A Foundation In Nepali Grammar नेपाली व्याकरणमा आधार

nepālī vyākaraņmā ādhār



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Abbreviations

संकत सूची sanket sūcī

adv. adverb adj. adjective

cf. refer to, compare e.g. for example emph. emphatic fem. feminine

H. Hindi

HH High Honorific (Nepali magnitudes of respect¹)

ibid. in the same place previously noted

i.e. that is infinitive intrans. intransitive LH Low Honorific²

lw. low

masc. masculine

MH Medium Honorific³

n. noun

OIA Old Indo-Aryan (Indo-European)

part. participle pl. plural pr. present Sk. Sanskrit trans. transitive sing.

VHH Very High Honorific⁴

viz. see

v.s. verbal stem

¹ Viz. Personal Pronouns (p. 64)

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

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Introduction

परिचय paricaya

The goal of this Nepali grammar is to provide a reference to the fundamental Nepali parts of speech, its word types, and its rules of word formation. The book begins with a brief description of the Devanagari script and of common pronunciation rules. Then a brief history of the Nepali language is presented. The subsequent chapter on word types and origins is followed by a chapter on the parts of speech. The remainder of the text concerns Nepali word formation and its paradigms. Taken all together, the foundation in Nepali grammar is intended to be useful in conjunction with other learning materials and literary works.

Regardless of one's level of proficiency, anyone wishing to learn the Nepali language will find something of interest herein. The use of transliteration is pervasive (excepting references) and the descriptions, in most cases, make the content available to anyone wishing to use it. The paradigms and terminology, described from a traditional Nepali grammatical perspective where-ever possible, are referenced in order to highlight both similarities and differences between the English and Nepali perspectives. However, some of the more advanced material will assume previous knowledge of Nepali.

The presentation system used in this reference material is my own. The presentation is informed by many Nepali grammars, especially those by कृष्णप्रसाद पराजुली kṛṣṇapra sād prājulī and भूपति ढकाल bhūpati ḍhakāl, as well as many of

the other cited references listed in the bibliography. Each reference made is meant to provide a further resource for examples and descriptions of grammatical paradigms. I hope the reference material as presented is as useful to others as it has been for myself.

Methodology

तरीका tarīkā

The information in this text was collected using several methods. I started using simple vocabulary lists compiled from Nepali pedagogical materials presented in English. Secondly, I looked through various sources (such as magazines, popular novels and newspapers in Nepali) for words that I considered interesting or useful, or had a high frequency of occurrence. These lists were then initially made into flash cards for memorization and later compiled into lists. The process of looking for new Nepali vocabulary ultimately came from trying to read such periodicals as the daily newspaper गोरखीपत्र gorkhāpatra. There were also other books, mainly dictionaries, used in compiling the vocabulary lists. I selected vocabulary found in multiple sources, where its frequency of occurrence caused inclusion in my growing lists.

The word lists began with my Nepali studies with the World College West - Study in Nepal Program in 1987. The number of flash cards for Nepali vocabulary was starting to fill up a large bag. The vocabulary lists themselves were also starting to be just as unwieldy. So, as the word lists steadily became difficult to manage, I endeavored to put the words into a computerized format.

During my second stay in Nepal from 1990-1991 I discovered many Nepali grammars and dictionaries meant for high-school and University Nepali students, mostly written in Nepali, such as राम्रो रचना मीठो नेपाली rāmro racanā mīṭho nepālī by कृष्णप्रसाद पराजुली kṛṣṇaprasād prājulī. Such grammars demonstrate clear rules for how vocabulary could be changed, and how the parts of speech are assembled. This informed me of the framework that Nepali uses for describing itself to its own students. In an attempt to capture the uniqueness of these Nepali grammatical categorizations along with collected vocabulary, the current presentation was born.

Devanagari Script देवनागरी लिपि devanāgarī lipi And Transliteration वर्णान्तर varṇāntar

देवनागरी *devanāgarī* is a set of symbols अक्षर *akchar* having distinct phonetic values that are joined together to form words. Words are written from the left to right on a page, and the script normally has a line across the top of words to denote syntactic inflection. The characters are meant to be phonetic in their representation, such that words are spelled as they are pronounced. Devanagari, being a script for writing, and not a language in and of itself, is also used for writing several other modern languages, such as Hindi and Marathi. A complete phonology of the Devanagari devanāgarī script can be found in many sources (पराज्ली २०३५: ९-२१), so the following simple overview is not meant to be complete in any way. For a complete description of Devanagari devanāgarī for learning purposes, please refer to the bibliography, where there are several excellent and thorough books that cover the description fully (शङ्कर १९९६: १) (Shrivastava 1962: 3-16).

Transliterated Nepali text (i.e. देवनागरी devanāgarī) will be denoted by the use of a times-latin font, such as the word नेपाली being transliterated as nepālī. The brief introduction to the Devanagari devanāgarī script is provided for an overview to the pronunciations that are meant to be represented. Conjunct characters, where multiple characters are joined together in unique patterns, are not covered in the description at this time. The transliteration can be used to determine the constituent characters formed in those Devanagari devanāgar ī conjuncts.

Vowels स्वर वर्ण svar varṇa:

With the vowels below, you can see that the standalone symbol for each vowel sound is given with its conjuncted form in parenthesis. When used to modify the $\Im s$ va sound of a given consonant the parenthetical form described below is used. The full form of the vowel (not in parenthesis) is used at either the beginning of a word, as the initial sound, or in a conjunction of several vowels in a vowel cluster.

Short Vowel	Long Vowel	Short Vowel	Long Vowel
अ <i>a</i>	आ (T) ā	इ (ि) i	ई (ो) <u>ī</u>
ਤ (੍ਹ) u	ऊ (ू) <i>ū</i>	ए () e	ऐ (ै) ai
ओ (ो) 0	औ (ौ) au	$\check{\check{\mathfrak{A}}}$ $\widetilde{\widetilde{a}}$	अ: <i>ah</i>

Transliterations वर्णान्तर varṇāntar.

