Mabhyani: A Tribal Language of Indo-Aryan Language Family

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Tribal Languages of India

Indian subcontinent consists of an umpteen number of separate linguistic communities, at times sharing a common language and culture and again, at times standing in huge difference in dialects. It is already acknowledged that cosmopolitan and metropolitan populace possesses their indigenous sophisticated version of language and mode of communication. However, the point of interest in this context is the mode of utilisation of the language of tribes and tribal population in the country. Tribal people make up 8.2 percent of the nation's total population, which adds to over 84 million people, according to the 2001 Indian census. Tribal people are essentially an aboriginal community residing in India, possessing their own customs and languages. With their own mellifluous and rational style of living, Indian tribesmen are almost secluded in their universe, cut off from the rest of 'civilised' society. As such, it has since long remained a point of much curiosity and research about the kind of daily life they lead, or the style of language they employ. Indeed, Indian tribal languages are perhaps the second most enamouring topic of daily discussion, with the first being accredited to tribal dance and jewellery. Indian tribal language can be defined as essentially 'folk' languages, possessing no literary specifications of their own and spoken by people of ethnic groups who prefer to live in relatively isolated groups. They can simply be defined as the traditional languages utilised by the tribal folk. The languages used by

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tribal communities in India are indeed quite complex, but still priceless relics of India's past and nearly overshadowed glory. Some of the leading tribal language-speaking groups comprise: Garo tribes, Chakma tribes, Naga tribes, Gond tribes, Mizo tribes, Munda tribes, Santhali tribes,Khasia tribes, Oraon tribes and Manipuri tribesmen.

Some of the tribal languages prevalent in India are Abujmaria, Garo, Aariya, and Tsangla, Saurashtri etc. The Garo language is spoken by the tribal communities residing in and aroundGaro hills, Meghalya, Tripura, Western Assam, and Nagaland. Several dialects of this language include Megam, Chisak, Atong etc. Another tribal language is Abujmaria which is spoken by the people of Abujmar hills in Bastar District. The Hill Maria tribal community uses this language as their medium to converse with their folks. This language is of Dravidian language family. Saurashtri is another tribal language which is also termed as Patnuli. Tribal communities residing in different parts of Andhra Pradesh, parts of Karnataka, North Arcot and Chennai speak in this language. Apart from these tribal languages, there are some other tribal languages, namely, Gadaba spoken by the people of Koraput district of Orissa, Aariya spoken by the tribal communities of Madhya Pradesh, Tsangla which is spoken in some villages of Arunachal Pradesh.

