

## Complexities of verb agreement in Majhi

Dubi Nanda Dhakal

Majhi (Glottocode 1253, iso 639-3) is an Indo-Aryan language of Indo-European language family spoken in eastern Nepal. A number of elements control the verb agreement in Majhi. The features that control the agreement include person, number, honorificity, gender, and case roles of the subject. One of the interesting features of the verb agreement in Majhi is the agreement with the dative subjects (1-2).

(1) *milai bhok lagtshəi*  
muĩ-lai        bhok    lag-tshəi  
I-DAT        hunger    feel-NPST.1SG.DAT  
'I am hungry.'

(2) *tuilai bhok lagtshjas*  
tui-lai        bhok    lag-tshjas  
you-DAT        hunger    feel-PST.3SG.DAT  
'You are angry.'

Although the verb agreement with the dative subject is not a common feature of Indo-Aryan languages, it is evidenced in some Indo-Aryan languages. Secondly, the verb agrees with a part of a noun phrase which is not the lexical head. In this case, the verb agrees with the genitive modifier of the noun phrase. In the following examples, the verbs agree with the genitive modifiers of the noun phrases, viz. *hokrə* 'his', and *torə* 'your' respectively.

(3) *hokrə bhai bātsəlte*  
hoi-rə        bhai    bāts-əlte  
he-GEN        brother    live-PST.3SG.GEN  
'His younger brother was safe (lit. lived).'

(4) *torə bhai bātsljas*  
tui-rə        bhai    bāts-ljas  
you-GEN        life        live-PST.2SG.GEN  
'Your younger brother was safe (lit. lived).'

Thirdly, a more interesting feature characterized in Majhi is the double agreement where verb agreement is triggered both by subject and object. Majhi employs the portmanteau suffixes to index the subject and object in this case.

(5) *muĩ tshoḍarilai dzal dinin*  
muĩ    tshoḍari-lai    dzal di-nin  
I        son-DAT        net    give-PST1SG.SUB>3SG.OBJ  
'I gave a net to (my) son.'

The agreement features discussed related to Majhi is common in some Indo-Aryan languages of Nepal, such as Rajbanshi, Maithili, Darai, and Danuwar.