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

Borchers, D.

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A Grammar of Sunwar

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Promotor: Prof. Dr. G.L. van Driem

Referent: Prof. C. Genetti PhD, University of California (Santa Barbara, USA)

Overige leden: Prof. Dr. W.F.H. Adelaar
Prof. Dr. M. Mous
Prof. Dr. H.J. Stroemer

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-	◦	matical form
	cription (morpheme), e.g.		glossary entry of lexeme that in my
⟨d⟩	‘morphophoneme ⟨d⟩’	→	data occurred only in written form
⟨d,t⟩	‘morphophoneme ⟨d⟩ and morphopho-		transitive relationship (Agent → Pa-
	neme ⟨t⟩’	.	tient)
⟨-ña ~ -ñ⟩	‘morpheme with allomorphic realisa-	⟨	word-internal morpheme boundary
	tions /-ña/ and /-ñ/’	⟩	derives from
~	alternates (allomorphs, allophones)	˘	yields (in diachronic analysis)
+	components of a <i>portemanteau</i> morph	˙	falling pitch
I-C1 ^{vt}	Stem Group I, conjugation C1 (transi-	INF	rising pitch
	tive verb)	INS/LOC	infinitival marker ⟨-cā⟩
1	first person		instrumental/locative marker ⟨-m ~
2	second person	JING	-mī⟩
3	third person	lit.	jingle
A	agent (of transitive verb)	MAN	literally
adj	adjective	n	nominal marker of manner ⟨-sī⟩
adv	adverb	n.a.	noun
C	suffix conjugation	NAR	not attested
C1	suffix conjugation 1	NEG	marker of narration ⟨-bāta ~ -ta ~ -t⟩
caus	causative	Nep.	negative marker ⟨ma-⟩
COL	collective suffix ⟨-bu⟩	NOM ₁	Nepali
CONT	continous marker	NOM ₂	nominaliser marker 1 ⟨-pā⟩
d ^d	dual	NPT	nominaliser marker 2 ⟨-m⟩
DU	dual marker ⟨-niḡi⟩	ns	non-preterite
e	exclusive	num	non-singular
Eng	English	OBJ	numeral
EMPH	emphatic marker	P	object marker ⟨-kal ~ -kali⟩
Eng.	English	p/ ^p	patient (of transitive verb)
FEM	feminine gender marker	part	plural
FROM	ablative marker ⟨-lā ~ -le ~ -re⟩	PF	particle
GEN	genitive marker ⟨-ñā⟩	PL	perfective gerund marker ⟨-fā⟩
i ⁱ	inclusive	pol	plural number marker
I	Stem Group I		⟨-puki ~ -paki ~ -piki⟩
IFOC	postposition of insistive focus ⟨da ~ ta⟩	POSS	polite expression
IMM	marker of immediacy ⟨-di-⟩	^{pp}	possessive marker ⟨-ke⟩
IMP ^d	imperative dual marker ⟨-se ~ -is(e)⟩	PROG	very polite expression
IMP ^p	imperative plural and honorific marker	pron	progressive construction
	⟨-ne ~ -en(e)⟩	SOC	pronoun
IMP ^{pp}	imperative plural and high honorific		synchronic gerund and sociative
	marker ⟨-ñī ~ -in(ī)⟩	PT	marker ⟨-nu⟩
IMP ^s	imperative singular marker ⟨-o⟩	PTNAR	preterite
IMPL	implement marker ⟨-tik⟩	QUE	preterite narration marker ⟨tyo⟩
IN	locational suffix ⟨-gā⟩	REIN	question suffix ⟨-me⟩
			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 Šobhā Sunuvār translated for me from Nepali into Sunwar. One written sentence (251) is a citation from the New Testament.

