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Agreement in Khortha

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Abstract

Khortha is an Indo-Aryan language primarily spoken in the state of Jharkhand. According to the 2011 census, Khortha is considered to be a dialect of Hindi, similar to many other regional languages. Despite having over 8.04 million speakers, Khortha lacks comprehensive linguistic documentation and is considered endangered by some scholars (Priya & Singh, 2018). Previous research on Khortha has been limited and insufficient.

There are six distinct varieties of Khortha spoken in Jharkhand. This paper focuses on the agreement patterns of the Ramgarhiya 'ramgəɽʰɪya' variety spoken in the Ramgarh district of Jharkhand (Ohdar, 2012). Unlike Hindi, which employs a 'dual system of agreement', Khortha uses a 'single system of agreement' (Das, 2006). This study examines various aspects of agreement in terms of number and person, highlighting that Khortha, unlike Hindi, does not use grammatical gender. In Khortha, agreement markers can appear as verbal elements or auxiliaries.

By analyzing these patterns, we gain a deeper understanding of Khortha's unique features and its distinctions from Hindi. This paper aims to contribute to linguistic typology and language documentation by thoroughly examining Khortha's agreement pattern. Enhanced understanding and documentation of Khortha are crucial for its preservation and for enriching our knowledge of these under-resourced languages.

Keywords: Khortha, Ramgarhiya, Indo-Aryan, Austro-Asiatic, Dravidian, Grammatical Agreement, Single-System of Agreement, Dual-System of Agreement

1. Introduction

Khortha is a language variety spoken primarily in the state of Jharkhand and in some parts of Bihar and West Bengal. It is the second largest language in terms of the number of speakers spoken in the state of Jharkhand, boasting about 8.04 million speakers (Census, 2011). The census of India also includes Khortha as a dialect of Hindi. Jharkhand, being a linguistically rich region which has speakers of languages from

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three different language families, namely Indo-Aryan, Austro-Asiatic and Dravidian, the languages present in the state need to be studied extensively for their unique linguistic characteristics.

Grierson (1927), while formulating the Linguistic Survey of India volumes, describes Khortha to be a dialect of Magahi and calls it *Eastern Magahi*. Prasad and Shastri (1958) also identify it as the same (a dialect of Magahi). Khortha or Khotta is considered to be a dialect of *Magahi* (Language Code: *mag*)[1] as well as *Maithili* (Language Code: *mai*)[2], according to the Ethnologue. Das (2013) also considers that it is a dialect of Angika, which in turn is a dialect of Maithili itself. So, which one is correct? and which one should we consider? These were aptly answered by Prasad & Shastri (1958), Dangi (2012), Ohdar (2012) (as cited by Aman et al. 2020) and Aman et al. (2020) itself that there exist 6 different varieties of Khortha. (Aman et al. 2020)[3] tried to give a linguistic profile of each of these varieties and described how they can be distinguished with respect to the use of different phonemes, verb endings and vocabulary. Given below is a table (*Table 1*) which lists all the different varieties, where they are spoken and which are the languages they are associated with.

Sr. No.	Varieties	Region	Neighbouring Languages
1.	Deshwali [desʰvɑli]	Places within the Patratu border to the western side of Palamu as in Daltonganj, Lohardaga, etc.	Magahi and Bhojpuri
2.	Ramgarhiya [rɑmgəṛʰiyɑ]	Ramgarh, Hazaribagh, Bhurkunda, Eastern Patratu, etc.	Kurmali and Nagpuri
3.	Parnadiya [pərnədiyɑ]	The northern side of Damodar river in and around Nai Sarai situated opposite to Ramgarh.	
4.	Sikhariya [sikʰəriyɑ]	Jainamore, Parasnath Pahad, Topchanchi, Giridih upto Eastern Bengal borders.	Bengali
5.	Santhal	Deoghar, Madhupur, Dumka,	Maithili or

[1] Ethnologue code for *Magahi*

[2] Ethnologue code For *Maithili*

[3] Aman et al. (2020) gives a very good detailed overview of all the varieties of *Khortha* spoken in the state of Jharkhand. It is very interesting to look at the distributional properties of these varieties. Two of them are identified as distinct because of the use of different measuring device called 'pəilɑ'. The *Sikhariya* variety can be traced to some parts of Bengal and it was found that the variety has a lot of Bangla influence, not just in lexical borrowing but also with the rounding of vowels and others. The paper also discusses the differences of other varieties of *Khortha* in linguistic terms. *Golvari*, for example uses *'a:he'* instead of *'hɛ'* for the 'be' verb. Ohdar (2012) also claimed that *Parnadiya* variety adds '-o' suffix to the verb phrases and *'-a'* to the noun phrase. *Santhal Parganiya* variety is also known to have *'čʰika-čʰiki'* property which is only noticed in this variety. It is called so due to the use of *'čʰi'* as auxiliary verb 'be'.

