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Word Formation in Surjapuri

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Abstract

Surjapuri is a variety of Hindi. It has rarely been studied in detail till now.

This paper intends to give an idea of the probable ways of word formation in Surjapuri. Basically the language, as indicated by the study, is much involved in inflexional process rather than in derivational processes in forming words and, therefore, the inflexional process finds a major place in the paper. However, there is also the semantic approach to words, being applied wherever found necessary.

Word in Surjapuri

According to Bernard Bloch and George L. Trager, a word is a free form which cannot be divided entirely into smaller free forms. In Surjapuri, a meaningful form or a phonological unit, which is either free or bound, is considered a word.

As posited by Rajendra Singh and Rama Kant Agnihotri (pp.43:1997), an expression must possess the following three properties in order to be considered a word-

- i. A phonological structure
- ii. A category

iii. A meaning

In order to examine this, we take a few examples below-

Possible phonological Structure		Category	Gloss
1.	kan nak	Noun Noun	'Ear' 'Nose'
2.	tar rat	Noun Noun	'Wire' 'Night'
3.	os so	Noun / Verb Verb	'Dew/come' 'Sleep'
4.	adʒ dʒa	Adverb Verb	'Today' 'go'
5.	ek ke	Ordinal wh-word	'One' 'who'

From the above pairs it is understood that the same phonemes occurring in different acceptable (depending on language) orders can give rise to not only different meanings but also different categories.

While discussing word formation process in Surjapuri, we would take Upreti's (1964) model, which comprises two elements, namely *base forms* and *affixes*. The base form could be either free or bound, and by nature, cannot be further divided.

Base form	Gloss	Free	Bound
paʈɪ	'mat'	✓	×
gaʊa	'To sing'	×	✓
vəra	'They'	✓	×
ram	'Ram'	✓	×
tʃ ^h u	'aux-1p'	×	✓
tʊɪ	'You'	✓	×

From the point of view of affixation, word forms can be divided into *basic*, *derived* and *inflected*. A morphologically complex word is formed by affixation with derived nominals and derived verbal roots. Derived nominals include nouns, pronouns, adjectives and adverbs.

<u>Nominal</u>	<u>Derived Nominal</u>
ret ‘sand’ (Noun)	retila ‘sandy’ (adjective)
bəɪgən ‘brinjal’ (Noun)	bəɪgəni ‘purple’ (adjective)
səb ‘all’ (Adverb/Adjective)	səbb ^h iti ‘around’ (Adverb)
gəɾəm ‘heat’ (Noun)	gəɾmi ‘hot’ (Adjective)

The derived verbal roots include denominal verbs, transitive roots and causative roots.

<u>Root</u>	<u>Derived Verbal Root</u>
k ^h a ‘eat’	k ^h a-ʊa ‘to eat’
kaɭ ‘cut’	kaɭ-ʊa ‘to cut’
dʒa ‘go’	dʒa-ʊa ‘to go’

A majority of Surjapuri lexicons are borrowed from Hindi/Urdu, Bengali and Maithili, etc. Similar to other Indo-Aryan languages, a root form itself could be the stem or the word. Moreover, the semantic aspect of the word could be quite different from that of the root when a suffix or a post- position is added to it.

rah ‘path’	+ - ət	= rahət ‘relief’
səb ‘all’	+ - b ^h ɪtɪ ‘directional post position’	= səb b ^h ɪtɪ ‘around’
bəɭ ‘increase’	+ - ɪja	= bəɭ ^h ɪja ‘excellent’

Surjapuri words could be categorized into variables and invariables, as shown below.

Invariables: Invariable words are those which do not show any change with respect to tense/aspect, person or number. They constitute Adverbs, Post-position, Pronoun, Interjections and Conjunction.

	Post-position	Conjunction	Interjection
Ex.	ram agʊ b ^h iti os-ɪl Ram front-pp. come-pst. ‘Ram came forward’.	mūɪ ar tʊɪ haɭ dʒa mū I and you market go fut.3p.sg ‘I and you will go to the market’.	are ɪɖa tɔ kəmal həŋ gel. Intj. this emp. great be-perf go-pst ‘Are ! this is great’.

<p>tʃ^hʊva-ɖa bəglət dɔɾɛ ol. child-cl. nearpp run.perf come.pst. 'The child came running'.</p>	<p>məgər vəhāj tʃor nɪkl -ɪl. but he thief appear. pst.perf.3p. 'But he appeared to be thief'</p> <p>tok os-va ho-be nɪ-tɛ you-obl. come-inf. be-fut. otherwise kam k^han bɔn hɔjɛ dʒa be work cl. stop be.perf. go fut. 'You have to come otherwise the work would be stopped'.</p>	<p>vah kɪ bəɾ^hɪja nədʒara tʃ^hɛ. inter. what excellent scenery aux pres.3p 'Vah! what an excellent scenery'</p>
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Pronouns in Surjapuri do not take part in creating a new category, except for bringing about case and number differences. However, personal pronouns do have oblique form in relation to case. Moreover, the plural in these pronouns is indicated by *-ra*, while that in demonstrative pronoun it is *-la*. An illustration will be given ahead.

In order to illustrate how *adverbs* remain unchanged, the following may be taken as examples.

