

NON-FINITE VERBS IN BIRBHUM BANGLA

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ABSTRACT

A non-finite verb is a verb that is not finite. Non-finite verbs are not inflected for grammatical tense and they have little inflection for other grammatical categories. Formally, they lack the three grammatical features [mood, tense and voice] that are associated, independently or relatively with the act of predication. The non-finite forms have [-tense], [+aspect] and [+/-agreement] features. The infinitive is formed by attaching the suffixes to the root form of the verb. Infinitives form an infinitival clause; it acts as a subordinate clause and cannot exist as an independent clause. Infinitive is a kind of verb which has [-tense], [-aspect] and [+/-agreement] in Indian languages. The scope of negation of the event described through the infinitive and non-finite verb forms is provided by the adverbial with the emphasis marker and the conjunctive participle.

KEYWORDS : Non-Finite verb; tense; aspect; agreement

1. INTRODUCTION

A non-finite verb is a verb that is not finite. Non-finite verbs are not inflected for grammatical tense and they have little inflection for other grammatical categories. Formally, they lack the three grammatical features [mood, tense and voice] that are associated, independently or relatively with the act of predication. The non-finite forms have [-tense], [+aspect] and [+/-agreement] features.

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The current section deals with a thorough explanation of the study approach employed. The methods section outlines the steps that has been taken to investigate a research problem and provides justification for the use of particular procedures or techniques used to locate, pick, process, and analyse data relevant to understanding the problem. This information enables the reader to critically assess the overall validity and reliability of a study. The term "research methodology" refers to a discussion of the underlying assumptions that underlie the selection of particular procedures. The theoretical ideas that guide the selection of the applied methods are described, along with how they fit into the broader context of academic work and their applicability to solving the research topic. The information gathered is provided using the international phonetic alphabet [IPA] for Birbhumi Bangla phonemes, morphemes, word structures, and sentence structures in accordance with the participant observation approach [noting overheard utterances]. The Leipzig Glossing Rules [LGR] have been employed by the researcher. The linguistic community generally agrees that the Leipzig Glossing Rules should be used to analyse field data. The first line is made up of words in Birbhumi Bangla written in IPA format with all feasible morphemic analyses. The needed abbreviations and an English gloss for each are provided in the second line, followed by a free translation in the third line. More or less interlinear morpheme-by-morpheme gloss is the glossing method used. Both the data and its gloss contain an identical amount of hyphens. Glossing is a method based on convention. As a result, the Leipzig glossing principle has been used to formulate glossing in the current research.

3. NON-FINITE VERBS IN BIRBHUM BANGLA

The non-finite verbs in Birbhumi Bangla may be divided into:

- a. Infinitive
- b. Participles

a. **INFINITIVE** : The infinitive is formed by attaching the suffix [-ya] to the root form of the verb. Infinitives form an infinitival clause; it acts as a subordinate clause and cannot exist as an independent clause. Infinitive is a kind of verb which has [-tense], [-aspect], and [+/-agreement] in Indian languages. The infinitive generally co-occurs with a finite verb in Birbhum Bangla and behaves like a nominal which works either as a subject, object or a complement.

1. səb jaygay jə-o-ya b^halo bəpar la everywhere place go-V-INF good matter NEG
'Roaming around everywhere is not a good thing.'

The infinitives in Birbhum Bangla can be into two kinds:

- i. '-no'-infinitive
- ii. '-te'-infinitive
- iii. '-ya'-infinitive

i. '-no'-INFINITIVE

INFINITIVE	STEM	INF-MARKER	GLOSS
pəɽ-a-no	pəɽ	-no	'Teaching'
poɽ-a-no	poɽ	-no	'Burning'
čolka-a-no	čulka	-no	'Scratching'
kamɽ-a-no	kamɽ	-no	'Biting'

ii. '-te'-INFINITIVE

INFINITIVE	STEM	INF-MARKER	GLOSS
pəɽ-a-te	pəɽ	-te	'to teach'
poɽ-a-te	poɽ	-te	'to burn'
čolka-te	čulka	-te	'to scratch'
kamɽ-a-te	kamɽ	-te	'to bite'
jan-te	jan	-te	'to know'

iii. '-ya'-INFINITIVE

INFINITIVE	STEM	INF-MARKER	GLOSS
jə-o-ya	jə	-ya	'to go'
de-o-ya	dɪ-ɪ	-ya	'to give'
le-o-ya	lɪ-ɪ	-ya	'to scratch'

The infinitives in Birbhum Bangla are formed by putting suffixes to the bare verb stems. The phenomenon of agreement in the infinitival constructions in Birbhum Bangla may be noticed.

2. šərmila p^hərasɪ-to pɽ-ɪ-te jan-e
sharmila-N-FS persian-N-DEF read-V-INF know-V+PRS-3S
'Sharmila knows how to read French.'

3. kərim səlma ke taka-to rak^h-te
diyec^he kareem-N-MS salma-N-FS-ACC
money-N keep-V-INF give-V+PST-3S 'Kareem gave
Salma money to keep.'