- a \Im is the a sound in the English words <u>a</u>dult and m<u>u</u>tt.
- \bar{a} \Im T (T) is the a sound in the English word father.
- $i \xi(f)$ is the i sound in the English words k<u>ee</u>l, m<u>ea</u>l, p<u>ea</u>l, and r<u>ea</u>l, but a little shorter than the English.
- $\bar{I} \bar{\xi}$ (1) is the *i* sound in the English words steal, meal, peal, and real.
- u उ (ु) is the u sound in the English words moo, two, through, and zoo.
- \bar{u} স্ত (ু) is the u sound in the English words blue and do. A little longer than the English sound.
- e \forall () is the e sound in the English words pet, vet, let, and set.
- $ai \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\frac{\partial}{\partial t})$ is the ai sound in the English words light and tight.
- o ओ (ो) is the o sound in the English word buffalo.
- au औ (ौ) is the au sound in the English words th<u>ou</u>, c<u>ow</u>, pl<u>ow</u>, and n<u>ow</u>.

⁵ Viz. Consonants व्यञ्जन वर्ण *vyanjan varṇa* (p. 17).

Consonants व्यञ्जन वर्ण vyanjan varna:

The following consonant sounds below are the full character for each sound, which includes a built-in, terminating ষ śva (sound of a). The terminating ষ śva sound can be modified by using either the letter's half-symbol, the addition of a हलत halant, also known as विराम virām (used to indicate that the inherent vowel sound is not to be pronounced), or using a conjunct character (as is extensively described in other materials) (शङ्कर १९९९: १), or by adding on any of the vowel स्वर वर्ण svar varna sounds (except for an a sound,

which is built into each letter) (पराजली २०२३: १-२०)

Willion to be	Unaspirated	Aspirated	पराजुला २०२३: Unaspirated	Aspirated	Unaspirated
Glottal	क ka	ख kha	ग ga	घ gha	ङ na
कण्ठच					
kaṇṭhya					
Affricative	च ca	ভ cha	ज ja	झ jha	স ña
तालव्य					
tālavya					
Retroflex	ट ṭa	ठ tha	ड ḍa	ढ <i>ḍha</i>	ण <i>ṇa</i>
मूर्धन्य	•	•			
mūrdhanya					
Dental	त ta	थ tha	द da	ध dha	न <i>na</i>
दन्त्य					
dantya					
Labial	प <i>pa</i>	फ pha	ब ba	भ bha	म ma
ओष्ठच					
oṣṭhya					
	य ya	₹ ra	ल <i>la</i>	व va	
	श <i>ś</i>	ष șa	स sa	ह ha	

Note: all consonant letter combinations in transliteration containing a terminating h will be aspirated.

Glottal कण्ठच kaṇṭhya Transliterations वर्णान्तर varṇāntar.

- k क is the k sound in the English words \underline{k} ill and pea \underline{k} .
- kh ख is the kh sound in the English words care, cryptic, current, and copayment, but a bit more aspirated.
- g π is the g sound in the English words group, greet, groom, and growl.
- *gh* घ is the *gh* sound in the English words <u>gh</u>ost, gout, gosh, and goose, but a bit more aspirated.
- \vec{n} \vec{s} is the ng sound in the English words rung, stung, sung, and rang.
- h ϵ is the h sound in the English words.

Affricative तालव्य tālavya Transliterations वर्णान्तर varṇāntar:

- c च is the ch sound in the English words \underline{ch} ore and choice.
- *ch* ভ is the aspirated *ch* sound in the English words <u>ch</u>oosy, <u>ch</u>eesy, <u>ch</u>eer, and <u>ch</u>um
- j ज is the j sound in the English words juice, jury, judge, and jamb.
- *jh* য় is the *jh* sound in the English words <u>J</u>oe, <u>J</u>esus <u>J</u>uno and <u>J</u>upiter, but a bit more aspirated.
- \tilde{n} \Rightarrow is the ng sound in the English words jingle, and Pringles.
- \acute{s} is the sound in the English words shop, show, and shave. In speech this is tyically pronounced as a sound.
- y य is the y sound in the English words yield, yank, and young. This is normally pronounced as a type of e vowel sound.

Retroflex मूर्धन्य mūrdhanya Transliterations वर्णान्तर varṇāntar:

The following retroflex sounds are made by rolling the tongue into the back of the mouth.

- t z this is a retroflex t sound.
- th ਹ this is an aspirated th sound.
- d \exists this is a retroflex d sound.
- dh ਫ this is an aspirated retroflexed dh sound.
- n Ψ this is a retroflex n sound.
- s \forall is a retroflex \acute{s} sound.
- r $\overline{\tau}$ is the r sound in the English words \underline{r} ipe, \underline{r} eal, and rude.

Dental दन्त्य dantya Transliterations वर्णान्तर varṇāntar:

- d द is the d sound in the English words \underline{d} o, \underline{d} emocratic, door, and doom.
- dh ध is the dh sound in the English words rude, food, crude, and dude. This is the aspirate letter of द d.
- *t ¬* is the *t* sound in the English words tool, toes, tea, and tune.
- *th* थ is the *th* sound in the English words <u>th</u>ought, <u>th</u>ink, and <u>th</u>esis. This is the aspirate letter of त *t*.
- n न is the n sound in the English words <u>n</u>ormal, <u>n</u>ice and think
- s \forall is the s sound in the English words fuss, cuss, sip, and stop.
- *1* ल is the *1* sound in the English words <u>l</u>earn, <u>l</u>ewd, and <u>l</u>eap.

