A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SENTENCE SYSTEM BETWEEN SHERPA AND TAMANG LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

Sherpa language is spoken by Sherpas and Tamang language is spoken by Tamangs. Both of these languages fall under Tibeto-Burman language family. The present comparative study between these two languages is qualitative in nature. Data collection for the study was made with purposive interview and conclusion has been drawn. Both language bear resemblance in the sentence structure as subject + object + verb pattern. Both the languages have similarity in sentences meaning as declarative, interrogative, optative, imperative, subjunctive, indicative and exclamatory sentences from the formal point of view. Both the languages have similar simple, compound and complex sentences. These languages differ from Nepali language in grammatical structure. Both the languages do not have sentence congruity in the structure. They seem a grammatical on the basis of number and gender.

KEY WORDS: A grammatical, sambhota, Target language, phonological linguistic competence/linguistic power.

INTRODUCTION

Both Sherpa language and Tamang language fall on Tibeto-Burman language family. They are written in Sambhota script. Sherpa language is spoken by Sherpas and Tamang language is spoken by Tamangs. According to the census 2011 report there are 1,14,830 Sherpa language speaker in Northern Himalayan regions of Nepal. Tamangs mostly live in the periphery of Kathmandu valley and scatter all over the country. Tamang speaking population is 5.11 percent of the total population on the basis of census report 2011. Tamang language is spoken by the largest number of population from the Tibeto-Burman language family in Nepal.

The Study aims at comparing the sentences of Sherpa language and Tamang language to the Nepali language. Both Sherpa language and Tamang language differ in sentence structure from Nepali language. In acquiring the target language the learner most produce the target language accurately in a continuous way. For this target language learning is possible through productive practice (Chaudron, 2007: 91). Therefore, both Sherpa language and Tamang language speakers learning Nepali language as target language should focus on constant practice and productive learning.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The statement of the problem of this study is to find out the difference between sentence structure of Sherpa language and Tamang language and to compare the difference with Nepali language.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the study is to compare the sentence system of Sherpa language and Tamang language with Nepali language and to tabulate it.

METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY

The comparative study between Sherpa language and Tamang language sentence system is qualitative in nature. The study is based on purposive study for selecting Sherpa language speakers and Tamang language
speaker (Creswells, 2015: 207). The data collection has been made with the help of MP3 sound recording device adopting regional study, survey, observation and interview. Four Sherpa language speaker from Sekhimba and four Tamang language speakers from Katake village of Menchhyyayem rural Municipality ward no. 3 of Terhathum district have been the informant in this study (Das, 2013: 140). For this study use of applied linguistics for oral interview has been utilized to obtain data on target language acquisition (Nunan, 2010: 149).

There is no similarity between the phonological structure and system of two language (Crystal, 2003: 341). Comparison between two languages on phonological structure and system is easier but comparison of grammatical system is more difficult because grammatical structure in two languages is different and complex (Hocket, 2006: 261).

**Primary Source**

Data collection for the study was made by oral interview and questionnaire from 4 Sherpa language speakers of Sekhimba and 4 Tamang language speakers of Katake village of Menchhyyayem rural municipality, ward no. 3 of Terhathum district (2016: 316). The informants have been selected with purposive sampling. Data collection has been made by interview, questionnaire and discussion.

**Secondary Source**

Published and unpublished dissertation, articles and dictionaries on Sherpa language and Tamang language have been used to collect linguistic data as secondary sources. Secondary sources have been used for the verification of primary sources. Conclusion of the study has been drawn by analysis and interpretation of the collected data in a comparative study.

**Pre-test**

The data has been used in this study with the pretest from the Sherpa language speaker and Tamang language speaker of Menchhyyayem rural municipality, ward no. 3. Linguistic competence and language for competence on the speaker is directed by proficiency (Lyons, 1981: 165).

**Sentence System**

Usually, the words used in sentences are called phrase. The word without its derivation is called 'lexeme' (Pokhrel, 2054: 126). Sentence is such a linguistic construction that has one subject and a finite verb (Adhimari, 2068: 268). It is larger than a phrase. A Sentence expresses a concept. The grammatical unit larger than a clause is a sentence (Sharma, 2071: 291). The study of the sentences in Sherpa language and Tamang language has been made on the basis of this definition. Both the languages have the same type of sentence structure as subject + object + verb. Syntax studies the structure of sentences. The smallest unit in the structure of sentence is word. Phrases and clauses can also be used on constituents of sentence structure (Sherpa, 2077: 145). This study has been made to classify the sentence structure and meaning of Sherpa language and Tamang language on the basis of the above definition.

