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A Grammar of Bantawa : grammar, paradigm tables, glossary and texts of a Rai language of Eastern Nepal

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Notational conventions

The following table explains the abbreviations used in the text. For abbreviations that are used as morpheme glosses, page references are given that point to the pages where these morphemes are discussed.

()	optional elements	3A	third person agent (147)
(N)	Nepali, of Nepali origin	3AM	third person agent, marked form (147)
*	ungrammatical	3P	third person patient (136, 155)
.	syllable boundary	3pl	third person plural (147)
/	in the context of	A	agent
//	phonological representation	ABCD	applicative, benefactive, causative, directive
??	questionable utterance	ABL	ablative (89)
[.]	syllable boundary (as a feature)	ABS	absolutive (73)
[]	phonetic representation	ACR	across (104)
[+-feature]	(phonological) feature	ALL	allative (90, 104)
Σ	stem	also	(310)
~	related to	AntP	anti-passive (225)
<	derives from	AP	active participle
<>	morpheme representation	A _P	patient agreement
1	first person	APf	active participle feminine ending
12plA	first or second person plural agent (157)	APm	active participle masculine ending
12plSP	first or second person plural subject or patient (136, 157)	APpl	active participle plural ending
1e, e	first person exclusive	APpref	active participle prefix
1i, i	first person inclusive	A _S	subject agreement
1ns2	morpheme expressing first person non-singular and second person (155)	ATTN	attention (315)
1s	first person singular (155)	ATTR	attributive (104)
1sNP	(155)	BEN	benefactive
2AS	second person agent or subject (147)	C C _i C _f C _e	consonant (initial, final, extra)
2P	second person patient (155)	CAUS	causative (238)
2pl	second person plural (157)		

- COM comitative (91)
 COMe comitative form in e- (91)
 COMl locative comitative (91)
 COMP comparative (89)
 COMs comitative form in s- (91)
 COND conditional (320)
 CONT continuative (268)
 d dual
 DAT dative (76)
 DOUBT particle expressing
 uncertainty (313)
 DU dual (157)
 DUP dual patient (157, 173)
 e exclusive (155)
 EMPH emphatic (309)
 EQ equative
 ERG ergative (73, 89)
 GEN genitive (73)
 IM imperative
 INF infinitive (189)
 INFL inflection, flection markers
 intr intransitive(ly)
 IP 1st person inclusive plural
 LATTR attributive locative (104,
 110)
 like (301)
 LIKE 'like', similarity suffix (301)
 LOC locative (73, 83, 320)
 LOC.high, LOC.level, LOC.low (73, 83)
 LOCAT (104, 110)
 make.do (242)
 MAN manner (299, 320, 327)
 MIR mirative (314)
 N negative
 NAR narrative (330)
 NEG negative
 NEGn negative-n suffix (161)
 NEGPTp past tense negative prefix
 (163)
 NEGPTs past tense negative suffix
 (163)
 NEGtop negative topic switch (311)
 NOM nominaliser (78, 195)
 NP noun phrase
 NPT non-past tense
 NPC negative past converb (194)
 ns non-singular
 OPT optative (179)
 OR.what (315)
 p plural
 P positive, affirmative
 P patient
 PERF perfect
 perhaps (313)
 pfx prefixal slot
 PL plural (71)
 PNOM purposive nominaliser (187)
 PP passive participle (186)
 PRN pronominal suffix (101)
 PROG progressive (268)
 PT past tense (136)
 PTB Proto-Tibeto-Burman
 qhum human qualifier (113)
 qthing inanimate object qualifier
 (113)
 REF referential marker (301)
 REFL reflexive marker (173)
 REFLc (173)
 s singular
 S subject
 SEQ sequential (320)
 sfx suffixal slot
 SIM simultaneous converb (191)
 SIMp phrasal simultaneous
 marker (320)
 SUP supine (190)
 swTOP switch topic (308)
 TOP topicaliser (307)
 V vowel
 V1 first verb in a compound,
 serial verb construction
 (main verb)
 V2 second verb in a compound,
 serial verb construction
 (vector verb)
 vf finite verb
 vi intransitive verb
 VIA vialative (89)
 VOC vocative (73)
 VOCp vocative prefix (73)
 vt transitive verb