Labial ओष्ठच osthya Transliterations वर्णान्तर varṇāntar:

- p \P is the p sound in the English words \underline{P} eter, \underline{P} aul, and \underline{P} am.
- *ph* फ is the aspirated *ph* sound in the English words <u>ph</u>oney, <u>figure</u>, and <u>force</u>.
- *b* ब is the *b* sound in the English words <u>b</u>each, <u>b</u>oys, and <u>b</u>usiness.
- *bh* भ is the aspirated *bh* sound in the English words <u>b</u>oat, <u>b</u>eautiful, and <u>b</u>at.
- m π is the m sound in the English words \underline{m} eat, \underline{M} oses, and \underline{M} att.
- v ব is the v sound in the English words <u>wiggle</u>, <u>was</u>, and <u>wink</u>. However, this may be heard many times pronounced as a b sound.

Pronunciation

उच्चारण uccāraņ

Nepali is a diglossic language (Mathews 1987: iii), where the speakers of Nepali typically "do not pronounce all words exactly as written" (Adhikari 1988: i). The pronunciation for spoken Nepali is not very different from the written in many cases and follow most the patterns and rules listed below. However, some places and people, especially those that do not speak Nepali as their first language, may have a variety of accents, colloquialisms or other inflections that can make the spoken Nepali very dissimilar to the written and literary Nepali language (आचार्य २०३३: अ-अ:, १००-१०५).

The following rules are thus also not meant to apply to everyone or all situations, where various other cultural, religious, political or socio-linguistic pronunciation rules may apply. Nor is the following pronunciation ruleset below meant to be exhaustive, since many influences and accents exist in the pronunciation of Nepali. Careful observation and learning amongst native Nepali speakers can obviously help in determining the proper pronunciation rules to use with those speakers.

Main pronunciation rules:

- The characters ৰ va and ৰ ba are both pronounced ৰ ba for Sanskrit based vocabulary, where a non-Sanskrit word with a ৰ va in it will more likely have the ৰ va sound remain intact. An example of where the sound remains intact is: बकील vakīl (lawyer).
- The characters श śa, ष ṣa and स sa are all typically simply pronounced स sa.
- Two consonant characters together in the beginning of a word can have an इ (ि) i sound added in front. For example, स्कुल skul (school) may become इस्कुल iskul and स्पष्ट (clear, visible) may become इस्पष्ट ispasta.
- Two consonant characters together can have the vowel after the consonant cluster inserted in between the two consonant sounds. For example, কু kri may become কিर kir.
- A final य ya in a word may be pronounced as a short ए () e sound.
- A final यो yo in a word may be pronounced as an ओ (ो) o sound.
- $\xi(f)iI\xi(f)\bar{i}$ and $\xi(g)uI\xi(g)\bar{u}$ are not usually differentiated between in pronunciation.

A Brief History of the Nepali Language

नेपालको इतिहास छोटो रूपमा nepālko itihās choṭo rūpmā

Overview

Nepali नेपाली *nepālī* is the official language of Nepal, though it is also widely spoken along the Himalayan mountain areas as a common medium of communication, or *lingua franca* (Bandhu 1989: 121). Nepali is also considered one of the national languages of India⁶ and is found in many places, including Darjeeling, the Indian state of Assam, as well as internationally in Hong Kong, England, America and elsewhere (Shrivastava 1962: xiii). Nepali, in its use as a *lingua franca* in these and other locations, can cross ethnic, linguistic and political boundaries, where-ever Nepali subcultures exist (Regmi 1969: 26-27).

Nepali has been known by many names throughout its history and development, including *Gorkhali* (the language of the people of *Gorkha*), *Khas, Khas Kura, Parvati* or *Parbatiya* (पराजूली २०२३: ३१४). Only within the last two hundred years of political control of Nepal has the language come to be known as Nepali नेपाली $nep\bar{a}l\bar{\imath}$ (meaning literally 'of Nepal'⁷). Also for approximately two centuries (at least since the unification of Nepal under *Prithvi Narayan Shah* in 1768) the name *Gorkhali* गोखीली $gorkh\bar{a}l\bar{\imath}$ (meaning literally 'of *Gorkha'*) has

⁶ Viz. http://indiaimage.nic.in/languages.htm or http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_national_languages_of_India

⁷ Viz. multiple derivation तद्भितान्त taddhitānt word formation (p. 192).

been used to refer to the Nepali Language (Shrivastava 1962: xiii), since it is the language from the गोर्खा gorkhā area that *Prithvi Narayan Shah* used for his policies of unification for Nepal (Hutt 1997: 4). The first noted printed, literary use of the name Nepali as the name for the language was made by Ayton in a book entitled <u>A Grammar of the Nepali Language</u>, published in 1820.

The two names for Nepali in common use until the rise of a print culture in Nepal, starting with the Gorkha Bhasha Prakashini Samiti (The Gorkha Language Publishing Committee) changing its name in 1930 to the Nepali Prakashini Samiti, were the names Gorkhali (of Gorkha) and Gorkha Bhasha (Gorkha Language). Since that date the name 'Nepali' has come to be internationally known. In the print culture in Nepal, however, a continued prevalence for the older name Gorkhali can be seen in such titles as Gorkhali (1816), Gorkha Mitra (1924), Gorkha Samsar (1926), Gorkha Sevak (1935) and Gorkha (1945) (Hutt 1991: 33). Those residing in the Gangetic plains of India and the Teri of Nepal, however, still commonly refer to Nepali as *Pahadi* पहाडी pahādī (the language of the hills) (Shrivastava 1962: xiii). Clark (1957) also used the term *Pahadi*, but as a further catch-all category for many of the other languages found in the hill regions of the Himalayas, including Nepali.