	Parganiya [sənt^{h}ɑl pərgəniyɑ]	and other North-Eastern areas of Jharkhand Bordering to Bihar.	Angika
6.	Golwari [golvɑri]	South of Ramgarh area from Kasmar, Kherachatta, Gola, Rajrappa, etc.	Kurmali

Table 1: Varieties of Khortha along with the languages which are neighbouring those varieties, hence affecting the varieties. Adopted from Aman et al. (2020). Although the neighbouring languages affect the respective varieties of Khortha, it is not strictly confined to that variety or that area only.

On studying the table above, it is easier to see that both the claims of Khortha being a dialect of Magahi and Maithili are true, and it should be so that we should look more deeply into these varieties that exist and analyse the structural differences. Defining Khortha to be in strict boundaries cannot do justice to all these varieties. This paper is an attempt to do that exactly.

Since, the author is a native speaker of this language, the data collection process for this study went smoothly. The data was collected in the district of Ramgarh, in the state of Jharkhand. In Ramgarh district, the data was collected from the regions surrounding the town called Kuju such as Kuju Basti, Murpa, Ara, Sarubera, etc. The informants include people from age group 18-60 from both the genders.

The method used to collect data was primarily an interview with a pre-approved questionnaire, which included all the types of sentences that were required to get all the types of sentences to understand the agreement pattern in this language. The sentences were in Hindi, and the informants were asked to translate these into Khortha. Since, the questionnaire used for this data collection was build and adapted from various sources but majorly from Das (2006). The questionnaire included Intransitive, transitive, ditransitive sentences with the arguments varying in Person, Number and Gender.

The collected data then was transcribed and properly glossed. The data was transcribed using Bloch & Trager (1942). The glossing was done using Leipzig glossing rules.

2. Grammatical Agreement

Grammatical agreement depicts the relationship of a constituent (generally NPs) to another constituent (generally the verbal elements) in the clause. The term ‘agreement’ in general has been defined by many scholars over the years. Lehmann (1985) discusses how grammatical agreement is ‘referential’ in the sense that it helps to identify the referents and keep track of the referents in a discourse. Agreement does so by mapping certain features (PNG or phi features) of the NPs (Subject/Object) to the Verbal element, making the verbal element change with respect to the change in the phi features of the NP(S) it agrees with.

Das (2006), in his seminal work, has proposed a theoretical framework for the typological study of the Indian languages with

respect to their agreement patterns. He suggests that there are languages which follow a 'Dual System of Agreement', such as Hindi, Punjabi, Marathi, Nepali etc., where the verb agrees with the covertly case-marked argument, because the case markers are the blockers of agreement. So, these languages show 'Subject-Verb Agreement' as well as 'Object-Verb Agreement'. It is also worth noting that these two are in complementary distribution, meaning that when there is Subject-Verb Agreement, there won't be Object-Verb Agreement and vice versa. This change in the agreement system will occur in different syntactic domains.

Khortha[4] from hereby meaning to Ramgarhiya [rɑmgəɽʰiyɑ] in this paper, shows a pattern similar to the 'Single System of Agreement' as defined by Das (2006) in which there is a clear marking of the subject onto the verb despite it being marked by case (either overtly or covertly). The subject is the one that will always map its phi features onto the verb, making it finite along with Tense and Aspect.

This paper aims not to investigate the different varieties of Khortha and analyse the agreement patterns in all these varieties, rather this paper is an attempt to look into one of these varieties, namely Ramgarhiya [rɑmgəɽʰiyɑ] and analyse the agreement pattern followed by this variety of Khortha. Similar works on agreement patterns on the other varieties of Khortha have been done by many scholars such as Das (2017), Ray & Kumar (2022) and others. But there is no work to be found on agreement in this variety of Khortha.

We will now look into the basic agreement pattern followed by Khortha in different tenses and aspects and how the markings of number and person are mapped onto the verb. As stated earlier, Khortha doesn't have grammatical gender and hence does not differentiate between Masculine and Feminine. So, the markings are also not present for the same, and we do not have to investigate gender as this is not the topic of this paper.