personal pronouns The distinctions made in Bantawa personal pronouns are different from those in English. In Bantawa, there are inclusive and exclusive first person forms that would both translate as English ‘we’ or ‘our’. For all three persons, not only singular and plural are distinguished, but also the dual. Finally, while in English third person pronouns gender is marked, this is not the case in Bantawa. For the sake of clarity, the glosses for ambiguous pronouns are disambiguated by superscripts. The gloss WE^PI , for instance, means ‘we’, plural inclusive. The superscripts are the single letter abbreviations found in the abbreviations table above. In this book, in several instances, the free translations of elicited examples may contain the word ‘he’ as a rendering of the third person pronoun, viz. k^ho, glossed as ‘HE/SHE’. Also, in explanations, the reader may find the word ‘he’ referring to third person actants who might equally well be women. The reader is invited to add ‘or she’ wherever appropriate.

V.S. The abbreviation V.S. stands for *Vikram Saṃvat*, which is the calendar system current in Nepal. This calendar system is 56 or 57 years ahead of the Gregorian calendar, with New Year falling around the 14th of April. *Vikram Saṃvat* 2055, for example, was from April 1998 to April 1999.

names Many names for geographical entities, languages and people in this grammar are taken from Nepali. Nepali names will be transliterated. For very frequent names I shall give a transliteration only once, and then introduce an English name that will be used throughout. Places and language names that have received a name in English language literature will be named by this name in English. I shall write: Kathmandu, not Kāṭhmāṇḍū, but Dhankuṭā and Choṭīḍāḍā.

The transliteration of Nepali names follows the conventional Indological scheme and is listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Devanāgarī Transliteration scheme

consonants					vowels								
क	k	ख	kh	ग	g	घ	gh	ङ	ṅ	अ	a	आ	ā
च	c	छ	ch	ज	j	झ	jh	ञ	ñ	इ	i	ई	ī
ट	ṭ	ठ	ṭh	ड	ḍ	ढ	ḍh	ण	ṇ	ऋ	r̄		
त	t	थ	th	द	d	ध	dh	न	n	ए	e	ऐ	ai
प	p	फ	ph	ब	b	भ	bh	म	m	ओ	o	औ	au
य	y	र	r	ल	l	व	v			ः	ḥ		
श	ś	ष	ṣ	स	s	ह	h						

‘Nepali’ is the name used to refer to the national language of Nepal, also known by the names *Khas* or *Parvatī*. The word *Nepālī* means ‘Nepalese’, and is abbreviated as ‘Nep.’

text sources The corpus samples in this book were taken from many different sources (§1.1.2). For the sentences that were taken from accessible text sources, these sources are referenced by a brief code, placed between square brackets []. Should the reader wish to see a sentence in context, then the source can be found by consultation of the following table.

[Bw]	Bungwakha	The magazine <i>Bungwakha</i> (Rāi 2004)
[Tt]	Taptape	(Cho 2007)
[Hk]	Hangkangsi	(Cho 2007)
[Lc]	Local climate	(Cho 2007)
[Gn]	Ganya	App.A.1
[Hm]	Hengmawa	App.A.3
[Dt]	Death	App.A.4
[Rl]	Religion	App.A.5
[Sm]	Sumnima	App.A.6
[Bt]	Birth	Unpublished recording by the author
[Om]	Old Man	Unpublished recording by the author
[Dw]	Dowa ‘shaman’	Unpublished recording by the author
[Mr]	Marriage	Unpublished recording by the author
[Sn]	Sindrang	Unpublished texts, recorded by K-J. Cho