

Particle '-wA' and its Various Linguistic and Sociolinguistic Implications in Magahi

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Abstract

Magahi is one of the Indo-Aryan languages spoken predominantly in Bihar. Though the language is considered as a dialect of Hindi on the basis of the lexical similarities, it differs from Hindi on a large scale, structurally. The language demonstrates some of the distinctive linguistic features which are not widespread in Indo-Aryan languages e.g., the three-way number distinction, the constraint on plural system, the agreement in honorific, negation system, the presence of multiple determiner, over bound definite determiner with proper noun etc. Noun in Magahi usually accompanies with a particle that can be called a discourse particle because of its nature of occurrence in the discourse only. The particle does not occur with the noun outside the discourse. The 'elsewhere' form of the discourse particle is '-wA' which was considered to have no semantics earlier. There are three forms of the particle which are in complementary distribution and are phonologically conditioned. The variant forms of the particle are '-wA', '-A' and '-yA'. The particle in all its forms functions as definite marker or specificity marker. No work has been done to value the kind of function this particle performs in the language's structure. This paper is an attempt to describe the use of the particle '-wA' and its various linguistic and social implications and its speech community.

1. Introduction

Magahi is one of the Indo-Aryan languages spoken predominantly in Bihar. However, the language is also spoken in other parts of the country and globe especially because of the migration of Magahi speaking people. According to 2001 census there are about 14 million people who speak the language. Despite having large number of speakers Magahi is not officially recognized in India. On the political ground it is mostly ignored, the official languages of the state are Hindi and Urdu. Magahi is one of the less worked languages/ dialects; very few works have been devoted to understand the structure of the language and it needs at least a proper documentation in its present ecology. The language is considered as one of dialects of Hindi and that happens to be the reason of its ignorance. Though there are lexical similarities; the language differs on large scale from Hindi, structurally. The language, if not endangered, is definitely not safe and is largely being replaced by Hindi language due to intense contact. The language being the family member of Indo-Aryan follows SOV constituent order in its declarative sentences; however, all the possible logical constituent order is possible. It has roughly all the typological features of Indo-Aryan languages. Moreover, the language demonstrates some of the distinctive linguistic features which are not widespread in Indo-Aryan languages e.g. the three-way number distinction, the constraint on plural system, double reading in plural construction, the agreement pattern in honorific, negation system, the presence of multiple determiner, overt bound definite determiner with proper noun, the structure which

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reveals the social and family hierarchy, etc. (Kumar 2015), (Verma 1985, 1991). The language doesn't have grammatical gender and number agreement.

Noun in Magahi usually accompanies with a particle that can be called a discourse particle because of its nature of occurrence in the discourse only. When the noun occurs out of the discourse, individually, the particle is not used. The 'elsewhere'¹ form of the discourse particle is '-w', which was considered to have no semantics earlier (Aryani 1965). There are three forms of the particle which are in complementary distribution and phonologically conditioned. The particles are '-w', '- ' and '-y'. The form '-w' occurs when the word ends with sound / /, as in 'tebul -w' (table), '-y' when the word ends with sound /i/ as in 'l iki-y' (girl), and '- ' when the sounds end with / / as in 'golu-' (proper name). It functions as definite marker or specificity marker (Verma 2003, Alok 2012, and Kumar 2015).

2. Previous Research

Aryani (1965) in the grammar book written on Magahi claimed that the discourse marker functions as formative which has no important function to play. According to him it just hangs with noun when it is used in the discourse. However, later, Verma (2003) in the case of Bhojpuri, (the same formative is also found in Bhojpuri) claims that these markers actually function as definite marker.² Alok (2012) in his MPhil dissertation argues that the particle has definitely the characteristics of definiteness in a limited sense; he calls it specificity marker. He has also published a paper on the Morpho-syntax of '-w', where he argues that the marker is added to the base form of the noun in the lexicon and not a functional head. Kumar (2015) talks about the terms of address and reference in Magahi, where '-w' particle has been discussed briefly.

There is no particular work dedicated to value the kind of function this particle plays in the language's structure. This paper is concerned with the use of the particle '-w' and its various linguistics and social implication in Magahi language and in its speech community.

