

**Interdisciplinary Journal of Linguistics**  
Volume [14] 2021, pp. 179-192

**AN OVERVIEW OF VERBAL MORPHOLOGY  
IN KARNAI PAHARI**

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**Abstract**

*This paper is an attempt to give an overview of verb morphology of Pahari spoken in the Karnah area of district Kupwara, Jammu and Kashmir. An attempt has been made to analyze the verb structure with respect to the nominal categories like person, number and gender. The study is an empirical one, based on the data collected through a questionnaire framed for the purpose. The result from the analysis demonstrated that verbs in Pahari show inflection according to tense, number, gender and person while as in verb 'to be', the inflected forms do not appear to follow a systematic pattern and mostly show suppletion.*

**Key Words:** Pahari, Indo-Aryan, Descriptive Study, Verb Morphology, Language Variety

**Introduction**

Pahari is an ambiguous term that has been used for variety of languages, dialects and language groups, most of which are found in the lower Himalayas. The Pahari language is one of the ancient languages of South Asia. Historically, it remained a very prestigious language, promoted by the Buddhist dynasty of the Harappa civilization. King Ashoka took personal interest in promoting this language. It is a language of the Indo-Aryan language family, it has derived its name from Pahari meaning 'hills and mountains'. As mountains have the tendency of isolating communities from change, dialects in the mountains tend to have their own characteristics with some similarity to other mountain dialects while remaining isolated from one another. All these dialects are commonly referred to as the 'Pahari' languages. Pahari languages are spoken in the lower ranges of the Himalayas from Nepal in the east, through the Indian states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu

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and Kashmiri, to Murree in Pakistan. The present research work was conducted on the Pahari spoken in Karnah tehsil of district Kupwara in Jammu and Kashmir.

### **Verb Morphology**

Morphology is one of the most important components of language grammar as a whole. It is the study of the way in which lexemes and word-forms are built up from smaller elements and changes that are made to those smaller elements in the process of building lexemes and word forms [Laurie Bauer]. Traditional grammarians and modern linguists both have always focused on the phenomenon as part of the linguistic competence related to human beings, ability to form and interpret words in their language. As a matter of fact, individual words and how they are formed is what speakers are most aware of, first is the spoken form and soon in the written text. Radford et al. (1999:145) write in this respect: "All languages have words, and words are probably the most accessible linguistic units to the laymen..." just as we acquire the knowledge of simple lexical items, we learn to construct more complex forms on the basis of the application of general derivational and inflectional rules to basic word stems.

Verbs are used to indicate the actions, processes, conditions, or state of being of people or things. Verbs play an integral role to the structure of the sentence. They constitute the root of the predicate, which along with the subject, forms a full clause or sentence. We cannot have a sentence without a verb. Verbs have modifications of four kinds:

1. Tenses
2. Numbers
3. Gender
4. Persons

### **Analysis**

The data was analyzed using laid down linguistic procedures.

**Tense:** The tenses found in Pahari language are present, past and future. Tense is normally indicated by the use of a particular verb form, either an inflected form of the main verb, or a multi-word construction (which involves auxiliary verb). The main verbs are often accompanied by auxiliary verbs to mark the past and the future tense. And in most of the cases the verb agrees with the number and gender of the person. Verbs in Pahari language are morphologically marked for tenses as:

1. Present tense
2. Past tense
3. Future tense

The different strategies were outlined to show the changes that verb present in a sentence goes through with respect to all the parameters taken into consideration.

The person wise tense formations in Pahari taking /**dzulna:**/ “to go” as the model verb, are given as follows;

### **Present Tense**

In the present tense, the verb agrees with the number, person and gender of the subject, and subsequently a change in the final CV cluster of the verb occurs.

The final CV cluster of the root verb is inflected to mark the present tense and to show agreement with the subject.