When I say that Khortha doesn't have 'grammatical gender', what I mean is that apart from the biological gender assigned to the animate objects, the language does not differentiate between Masculine and Feminine non-animate nouns. This can only be seen in agreement when we talk about NP internal agreement, meaning the agreement within the Noun Phrase (NP) between the head noun, where the noun is animate, and the dependents, i.e., adjectives. Agreement of gender between noun(s) and verbs is not seen in Khortha. Consider the following examples (a-c).

a. moṭ-kɑ lərk-wɑ
   fat-MS boy-MS

   'The fat boy'

[4] All references to Khortha henceforth mean Ramgarhiya [rɑmgəɽʰiyɑ] Khortha

b. moṭ-ki lərkı-yɑ
fat-FS girl-FS
'The fat girl'

c. ʊ lərk-wɑ / lərkı-yɑ səb-se moṭ h-o
that.DEM boy-DEF.3MS / girl-DEF.3FS all-than fat be-PRS.3S
'That boy/girl is fattest among all'

In examples (a&b), we see that there is gender agreement between the head noun and the adjective, meaning the adjective agrees with the head in terms of gender. This is because the head noun is animate. Also, this gender agreement is nuanced because it's only seen NP internally and with animate nouns. As one can see in example (c), we do not find any agreement between the adjective and the noun, even though the noun is animate. This is due to the fact that the adjective is predicative.

So, with this out of the way, we will now move on to the clausal agreement pattern seen in Ramgarhiya Khortha.

3. Basic Clausal Agreement Pattern in Khortha (*Ramgarhiya*)

The following section deals with the basic agreement patterns followed by Khortha. The section gives us an in-depth analysis of all the markings used and how these markings and the form of the verb change with respect to person, number, and tense.

3.1. Simple-Present Clauses

1. həm gʰər jɑ-vo h-ıyo
i.1S.NOM house.3S.LOC go-PRES be-PRES.1S
'I go home'

2. tʊ gʰər jɑ-vo h-ĩ
you.2S.NOM house.3S.LOC go-PRES be-PRES.2S
'You go home'

3. ʊ gʰər jɑ-vo h-o
(s)he.3S.NOM house.3S.LOC go-PRES be-PRES.3S
'(S)he goes home'

Looking into the simple clauses (1-3), we see that the subject is singular and we find that there are two constituents in the verbal component, the first constituent is the main verb (jɑ meaning 'go') and the second is the 'be' verb (ho). In the simple clauses, the main verbs have only tense markings, and the agreement markings are all inflected

on the 'be' verb. We see that with respect to person, the inflection in the 'be' verb changes. Eg, for 1st person, the inflection in the 'be' verb is '-ɪyo'; for 2nd person, it is '-ĩ'; and for the 3rd person, it is '-o'.

So, from the above examples we can see that one of the phi features, i.e., person has an impact on the markings on the verbal constituent. We can also now check the plural counterparts for further analysis:

4. həm-ɪn gʰər jɑ-vo h-ɪyo
   we-1PL.NOM house.3S.LOC go-PRES be-PRES.1PL
   'We go home'

5. toh-ɪn gʰər jɑ-vo h-ĩ
   you-2PL.NOM house.3S.LOC go-PRES be-PRES.2PL
   'You (all) go home'

6. okʰ-ɪn gʰər jɑ-vo h-ətʰʊn
   they-3PL.NOM house.3S.LOC go-PRES be-PRES.3PL
   'They go home'

Examples (4-6) are the same examples as in (1-3), the only difference being in the number feature of the Subject. Here we can see that, in respect to their singular counterparts, again, the marking of plurality can be seen on the 'be' verb. There are a few things to note here, the markings for number in 1st and 2nd person are the same, meaning that there is no change in the form of the 'be' verb, which is otherwise proof for person agreement in Khortha. Nonetheless, we find that there is a change in the form of the 'be' verb in Number when it comes to the 3rd person. The inflection for 3rd plural is '-ətʰʊn', which is not the same as the inflection for 3rd singular, i.e., '-o'.

Examples (1-6) give us a general overview of the agreement pattern followed by Khortha. The observation till now can be summarized as follows:

In Khortha, there is agreement between the subject and the verbal element of the sentence; this agreement is realised in terms of Person and Number features of the NP(s) onto the verbal elements. When there are two elements in the Verb Phrase, the main verb bears the Tense markings and the 'be' verb takes the Person and Number inflection. The form of the 'be' verb changes with respect to the Person feature. It is also seen that the Number markings for 1st and 2nd person are the same, i.e., there is no change in the form of the 'be' verb for 1st singular and plural, as well as 2nd singular and plural. But, this is not the case for 3rd person. The number markings are distinct for 3rd person in Khortha.