The variety, that is considered here is spoken in Patna district, particularly at Bihta block, village Bahpura. The population of Bihta block is more than two and half lakh according to 2001 census. The local language said to be Hindi, but actual languages that is spoken are Magahi, Bhojpuri, Maithili and Angika. Magahi is the main language (by population) that is spoken in most of the informal domains. However, I have also observed the variety which is used in the central Patna to see the changes if any. The use of the particle, however, is not subject to change. Since, it is considered as the true feature of the language which is also associated with the identity denotation of the language or the speakers, therefore, subject to less variation.

3. The Purpose

The particle or say the discourse particle has positively the property of definiteness, as it evokes the semantics of antecedents. When it is used, it must be kept in mind that the object that has been being referred is previously been talked about or the interlocutors are aware about the objects. Though, we can't strictly syntactically prove it as definite marker according to the

¹ Elsewhere :- in linguistics 'elsewhere' applies whenever the condition for more specific rules are not met; hence, default rule (Matthews 2007). Whenever words don't end with '-i' or '-u', '-w' particle is used.

² The paper was presented in the 37th annual conference of Linguistic Society of India 2015 held in JNU, New Delhi. This manuscript is an updated and elaborated version of the paper presented in the conference. I would especially like to thank Prof. Tanmoy Bhattacharya for his insightful comments. Thank also goes to the audience for their feedback.

definition presented by the European languages, particularly English, we definitely can prove it semantically going by the definition of (In)/definite by Lyons (1999), Hawkins (1974), Yadav (1998), Masica (1986), Drayer (2007), etc.

Since, the particle has the property of definiteness it brings a lot of structural and functional changes in the language's structure. The language because of '-w' particle is able to make a three way number distinction (Corbett 2000), which is an unusual typological feature of Indo-Aryan language family. The language because of the presence of the marker is able to distinguish between the singular, plural and general number morphologically. Moreover, the language is able to make the distinction even in the plural construction i.e. gives the two different readings, one with the definite particle it gives the sense of inclusiveness or familiarity (Hawkins 1974), another with no definite particle, plurality without familiarity is expressed. It also functions as classifier to make the distinction among the noun classes e.g. it differentiates between the abstract noun and concrete nouns. Except few abstract nouns the definite particle doesn't go well with abstract nouns.

It also extends its effect in the structure of relative clause in a way that it makes the noun phrase (without relativizers) easily relativizable without the relativizer. When it occurs with noun, it also restricts the generic reading of the sentence (Srivastav 1991) by not allowing the reading in any tense. Its use with the noun along with distinctive form of adjective presents the phenomenon of multiple determiners in the language. Its presence with the proper noun and its property as nativizing the noun are some of the important features of the language.

The particle besides its important role in the structural pattern in the language also plays very crucial role in sociolinguistics. The morpheme is burdened with socio-linguistic information. It is not a term of respect and cannot be used for the older/ elder persons in the society or family for male, however, with the female, uses of it is bit complicated. Its use is even more intricate when we see it with the kinship terminologies. This feature of language with some others actually acts as the identity attribution to the language and to its people in very interesting way. The paper is the discussion of all these functions of '-w' particle along with its distribution and certain limitation.³

4. Various Functions of 'wa' Particle

4.1 Definiteness/ specificity

The work, however, is not an examination of the criteria of (In)/definiteness, but taking some linguists' view on the (in)/definiteness i.e. Hawkins (1974), Lyons (1999), Alexiadou (2014), Ghomeshi, Paul & Wiltschko (2009), Abbott (2004), Burton-Roberts (1976), Yadav (1996), Masica (1986), it claims that Magahi language has a definite determiner. It follows all the points which Drayer (2007) has discussed for a determiner to be a definite determiner i.e. (1) An anaphoric use; it refers to something mentioned in the previous discourse (2) a non- anaphoric use; the noun is known to the interlocutors even if it is not mentioned in the previous discourse, and (3) an intermediate use; as a part-whole relationship e.g.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------------|----------|----------------|-----------|
| (1) | ʃu | kiʃəb-wə | ləile | he |
| | you.2 | book-DF | bring.2.PST.NH | be.PRS.NH |
| | Did you bring the book? | | | |

³ The function and form of particle 'wa' certainly hints about being it classifier, making the language a classifier language. Though, it is possible, for the present purpose I have largely ignored the terminology because of various reasons. There is no attested or known work which has claimed that Magahi is a classifier language except numeral classifier. The particle if not very similar, functions like Bangla '-taa', however, it is matter of research; for the current purpose I have only seen the various functions of the particle and have not claimed any terminological rigidity.

distribution e.g. with adjective class. The distribution of ‘-wa’ and ‘-ka’ may be considered as grammatically conditioned.