**Types of Sentences on the basis of Meaning**

The meaning given by the sentence is called sentence meaning. Sentence meaning is understand if only the user uses the sentence (Avasthi and Sharma, 2055: 201). In Tagmamic grammar sentence is the grammatical sequence. On these basis sentence is a complete structure which is independent (Bandhu, 2064: 90). On the basis of meaning sentences can be classified into six categories and structurally three types of sentences as simple, compound and complex on the basis of structures (Adhikari, 2071: 229-230). The sentences of Sherpa language and Tamang language have been compared on the basis of meaning.

**Assertive Sentence**

Assertive sentences assert the simple meaning of the sentence. The Simple intention of the speaker is expressed in assertive sentence. The buffalo mooed. (Adhikari, 2071: 291).

**Interrogative Sentences**

Only the interrogative pronoun differ in interrogative sentence from assertive sentence in Sherpa language and Tamang language. Question type declarative sentence is called interrogative sentence (Sharma, 2077: 145).
Subjunctive Sentence

If the verb of the sentence indicates possibility, deduction, supposition etc. the sentence is subjunctive (Sharma, 2071: 492). In Sherpa language and Tamang language the subjunctive sentences refer to future deduction or probability. All persons are used in these types of sentences. Examples are given below:

**Sherpa language**

- [puzung t'oshi hwae?]: How old is your son?
- [sama: ts'osung ?]: Was the food cooked?

**Tamang language**

- [za: g'utleba: mulu ?]: What did you write?
- [a:bo: bhebrabazi ?]: Did father come?

**Nepali language**

- [tik biba ?]: ke lek'ekchseli?: What did you write?
- [kahi: frane ?]: Where to go?

**English language**

- ([kah] [frane]): How beautiful?
- ([k] [frane]): Where to go?

In the above sentences [ku], [k], [t], [d], [s] and [m] in Sherpa language, [k], [t], [d], [s] and [m] in Tamang language and [k], [t], [d], [s] in Nepali language refer to interrogative sentences.

Optative Sentence

The verb in the optative sentence expresses with, purpose intention, request or the tentative attitude of the speaker (Sharma, 2071: 471). The optative sentences of Sherpa language and Tamang language are listed below:

**Sherpa language**

| [heju: hosi lunji k'undbsi] | [torse hint'astam lab:luanse b:o:kari:] | [mastir'or b'hak hawa hurile lai:za:js] | If it is upward, wind blows. |
| [mamu hosi kosi k'undbsi] | [ma:rsse hint'astam gandhise b:o:kari:] | [tala tiro b'hak kosile lai:za:js] | If it is down, Koshi flows. |
| [papa polaki m:lam k'agebu: ts'orarn senne ts'erinbu galsi] | [a:k'le a:ple m:lamse zja:mo m:jx te] | [buba bazelho: a:siraha le hiiu theta za:hi aju theta:u:n] | Long live by the blessing of forefathers. |

| [dubo mula:w ts'orarn ts'e ririnbubu galsi] | [marak:pa:n lheba:ra:n ts'e hekar] | [dubo mula:w z'hai mula:un] | Long live as wiregrass. |

**Tamang language**

| [l:po:khan gju:k] | [l:po:khan nju:] | [skul za:u] | Go to school. |
| [sama:sol x:] | [s:ls ts'jx:] | [k'a:nau k'au] | Eat food. |
| [hor:matan/matun] | [halla a:la:j:] | [halla nagara] | Don’t make a noise. |
| [mar gju:k] | [mar nju:] | [tala za:u] | Go down. |
| [hau l:] | [or reu] | [mu:thi ut:] | Sand up. |
| [daja det] | [tuhu dansakcx:] | [jaha: basa] | Sit here. |
| [mesilo su lok/bin] | [mui ta ts'e pinc:] | [v'uasial g'as deu] | Give grass to the buffalo. |
| [sola sjan tso:] | [gajarari x:] | [k'udkula:ma b'ax pakou] | Cook food in the cooking pot. |

In the above examples [giu:k], [s], [ma:ten], [giu:k], [l:], [det], [lu:k] and [ts:] in Sherpa language, [n], [ts'j:] in Tamang language and [za:u], [k'a:nau] in Nepali language refer to the imperative meaning.