**Markers: /-i:/, /-ã:/, /-e:/**

**Strategy 1: /Xna:/V → /Xdi:/V, Pres., 1P-Sg-F, 3P-Sg-F.**

The above strategy shows the infinitive going to another form depicted above when the subject is 1P-Sg-F, 3P-Sg-F. Furthermore, ‘X’ represents a part of verb.

For example:

/mẽ: baza:rdʒuldi:/

1P-Sg-F market go-Pres.

“I go to the market”

/o: baza:rdʒuldi:/

3P-Sg-F market go-Pres.

“She goes to the market”

**Strategy 2: /Xna:/V → /Xdã:/V, Pres., 1P-Sg-M, 3P-Sg-M.**

The above strategy shows the infinitive going to another form depicted above when the subject is 1P-Sg-M, 3P-Sg-M. Furthermore, ‘X’ represents a part of verb.

For example:

/mẽ: baza:rdʒuldã:/

1P-Sg-M market go-Pres.

“I go to the market”

/o:                baza:rdzuldâ:/  
3P-Sg-M        market            go-Pres.

“He goes to the market”

**Strategy 3:** /Xna:/V → /Xde:/V, Pres., 1P-Pl-M/F, 2P-Sg/Pl-M/F, 3P-Pl-M/F.

The above strategy shows the infinitive going to another form depicted above when the subject is 1P-Pl-M/F, 2P-Sg/Pl-M/F, 3P-Pl-M/F. Furthermore, ‘X’ represents a part of verb.

For example:

/əsi:                baza:rdzulde:/  
1P-Pl-M/F        market            go-Pres.

“We go to the market”

/tusi:                baza:rdzulde:/  
2P-Sg/Pl-M/F        market            go-Pres.

“You go to the market”

/o:                    baza:rdzulde:/  
3P-Pl-M/F        market            go-Pres.

“They go to the market”

The root verb /**dzulna**:/is inflected to / **dzuldâ**:/ in case of first person and third person masculine singular subject and / **dzuldi**:/ in case of first person and third person feminine singular subject. The form of the verb for first person, second person and third person plural subject be it masculine or feminine is the same i.e., /**dzulde**:/.The same form /**dzulde**:/is used in case of second person singular masculine and feminine subjects.

Some more examples:

/mē: it<sup>h</sup>e: a:jā:/            I come here  
/tu: it<sup>h</sup>e: e:si:/            You come here  
/o: it<sup>h</sup>e: e:nda:/            He comes here  
/o: it<sup>h</sup>e: e:ndi:/            She comes here  
/mē: zəmi:nda:r ā:/        I am a farmer  
/tu: zəmi:nda:r a:sā:/        You are a farmer  
/o: zəmi:nda:r he:/        She/he is a farmer

### Past Tense

In case of the past tense, the main verb in Pahari is accompanied by an auxiliary verb which shows a change with respect to number and person of the subject. The main verb also shows inflection in its final CV cluster from the root verb, besides showing agreement with the number and person of the subject, as is the case in present tense.

**Markers: /-a:/, /-i:/, /-e:/**

**Strategy 1: /Xna:/V → /Xda:/V, Pst., 1P-Sg-M/F, 2P-Sg/Pl-M/F, 3P-Sg-M.**

The above strategy shows the infinitive going to another form depicted above when the subject is 1P-Sg-M/F, 2P-Sg/Pl-M/F, 3P-Sg-M. Furthermore, ‘X’ represents a part of verb.

For example:

/mẽ:            baza:rdzulda:    a:seja:/  
 1P-Sg-M/F    market    go-Pst.    aux  
 “I went to the market”

/tusi:            baza:rdzulda:    a:se:/  
 2P-Sg/Pl-M/F    market    go-Pst.    aux  
 “You went to the market”

/o:            baza:rdzulda:    a:seja:/  
 3P-Sg-M    market    go-Pst.    aux  
 “He went to the market”

**Strategy 2: /Xna:/V → /Xdi:/V, Pst., 3P-Sg-F.**

The above strategy shows the infinitive going to another form depicted above when the subject is 3P-Sg-F. Furthermore, ‘X’ represents a part of verb.