Indian tribal languages are extremely well organised and orderly, owing to a developed past and the enlightened educational interference. Garo and Chakma languages have a slight Chinese hint to their diction. There lies an elementary similarity between the Garo and Magh languages, as both tribes belong to the same origin. Munda, Santhali, Kol, Khasia, Garo and Kurukh are interrelated languages. Munda and Kurukh are regarded as equivalent languages, due to the fact that syntax and verbs of both are almost identical. Munda, Santhali and Kol languages are even more ancient than the Indo-Aryan languages. These tribal languages further belong to Austro-Asian, Indo-Chinese, and Chinese-Tibetan, Tibetan-Burman or Dravidian families. As these tribal groups have mostly migrated from places mentioned, they have adopted their language principally from those nations.
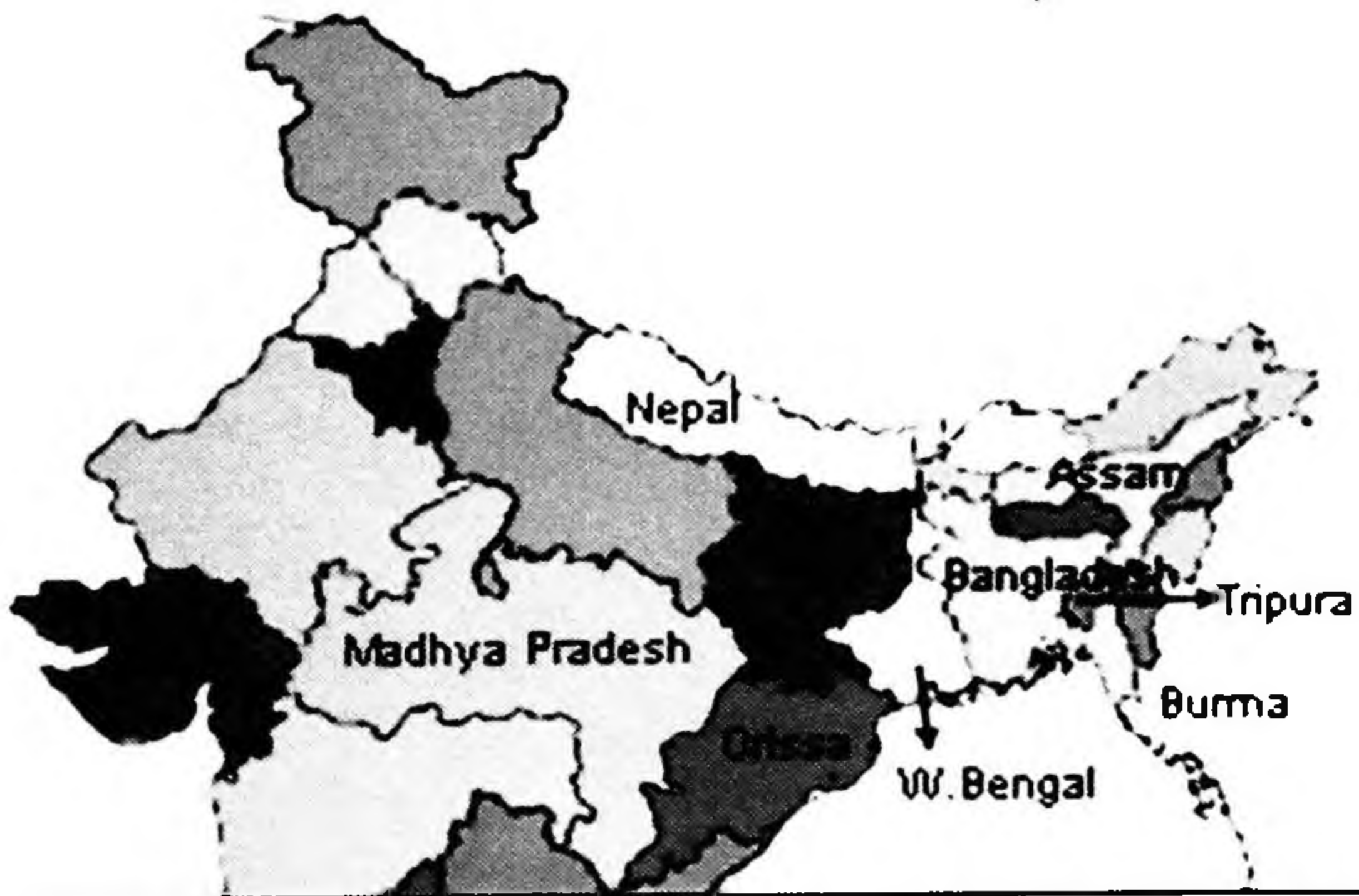
Chakma Language - Its origin is in Nepal after roaming in S. East Asian countries then they Came to Burma & Arakan before Chattagong Hills

Garo Language - Bangladesh

Khasi Language - Cherapunji, Bangladesh

Munda Language - Bangladesh, 10million people in areas of S. Bihar, Orissa, M.P, West Bengal