Its distribution is so generalized that it is even used with the proper noun and with borrowed noun⁴. e.g.

- (7) golu-a a raju-a kid^hər g^humi t̪^həu
 golu-DF and raju-DF where roam be.PRS.3
 Where are Golu and Raju roaming?

Greek and Albanian are of such attested languages which use definite article with some types of proper noun regularly. Based on the analysis of languages like Greek and Catalan (Ghomeshi & Massam 2009) the hypothesis is given that even the languages like English has definite determiner with proper noun which is null. Magahi with almost all proper nouns use this definite determiner.

In example (4 & 7), the presence of the particle with proper noun shows the distribution and importance of the particle. The example given in (1) the particle is accompanied with a determiner, giving the sense of referentiality and also hinting that Magahi is the language which offers the possibility of multiple determiners or multiple definite determiners, especially in the syntax of modification. E.g.

- (8) okər ləl-ka bər-ka kiṭə-bwa ne mili-t̪^həi/ milṭe-
 həii
 his.GEN. red.SM big-SMbook-DF NEG. find-be.IMPF.3.NH.
 I am not getting his big red book.

The presence of definite determiner in the form of pronoun, on the adjective, and on the noun reveals the multiple occurrences of the definite determiner. However, the question doesn’t end here; the question of multiple determiners also poses some serious questions on the structure of DP, and it has been researched and discussed. The presence of two modifiers/ determiners gives the scope of splitting DP. Some of the linguists have considered the structure of DP based on Rizzi’s (1997) split CP idea. However, these structural questions in the domain of generative syntax are interesting, is beyond the scope of the present paper.

The discourse particle regularly occurs with the nouns, when nouns come into discourse but, of course, with certain limitations or constraints. The constraint can be the familiarity, inclusiveness, hierarchy, etc. e.g. the noun particularly the indirect object, if not particularized or identified is presented in bare form e.g.

- (9) sonua raju-a-ke dənda/ ?dəndwa-se pitwəlkəi
 sonu.DF raju.DF.-PP. stick/stick.DF-from.INST. beat.CAUS.3
 Sonu got Raju beaten by (the) stick.

Example (9) presents two kinds of information i.e. if IO i.e. instrumental function of noun is not accompanied with definite particle it refers to any stick and that is not important. However, if the speaker is using the particle with a particular noun, he/she is emphasizing the role of noun in the discourse. The example in (9) therefore exclaims the function of this particle as a definite determiner.

1.1. Three Way Number Distinction

Magahi language because of its post-nominal bound discourse marker (specificity), is able to make distinction among singular, plural and general number as discussed by Corbet (2000). Magahi as reported in Aryani (1965) makes plural construction by adding ‘-ən’ suffix to the countable nouns. Though, there is no work which exhaustively deals with the number system of

⁴ Generally lexical items which are borrowed are noun; Magahi speakers uses this marker with all kinds of borrowed nouns e.g. esi-ya, firij-wa, čəər-wa, bed-wa, book-wa, l{ptop-wa, etc. They nativizes the lexical items by the use of these markers.

the language. It is linguistically sophisticated in terms of the forms, function and distribution; the plural system actually doesn't work very well on animacy hierarchy. The system doesn't work on inanimate nouns; however, a very exhaustive study is needed to reveal the system in question. Since the present paper has limitation of scope it cannot deal this question at the moment. The paper is basically concerned with definite particle and its interaction with the number system in the language. There are very few languages in the world which morphologically make this distinction (Corbet 2000).

'General number', the term given by Andrzejewski and followed by Corbet (2000) defined as, 'the language in which the meaning of the noun can be expressed without reference to number'. It is something which is outside the number system. It can mean one, two or can refer to the generic sense of the reference. Jespersen (1924) termed it 'common number form', which can be understood in both ways.

Bayso is the language which has these three forms of the number, however, it has paucal also. Magahi and Bayso's (Corbett 2000:10) number system at this parameter is almost same except the paucal system which is not found in Magahi. Corbett (2000:11) has given a diagram which very clearly shows the system.