For example:

/o:            baza:rdzuldi:    a:si:/  
 3P-Sg-F    market    go-Pst.    aux  
 “She went to the market”

**Strategy 3: /Xna:/V → /Xde:/V, Pst., 1P-Pl-M/F, 3P-Pl-M/F.**

The above strategy shows the infinitive going to another form depicted above when the subject is 1P-Pl-M/F, 3P-Pl-M/F. Furthermore, ‘X’ represents a part of verb.

For example:

/əsi:            baza:rdzulde:            a:se:/  
 1p-Pl-M/F    market            go-Pst.            aux

“We went to the market”

/o:            baza:rdzulde:            a:se:/  
 3P-Pl-M/F    market            go-Pst.            aux

“They went to the market”

There is no obvious change in the main verb to distinguish masculine and feminine subjects for first person and second person, the verb form /**dzulda:**/ is used for both. However the change is obvious in verb forms for masculine and feminine subjects for third person viz. /**dzulda:**/ for masculine subject and /**dzuldi:**/ for feminine subject. For plural subjects the same form of the verb i.e. /**dzulde:**/ is used for first and third person subjects. However for second person plural subject, verb form /**dzulda:**/ is used.

**The following table presents the various inflectional forms of the auxiliary verb /a:sejā:/ used in past tense;**

Person	MSg	MPI	FSg	FPI
<b>1P</b>	/a:seja:/ /a:sā:/	/a:se:/	/a:seja:/ /a:sā:/	/a:se:/
<b>2P</b>	/a:se:/	/a:se:/	/a:se:/	/a:se:/
<b>3P</b>	/a:seja:/	/a:se:/	/a:si:/	/a:se:/

The above table shows that the auxiliaries used for the first person and the second person is same for both masculine and feminine subjects viz. /a:seja;/ for first person and /a:se:/ for second person. However the change is obvious in third person auxiliaries for male and female subjects i.e. /a:seja:/ is used for third person male subjects and /a:si:/ is used for third person female subjects; whereas the auxiliary for plural subject is same for all the three viz. first, second, and third person subjects.

Some more examples:

/mē: it<sup>h</sup>e: a:ja: a:sā:/    I came here

/o: it<sup>h</sup>e: a:ja: a:sā:/    He came here

/o: it<sup>h</sup>e: a:ji: a:si:/    She came here

## Future Tense

In Pahari language, most often, in future tense the final CV cluster of the verb shows inflection from its root verb and is accompanied by an auxiliary to mark the future tense.

**Markers:** /-ã:/, /-o:/, /-an/, /-i:/

**Strategy 1:** /Xna:/V/Xsã:/V, Fut., 1P-Sg-M/F, 1P-Pl-M/F.

The above strategy shows the infinitive goes to another form depicted above when the subject is 1P-Sg-M/F, 1P-Pl-M/F. Furthermore, ‘X’ represents the part of the verb.

For example:

/mẽ:	baza:rdʒulsã:	ga:/	
1P-Sg-M/F	market	go-Fut.	aux

“I will go to the market”

/əsi:	baza:rdʒulsã:	ge:/	
1P-Pl-M/F	market	go-Fut.	aux

“We will go to the market”

**Strategy 2:** /Xna:/V → /Xso:/V, Fut., 2P-Sg/Pl-M/F.

The above strategy shows the infinitive goes to another form depicted above when the subject is 2P-Sg/Pl-M/F. Furthermore, ‘X’ represents the part of the verb.

For example:

/tusi:	baza:rdʒulso:	ge:/	
2P-Sg/Pl-M/F	market	go-Fut.	aux

“You will go to the market”

**Strategy 3:** /Xna:/V → /Xsan/V, Fut., 3P-Pl-M/F.

The above strategy shows the infinitive goes to another form depicted above when the subject is 3P-Pl-M/F. Furthermore, ‘X’ represents the part of the verb.