Manipuri Language - Bangladesh, Tripura, Assam, Myanmar And Greater Sylhet

Identification of the Community and the Region

Mabhyani is spoken in some village of Sector 66 of Noida (CT), Gautam Buddha Nagar. The total population of Noida (CT) is 305058 in which total male population is 168958 and total population of female is 136100 according to Census 2001. All the village of Noida (CT) comes under Ward No. 1, district Gautam Buddha Nagar. Noida was formed on April 19, 1976. The city is a separate district, called Gautam Budh Nagar, with its administrative HQ at Surajpur town. Noida is situated towards the north of India close to Delhi. It is bound on the west and south-west by the river Yamuna, on the north and north-west by Delhi, on the north-east by Delhi and Ghaziabad and on the north-east, east and south-east by the river Hindon. Noida falls under the catchment area of the Yamuna River and is based on the old river bed.

The data for the present study was collected from two informants Shri Rakesh Kumar (59 years) and his wife Shrimati Sudha Devi (54 years) of village Mamura, Sector 66 of Noida (CT). The mother tongue 'Mabhyani' returned approximately by 18175 speakers as this information is provided by its speakers. According to the Table 10 of Census 2001 i.e. "janpad mein matra bhasha ke anusar jansankhiya 2001" it is given that Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali and other languages are used by the speakers of Noida. Mabhyani comes under the Khadi Boli Hindi. Noida has an average literacy rate of 68%.

The People and their Social Life

The Mabhyani people are settled in the region for about three to four generations. They essentially live on agricultural avocation and have low socio-economic status. Although the general literacy rate of the community is not very high but a few literate persons are reported to have jobs in government and private sectors, legal profession and in teaching in the educational institutions. The people prefer marriages by way of negotiation within the community although a few cases of inter-community marriages with the warelas have been socially accepted which is but a recent development. The Mabhyanis are the followers of Hinduism and very conservative in themselves.

Language Used in Household and in the Extra-Home Domain:

The household language of the Mabhyanis is their mother tongue, which they use across generations. In the extra-home-domain i.e. in the bazaar, in religious ceremonies, in group meetings and in neighbourhood Mabhyani is used and in formal settings Hindi is used which is super-imposed official medium of instruction and very rarely English is also used by the young generation of Mabhyani.

Linguistic Sketch of Mabhyani
1.Phonology:

Given below are all the consonants and vowels of the language with their description:

p   voiceless bilabial stop
ph   aspirated voiceless bilabial stop

b	voiced bilabial stop
bh	aspirated voiced bilabial stop
t	voiceless alveolar stop
th	aspirated voiceless alveolar stop
d	voiced alveolar stop
dh	aspirated voiced alveolar stop
T	voiceless retroflex stop
Th	aspirated voiceless retroflex stop
D	voiced retroflex stop
Dh	aspirated voiced retroflex stop
c	voiceless palatal stop
ch	aspirated voiceless palatal stop
j	voiced palatal stop
jh	aspirated voiced palatal stop
k	voiceless velar stop
kh	aspirated voiceless velar stop
g	voiced velar stop
gh	aspirated voiced velar stop
m	bilabial nasal
n	alveolar nasal
N	retroflex nasal
l	alveolar lateral
r	alveolar trill
R	retroflex flap
Rh	aspirated retroflex flap
f	voiceless labio-dental fricative
s	voiceless alveolar fricative
z	voiced alveolar fricative
š	voiceless palato-alveolar fricative
h	voiceless glottal fricative
v	labio-dental semi-vowel
y	palatal semi-vowel
I	high front short vowel
i	high front long vowel

A   mid central vowel (short)

a   low central vowel (long)

	bilabial	labio-dental	Dental	alveolar	retroflex	palato alveolar	palatal	velar	post velar	uvular	glottal
Stops	P. ph B. bh		t. th d. dh		T. Th D. Dh		c. ch j. jh	k. kh g. gh			
Fricative		f		s. z		ṣ					h
Laterals											
Nasals	M			l. n	N						
Trill & Flap				r	R. Rh						
Frictionless		v									
Semi-Vowel							y				