Imperative Sentence

Imperative sentence expresses order instruction, request, etc. by the verb (Adhikari, 2068: 218). Sherpa language and Tamang language both have the similar imperative sentences on Nepali language. Imperative sentences are in the present tense. There is only the second person subject in imperative sentence (Sharma, 2071: 490). The subject is generally omitted in imperative sentences. For example,

**Sherpa language**

- [l:po:khan gju:k]: Go to school.
- [sama:sol x]: Eat food.
- [hor:matan/matun]: Don’t make a noise.
- [mar gju:k]: Go down.
- [hau l]: Sand up.
- [daja det]: Sit here.
- [mesilo su lok/bin]: Give grass to the buffalo.
- [sola sjan tso]: Cook food in the cooking pot.
In the above sentences [pækikiz], [lepjju], [gəpkjuz], [kan gij] and [ŋitsəz] in Sherpa language, [febarbal], [do:tal], [kǒ]<sub>1</sub> and [sit kal] in Tamang language and [ənuṉh:la] in Nepali indicate subjunctive sentences.

### Exclamatory Sentence

Exclamatory sentence expresses the basic emotions like happiness, anger, hatred, surprise, pain, regret (Yadav and Regmi, 2058: 233). Unlike other sentences, exclamatory sentences may not be completed. Some of the examples of exclamatory sentences from Sherpa language and Tamang language presented here.

### Simple Sentence

A simple sentence has only one clause. A simple sentence has two basic pasts as subject and predicate (Adhimkari, 2068: 268). The examples of simple sentences from Sherpa language and Tamang language are given below.

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**Sherpa language** | **Tamang language** | **Nepali language** | **English language**  
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[hariŋ azə:ŋ pʰeŋkiz] | [tini a:šjan febarbal] | [ə:za ma:mo ənun:hlə] | To maternal uncle may come.  
[Pembə hembur lepj:] | [Pembə amburi do:tal] | [Pembə ka:mandau pu:gi:ə] | Pemba may have reached Kathmandu.  
[hati tsʰerba gəpkjuz] | [də:re nam kə:la] | [bə:re Fani parla:] | It may rain later.  
[sapti sə̬səŋ hǔ:tši kan gij] | [tsə̬bams tsazsi də:re tık tala hɔ] | [kə:nu u ta kəja:bare ke hɔla] | He ate but what happens later.  
[nup ŋitsəz] | [ts]ŋ do:tsə:kala] | [bə:si bə:zə:hɔla:] | Brother may have awoken.  

In the above sentences [pækikiz], [lepjju], [gəpkjuz], [kan gij] and [ŋitsəz] in Sherpa language, [febarbal], [do:tal], [kǒ] and [sit kal] in Tamang language and [ənun:hlə] in Nepali indicate subjunctive sentences.

### Demonstrative Sentence

If the two clauses in a sentence have cause and effective relation, it is called a demonstrative sentence (Adhikari, 2068: 220). In Sherpa language and Tamang language to show the cause and effect relation demonstrative sentences are shown. Examples

| Sherpa language | Tamang language | Nepali language | English language |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| [num təʰemsi gijuːθ]> | [buriŋ sija:sai tasela] | [bahi ni natse hunθ]> | I wish my sister to dance.|
| [tiwə: hjuːsi gijuθ]> | [θingate bʰra:sam tasela] | [tinihar u hide hunθ]> | I wish them to walk.|
| [səma sɔ:si higuθ]> | [sɔːl tɕʰisai tasala] | [kʰuːna: kʰae hunθ]> | You’d better take food.|
| [tsʰerba gəpsɪ gɪr məmu tɕarkuθ]> | [nə:m kʰəsəm sanɡa tahasai] | [pə:nī pare kɔː də mauluθ]> | If it rains, the millet will grow.|
| [tʰi hjuːsi nə higuθ] | [nə:m bʰramas nə bɾamaba] | [uː hide ma hidθ] | If he goes, will go too.|

In the above example [tʃemsi gijuθ]>[hjuːsi gijuθ]>[sɔːː si higuθ], [tsʰarkuθ]> and [higuθ] in Sherpa language, [sja:sai tasela], [bʰra:sam tasela], [tsʰisai tasai], [tahasai] and [bʰramaba] in Tamang language and [natse hunθ]>[hide hunθ], [kʰae hunθ], [mauluθ] and [hidθ] in Nepali indicate demonstrative sentence.