For example:

/o:	baza:rdʒulsange:/		
3P-Pl-M/F	market	go-Fut.	aux

“They will go to the market”

**Strategy 4:** /Xna:/V → /Xsi:/V, Fut., 3P-Sg-M/F.

The above strategy shows the infinitive goes to another form depicted above when the subject is 3P-Sg-M/F. Furthermore, ‘X’ represents the part of the verb.

For example:

/o:        baza:rdʒulsi:        ga:/  
 3P-Sg-F   market        go-Fut.        aux

“He will go to the market”

/o:        baza:rdʒulsi:        gi:/  
 3P-Sg-F   market        go-Fut.        aux

“She will go to the market”

The verb /**dʒulna:**/ is inflected to /**dʒulsã:**/, /**dʒulso:**/, /**dʒulsi:**/ and /**dʒulsan:**/ in agreement with the number and person of the subject. There is no obvious change in the main verb to mark masculine and feminine subjects in the first person, the verb form /**dʒulsã:**/ is used for both. And the same form is used for first person plural subjects. The second person masculine, feminine take the same verb form /**dʒulso:**/ for both singular and plural subjects. The verb from /**dʒulsi:**/ is used for masculine and feminine subjects for the third person. And in case of third person plural the verb form used is /**dʒulsan:**/.

The main verb and the auxiliary /**ga:**/ together mark the future tense in Pahari language.

**The various inflectional forms of the auxiliary /ga:/ are shown in the following table;**

Person	MSg	MPI	FSg	FPI
1P	/ga:/	/ge:/	/ga:/	/ge:/
2P	/ge:/	/ge:/	/ge:/	/ge:/
3P	/ga:/	/ge:/	/gi:/	/ge:/

The auxiliary /**ga:**/ follows the same pattern of the auxiliary /**a:seja:**/ used in the past tense. The auxiliary /**ga:**/ shows no obvious change when used for masculine and feminine subjects in first person. Same is the case for second person masculine and feminine subjects where /**ge:**/ is used for both. The change, however, is clear for third person feminine subject viz. /**ga:**/ for masculine and /**gi:**/ for feminine subject. For all the plural subjects the form of the auxiliary used is /**ge:**/.

**Verb ‘To be’**

Verb ‘to be’ in Pahari, the inflected forms are not observed to follow any systematic pattern, and are mostly suppletion.

Following are the person-wise tense formations in **Pahari** taking /hu:/ ‘to be’ as anexemplars.

### Present Tense

**Markers:** /-ã:/, /-a:/

**Strategy 1:** /hu:/V → /ha:/V, Pres., 1P-Sg/Pl-M/F, 3P-Sg/Pl-M/F.

The above strategy shows the infinitive going to another form depicted above when the subject is 1P-Sg/Pl-M/F, 3P-Sg/Pl-M/F. Furthermore, Verb ‘to be’ in Pahari shows suppletion.

For example:

/mẽ:            zəmi:nɖɑ:r    ha:/  
1P-Sg-M/F    farmer            be-Pres.

“I am a farmer”.

/əsi:    zəmi:nɖɑ:r    ha:/  
1P-Pl-M/F    farmers            be-Pres.

“We are farmers”.

/o:            zəmi:nɖɑ:r    ha:/  
3P-Pl-M/F    farmers            be-Pres.

“They are farmers”.

**Strategy 2:** /hu:/V → /əse:/ V, Pst., 2P-Sg/Pl-M/F.

The above strategy shows the infinitive going to another form depicted above when the subject is 2P-Sg/Pl-M/F.

For example:

/tʃusi:            zəmi:nɖɑ:rəse:/  
2p-Sg/Pl-M/F    farmer            be-Pst.

‘You were a farmer’.

**Strategy 3:** /hu:/V → /a:sa:/V, Pst., 3P-Sg-M.

The above strategy shows the infinitive going to another form depicted above when the subject is 3P-Sg-M.