In the above explanation, I've said that the main verb is marked for Tense, but from the examples (1-6), one can argue it's not the case. This can be solved when we look into other examples, where there is only one element in the VP.

3.2. Simple-Past Clauses

7a. həm gʰər g-əl-ɪo
i.1S.NOM house.3S.LOC go-PST-1
'I went home'

7b. həm-ɪn gʰər g-əl-ɪo
we-1PL.NOM house.3S.LOC go-PST-1
'We went home'

8a. tʊ gʰər g-əl-ĩ
you.2S.NOM house.3S.LOC go-PST-2
'You went home'

8b. toh-ɪn gʰər g-əl-ĩ
you-2PL.NOM house.3S.LOC go-PST-2
'You(all) went home'

9. ʊ gʰər g-əl-o
(s)he.3S.NOM house.3S.LOC go-PST-3S
'(s)he went home'

10. okʰɪn gʰər g-əl-tʰʊn
they.3PL.NOM house.3S.LOC go-PST-3PL
'They went home'

The markings in these examples (7a-10) again conform to the findings and observations about the number and person agreement in Khortha in the simple past tense. From the above examples, we see that that verb is inflected for person and number. We also see that there is no change in markings for number in 1st and 2nd person (7a&7b; 8a&8b).

However, there is a slight difference between the examples of the simple past tense and the examples in the simple present tense. In the latter, we see that the verb was accompanied by a 'be' verb, which was carrying the markers for person and number, but in the case of simple past clauses, we see that all the markers are carried by the main verb itself. The tense, number and person markers are analysed onto the main verb through suffixes. The suffix for the past tense is '-əl', and the person and number markings are the same as discussed above. It is also important to note the order of the inflection. The tense marker is the first morpheme to inflect with the verb, and then the number and person marker can come.

3.3. Simple-future Clauses

11a. həm gʰər j-ɪb-o
i.1S.NOM house.3S.LOC go-FUT-1
'I will go home'

11b. həm-ɪn gʰər j-ɪb-o
we-1PL.NOM house.3S.LOC go-FUT-1
'We will go home'

12a. tʊ gʰər j-ɪb-ĩ
you.2S.NOM house.3S.LOC go-FUT-2
'You will go home'

12b. toh-ɪn gʰər j-ɪb-ĩ
you-2PL.NOM house.3S.LOC go-FUT-2
'You(all) will go home'

13. ʊ gʰər j-ɪt-o
(s)he.3S.NOM house.3S.LOC go-FUT-3S
'(s)he will go home'

14. okʰɪn gʰər j-ɪb-tʰʊn
they.3PL.NOM house.3S.LOC go-FUT-3PL
'They will go home'

The examples (11a-14) are given here to show the agreement patterns followed by Khortha in simple future tense. After analysing the data, we see that the agreement pattern is consistent throughout the tenses, apart from the 1st person, as there is a slight change in the morpheme marking person. Earlier, it was seen that for 1st singular, the morpheme used was '-ɪyo'. But in future tense it is '-o'. Apart from this, we can say that agreement is an indication of structural uniformity in Khortha language. Although there needs to be a discussion about the 3rd person marking of agreement in the language. Looking into the examples (11a-14), we see that the future tense is marked upon the verb by a suffix, i.e., '-ɪb' in all the number and person in the simple future tense, apart from the 3rd person singular, where we find that the tense marker for future tense in 3rd person is '-ɪt'.

'Be' verb (ho)

	Present		Past		Future	
	S	**PL**	**S**	**PL**	**S**	**PL**
1st Person	h-ɪyo	h-ɪyo	h-əl-ɪo	h-əl-ɪo	h-əb-o	h-əb-o
2nd Person	h-ĩ	h-ĩ	h-əl-ĩ	h-əl-ĩ	h-əb-ĩ	h-əb-ĩ
3rd Person	h-o	h-ətʰʊn	h-əl-o	h-əl-tʰʊn	h-ət-o	h-əb-tʰʊn

Table 2: The verb declensions for different tenses for the 'be' verb in Khortha. We can also see the changes in the form of the verb with respect to person and number.