4. dīpes sīmrən ke k^habar bana-i-te bōllo
deepesh-N-MS simran-N-FS-ACC food-N make-V-INF say / tell-V+PST-3S
'Deepesh asked simran to make the food.'

b. PARTICIPLES : A participle is a non-finite verb form that has some of the characteristics and functions of both verbs and adjectives. Functioning as a verb, a participle comprises imperfective and perfective aspects in numerous instances.

Birbhum Bangla has three participles:

1. The imperfective participle
2. The perfective participle
3. The conjunctive participle

1. IMPERFECTIVE PARTICIPLE : Imperfective participle denotes incomplete activities. They are predominantly verbal in nature. The imperfective participle occurs in an adverbial function as a manner adverbial.

5. u čələntə gari t^heke pər-e gē-l-o
3S running-ADJ train-N ABL fall-V1-SFM go-V2-PST-3S
'He fell from the running train.'

6. u oṛəntə biman t^heke j^hāp di-l-o
3S flying-ADJ plane-N ABL jump-N do-V-PST-3S
'He jumped from the flying plain.'

'-čələntə gari t^heke' 'from the running train' and '-oṛəntə biman t^heke' 'from the flying plane' both mark the imperfective participle in the above examples.

The imperfective participles are reduplicated and used as adverbials to indicate a state resulting from the process or action denoted by the verb.

7. u bos-e ~ bos-e ħēpse gē-l-o
3S sit-V-IPFV DUR sit-V-IPFV tire-V go-V-PST-3S
'He became tired after being seated for a long time.'

2. PERFECTIVE PARTICIPLE : The perfective participles represent a complete activity. Perfective participles perform both adverbial and adjectival functions. Like all Birbhum Bangla adjectives, adjectival perfective

participles also do not show agreement with the noun. As adjectival modifiers they precede the nouns and express a state of being.

8. ʊ-r bana-no bari ʈo pər-e gɛ-l-o
3S-POSS running-ADJ house-N DEF fall-V1-SFM go-V2-PST-3S
'The house constructed by him fell down.'

'-bana-no bari-ʈo pər-e gɛ-l-o' 'constructed house fell down' marks the perfective participle in the above example.

The perfective participles are also used with the emphasis marker '-□'.

9. mʊ dek^h-t-e-□ bʊl-l-am
1S see-V-PFV-EMP say-V-PST-1S
'As soon as I saw, I said.'

In the above examples, the perfective participles functioning as adjectives are shown respectively. They also function as complements of copulas which take adjectival complements. The participles show contrast in sentences 3a-3b.

The participle may also function as the complement of the copula and as a modifier of the noun which follows it.

- 10a. tərkar□ rād^h-a ač^h-e
vegetable-N cook-CAUS-PFV AUX-PRS-.3S
'The vegetable is cooked.'

- 10b. rād^h-a tərkar□ ač^h-e
cook-CAUS-PFV vegetable-N AUX-PRS-3S
'Cooked vegetables are available.'

3. CONJUNCTIVE PARTICIPLE : Conjunctive participles are used to form sentences in which two or more verbs share the same subject. Such sentences are also known as the sequential verb constructions. The action denoted by the preceding verb takes place earlier than the other temporally, i.e. the participle signals sequential action as a temporal adverbial.

11. ʊ bəjər gi-ye tərkar□ kin-e bari e-l-o
3S market go-V vegetable buy-V bring-N come-V-
PST-3S
'He went to the market and bought vegetables.'

12. ʊ ek^han kar kəj kər-e ʊk^hane j□-b-e
3S here work-N do-V-SFM there go-V-FUT-3S
'He /she will finish the work here and start there.'

The conjunctive participles can be used as adverbials of manner, time and reason as exemplified by the sentences below respectively.

13. m̥ bari e-se kap̥r bodle š̥o-ye p̥r-l-am
1S house-N come-V cloth-N change sleep-V fell-V-PST-1S
'They hit him and killed him.'

In Birbhum Bangla the opposite actions are expressed using a conjunctive participle, and a non-finite verb phrase and a finite VP. The negative particle and the conjunctive participle signal the instead of interpretation.

14. ʊ ʊkʰane la gɪ-ye b̥aʃar-e ʃo-l-e gɛ-l-o
3S there no-NEG go-V market-N-SFM walk-V go-V-PST-3S
'Instead of going to the school, he went to the market.'

15. ʊ dʰəni həy-e-o konj̥ʊs-ɪ b̥əʃ-e
3S rich be-V-EMP miser-ADJ COP-PRS-3S
'In spite of being rich, he is miser.'

16. ʊ dʰəni həy-e-o dəyal̥ b̥əʃ-e
3S rich be-V-EMP kind-ADJ COP-PRS-3S
'In spite of being rich, he is kind.'

However, these sentences can also be analyzed in terms of the ability of the conjunctive participle with the emphasis marker of invoking the scope of negation and also an identity constraint among the events. In the sentences, an identity constraint is expressed by joining semantically contrasting events through the conjunctive participle. The scope of negation of the event described in the sentence is provided by the adverbial with the emphasis marker and the conjunctive participle.

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