/d/	‘phoneme /d/’		or components of English gloss for a
/d,t/	‘phoneme /d/ and phoneme /t/’		single lexical item in Sunwar
/da/~ta/	‘phonological form /da/ alternates with /ta/’	*	reconstructed, unattested or ungram-
⟨ ⟩	morphological/morphophonemic trans-	◦	glossary entry of lexeme that in my
	cription (morpheme), e.g.		data occurred only in written form
⟨d⟩	‘morphophoneme ⟨d⟩’	→	transitive relationship (Agent → Pa-
⟨d,t⟩	‘morphophoneme ⟨d⟩ and morphopho-		tient)
	neme ⟨t⟩’	.	word-internal morpheme boundary
⟨-ña ~ -ñi⟩	‘morpheme with allomorphic realisa-	◁	derives from
	tions /-ña/ and /-ñi/’	▷	yields (in diachronic analysis)
~	alternates (allomorphs, allophones)	˘	falling pitch
+	components of a <i>portemanteau</i> morph	˙	rising pitch
I-C1 ^{vt}	Stem Group I, conjugation C1 (transi-	INF	infinitival marker ⟨-cā⟩
	tive verb)	INS/LOC	instrumental/locative marker ⟨-m ~
1	first person		-mī⟩
2	second person	JING	jingle
3	third person	lit.	literally
A	agent (of transitive verb)	MAN	nominal marker of manner ⟨-sī⟩
adj	adjective	n	noun
adv	adverb	n.a.	not attested
C	suffix conjugation	NAR	marker of narration ⟨-bāta ~ -ta ~ -t⟩
C1	suffix conjugation 1	NEG	negative marker ⟨ma-⟩
caus	causative	Nep.	Nepali
COL	collective suffix ⟨-bu⟩	NOM ₁	nominaliser marker 1 ⟨-pā⟩
CONT	continous marker	NOM ₂	nominaliser marker 2 ⟨-m⟩
d ^d	dual	NPT	non-preterite
DU	dual marker ⟨-niḡi⟩	ns	non-singular
e	exclusive	num	numeral
Eng	English	OBJ	object marker ⟨-kal ~ -kali⟩
EMPH	emphatic marker	P	patient (of transitive verb)
Eng.	English	p/ ^p	plural
FEM	feminine gender marker	part	particle
FROM	ablative marker ⟨-lā ~ -le ~ -re⟩	PF	perfective gerund marker ⟨-fā⟩
GEN	genitive marker ⟨-ñā⟩	PL	plural number marker
i ⁱ	inclusive		⟨-puki ~ -paki ~ -piki⟩
I	Stem Group I	pol	polite expression
IFOC	postposition of insistive focus ⟨da ~ ta⟩	POSS	possessive marker ⟨-ke⟩
IMM	marker of immediacy ⟨-di-⟩	^{pp}	very polite expression
IMP ^d	imperative dual marker ⟨-se ~ -is(e)⟩	PROG	progressive construction
IMP ^p	imperative plural and honorific marker	pron	pronoun
	⟨-ne ~ -en(e)⟩	SOC	synchronic gerund and sociative
IMP ^{pp}	imperative plural and high honorific		marker ⟨-nu⟩
	marker ⟨-ñī ~ -in(ī)⟩	PT	preterite
IMP ^s	imperative singular marker ⟨-o⟩	PTNAR	preterite narration marker ⟨tyo⟩
IMPL	implement marker ⟨-ṭik⟩	QUE	question suffix ⟨-me⟩
IN	locational suffix ⟨-gā⟩	REIN	reinforcement marker ⟨-an ~ -n⟩

REC	reciprocity marker ⟨-mui ~ -mum⟩	vi/ ^{vi}	intransitive verb
RHE	rhema suffix ⟨-ei ~ -nei⟩	VN	verbal noun marker ⟨-fo⟩
RM	reflexive marker	VOC	vocative
S	Subject (of intransitive or reflexive verb)	vr/ ^{vr}	reflexive verb
S.	Sunwar	vt/ ^{vt}	transitive verb
s/ ^s	singular	Wrt.	Written version according to Lokpriya Sunuvār 2003/04
SNG	postposition of singularity ⟨cai⟩	WrtBib.	Written version according to <i>The word of God</i> 1992
TEMP	temporal participle marker	WrtSH.	Written version according to texts written by Śobhā Sunuvār
TO	locational suffix ⟨-ge⟩		
UNEX	marker of unexpected action ⟨-bā-⟩		
V	vowel		
v	verb	<i>italics</i>	italics in glosses indicate loans

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ORGANISATION OF THE BOOK

This grammar has ten major chapters.

The first one is intended as an introduction and presents some background information on the Sunwar language, its speakers and their culture.

The second chapter about phonology shows that the phonological repertoire of Sunwar is similar to that of Nepali. The differences that exist between the phonological systems of these two languages are interesting for historical research. Sunwar has no implosives anymore but that the language once had at least one implosive /ɓ/ can be shown by a comparison of phonetic realisations of the former implosive /ɓ/ in different dialects.

The third chapter concentrates on written Sunwar and presents an indigenous writing system.

The nominal morphology of modern spoken Sunwar is discussed in Chapter Four. At the end of the chapter names of days, months and numerals are presented which have been substituted in the modern spoken language by loan words from Nepali.

The fifth chapter focuses on finite verbs. Instead of a former biactantial agreement system Sunwar now has several suffix conjugations.

The non-finite verbs are discussed in Chapter Six.

Chapter Seven presents examples of paradigms of verbs belonging to different stem and suffix conjugations.

Chapter Eight contains a collection of glossed and translated texts. The texts describe different religious rituals and facets of everyday life.

The glossary in Chapter Nine contains the vocabulary that occurs in example sentences and in the texts of chapter eight.

The last chapter, Chapter Ten, contains bibliographical references.

Most examples of written Sunwar cited in the grammar come from Lokpriya Sunuvār's introductory book (1997). Four written sentences (47, 157, 170, 243) come from a story Śobhā Sunuvār translated for me from Nepali into Sunwar. One written sentence (251) is a citation from the New Testament.