'Go' verb (jɑnɑ)

	Past		Future	
	S	**PL**	**S**	**PL**
1st Person	g-əl-ɪo	g-əl-ɪo	j-ɪb-o	j-ɪb-o
2nd Person	g-əl-ĩ	g-əl-ĩ	j-ɪb-ĩ	j-ɪb-ĩ
3rd Person	g-əl-o	g-əl-$t^hʊ$n	j-ɪt-o	j-ɪb-$t^hʊ$n

Table 3: The verb declensions in different tenses for the 'go' verb in Khortha.

The following table (*Table 1&2*) shows the verb declensions of *be* and *go* verbs, respectively. We can see from the table the paradigm that is being followed in Ramgarhiya Khortha.

4. Aspectual Agreement in Khortha

After having looked at the agreement patterns in different tenses in Khortha, it is necessary that we investigate these patterns in different aspects as well. We will see how aspectual markings in Khortha work and how they are analysed in the language.

4.1. Present Simple/Indefinite Aspect

15a. həm roṭi $k^hɑ$-vo h-ɪyo
i.1S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PRES be-PRES.1
'I eat chapatti'

15b. həm-ɪn roṭi $k^hɑ$-vo h-ɪyo
we-1PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PRES be-PRES.1
'We eat chapatti'

16a. tʊ roṭi $k^hɑ$-vo h-ĩ
you.2S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PRES be-PRES.2
'You eat chapatti'

16b. toh-ɪn roṭi $k^hɑ$-vo h-ĩ
you-2PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PRES be-PRES.2
'You(all) eat chapatti'

17. ʊ roṭi $k^hɑ$-vo h-o
(s)he.3S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PRES be-PRES.3S
'(s)he eats chapatti'

18. ok^{h}ɪn roṭi $k^hɑ$-vo h-ə$t^hʊ$n
they.3PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PRES be-PRES.3PL
'They eat chapatti'

The examples from (15a-18) are from present simple or indefinite aspect in Khortha. We can see that these examples, all conform to the previously discussed agreement patterns in the language. The verbs chosen are transitive in nature to show that transitivity doesn't have an effect on the agreement patterns in Khortha.

4.2. Present Progressive/Continuous Aspect

19a. həm roṭi kʰɑv-et h-ɪyo
i.1S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-PRES.1
'I am eating chapatti'

19b. həm-ɪn roṭi kʰɑv-et h-ɪyo
we-1PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-PRES.1
'We are eating chapatti'

20a. tʊ roṭi kʰɑv-et h-ĩ
you.2S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-PRES.2
'You are eating chapatti'

20b. toh-ɪn roṭi kʰɑv-et h-ĩ
you-2PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-PRES.2
'You(all) are eating chapatti'

21. ʊ roṭi kʰɑv-et h-o
(s)he.3S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-PRES.3S
'(S)he is eating chapatti'

22. okʰɪn roṭi kʰɑv-et h-ətʰʊn
they.3PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-PRES.3PL
'They are eating chapatti'

The examples above (19a-22) are given to showcase the progressive aspect in present tense in Khortha. The progressive marker for marking continuity in Khortha is '-et', which attaches to the main verb to show that the action is not complete. The markers for person and number remain the same throughout the continuous aspect, as it is in simple tense. The markings for number in 1st and 2nd person remain the same, i.e., '-ɪo' and '-ĩ' respectively. The markings for number in the 3rd person change, i.e., '-o' for singular and '-ətʰʊn' for plural.

4.3. Past Progressive Aspect

23a. həm roṭi kʰɑv-et h-əl-ɪo
i.1S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-PST-1
'I was eating chapatti'

23b. həm-ɪn roṭi kʰɑv-et h-əl-ɪo
we-1PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-PST-1
'We were eating chapatti'

24a. tʊ roṭi kʰɑv-et h-əl-ĩ
you.2S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-PST-2
'You were eating chapatti'

24b. toh-ɪn roṭi kʰɑv-et h-əl-ĩ
you-2PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-PST-2
'You(all) were eating chapatti'

25. ʊ roṭi kʰɑv-et h-əl-o
(s)he.3S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-PST-3S
'(S)he was eating chapatti'

26. okʰɪn roṭi kʰɑv-et h-əl-tʰʊn
they.3PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-PST-3PL
'They were eating chapatti'

The examples (23a-26) are examples to show the agreement patterns in past progressive aspect. As in the present progressive, the main verb is inflected with the progressive marker '-et' to show the progressive nature of the action. Also, compared to the present progressive, the form of the 'be' verb is also changed. It has taken the past tense marker '-əl' to show that the action is done in the past. In these examples (23a-26) as well, we can see that the transitivity of the verb doesn't have any impact on the markings for past progressive aspect in Khortha.