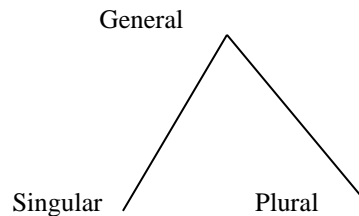


Fig. 1. System with separate general number

Magahi, since, is able to make the distinction between general number and definite (singular), therefore, falls into the system of three-way number system e.g.

(10) ser ego k^həʔərnak jənəwər howə həi
 lion one.NCLA. dangerous animal happen
 be.PRS.3
 Lion is a dangerous animal.

(11) həm kəl^he (ego) ser ɖek^hluk
 i.1S. yesterday one.NCLA. lion see.PST.1
 I saw (a) lion yesterday.

(12) həm kəl^he ser-wə-ke ɖek^hluk
 i.1S. yesterday lion-DF-ACC. see.PST.1
 I saw the (that) lion yesterday.

(13) bəkəriya mər ge-ləi
 goat.DF.died go-PRF.3.NH
 The goat has dead.

The sentence in example (10) is an instantiation of general number, since, the bare noun in the sentence does not limit itself to any number, moreover, it represent a class of animal. In example (11) the bare noun (unmarked with '-wə') delimits the potential number of referents; listeners are free to imagine the number of referents; it might be one, two, three or many in this case. However, when one uses the word 'ego' (one) before the noun it becomes immediate countable

and the number gets restricted that gives the sense of singular. The sentence in example (12) is definite because of the two morphological markers i.e. ‘-wa’ particle and post-position ‘-ke’ marker (Yadav 1998). Since, these markers are used to make the noun definite, it doesn’t give the sense of the wholeness but of one, therefore, is a singular. Example (13) is obvious example of the singularity of the referents because it refers to the singular known referents.

- (14) həm kəl^he serwən-ke ɖək^hluk
 i.1S. yesterday lion.PL-ACC see.PST.1
 I saw the lions yesterday.

The sentence in (14) reveals the semantics of definiteness but is also revealing the number, which is more than one, therefore, is plural. We can see another set of examples which is more revealing and differentiate between singular and general number e.g.

- (15) gaye ke ɖuɖ^h bəhut pəɽla howə həi
 cow of.GEN. milk very thin happen be.PRS.
 Cow’s milk is used for making sweet. [General and not singular]

- (16) gəi-ya-ke ɖuɖ^hwa bəhuɽ pəɽla həi
 cow.DF.-of.PP milk.DF. very thin be.PRS.
 The cow’s milk is very thin.

The sentence in example (15); the noun is a generic reference which is outside of the number system, but the sentence (16) refers to a particular cow whose milk is very thin. The particle ‘-wa’ which shows definiteness/ specificity works here to mark the singular, and the noun in its root form is general number. The particle ‘-wa’ gets some of the important role to play in the whole number system of the language, the discussion of which, is beyond the scope of this paper e.g. the definiteness with plural noun which evokes the semantics of inclusiveness and familiarity (Hawkins 1974). Magahi in its close examination reveals two kinds of plural constructions, one, when plural marker ‘-ən’ attaches with the bare noun gives the semantics of general plural which is not identified; however, one with definite particle (e.g. ləikwa + -ən:-ləikwən) gives the semantics of familiarity or inclusiveness, it indicates the semantics of definite plural.

1.2. Relativizing Strategies

The construction of relative clause in Magahi is very different to that of Hindi because of the semantics of ‘-wa’ particle and its association with noun (head). It can relativize the nouns without the relativizers which is not common in Hindi as Srivastav (1991) discusses, and is similar to Gujarati and Marathi as mentioned in Masica (1972), and Junghare (1973) respectively.

- (17) dərwəjwa-pe k^har ləikwa bəhuɽe h{nsəm həi
 door.DF-PP. stand boy.DF very handsome
 be.PRS.3

The boy who is standing at the door is very handsome.

The construction in example (17) is an instantiation of RC, however, it has no clause introducer i.e. relative-correlative. The sentence is naturally uttered in a certain discourse; it is a sentential construction without relativizers. The drop of relativizer is motivated by the definiteness of the nouns present in the sentence.