For example:

/o:            zəmi:nɖɑ:ra:sa:/

3P-Sg-M farmer be-Pst.

“He was a farmer”.

**Strategy 4: /hu:/V → /a:si:/ V, Past, 3P-Sg-F.**

The above strategy shows the infinitive going to another form depicted above when the subject is 3P-Sg-F.

For example:

/o: zəmi:nɔ̃a:ra:si:/

3P-Sg-F farmer be-Pst.

“She was a farmer”.

**Strategy 5: /hu:/V → /ə:se:/ V, Past, 3P-Pl-M/F.**

The above strategy shows the infinitive going to another form depicted above when the subject is 3P-Pl-M/F.

For example:

/o: zəmi:nɔ̃a:r ə:se:/

3p-Pl-M/F farmers be-Pst.

‘They were farmers’.

**Future Tense**

**Markers: /-ã:/, /-i:/, /-ã̃/, /-an/**

**Strategy 1: /hu:/V /hoã̃/ → V, Fut., 1P-Sg-M/F.**

The above strategy shows the infinitive going to another form depicted above when the subject is 1P-Sg-M/F.

For example:

/mẽ: zəmi:nɔ̃a:rhoã̃/

1P-Sg-M farmer be-Fut

“I will be a farmer”.

**Strategy 2: /hu:/V → /hosã̃/ V, Fut., 1P-Pl-M/F.**

The above strategy shows the infinitive going to another form depicted above when the subject is 1P-Pl-M/F.

For example:

/əsi; zəmi:nɔ̃a:rhosã̃/

1P-Pl-M/F farmers be-Fut

“We will be farmers”.

**Strategy 3:** /hu:/V → /o:sā:/ V, Fut., 2P-Sg/Pl-M/F.

The above strategy shows the infinitive going to another form depicted above when the subject is 2P-Sg/Pl-M/F.

For example:

/tʃsi:                    zəmi:nɖɑ:ro:sā:/  
2P-Sg/Pl-M/F      farmer                    be-Fut.

“You will be a farmer”.

**Strategy 4:** /hu:/V/ → /o:si:/ V, Fut., 3P-Sg-M/F.

The above strategy shows the infinitive going to another form depicted above when the subject is 3P-Sg-M/F.

For example:

/o:            zəmi:nɖɑ:ro:si:/  
3P-Sg-M      farmer                    be-Fut.

“He will be a farmer”.

/o:            zəmi:nɖɑ:ro:si:/  
3P-Sg-F      farmer                    be-Fut.

“She will be a farmer”.

**Strategy 5:** /hu:/V → /o:san/ V, Fut., 3P-Pl-M/F.

The above strategy shows the infinitive going to another form depicted above when the subject is 3P-Pl-M/F.

For example:

/o:                    zəmi:nɖɑ:r o:san/  
3P-Pl-M/F      farmers                    be-Fut.

“They will be farmers”.

### **Summary and Conclusion:**

The present paper is a preliminary morphological work on the Word-based approach in Pahari (Karnai).

This paper provides an account of the overview of the morphological analysis of Karnai Pahari verbs with respect to the tense, number, gender and person. From the analysis provided above, it can be concluded that verbs in Pahari show inflection according to tense, number, gender and person. In case of the present tense, the verb agrees with the number, person and gender of the subject, and subsequently a change in the final CV cluster of the verb occurs. The final CV cluster of the root verb is inflected to mark the present tense and to show agreement with the subject. In case of the past tense, the main verb in Pahari is accompanied by an auxiliary verb which shows a change with respect to number and person of the subject. The main verb also shows inflection in its final CV cluster from the root verb, besides showing agreement with the number and person of the subject, as is the case in present tense. In case of the future tense, the final CV cluster of the verb shows inflection from its root verb and is accompanied by an auxiliary to mark the future tense. While as in verb 'to be', the inflected forms are not observed to follow any systematic pattern, they mostly show suppletion.

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