4.4. Future Indefinite Aspect

27a. həm roṭi kʰə-ɪb-o
i.1S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-FUT-1
'I will eat chapatti'

27b. həm-ɪn roṭi kʰə-ɪb-o
we-1PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-FUT-1
'We will eat chapatti'

28a. tʊ roṭi kʰə-ɪb-ĩ
you.2S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-FUT-2
'You will eat chapatti'

28b. toh-ɪn roṭi kʰə-ɪb-ĩ
you-2PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-FUT-2
'You(all) will eat chapatti'

29. ʊ roṭi kʰə-ɪt-o
(s)he.3S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-FUT-3S
'(S)he will eat chapatti'

30. okʰɪn roṭi kʰə-ɪb-tʰʊn
they.3PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-FUT-3PL
'They will eat chapatti'

Examples (27a-30) are in future-indefinite, but we have already seen examples from future indefinite in (11a-14). This is because in examples (27a-30), the verb is transitive. However, we see that the previous discussion regarding the aspect marking of verbs in Khortha holds true in these examples, regardless of the transitivity of the verb.

4.5. Future Progressive Aspect

31a. həm roṭi kʰɑv-et h-əb-o
i.1S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-FUT-1
'I will be eating chapatti'

31b. həm-ɪn roṭi kʰɑv-et h-əb-o
we-1PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-FUT-1
'We will be eating chapatti'

32a. tʊ roṭi kʰɑv-et h-əb-ĩ
you.2S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-FUT-2
'You will be eating chapatti'

32b. toh-ɪn roṭi kʰɑv-et h-əb-ĩ
you-2PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-FUT-2
'You(all) will be eating chapatti'

33. ʊ roṭi kʰɑv-et h-ət-o
(s)he.3S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-FUT-3S
'(S)he will be eating chapatti'

34. okʰɪn roṭi kʰɑv-et h-əb-tʰʊn
they.3PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PROG be-FUT-3PL
'They will be eating chapatti'

Examples (31a-34) are examples to show the future progressive aspect. We can see from the examples that the progressive aspect in the future tense is also marked onto the main verb. The marker is the same, which is used in all other tenses to depict continuity, i.e., '-et'. We can also see that the markers for person and number are consistent throughout different aspects. The tense marker is also uniform. In these examples (31a-34), we see that the tense marker for future tense is '-əb' in 1st (Singular and Plural); 2nd (Singular and Plural); and 3rd Plural. The marker for tense in 3rd Singular is '-ət'.

In the following section, I'll discuss the perfective aspect markings in Khortha. Giving a separate space for discussion in Khortha for the perfect aspect is important as we must understand how Khortha behaves differently from many Indo-Aryan languages and especially Hindi, to which Khortha is considered a dialect (census 2011). Many Indian languages such as Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, Marathi and others, show a typological similarity in that they all exhibit something called 'split-ergativity'. The languages mentioned are called split ergative languages as they partially display features of 'Nominative-Accusative' type of case markings and partially show 'Ergative-Absolutive type' case markings. These changes are conditioned due to changes in tense, aspect, number and person markings. Generally, the marking of the ergative case with the subject is seen in 'Simple Past' and all 'Perfective' aspects.

I'll not go into details about ergativity and how ergativity in Indian languages is conditioned, as it is not the topic of this paper. But from the examples, one would be able to see how Khortha is different from the rest of the Indo-Aryan languages that are mentioned above. We will look into the examples of Simple past and Perfective Aspect in Khortha, which will give us a clear indication that Khortha doesn't belong to the typology of 'Split-Ergative languages.' We see that there is no difference in the marking of the subject (either overt or covert) with any other case other than Nominative, when there is a change in the transitivity of the verb, which would otherwise be true for other Indian languages such as Hindi, Marathi, Punjabi, Gujarati, Nepali, etc. So, Khortha is, strictly speaking, a 'Nominative-Accusative' type language.