A. Mabhyani Consonants
Total 34

U   high back short vowel

u   high back long vowel

E   open-mid front short vowel

e   mid front long vowel

O   open-mid back short vowel

o   mid back long vowel

æ   front low vowel

ai   diphthong

au   diphthong

Mabhyani Vowels

Part of the tongue	Front	Central	Back
Height of the tongue			
High		i	u
Low-high		I	U
High-mid		e	o
Mean-mid	E	A	O
Low			a

The Nasalized Vowel Phonemes

In the language spoken by the people of Noida (CT), all the ten vowels are nasalized

<div align="center">

Ĩ   Ũ

ĩ   ũ

ẽ   õ

Ẽ   Õ

ã

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Syllable Structure

Word may consist of one or more syllable. A syllable is characterized as sequence of phoneme with one peak. In each syllable the vowel has the peak. A vowel may be preceded or followed by one or more consonants. The syllable is open when the vowel is the final segment and it is closed when final segment is a consonant.

In the language under study we found following syllabic structure:

Monosyllabic

cvc	Rakh
vcv	Ag

Bisyllabic

Cvcv	hAwa
Cvccv	bIdhwa
Cvcvc	mArAd
Vccv	Admi
Cvccv	mUrga

Morphology

Various aspects of morphology of Mabhyani are discussed below.

Noun Morphology

A noun in Mabhyani consists of two tier number (singular and plural) and two tier genders (masculine and feminine).

Number: Mabhyani has two numbers i.e. singular and plural and the plural suffix markers are —e, —yā, and prefix marker as 'bhaut sara' and 'bhaut sare' for masculine plural, 'bhaut sari' for feminine plural.

Word-sg	Gloss	Word-pl	Gloss
Tota	'parrot'	Tote	'parrots'
chIRa	'bird'	chIRyā	'birds'
lAkRi	'Wood'	lAkRiyā	'Woods'
bIlli	'cat'	bhaut sari bIlli	'cats'
bAndAr	'monkey'	bhaut sare bAndAr	'monkeys'

Gender: The masculine gender is determined by suffix —a and the feminine gender is determined by the suffixes —i, —iya and —Ika.

Word-mas	Gloss	Word-fem	Gloss
baRAk	'male baby'	baRIka	'female baby'
lARka	'boy'	lARki	'girl'
kUtta	'dog'	kUttlya	'bitch'
lonDa	'boy'	lonDiya	'girl'

Cases

The five tier cases – nominative, accusative, ablative, and locative have the markers as under:

Nom.-Φ   admi 'man', orAt 'woman', papa 'father', bITIya 'daughter', ghAr 'house'

loc.–pe   khet pe 'to the field'

Acc. –te (masc), -ti (fem)

   u te 'to him' u ti 'to her'.

Abl. –se admi se 'from the man', orAt se ' from the woman'

Pronouns

The pronouns are of three types

i)   Personal pronouns

ii)   Demonstrative pronouns

iii)   Interrogative pronouns

Of these the personal pronouns are categorized by three-tier persons (1st, 2nd& 3rd)_and two tier numbers (sg. & pl.) and the demonstrative pronouns by remote and proximate-types with two-tier number (sg. & pl.) systems. The interrogatives don't distinguish in numbers.

Personal Pronouns

Person	Singular	Gloss	Plural	Gloss
1st Person	mAnne	'I'	hAmne, hAmar	'we'
2nd Person	tAnne, tu	'thou'	ap, tAm	'You'
3rd person	vo, u	'he/she'	u, ve, u sAb	'they'

Demonstrative

Gloss	Word	Gloss	Word
This	yo, nu	That	Ba, wa
These	ye, u	Here	Itte, IhAr, EhAr
those	ve	There	Utte, UhAr

Interrogatives

Gloss	Word	Gloss	Word
Why	Kay	How	kaisa, ki tarAh

What	Kay, ka, ki, ku	Whose	kiko
Who	kon	Where	kIhAr, kAha

The declensional patters of the personal pronouns are:

	1st P.	2nd P.	