The Languages of Nepal

Of the estimated eighteen million inhabitants of Nepal more than fifty languages are spoken, with thirty-six languages having more than five thousand speakers, though some are quickly approaching extinction (Bandhu 1989: 122). These Nepalese languages represent the Indo-European, Tibeto-Burmese, Dravidian and Austro-Asiatic language family branches (Regmi 1969: 15-17). While according to the National Census of 1981¹⁰ 58.4% of the total population of Nepal speak Nepali as their first language it is possible that up to 80% of the total population of Nepal speak Nepali as bilinguals, with other languages as their mother tongues. Nepali, apart from everything else it is, has also been used as a tool of Nepalese nationalism (Hutt 1986: 1) (Hutt 1991: 2) (Vaidya, Manandhar & Joshi 1973: 13). Thus, the modern national identity of Nepal is in many ways intrinsically tied to the Nepali language, where it is has been the main medium for education, politics, literary expression and commerce in Nepal.

The seven largest ethnic languages of Nepal with their relative numbers of speakers follow below⁸.

Nepali	8,767,361
Maithili	1,668,300
Bhojpuri	1,142,802
Tharu	545,685
Tamang	522,416
Newari	448,746
Guruna	545.685

⁸ Data was taken from the 1981 National Census of Nepal.

History

Nepali is an Indo-Aryan language related to Sanskrit (पराजूली ২০২३: ३१४-३१६) (Shrivastava 1962: xiii) (Lehmann 1962: 21) (ভকাল ২০১৪:২), though with many other influences, including those of Dravid, Kirata and Austric origin (Chatterji: 4) (Regmi 1969: 15-16). The Nepali language is related to Sanskrit through a group of languages known by many early scholars as *Prakrit* (a kind of mass language), or as Old and Middle Indo-Asian (Shrivastava 1962: xv-xvi). Nepali has potentially also "been developing [independently] for at least 700 years, perhaps longer..." (Gaige 1975: 108). Possibly even as early as 356 A.D., where an early version of Nepali was used in a royal deed gifting the northwestern region of Jumla that borders Tibet (Acharya: 268).

Nepali, according to legend (dahal 2044: 7), is derived from the interactions of the Khas and the Kirant peoples where the Khas people were caucasoid and spoke an Indo-European language, while the Kirant people were mongoloid and spoke a Tibeto-Burmese language (such as Newari) (Shrivastava 1962: xiv) (dahal 2044: 8). They originated from opposite ends of the Himalayan Mountain range and both had drastically different cultures and lifestyles. The *Khas* tribes dominated the regions bordering the Himalayas, where they were politically active and had consolidated by the twelfth century, as is referred to in the religious texts of the *Shrimadbhaagavatam* and *Manusmriti* (Acharya 1990: 268). The language of the *Khas* people then slowly spread as a

language of commerce throughout a fairly large area, from Assam in the east to Kashmir in the west (Bista: 7).

The Nepali language is thought to have been derived from the speech of the *Khas (Malla)* kings in the western region of Nepal during the 12th century (Acharya 1990: 268) (पराजूली २०२३: ३१४) (Hutt 1997: 3). Inscriptions of *Laxmi Nrisimha Malla* (1641 AD) and *Jaya Pratap Malla* (1670 AD) indicate that a form of the *Khas* (Nepali) language was also thriving in its use within the Kathmandu Valley by the mid-sixteenth century, even though 70-90% of those in the valley spoke Newari as a first language (Shrivastava 1962: xv). The *Malla* kingdom, in its eastward expansion, by the end of the fourteenth century had begun to spread its influence further outward (दाहाल २०४೪: ८).

It was during the gradual spreading of the *Khas* kingdom that Nepali speech probably encountered and absorbed much in the way of its vocabulary (Shrivastava 1962: xiv), though this process continues as an active language (Shrivastava 1962: xvi-xviii). Nepali vocabulary was enlarged and enriched, its grammar more standardized, and some of its phonology softened (Bandhu 1989: 124), perhaps due to an "integration of peoples, religious cultures, languages and lifestyles" (Bista 1979: 7). The *Malla* kings also promoted and encouraged cultural activities, such as the writing of dramas in which they even sometimes enjoyed taking active roles (Vaidya: 261, 298). Even early scholarly

attitudes and cultural toleration in the area are described by travelers to the region, such as that observed by the Chinese traveler Yuan Chawng during his stay in Nepal from 620-645 A.D. (Shrivastava 1962: xvi).

In this ongoing manner, the *Khas* language (eventually to be labled as Nepali) became more standardized, and was adopted as the *lingua franca*, especially for trade, for a diverse non-Nepali speaking population (Sharma 1993: 130). Further, it was a deciding point in history when *Prithvi* Narayan Shah, the king of Gorkha (the small but expanding Khas kingdom to the west of Kathmandu) invaded the Kathmandu valley, unified Nepal, and made Kathmandu the capital of his newly united kingdom in 1768 (दाहाल २०४४: १४०). From that point on, the *Khas* language, also known as Gorkhali, became the de facto national language. At that time the *Khas* language came to be the court language for all government administration, in lieu of the Newari language which had been the main language spoken in the Kathmandu valley until that time (Bista 1979: 11). Then, in the middle of the eighteenth century, Nepali became the national language for a unified state of Nepal (Hutt 1997: 4-5).

