

## **Themes in Himalayan Languages and Linguistics.**

Edited by Tej Ratna Kansakar and Mark Turin.

Heidelberg and Kathmandu: South Asia Institute and Tribhuvan University, 2003.

ISBN 9993354163

293 pages

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*Themes in Himalayan Languages and Linguistics* contains 24 papers presented at the fifth annual Symposium on Himalayan Languages, which was held in Kathmandu, September 13-15, 1999. All proceeds of this book, jointly published by the South Asia Institute, Heidelberg and Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, go toward supporting fieldwork by Tribhuvan University graduate students.

Of the 24 papers, 19 are full articles while five are research notes. The first paper, an introduction, opens with a discussion on the preservation and development of Himalayan languages by Chura Mani Bandhu (pp. 1-10), including a useful appendix listing the languages of Nepal and the number of speakers for each. The papers that follow represent a diverse sample of languages from Nepal, India, Tibet, China, which comprise the Indo-European, Tibeto-Burman and Mon-Khmer language families. While the papers have different objectives and operate within different theoretical frameworks, they all rely heavily on data to make their arguments.

The 19 articles are arranged in alphabetical order by author, with a heavy focus on morphology and syntax, although a wide range of topics is represented. Two papers examine tone. A paper by Brigitte Huber (pp. 65-80) describes the development of tone in Kyirong Tibetan and comments on the differing pathways in which Tibetan dialects have undergone tonogenesis. Stephen Watters (pp. 249-264) provides a thorough examination of tone in Lhomi via acoustic analysis.

Indo-Aryan and Mon-Khmer languages are represented by three articles. Jagdish Chander Sharma (pp. 131-143) illustrates the split ergativity found in Western Pahari languages. An article by Balaram Prasain (pp. 123-130) discusses the way in which causatives in Bote provide evidence for complex predicates. The sole discussion of a Mon-Khmer language is an article by Karumuri V. Subbarao and Gracious Mary Tansen (197-218) examining the formation and nature of wh-questions in Khasi.

The remainder of the articles focuses on Tibeto-Burman languages. A paper by Karen Ebert (pp. 27-47) compiles forms in Kiranti languages which share the functions of 'conjunctive particles'. Rudra Laxmi Shrestha (pp. 145-162) provides an interesting discussion of verbal morphology in the Badikhel Pahari dialect of Newar. Two papers offer descriptions of grammatical phenomena in Tamang. A paper by Krishna Prasad Chalise (pp. 11-19) describes the modality system while Bryan Varenkamp (pp. 219-232) offers a thorough description of the Central Eastern Tamang nominalizer *-ba*. A sketch of Tangbe, also spoken in Nepal, is provided by Isao Honda (pp. 49-64).

Northeast India is also represented by a few contributions. Sushama Mukherji, Karumuri V. Subbarao and Dimple Walia (pp. 103-114) discuss lexical anaphors and blocking effects in Hmar and Karumuri V. Subbarao, Th. Geeta Devi and Th. Sarju Devi

(pp. 173-196) discuss embedded clauses in Manipuri. A contribution by P. Madhubala (pp. 97-102) offers an analysis of idioms in Meiteiron.

Sang Yong Lee (pp. 81-95) and N. Pramodini (pp. 115-121) offer sociolinguistic studies. The former reports on a survey of language use amongst Sherpa speakers and the latter examines the way in which terms of address in Meiteiron are shifting. An article by Chugkham Yashawanta Singh's (pp. 163-172) discusses borrowing among some of the Northeast's languages. Marianne Volkart (pp. 233-248) provides an intriguing and thorough comparison of compounds in Written Tibetan with those in Sanskrit. In the only article devoted solely to historical classification, George van Driem (pp. 21-26) revisits the Mahakiranti hypothesis.

The research notes also provide an eclectic mix of contributions. Karnakhar Khatiwada (pp. 265-268) outlines pronominalization in Dhimal, a Tibeto-Burman language of Nepal. Complex predicates in Nepali are discussed by Ram Raj Lohani (pp. 269-274) and the use of gender in Boro and Rabha is addressed by Dipti Phukan Patgiri (275-278). A short paper by Lal Rapacha (pp. 279-286) examines semantic aspects of Salāk(u), an oral religious text in Sunuwar. The final contribution is a discussion of some differences between Tibetan and Chinese by Zhijing Wang (pp. 287-293).

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