3rd P.

Nom. Sg.   mE 'I'   tAm 'you'
u, nu 'he/she'

   Pl.   hAm 'we'   tAm 'you'   u   sAb
'he/she'

Acc.   Sg.   mUjhe 'to me'   tUme 'to thou'   u hã 'to
him'

   Pl.   hAmara 'to us'   tume 'to you'
u hã 'to them'

Gen.   Sg.   mera 'my'   torA 'thine'
u 'his/her'   Pl.   hAmara 'our'   torA 'your'
      u ko 'their'

Abl.   Sg.   mujh se 'from me'   tE se 'from thou'   u   se
'from his/her'

   Pl.   hAm se 'from us'   tE se 'from you'   u   sAb   Se   'from
them'

The Articles

Indefinite articles are found in Mabhyani language.

For example,

        ek kUtta 'one dog/ a dog'; ek kUttIya 'one bitch/ a bitch'.

        ek lARka 'one boy/ a boy'; ek lARki 'one girl/ a girl'.

        ek beTa 'one son/ a son'; ek bITIya 'one daughter/ a daughter'.

Adjectives of Comparison

The adjectives are semantically classified into qualitative and quantitative types. Grammatically, the qualitative have three degrees of comparison as –Nominative, Comparative and Superlative, but in the given language there are only two types

    i)   Nominative &

    ii)   Superlative

The examples are as follows:

Accha "good" bAhot Accha "best"
uca "high" bAhot uca "highest"
bUra "bad" bAhot bUra "worst"

Verbs

The verbs in Mahbyani are categorised into three types

i) Auxiliary types
ii) Finite types
iii) Non-finite types

Auxiliary types are distinguished by two-numbers, singular and plural in the present, past and future tense, the finite types by three-tier tenses i.e present, past and future tense and Non-finite types by Infinitive and two-tier participles i.e. present and past participle.

Auxiliary type

Person	Present	past	future
1st P	hũ	tha/thi	Future auxiliary is missing
2nd P	he /ho	the	
3rd P	hẽ	thẽ	

Finite Type

Tense	Person	Mabhyani
Present	1st Person	hu (sg, mas & fem)
		ho (sg, mas & fem)
	2nd Person	ho (pl, mas & fem)
		he (sg, mas & fem)
	3rd Person	hẽ (pl, mas & fem)
Past	1st , 2nd, 3rd	thi (sg & fem)/ tha (sg & mas)
		thi(pl & fem)/ thẽ (pl & fem)
Future	1st Person	ga (sg, mas)/ gi (sg, fem)
		gẽ (pl, mas, fem)
	2nd Person	ge (sg, mas)/ gi (sg, fem)

	3rd Person	gĕ/ gi (pl. mas. fem) gĕ (pl. mas. fem)

The conjugational -system is thus √ (root) +tense-person-number (TPN) terminations.

Below are presented the conjugational formations in different tenses:

Present Tense

-ao 1st sg. mE khati hu [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker- hu] 'I eat'.
2nd sg. tAm khate ho [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-ho] 'you eat'.
3rd sg. u khate hE [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-hE] 'he eats'.

1st Pl. hAm khate hE [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-hE] 'we eat'.
2nd Pl. ap log khate hE [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-hE] 'you eat'.
3rd Pl. u:sAb khaAo [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-Ao] 'They eat'.

Past Tense

1st sg. mEne kha IIya tha [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-tha] 'I ate'.
2nd sg. tUmne kha IIya tha [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-tha] 'you ate'.
3rd sg. Usne khaya tha [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-tha] 'he/she ate'.