4.6. Present Perfect Aspect

35a. həm roṭi kʰə-ɪle h-ɪyo
i.1S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PERF be-PRES.1
'I have eaten chapatti'

35b. həm-ɪn roṭi kʰə-ɪle h-ɪyo
we-1PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PERF be-PRES.1
'We have eaten chapatti'

36a. tʊ roṭi kʰə-ɪle h-ĩ
you.2S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PERF be-PRES.2
'You have eaten chapatti'

36b. toh-ɪn roṭi kʰə-ɪle h-ĩ
you-2PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PERF be-PRES.2
'You(all) have eaten chapatti'

37. ʊ roṭi kʰə-ɪle h-o
(s)he.3S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PERF be-PRES.3S
'(S)he has eaten chapatti'

38. okʰɪn roṭi kʰə-ɪle h-ətʰʊn
they.3PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PERF be-PRES.3PL
'They have eaten chapatti'

The examples (35a-38) are examples in the perfect aspect in the present tense. The perfective aspect indicates that an action is completed or the state of an action is finished. We see that there is no change in the markings on the subject, indicating that there is no ergativity in Khortha. Secondly, we see that the markings for the perfective aspect are in the main verb. The suffix '-ɪle' is used in the present tense to denote the perfective nature of the action. It is interesting to see that the marker for perfective aspect in the present tense and the marker of past, i.e., '-əl/ɪl' in Khortha, are very much similar to each other. Apart from this, the rest of the markings of

person, number and tense conform to the structure of agreement in the language. Also, since the subject is still in the Nominative case, the agreement is done with the subject itself.

4.7. Past Simple Aspect (Transitive)

39a. həm roṭi kʰə-ɪl-ɪo
i.1S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PST-1
'I ate chapatti'

39b. həm-ɪn roṭi kʰə-ɪl-ɪo
we-1PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PST-1
'We ate chapatti'

40a. tʊ roṭi kʰə-ɪl-ĩ
you.2S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PST-2
'You ate chapatti'

40b. toh-ɪn roṭi kʰə-ɪl-ĩ
you-2PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PST-2
'You(all) ate chapatti'

41. ʊ roṭi kʰə-ɪl-o
(s)he.3S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PST-3S
'(S)he ate chapatti'

42. okʰɪn roṭi kʰə-ɪl-tʰʊn
they.3PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat-PST-3PL
'They ate chapatti'

The examples (7a-10) discussed earlier already describe the agreement patterns in simple past in Khortha. Examples (39a-42) are also in simple past, but they are transitive constructions as compared to examples (7a-10). The agreement patterns are identical as discussed earlier, but these constructions are required to show that Khortha doesn't have ergativity at all.

4.8. Past Perfect Aspect

43a. həm roṭi kʰɑy lələ h-əl-ɪo
i.1S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat take.PERF be-PST-1
'I had eaten chapatti'

43b. həm-ɪn roṭi kʰɑy lələ h-əl-ɪo
we-1PL.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat take.PERF be-PST-1
'We had eaten chapatti'

44a. tʊ roṭi kʰɑy lələ h-əl-ĩ
you.2S.NOM chapatti.3S.ACC eat take.PERF be-PST-2
'You had eaten chapatti'

44b.	toh-ın	roṭi	kʰɑy	ləle	h-əl-ĩ
	you-2PL.NOM	chapatti.3S.ACC	eat	take.PERF	be-PST-2
	‘You(all) had eaten chapatti’				

45.	ʊ	roṭi	kʰɑy	ləle	h-əl-o
	(s)he.3S.NOM	chapatti.3S.ACC	eat	take.PERF	be-PST-3S
	‘(S)he had eaten chapatti’				

46.	okʰın	roṭi	kʰɑy	ləle	h-əl-tʰʊn
	they.3PL.NOM	chapatti.3S.ACC	eat	take.PERF	be-PST-3PL
	‘They had eaten chapatti’				

If we look at the past perfect examples (43a-46) in Khortha, we see something interesting. The verbs in all these examples do not carry any aspectual or tense marker at all. Rather, there seems to be an addition of another verbal element which specifically carries the aspectual marker (perfective here). The verbal element here is ‘ləle’ (meaning ‘take’), which gives the sentence a perfective reading. The ‘be’ verb, which is also present, carries the tense as well as person and number agreement. The tense, person and number agreement is consistent with the structural uniformity in the language.

4.9. Future Perfect Aspect

47a.	həm	roṭi	kʰɑy	ləle	h-əb-o
	i.1S.NOM	chapatti.3S.ACC	eat	take.PERF	be-FUT-1
	‘I will have eaten chapatti’				

47b.	həm-ın	roṭi	kʰɑy	ləle	h-əb-o
	we-1PL.NOM	chapatti.3S.ACC	eat	take.PERF	be-FUT-1
	‘We will have eaten chapatti’				

48a.	tʊ	roṭi	kʰɑy	ləle	h-əb-ĩ
	you.2S.NOM	chapatti.3S.ACC	eat	take.PERF	be-FUT-2
	‘You will have eaten chapatti’				