The particle mostly affect the correlative structure; correlative as discussed by Srivastav (1991) and Dayal (1995, 96) in the case of Hindi. She has discussed many asymmetries in the structure

and semantics of pre-nominal internally headed RRC and post-nominal RRC. According to Srivastav (1991) the left adjoined internal RC gives the semantics of quantifier in habitual tense e.g. the sentence in example (18) gives a generic reading of the sentence.

(18)jo lərka k^həra hɛ wo ləmba hɛ
 which boy stand be.PRS. DEM. tall be.PRS.
 Which boy is standing is tall.

Magahi, however, because of the ‘-wa’ particle doesn’t give the generic reading e.g.

(19)je ləikwa k^həra həi u ləmba həi
 which boy.DF. stand be.PRS. DEM. tall be.PRS.3.
 The boy who is standing is tall.

Sentence (18) according to Srivastav (1991) gives the semantics of generic quantifier which says whichever the boy is standing is tall, however, in the case of Magahi the generic interpretation of the sentence is lost, and remains just an example of normal relative clause where the subordinate clause is modifying the NP. Sentence in example (19) identifies the noun as an individual boy; the one who is standing is tall. It evokes the semantics of singular identified entity which is standing there and is tall. Some more examples from Magahi

(20)je ləikiya tej həi u əksər səfəl
 which girl.DF intelligent be.PRS. CORR. often success
 howə həi
 happen.3 be.PRS.3
 The girl who is intelligent is often successful.

(21)je ləiki tej hovə həi u əksər səfəl
 which girl.DF. intelligent happen be.PRS that.DEM. often
 success hovə həi
 happen be.PRS.
 The girl who is intelligent is often successful.

Sentence in example (20) refers to a unique individual in the relevant world and therefore limits to deliver the quantificational variable reading, the definite determiner ‘-wa’ with the form of the verb ‘həi’ together poses the constraint. Sentence in example (21), however, successfully delivers the meaning, like its Hindi counterpart (Dayal 1995).

The difference between the two languages i.e. Hindi and Magahi in this context is that the semantics of the NP is not that clear between definite generic and definite individual reading in Hindi. But in the case of Magahi because of the discourse definite determiners ‘-wa’, it clearly and categorically makes the distinction.

(22)ləikwa k^helit həu je rəjuɑ-ke mərɫəu həl
 boy.DF. play.IMP. be.PRS. who raju-DF-PP. beat.PRF.
 be.PRF.

The boy was playing who has beaten Raju.

The sentence in example (22) shows that in Magahi noun phrase i.e. without relative pronoun can be relativized easily and that is all because of the presence of definite particle.

It is not possible in the case of Hindi to delete the relativizers in the sentential relative clause strategy even if one keeps the head intact in both the clauses.

1.3. Concrete vs. Abstract Noun

Abstract noun refers to the abstract objects, ideas, concepts etc. that has no physical form or realization as opposed to the concrete words which have the physical realization and can be seen

and touched as the physical reality which is out there in the world e.g. in Hindi, *lāṛākṛaṇ* (boyhood), *miṭṛāṭa* (friendship), *bāṅṛaṇ* (childhood) are the abstract nouns, and the nouns like *lāṛāka* (boy), *bāṅṅā* (child), *kursi* (chair) are concrete nouns. These words are different and every speaker of every language makes distinction between the two, if not grammatically then semantically on the level of cognition. In Magahi, the distinction between the two is shown semantically as well as morphologically (grammatically). At the morphological level Magahi does maintain the distinction between the two.

The feature or say discourse particle which only attaches with the concrete nouns and not with the abstract nouns generally makes the distinction, e.g. abstract nouns like *k^husi* (happiness), *pāḡālpṛaṇ* (madness), etc. Concrete nouns are like, *kursi-ya* (chair), *ḡoṣṭ-wa* (friend), *tebul-wa* (table) etc. Magahi speakers do not say **k^husi-ya* (happy), and *yaḡ-wa* (memory), etc. So, morphologically this language overt marking to show the distinction. The distinction is because of discourse particle and thus distinction cannot be seen out of the discourse, and this is also the limitation of the system. Though, the derivation is more than a chance frequency it would be too bold to make a rule.