Nepali Vocabulary Types नेपाली शब्दका किसिम nepālī śabdakā kisim

"...यी भाषाहरू हाम्रो लागि आकाशका तारा झैं सुन्दर छन । जसरी आकाशका ताराहरूको बीचमा एउटा चन्द्रमा हुन्छ, जसको ज्योतिमा समस्त जगत उज्वल भएको हन्छ, ठीक त्यसै गरी यी भाषारूपी ताराहरूको बीचमा पनि एउटा चन्द्रमा छ, त्यो हो नेपाली भाषा । " (समः ७९)(पराजुली २०४४: १६)

"...yī bhāṣāharū hāmrolāgi ākāśkā tārā jhãi sundar chan. jasarī ākāśkā tārāharū ko bīcmā eutā candramā huncha, jasko jyotimā samasta jagat ujval bhayeko huncha, thīk tyasai garī yī bhāsārūpī tārāharūko bīcmā pani eutā candramā cha, tyo ho nepālī bhāsā." (sama: 79) (parājulī 2044: 16)

"...these languages [of Nepal] for us are as beautiful as stars of the sky. Just as amidst the stars of the sky there is one moon which has the entire world in its light, in this precise manner these language-forms are also amongst the stars. That is the Nepali language."

- Balakrishna Sama

The origin of most of the नेपाली nepālī language's core vocabulary is said to come from the Sanskrit संस्कत sãskrt 9, but with some importation of vocabulary on an 'as needed' basis from other local or foreign languages (ৱেকাল ২০৪৪:ঃ). Incorporation of words of either foreign or domestically different origin into नेपाली nepālī, as well as reciprocally from नेपाली *nepālī* into those various other languages, has had tremendous impact over time specifically on the vocabularies of the many languages scattered throughout the Himalayan region of which नेपाल nepāl is a part. These outer influences have evolved the नेपाली nepālī language in a direction clearly away from its origins in Sanskrit संस्कृत sãskrt (Bandhu 1989: 124).

⁹ The Indo-Aryan language family that gave forth such other languages as Hindi, Maithili and Gujarati (Schmidt, ix).

Many of the words that are incorporated into नेपाली $nep\bar{a}$ $l\bar{\imath}$ are considered to undergo radical change by being exposed to the Nepalese way of expression (and pronunciation).

नेपाली $nep\bar{a}l\bar{\imath}$ grammars differentiate between two basic types of words in Nepali, known as मौलिक moulik and आगन्तुक \bar{a} gantuk (ढकाल २०४४:२) (पराजूली २०२३: १७).

1) मौलिक *moulik* vocabulary comprises those words which it considers to be borrowed directly from Sanskrit संस्कृत *sã skrt*. This is by far the most extensive category of Nepalese vocabulary (पराजूली २०२३: २१).

मौलिक moulik vocabulary are further divided into:

- A. तत्सम *tatsam* those words that have been borrowed directly with little, if any, change phonemically, generally from Sanskrit संस्कृत *sãskrt* (ढकाल २०४४:२) (पराजूली २०२३: २९).
- B. तद्भव tadbhav those words that have been derived or have undergone some type of change phonemically in coming into नेपाली nepālī (ढकाल २०४४:२) (पराजुली २०२३: २१).
- 2) आगन्तुक *āgantuk* vocabulary are words that have come into Nepali from languages other than Sanskrit संस्कृत *sãskrt*, many times through Hindi or another of the 'Prakrit' languages (पराजूली २०२३: २१).

आगन्तुक āgantuk vocabulary are also further divided into:

A. तत्सम *tatsam* words which are called अपरिवर्तित *aparivartit* vocabulary.

B. तद्भव tadbhav words which are called परिवर्तित parivartit, and which are derived or modified before being incorporated into Nepali.

Listed below are examples of these categories of words that have been incorporated into नेपाली $nep\bar{a}l\bar{\imath}$ either as मौलिक moulik vocabulary in तत्सम tatsam as तद्भव tadbhav, or as आगन्तुक agantuk vocabulary in अपरिवर्तित aparivartit or परिवर्तित parivartit categories (पराजूली २०२३: १७-२३).

1) मौलिक *moulik* words of Sanskrit संस्कृत *sãsk<u>r</u>t* origin that have come into Nepali नेपाली *nepālī* comprise about 80% of Nepali's entire vocabulary (Acharya 1990: 271) (पराजूली २०२३: २९).

A) Examples of some Sanskrit संस्कृत तत्सम *sãsk<u>r</u>t tatsam* vocabulary in Nepali (पराजूली २०२३: २०):

अन्न *anna* grain अंश *ãś* part

अक्षर *akchar* letter of the alphabet

आकाश *ākāś* sky

आत्मा *ātmā* soul, heart आवकाश *āvakāś* recess niche

ईश्वर *īśvar* God उद्योग *udyog* industry

कलश kalaś a metallic vessel with a narrow neck

कवि kavi a poet क्षेत्र kchetra field गुण guṇ quality चन्द्र chandra moon जगत jagat earth जल jal water ज्ञान gyān wisdom

तपस्या *tapasyā* religious penance

दया *dayā* kindness, mercy

दाता dātā giver देव deva deity पत्र patra a letter पाप pāp sin

फल *phal* fruit, result

बालक *bālak* boy

बुद्धि buddhi intelligence

मति *mati* opinion, understanding

मुनि *muni* below

वर्षा barṣā precipitation विद्या vidyā learning विद्वान vidvān a scholar शिक्षा śikchā education

B) Some examples of Sanskrit संस्कृत तद्भव *sãskrt tadbhav* vocabulary in नेपाली *nepālī* follow below. For comparison each word is listed first in its original Sanskrit संस्कृत *sãskrt* form followed by its तद्भव *tadbhav* word in नेपाली *nepālī* (पराजूली २०२३: २०-२१).