1st Pl. hAmne khaya tha [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-tha] 'We ate'.
2nd Pl. tUm logõ ne khaya tha [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-tha] 'You ate'
3rd Pl. u sAb ne khaya tha [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-tha] 'They ate'

Future Tense

1st sg. mE khaõ ga [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-ga] 'I shall eat'
2nd sg. tAm khao ge [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-ge] 'You will eat'
3rd sg. ba khay ga [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-ga] 'He will eat'

1st Pl. hAm khã ge [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-ge] 'We shall eat'
2nd Pl. tAm khao ge [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-ge] 'We shall eat'
3rd Pl. hAm khae ge [√kha "to eat"+TPN marker-ge] 'We shall eat'

Moods

Of the three-tier modal systems indicative is any simple sentence in construction while the imperative and optative are marked by –a, -o, -E.

Indicative Mood

chIRIya peR pAr hE 'The bird is on the tree'
Utte cha:r tote hE 'There are four parrots'.
ba bAndAr hE. 'That is a monkey'.
kUtta bhõ:k rAha hE. 'The dogs bark'.

Imperative Mood

-a tUmne peR khud kaTa hE 'You cut the tree yourself'.
dhire bolo 'Speak slowly'.
Itte bETh jao 'Sit down'.
khARe ho jao ' stand up'.

Optative Mood

chAlo aj hAm Apna kam khAtAm kAR lete hE 'Let us finish our work today'.

Non-finite

The non-finite types as available in the data Mabhyani are infinitives and participles (present) and their respective markers are –na (infinitive) –ta (present participle).

Infinite: eg pina 'to drink', jana 'to go' khata 'to eat', lata 'to bring', kArta 'to do'

Present Participle -te, -t jate 'while going'; khelte khelte 'while playing';

The Particles: the particles are two- Affirmative and Negative. Of these, the former precedes the construction while the latter occurs immediately before the verb. The examples are:

Affirmative Particle: hã 'yes' hã u: mAndIr ja rAha tha 'yes he was going to the temple'.

Negative Particle: na/ nae 'no' u me pani nae hE 'Nothing is there in the pot to drink'.

Syntax

Word order

The word order is subject, object and verb (SOV). Subject occurs in the initial position, object follows the subject but precedes the verb.

The syntax structure of Mabhyani is like **URDU** and **HINDI** word order system i.e.SOV (subject .object and verb)

example   wo admi ghAr mE he

NP – wo admi

VP - he

S= NP+VP

S= wo admi + he

For example:

1. me (sub)   lAkRi (dir. Obj.) kUlhaRi (indir. Obj.)   te katti hu (verb).
2. me ApRe kApRe ApRe ap dhoti hu.

(sub)   (obj)   (verb)

Types of Sentences

There are three types of sentences in the given language.
- i)   simple
- ii)   compound
- iii)   complex

Simple
1.   cuha INge tINge doR rAha tha

Mouse was running here and there.

Complex
1.   tAb u bajar sAbjiya khAridne jar rAha tha to Use wAha Uska pUrane dost mIle.

He went to market to purchase vegetables where he met his old friends.

Compound
1.   me rApti aur gIR paRi

My foot slipped and I fell down.

Conclusion

Mabhyani is the –a ending dialect of western Hindi same as Haryanvi and Khari boli because in these dialects the nouns, pronouns, verb, adjectives end on vowel –a (taken from Grierson). For example:

1. Noun: lARka, ghoRa
2. Pronouns: mEra, tEra and tUmhara
3. Verb: aya, gAya
4. Adjective: Accha, bUra and bARa.

Mabhyani is near to Haryanvi in which R (retroflex, flap) Rh (aspirated, retroflex and flap) and N (retroflex, Nasal) are used very frequently. For example:

S.No	Gloss	Mabhyani	Haryanvi
1	'male baby'	baRAk	baRAk
2	'king'	Raja	Raja
3	'song'	gaRa	gaRa
4	'bring'	laRi	laRi
5	'making'	bARh rAhe	bARh rAhe

On the basis of structural and lexical similarity of this language with Haryanvi and Khari boli, the mother tongue of Noida(CT) seems to be classifiable as a variety of Western Hindi.

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