1.4. Socio-linguistic Aspect of the Particle

The language has lot to offer to the sociolinguists, since the structure reveals a lot of socio-linguistic information that has not yet been researched and documented. The particle which has the semantics of definiteness interestingly and surprisingly not only shapes the structures of the language but reveals a lot of sociolinguistics information.

It very well reveals the hierarchy pattern in the family kinship relation and society. The term is not an honorific and cannot be used for the people who are entitled for the respect in the society according to the societal pattern. The interesting phenomenon is its use with kinship terminologies. In the family hierarchy its distribution reveals the structured pattern. This term is not used for the elders in the family and is strictly prohibited.

- (23) s
u sunil/ sunil.NH elder brother where go.PRF. be.PRS.3H
n Where has Sunil elder brother has gone?
i
- (24) ʔəṅḡəṅ-wa kəḡa gel həu
/ chandan-NH where go.PRF. be.PRF.3NH
Where has chandan gone?
*

In the example (24), Chandan is younger brother that is why ‘-wa’ has been used or someone who is elder to chandan is uttering the sentence. Magahi offers honorific construction in its auxiliary verb; see the difference in auxiliary between (23) and (24).

Within the same age group and in friends the particle ‘-wa’ can be used. Its function is much like Hindi second person pronoun ‘tu’, which is used for younger and for the same age group. The use of this particle, however, is little intricate in family kinship hierarchy (Kumar 2015). A wife cannot use this marker while taking the name of her husband; although in this speech community wife generally doesn’t take the name of her husband, husbands too do not use the name of their wives. But they use circumlocution to refer to one another, and in the constructions we can see that husband use ‘-wa’ particle while referring to her wife but in no circumstance the reverse is possible. Generally, wife uses the name of her first male child to address her husband with honorific marker and husband use the name of the first female child with the particle ‘wa’ to address his wife without honorificity.

- (25) sunilə kəha gel həlhū
 sunil where go.PRF. be.PRF.3H
 Sunil! Where have you gone?

Sunil is the name of their elder son, here being referred to the husband.

- (26) soni-ya ka kərɕe hə-l-hī
 soni-NH what do.IMPF. be-PST-3NH
 Soni! What were you doing?

Soni is the name of their elder daughter, here being referred to the wife.

The use of certain address and reference terminologies in the language indicate the structural differences between male and female. Elder male is given respect in the construction but female is largely ignored. Though these features are not meant for respect can be considered as the familiarity features too, and it is certainly the case that people in this speech community is more familiar to their female counterparts than male. As we mentioned in the examples, one cannot use the '-wa' particle with elder brother or uncle but can be used to refer to elder sisters or aunts e.g.

- a) *
 ɾaju.NH uncle where go.PRF. be.PRS.H.
 *Where has Raju uncle gone?
 j
 b) ɳ
 ɳoni.NH elder sister where go.PRF. be.PRS.3NH
 *Where has elder sister Soni gone?

Even in the verbal construction difference is evident.

The particle in general (in normal conversation) is not used with the kinship terminologies, professions names, titles, etc, but can be used with some of the kinship terminologies. So, one cannot say *ɕəɕə-wa (uncle), *dɔd-wa (grandfather) *bəp-wa (father), *dɔdi-ya (grandmother), etc. but can be used with məi-ya (mother), məsi-ya (aunt), b^h{-wa (brother), etc.

The particle as discussed is non-honorific and is not used for the respect purpose; however, it can be used for the opposite purpose. People use it when they try to use the language for the purpose of hatred, abuse, in heated conversation, or in effort of showing subjugation, etc. e.g.

A mother being very irritated because of the demand for the money from his sons or daughters says in irritating voice,

- (27) ja-ke bəp-wa-se pəisa ne mangəl jəiɕe həu
 ha gel CP father-NH-PP. money NEG. ask.IMPF. go.IMPF. be.IMPF.2
 ha gel
 Go and ask money to your father, haven't you.

- (28) dɔdwa/dɔdiya-ke pas ja-ke rowəl ne jəiɕe həu
 grandfather/mother.NH-PP. near go-CP weep NEG. go.IMPF.
 be.IMPF.2
 Don't you have to go to your grandfather/mother and weep?

- (29) ka-re sunluk ɾor məsi-ya ailə həu
 what-ADD hear.PRF.1. your aunt-NH. come.PRF.
 be.PRF.3
 I have heard that you aunt has come.