अश्रु $a \dot{s} r u$ - आसु $\bar{a} s u$ tears आकाश $\bar{a} k \bar{a} \dot{s} a$ - आकास $a k \bar{a} \dot{s}$ sky

आषाढ *āṣāḍha* - असार *asār* the month of *asar*

कर्ण karṇa - कान kān ear
काष्ठ kāṣṭḥa - काठ kāṭḥ wood
कीट kīṭa - कीरा kīirā insect
क्षण kchaṇa - छिन chin moment
गुण guṇa - गुन gun quality
ग्राम grama - गाउँ gāũ village

चैत्र caitra - चैत cait the month of cait

छत्र chatra - छाता chātā
ज्येष्ठ jyeṣṭha - जेठो jeṭho
तिक्त tikta - तीतो tīto
तीक्ष्ण tīkchṇa - तीखो tīkho
दन्त danta - दाँत dāt
दिवस divasa - दिउँसो
दूर्वा dūrvā - दूबो dūblo
धुलि dhuli - धुलो dhulo
नायक nāyaka - नाइके nāike
नासिका nāsikā - नाक nāk
पञ्च paṇca - पाँच pāc
पत्र patra - पात pat
भूमि bhumi - भुइँ bhuĩ
मत्स्य matsya - माछो macho

युद्ध yuddha - जुद्ध juddha रक्त rakta - रगत ragat रक्त rakta - रातो rāto रात्रि rātri - राति rāti रिक्त rikta - रित्तो ritto रूक्ष rukcha - रूखो rukho लक्षण lakchana - लच्छिन lacchin

यज्ञ yagya - जग्गो jaggo

वन *vana* - बन *ban* श्रावण *śrāvaṇa* - साउन *sāun* श्वास *śvāsa* - सास *sās* साधारण *sadharana* - साधारन *sadharan*

सूर्य surya - सूर्जे surje

chest, breast

eldest bitter sharp teeth evening

a sacred grass

dust leader nose five leaf

floor, ground

fish

offering in the fire

fight blood red night empty

rough, coarse symptoms, features,

characteristics

forest

the month of *sāun*

breath

ordinary, usual

sun

स्थान *sthāna* - थान *thān* स्थूल *sthūl* - ठूलो *ṭhūlo* स्पष्ट *spaṣṭa* - प्रकट *prakat* हस *hasa* - हाँस *hãs* हिम *hima* - हिउँ *hiũ* place big clear, obvious laugh snow



Much of the तद्भव tadbhav vocabulary arrived into नेपाली nepālī via a group of languages called Prakrit, which in turn originally borrowed the words from Sanskrit संस्कृत sãskrt (पराजूली २०२३: २१). This added to the changes in spelling and pronunciation more than for तत्सम tatsam vocabulary (पराजूली २०२३: १७-१८).

Some examples of how these loanwords were changed while coming into नेपाली $nep\bar{a}l\bar{\iota}$ are given below (पराजूली २०२३: २१-२३).

Sanskrit संस्कृत	Prakrit प्राकृत	Nepali नेपाली	Translation अनुवाद
sãsk <u>r</u> t	prāk <u>r</u> t	nepālī	anuvād
अग्नि agni	अग्गि aggi	आगो <i>āgo</i>	fire
अद्य adya	अज्ज ajja	आज <i>āja</i>	today
कार्य <i>kārya</i>	कज्ज <i>kajja</i>	काज <i>kāj</i>	work
गम्भीर gambhīra	गहरो gaharo	गहिरो gahiro	deep
घृतम ghrtama	घिअ ghia	घिउ <i>ghiu</i>	clarified butter
चतुर्दश caturdaśa	चउद्दह <i>cauddaha</i>	चौध <i>caudha</i>	fourteen
तैलम tailama	तेल्ल tella	तेल <i>tel</i>	oil
दुग्ध dugdha	दुद्ध duddha	दुध dudh	milk
बगिनी bhaginī	बहिणी bahiṇī	बहिनी bahinī	little sister
वद्ध vaddha	बुड्ढो buḍḍho	बूढो <i>būḍho</i>	old man
विद्युत vidyut	विज्जु vijju	बिजुली <i>bijulī</i>	electricity
सप्त sapta	सत्त satta	सात <i>sāt</i>	seven
स्तम्भ stambha	थम्भ thambha	थाम <i>thām</i>	support post
हस्त hasta	हत्थ hattha	हात <i>hāt</i>	hand

मौलिक *maulik* तत्सम *tatsam* and तद्भव *tadbhav* verb क्रिया *kri yā* forms that have come into नेपाली *nepālī* from Sanskrit as तत्सम *tatsam* and तद्भव *tadbhav* include examples such as the following:

A) तत्सम *tatsam* verbs, as one can see in the examples below, are made directly from the Sanskrit verbal stem by simply adding standard नेपाली *nepālī* vebal suffixes to it (पराजूली २०२३: २३).

Sanskrit संस्कृत	Nepali नेपाली	Translation अनुवाद
sãsk <u>r</u> t	nepālī	anuvād
खेल khela - खेलति khelati	खेल khel - खेल्छ khelcha	he, she, it plays
चर <i>cara</i> - चरति <i>carati</i>	चर <i>car</i> - चर्छ <i>carcha</i>	he, she, it grazes
फल <i>phala</i> - फलति <i>phalati</i>	দল <i>phal</i> - দল্ত <i>phalcha</i>	he, she, it throws
रच raca - रचयति racayati	रच rac - रच्छ raccha	he, she, it composes, invents, creates

B) तद्भव tadbhav verbs are derived from either the Prakrit dialects or from Sanskrit by decidedly taking some part of the original verbal stem, modifying some portion of it, and then adding the नेपाली $nep\bar{a}l\bar{\imath}$ verbal suffixes (पराजूली २०२३: २०-२१).