48b.	toh-ın	roṭi	kʰɑy	ləle	h-əb-ĩ
	you-2PL.NOM	chapatti.3S.ACC	eat	take.PERF	be-FUT-2
	‘You(all) will have eaten chapatti’				

49.	ʊ	roṭi	kʰɑy	ləle	h-ət-o
	(s)he.3S.NOM	chapatti.3S.ACC	eat	take.PERF	be-FUT-3S
	‘(S)he will have eaten chapatti’				

50.	okʰın	roṭi	kʰɑy	ləle	h-əb-tʰʊn
	they.3PL.NOM	chapatti.3S.ACC	eat	take.PERF	be-FUT-3PL
	‘They will have eaten chapatti’				

These examples (47a-50) are the last set of examples to show the agreement pattern Khortha. The above examples are of perfect aspect in future. Here, again, we see that the main verb is bare and doesn't carry any of the aspectual or tense markings. Similar to past perfect, we see that there is an addition of a verbal element 'ləle' which gives the sentence a perfective reading. The rest of the agreement markings such as '-əb' and '-ət' for future; '-o' for 1st (S&PL) and 3rd singular future; '-ĩ' for 2nd; and '-tʰʊn' for 3rd plural, are being followed consistently. The tables below (*Table 4 – 6*) provide us the inflected forms of the verb *kʰa* 'to eat' in different aspects in each of the tenses.

Person	**Present Indefinite**	**Present Continuous**	**Present Perfect**
1st (S/PL)	kʰɑvo h-ɪyo	kʰɑv-et h-ɪyo	kʰə-ɪle h-ɪyo
2nd (S/PL)	kʰɑvo h-ĩ	kʰɑv-et h-ĩ	kʰə-ɪle h-ĩ
3rd Singular	kʰɑvo h-o	kʰɑv-et h-o	kʰə-ɪle h-o
3rd Plural	kʰɑvo h-ətʰʊn	kʰɑv-et h-ətʰʊn	kʰə-ɪle h-ətʰʊn

Table 4: Inflections on the verb in different aspects in present tense.

Person	**Past Continuous**	**Past Perfect**
1st (S/PL)	kʰɑv-et h-əl-ɪo	kʰɑy ləle h-əl-ɪo
2nd (S/PL)	kʰɑv-et h-əl-ĩ	kʰɑy ləle h-əl-ĩ
3rd Singular	kʰɑv-et h-əl-o	kʰɑy ləle h-əl-o
3rd Plural	kʰɑv-et h-əl-tʰʊn	kʰɑy ləle h-əl-tʰʊn

Table 5: Inflections on the verb in different aspects in past tense.

Person	**Future Indefinite**	**Future Continuous**	**Future Perfect**
1st (S/PL)	kʰə-ɪb-o	kʰɑv-et h-əb-o	kʰɑy ləle h-əb-o
2nd (S/PL)	kʰə-ɪb-ĩ	kʰɑv-et h-əb-ĩ	kʰɑy ləle h-əb-ĩ
3rd Singular	kʰə-ɪt-o	kʰɑv-et h-ət-o	kʰɑy ləle h-ət-o
3rd Plural	kʰə-ɪb-tʰʊn	kʰɑv-et h-əb-tʰʊn	kʰɑy ləle h-əb-tʰʊn

Table 6: Inflections on the verb in different tenses in future tense.

5. Conclusion

In this paper, we discussed the agreement pattern shown by the Ramgarhiya variety of Khortha. We saw the agreement patterns in this language with respect to Tense and Aspect and discussed how person and number features of the Subject influence the form of the verb and how these features are mapped onto the verbal element. We also discussed how the agreement pattern in this language is different from the major Indian languages, such as Hindi, Marathi, Bengali, Punjabi, etc., by explaining how this language exhibits a 'single system of agreement' as per the definitions given by Das (2006). We also discussed how ergativity is not present in this language and it is strictly a 'Nominative-Accusative' type language.

The fact that both *Magahi* and *Maithili*, and for that matter, the rest of the Eastern Indo-Aryan languages in the region, do not show what is called 'ergativity', but one of the varieties of Khortha, i.e., *Santhal*

Parganiya[5], shows full ergativity and is strictly an "ergative-absolutive" type language. This variety exhibits a 'dual system of agreement.' This not only sets precedence that that languages are so nuanced, and hence we need to be more investigative, but also to bunch them into major languages doesn't do justice to their unique structural features.

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[5] To know more about this language, please refer to (Das, 2013).

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