Example (29) is bit different than its previous two examples in the sense that the speaker is not irritated or annoyed but the construction shows a kind of humorous relationship between the addressee and the addressor. There are other more instances where according to the mood or relationship the use of ‘-wa’ is considered, otherwise, in normal conversation, where the elder (particularly male) is supposed to be given respect the particle is not used. (for detailed discussion see Kumar 2015).

1.5. Identity Denotation

The particle is counted as one of the features which contribute in the linguistic identity denotation of the speech community. If a person is speaking with the feature, it does reveal his/her association with the language and, in turn, to the culture or the region. People outside the speech community can easily identify the belonging of the person who is using the particle with nouns. The particle is considered as one of the true features of the language.

It is not new that Magahi has been being replaced by the Hindi in most of the domains, and most of the Magahi speakers who are residing in Patna (capital of the state, Bihar) or in urban areas, going away with these features, which for them is rustic and doesn't sounds good. The Magahi language with non-honorific feature ‘-wa’ is considered as the language of uneducated and uncivilized; parents prevent their children of speaking the language in Toto because of these features and, of course, because of various social and political reasons. However, in the villages the situation is bit complicated, though, the language is preserved in the village; the features like the use of ‘-wa’, ‘re’ and ‘ge’ used respectively of male and female (not the term of respect and is not considered as civilized language) are being dropped.

It is now considered as the language of hate, unpleasant, abusive; the language of low class people. This is also because of the reason that language is still maintained by the low class people (i.e. čəmār, mushər, and others extremely backward class) with its original features in abundance. They are still preserving the language in its own features, but it is looked down upon by the so called educated and forward classes.

If somebody calls someone's name with addition of these features, they are generally abused by taking the name of the castes (low caste). These features can't be used with the strangers in the society, however, we can't state a very regular pattern of the distribution of this and other features. This is also because the structure is largely influenced by the pragmatic. For more detailed discussion of this non-honorific and other feature consult the Kumar 2015.

2. Conclusion

The paper has certain limitation because of the space, time, and, of course, because of the present approach. There are such more complex functions of this so called discourse marker which can be seen structurally as well as socio-linguistically. The paper, however, has seen that how this marker shapes the structure of language in certain ways e.g. the definiteness/specificity of the noun, semantically, it definitely evokes the idea of definite semantics or say it function as definite determiner. The use of its other form i.e. ‘-ka’, which is grammatically conditioned raises the phenomenon of multiple determiners or definiteness spreading in the syntax of modification in the language. The particle because of its definiteness property very well makes the distinction between singular and general number, therefore, makes three-ways number distinctions in Magahi i.e. general, singular and plural. It extended its semantics in the formation of relative clause and relativizing strategies, which we have just given a glimpse. There are structural asymmetries in the relative clause compared to Hindi. Since, ‘-wa’ functions as definite marker, language doesn't need relativizers to relativize the noun. In the case of pre-nominal RRC it fails to give/generate quantification reading, as is the case with Hindi (Srivastav 1991).

It also works as noun classifier and differentiates between the abstract and concrete nouns. It doesn't attach with abstract nouns. It is used for the nativization of the lexical items (particularly nouns). Sociolinguistically, it has proved to be the true feature of the language in a sense that it gives the identity denotation to the speakers, however, taken in a negative way by the speaker. Its use in the family and social hierarchy reveals the societal pattern of the speech community in a very structured way. It doesn't attach with the kinship terminologies or names of elders (particularly male) who are entitled to have respect in the society.

Abbreviation

ABL.	–	Ablative
ACC.	–	Accusative
ADD.	–	Addressee
AUX.	–	Auxiliary
CAUS.	–	Causative
CP	–	Conjunctive participial
DAT	–	Dative
DF	–	Definite
DEM.	–	Demonstrative
HON.-		Honorific
IMPF.	–	Imperfective
INST	–	Instrumental
IO	-	Indirect Object
NH.-		Non-honorific
NCLA.	–	Numeral classifier
O	-	Oblique
PRF.	-	Perfective
PROGG.	–	Progressive
PRS.	–	Present
PP	–	Post position
PL.-		Plural
S	–	Singular
SM.-		Specificity marker
1-		First person
2	–	Second person
3	–	Third person

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