Prakrit	Nepali	Translation
प्राकृत	नेपाली	अनुवाद
<i>prāk<u>r</u>t</i>	nepālī	anuvād
खा <i>khā</i> - खाइ <i>khāi</i>	खा <i>khā</i> - खान्छ <i>khāncha</i>	he, she, it eats
छोड choḍa - छोडइ choḍi	छोड <i>choḍ</i> - छोडछ	he, she, it
	choḍcha	leaves
झर jhara - झरइ jharai	झर jhar - झर्छ jharcha	he, she, it falls
फुट phuṭa - फुइ phui	फुट phuṭ - फुटछ phuṭcha	he, she, it is in pieces, has holes
जाण <i>jāṇa</i> - जाणइ <i>jāṇai</i>	जान <i>jān -</i> जान्छ <i>jāncha</i>	he, she, it goes
पड padha - पडइ padhai	पर <i>par</i> - पर्छ <i>parcha</i>	he, she, it falls
हो ho - होइ hoi	हु hu - हुन्छ huncha	he, she, it is

Sanskrit संस्कृत	Nepali नेपाली	Translation अनुवाद
sãsk <u>r</u> t	nepālī	anuvād
कम्प kampa -कम्पतिkampati	कॉप <i>kãp</i> - काप्छ <i>kāpcha</i>	he shakes, trembles
दा dā - ददाति dadati	दि di - दिन्छ dincha	he gives
भण bhana - भणति bhanati	भन bhan	he says
	- भन्छ <i>bhancha</i>	
वह vaha - वहति vahati	बह bah	it flows
	- बहन्छ bahancha	down, is windy
हस hasa - हसति hasati	हाँस <i>hãs</i>	he laughs
	- हॉस्छ <i>hãscha</i>	

2) आगन्त्क *āgantuk* Vocabulary

There are two types of आगन्तुक āgantuk words: अपरिवर्तित aparivartit (those that are incorporated more-or-less unchanged) and परिवर्तित parivartit (those that are incorporated after having been changed somehow)(पराजूली २०२३: २२). अपरिवर्तित aparivartit and परिवर्तित parivartit vocabularies both have certain inherent variations from their original languages due to the use of नेपाली nepālī phonetic patterns over those of foreign origin. Thus the following word examples reflect नेपाली nepālī spellings and usages and do not necessarily coincide with each language's own phonemic and phonetic system (पराजूली २०२३: २२-२३).

A) अपरिवर्तित aparivartit vocabulary

1) From Hindi (पराजूली २०२३: २२):

अगुवा aguvā guide, leader

अठन्नी *aṭhannī* an old eight anna weight

कच्च *kacca* raw, unripe कन्जुस *kanjus* miser, stingy

खद्दर khaddar handwoven coarse cotton

cloth

गद्दी $gadd\bar{\imath}$ cushion जोडा $jod\bar{a}$ pair, couple

चोक *cok* square, courtyard

तीज *tīj* festival

तिहार *tihār* Festival of lights

2) From Urdu, Arabic and Farsi (पराजूली २०२३: २२).

अकबर akabar Emperor Akbar अदालत adālat court of justice अन्दाज andāz aproximately rich, wealthy इनाम inām prize, reward dignity, honor

कारबार *kārbār* business, occupation किफ़ायत *kifāyat* savings,economy,frugality

खूब *khūb* very, much

गर्दन gardan back of the neck

ग़रीब *garīb* poor जमीन *zamīn* land

जिरह jiraha cross-examination जुलूस julūs a procession, march

तजबीज *tajabīz* arrangements,

consideration

wages

तारीफ़ *tārīf* praise, applause दरखास्त *darkhāst* a formal prayer

दरबार darbār palace

दुरूस्त durūst exactly the same दौलत daulat wealth, property mark, sign, badge

पेशा *peśā* profession

फ़जुल fajul unnecessary, useless फ़ौज fauj an army regiment बन्दबिस्त bandabista arrangements

माफ़ *māf* excuse मश्किल *muśkil* difficult

रोजगार rozagār occupation, trade

लायक *lāyak* worthy शहर *śahar* city

सनद sanad diploma, certificate

सरकार sarakār government

सरदार *saradār* headman, leader

सलाम salām salute

सवार savār a rider, driver सवाल savāl question

साबित $sar{a}bit$ proved, established हाजिर $har{a}zir$ present, ready, in

attendance cholera

हैज़ा haizā

तलब *talab*

3) From English (पराजूली २०२३: २२):

इन्च inc inch कोट koṭ coat किलप klip clip चेक cek check

ड्राइभर *d्rāibhar* driver

डिग्री *digrī* degree नर्स nars nurse पास *pās* pass फल phal full फुट phut foot फोटो phoṭo photo मब *mab* mob बैङ्क baink bank मास्तर mastar master मीष्टर mīsṭar mister रबर rabal rubber रेडियो redhiyo radio सोडा soḍā soda स्टेशन steśan station होल्डर holdar holder

4) From other various languages (पराजूली २०२३: २२-२३):

<u>Portuguese:</u> पल्टन *palṭan* soldier mercenary

लिलाम *lilām* auction

<u>Latin:</u>

पिपा pipā laborer, barrel, cask

<u>Turkish:</u> गलैंचा *galãicā* carpet तोप topcannon

लाश *lāś* dead body, carcass



5) From languages found within Nepal (पराजूली २०२३: २३):

Newari:

खापा *khāpā* pile, layer

चाकु $c\bar{a}ku$ knife इयाल $jh\bar{a}l$ window ढोका $dhok\bar{a}$ door पसल pasal shop

पाचुके *pācuke* wrap, belt

सिन्की sinkī fermented raddish

Tibetan:

खम्बा *khambā* post, piller

जिम्बु jimbu spice

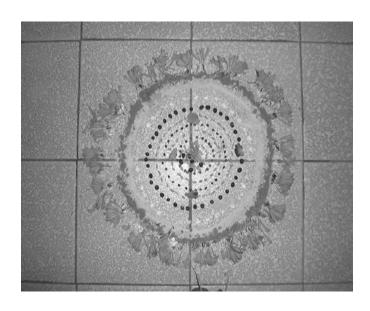
दोचा docā Tibetan rope shoes

पाखी *pākhī* rug

बक्बु *bakhu* woolen vest

राडी *rāḍī* rug

लामा *lāmā* Lama, Monk



Magar:

आलें *āle* Magar subgroup

गुरूङ्ग gurūng Gurung

ਗੱਫ $j\tilde{a}d$ Nepalese beer

तामाङ *tāmāṅ* Tamang मगर *magar* Magar रक्सी *raksī* Whiskey

लाप्चे *lāpce* Magar subgroup

Gurung:

खुर्पा khurpā small shovel

घले ghale Gurung subgroup घुम ghum travel around थुन्से thunse Gurung subgroup

Tamang:

घिसिङ ghisin Tamang subgroup

डम्फ् *ḍamphu* tribal drum च्याङबा *cyāṅbā* little brother

B) परिवर्तित parivarti t Vocabulary

From Indian Languages (पराजुली २०२३: २२):

अचम्मा *acammā* - अचम्म *acamma* surprise गाम्छा *gamchā* - गम्छा *gamchā* handkerchief, towel

घुडकी ghuḍakī - घुकी ghurkī threat, menace

झापड *jhāpḍa* - झापट *jhāpaṭ* slap जलेबी *jalebī* - जिल्फी *jilphī* sweetmeat

ठोकर *thokar* - ठक्कर *thakkar* competition,

collison

From Urdu, Arabic and Farsi (पराजूली २०२३: २२-२३):

आईन āīna - ऐना aina mirror

आमदनी *āmadanī* - आम्दानी *āmdānī* income, profit इलम *ilma* - इलम *ilam* knowledge

कवायद *kavāyad* - कवाज *kavāj* military training

किला kilā - किल्ला killā fort गरम garam - गर्मी garmī warm गुलाब gulāb - गुलाफ gulāph rose गैर gair - गयल gayal absent

चालाक *cālāk* - चलाख *calākh* clever जवाब *javāb* - जवाफ *javāph* answer जब्त *zabta* - जफत *japhat* confiscation

जगह jagaha - जग्गा jaggā land

नौकर naukar - नोकर nokar

तैनात taināt - थैनाथ thaināth appointment,

authority servant

फ़र्क pharka - फरक pharak different

फ़िक्र *phikra* - फिक्री *phikrī* worry, anxiety

बाजार *bājār* - बजार *bajār* brass oil lamp,market

शामिल *sāmil* - सामेल *sāmel* gathered together,

united, assembled

सितार $sit\bar{a}r$ - सितारा $sit\bar{a}r\bar{a}$ Sitar हफ्ता $haph\bar{a}$ - हप्ता $hapt\bar{a}$ week हवा $hav\bar{a}$ - हावा $h\bar{a}v\bar{a}$ wind

3) From English (पराजूली २०२३: २३):

इयरिङ iyarinं - यार्लिङ yalrini earring क्याप्टेन kyāpṭen - कप्तान kaptān captain जनरल janaral - जर्नेल gernel general टिकेट tiket- टिकट tikat ticket डक्टर daktar - डाक्टर dāktar doctor परेड pared - परेठ pareth parade बिलेट bilet - बिल्टी biltī billet ब्रश braś - ब्रूस burūs brush मिनिट minit - मिनेट minet minute

From other various languages (पराजूली २०२३: २३):

आलमारियो ālamāriyo - आलमारी ālamārī chest, almirah कार्टुस kārṭus - कार्तोस kātors cartridge कंची kaicī - केंची kãiciī sissors चक्माक cakmāk - चक्मक cakmak flints tone

टोबेको tobeko - तमाखु tamākhu tobacco

The Nepali Parts of Speech

नेपाली शब्दका भेद nepālī śabdakā bhed

There are many types of words that exist in most languages, and नेपाली $nep\bar{a}l\bar{\imath}$ is no exception (ढकाल २०४४: १२). And, since words are the basic building blocks in any expression of thought, feeling or action, verbalized or written, the types of words that exist in नेपाली $nep\bar{a}l\bar{\imath}$ is a good place to begin a good description of the same. Grammar, after all, is the application of the rules regulating usage and expression of each type of word in a form that creates the expression or thought, feeling or action (पराज्ली २०२३: २४).

In नेपाली *nepālī* there are two main types of words (विकारी *vikārī* and अविकारी *avikārī*), and each type of word has several sub-components that comprise that type (पराजूली २०२३: २४).

Examples of the Two Types of नेपाली nepālī Words:

1) विकारी *vikārī* are words that are normally inflected for case,

number, gender, person, tense, voice and/or mood.

Nouns नामिकपद nāmikpad

Pronouns सर्वनाम sarvanām Adjectives विशेषण viśeṣan Verbs क्रियापद kriyāpad

Examples:

विशेषण viśesan Adjective:

रातो *rāto* red

रातोपन rātopan redness

राता (pl) *rātā* red (or 'after sunset')

सर्वनाम sarvanām Pronoun:

म *ma* I

मैले *mãile* by me

मलाई *malāī* to/for me

ममा *mamā* on/on me

मेरो *mero* my/mine (m)

2) अविकारी *avikārī* are words that are unchanging and normally remain uninflected. This category in grammar is termed अव्यय *a vyaya* (immutable).

Adverbials क्रियायोगी *kriyāyogī*Nominal Helpers नामयोगी *nāmyogī*Conjunctives संयोजक *saṅyojak*Particles निपात *nipāt*Exclamatory Words विस्मयादि *vismayādi*

Some examples of अविकारी $avik\bar{a}ri$ vocabulary include:

अनि ani and then
आज āja today
ओहो oho an exclamation of surprise
तिर tira toward
विस्तारै vistārai slow/slowly