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**Sherpa language** | **Tamang language** | **Nepali language** | **English language**  
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[oːh tɔː] | [oːh gə:te zjaː ba tʃaːme] | [oːh kəti rə:mri juba] | What a beautiful girl?  
[ŋiŋ pe s] | [oːn tsʰə:nɔːŋzim] | [bitasaru maretς'a] | Alas he dead.  
[aːjaː kəntə ka:tsun] | [aljəː kənt kjitːtsi] | [aljəː kʰuːtɔː: bhsisj] | Ouch! my leg is broken  
[e tːila: ziwɔː kjuː buːza] | [e tːiːla: bːŋba] | [e kina darao] | Oh! why are you frightened?  
[ləː tsʰə: pesuŋ] | [ləː kəl kʰiːwa] | [ləː pən piː kʰe] | Eht water dropped.  
[aː tsʰuː] | [aː tsʰuː kʰaːntsi] | [aː tsʰuː zɔːd bəja] | Sss! it’s cold.  

In the above examples, both Sherpa language and Tamang language have similar meaning in deep structure, though they differ in surface structure.

From the structural point of view there are three types of sentences in Sherpa language and Tamang language. They are simple sentence, compound sentence and complex sentence.
In the above sentences there is only one finite verb in both Sherpa language and Tamang language. [tsʰemsur], [nusu], [kegesur], [lesun] and [pʰ:psur] in Sherpa language and [sja:zi], [kra:zi], [kʰ:zi] and [taiizi] in Tamang language are the finite verbs in simple sentences.

**Compound Sentence**

Compound sentences are formed by joining two or more simple sentences with equal status (Adhikari, 2068: 271). The examples of compound sentences of Sherpa language and Tamang language are given in the following table.

| Sherpa language | Tamang language | Nepali language | English language |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| [tig ti:tu: me νeκiν tι:tu: me] | [bέseνu:n kʰu:bα a re] | [u:nle pʰ:ni nυha:kεc] | Neither she nor I have taken both. |
| [nυ:pi sama: sɔ:su nαma] | [tsjo:n tsʰε kα:n tsai ani] | [bʰ:aile bʰ:at kʰ:jo] | Brother took meal and went to school. |
| [ŋa sama: sɔi sjη:masa] | [ŋa kα:n tsai ba sjα: atsoba] | [ma bʰ:at kʰ:ntsʰu] | I eat rice but not meat. |
| [tak ƃɛ:ŋe pasang nusu] | [tsja:n mra:nςi pasang] | [bɑɡʰ:dekʰ:era pasang] | Pasang cried when he saw the tiger. |

**CONCLUSION**

Sherpas and Tamangs both of these language fall in Tibeto-Burman family. The study is qualitative in nature. The conclusion has been drawn by collecting data with purposive interview. Both the language have similar sentence structure as subject + object + verb. While comparing sentences on meaning, declarative sentence [ŋeκi sama soj] in Sherpa language and [ŋai kα:n tsai zi] in Tamang language, imperative sentence [lɔ:phar ɲiuk] in Sherpa language and [lɔ:phar niu] in Tamang language, interrogative sentence [su: sisun?] in Sherpa language and [kʰ:la sizi?] in Tamang language, optative sentence [heju: lũsi kʰ:undai] in Sherpa and [tɔrse hintstram lab: luŋse bɔ:rka:i] in Tamang language, subjunctive sentence [hɔrιŋ aʃja: ɲpʰepkizu] in Sherpa language and [tini a:ʃja: fepalamba] in Tamang language, demonstrative sentence [num tsʰemςi giju:bo] in Sherpa language and [buriŋ sja: tasei] in Tamang language and exclamatory sentence [o:ha to sja:mu no:zi:ma] in Sherpa language and [o:ha ghi:te zja:ba tsʰa:me] in Tamang language seem similarly. Simple sentence [do:ma: tsʰemςun] in Sherpa language and [do:ma: sja:zi] in Tamang language, and complex sentence [pemaki sɔ:su gja:garla zu:lus nɔk] in Sherpa language and [pemai bai: gja:garla zu:lus mu:lar:ɔ] in Tamang language bear similarity. Both of these languages are aggrammatical.

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