Adverb	Example
Time	<p>koɪ k^hʊna mok lag tʃ^h-ɛ ke dʒəmɪn k^han tʃeɾɔ tʃ^hɛ Sometimes me apply aux pres.-1p. that earth cl. flat pres. 3p. 'Sometimes it appears to me that earth is flat'</p>
Place	<p>gatʃ^he-r ʊprət dʊɪ ɖa kəʊva tʃ^hɛ tree -gen. above- pp. two cl. crow pres.3p. 'Two crows are on top of tree'.</p>
Manner	<p>bɛɾa tʃ^hʊva ɖa dɔɾɛ os-ɪl boy child def. run-pst.-ptcl come-pst. perf 'The boy came running'.</p>
Affirmation or Negation	<p>hā, vahāj mor mā tʃ^hɛ yes, she my mother aux pres-3p. 'Yes, she is my mother'.</p>

Variables: The variable category of words in Surjapuri which changes their form with respect to gender, number, tense/aspect etc. includes Noun, Adjective and Verb.

In analyzing the *Nouns*, it is found that there is no overt marker of gender. Since the language has a lot of Hindi loan words, it shares the same gender system as that of Hindi, in certain cases.

Masculine

p^hup^ha ‘paternal uncle’
tʃetʃa ‘paternal uncle’

Feminine

p^hupi ‘paternal aunt’
tʃatʃi ‘paternal aunt’

Accordingly –a denotes masculine gender and –i denotes feminine gender. But feminine markers like –In and –sən are also evident so far as kinship terms are concerned.

b^həʊ-sən ‘younger brother’s wife’
səʊt-In ‘co-wife’

Even the definitive marker ‘da’ can semantically denote the gender difference like-

beʃa tʃ^hʊʊa-də ‘the boy child’
beʃi tʃ^hʊʊa-dʒi ‘the girl child’

There are parts of speech in this language where words are variable with respect to gender, person, and number. In case of animates, Adjective in Surjapuri varies in terms of gender whereas inanimates do not show such change.

Animate:

pətli beʃi tʃ^hʊʊa
lean daughter child
‘lean girl’

patla beʃa tʃ^hʊʊa
lean, son child
‘lean boy’

In-animate:

bət^hɪja kɪtab
good book
‘good book’

bət^hɪja adət
good habit
‘good habit’

In Surjapuri, adjectives are formed by addition of suffixes like –ɪla, –al, –b^hɔr, –badʒ, –ʊ , –aku etc.

ret ‘sand’ + -ɪla = retɪla ‘sandy’
b^hap ‘steam’ + -al = b^həpal ‘steamed’

rəs 'juice'	+ -ɪla	= rəsɪla 'juicy'
sal 'year'	+ -b ^h ər	= sal- b ^h ər 'annual'
dəga 'deceit'	+ -badʒ	= dəgabəʒ 'deceitful'
k ^h a 'eat'	+ -ʊ	= k ^h əʊ 'glutinous'
pəɽ 'read'	+ -aku	= pəɽ ^h aku 'Studious'

The opposite words which can include both adjective and nouns are formed by prefixation in the following manner.

<u>Word</u>	<u>Opposite</u>
hos 'consciousness'	be-hos 'unconscious'
tʃən 'comfort'	be-tʃən 'uncomfortable'
mul 'price'	ən-mul 'priceless'
varɪs 'heir'	la-varɪs 'Orphan'
nam 'nam'	bəd-nam 'infamous'
nəsib 'fate'	bəd-nəsib 'unlucky'
dos 'guilt'	nɪr -dos 'innocent'
as 'hope'	nɪr-as 'disappointed'
kam 'work'	na-kam 'failure'
mərəd 'man'	na- mərəd 'coward'
dʒor 'force'	kəm-dʒor 'weak'
bək ^h ət 'fortune'	kəm-bək ^h ət 'unfortunate'
kʊdrət 'nature'	gɛr-kʊdrət 'unnatural'
kɪsmət 'luck'	k ^h ʊs-kɪsmət 'fortunate'
pəɽ 'read'	ən-pəɽ 'illiterate'

In some adjectives and in compound forms, there is a gender marker, namely *-a* and *-i* for masculine and feminine respectively.

<u>Masculine</u>	<u>Feminine</u>
mɔʃa 'fat'	mɔʃi 'fat'
tɪja nak ^h a 'parrot like nose(Male)'	tɪja nak ^h i 'parrot like nose(Female)'

Verbs

Like other Indo-Aryan languages, verbs in Surjapuri are an important component of the morphological description. This is because several entities like tense/aspect, person and number are associated with it. Tense and aspect in Surjapuri is carried by either main verb or auxiliary verb.

vahāj mok pas t̪aka di t̪^hε
he me-acc five Rs. give aux pres-3p.
'He has given me Rs. 5.'

sjam kɪtab k^han-ək pɔɾ^h -ɪl.
Shyam book cl. acc. read pst .3p
'Shyam read (the) book.'

Changes in grammatical category during word-formation are also possible in this language in the following manner.

- (i) Noun to Noun
nokər 'servant' nokrɪ 'service'
kəla 'art' kəlakar 'artist'
- (ii) Noun to Adjective
bəɪgən 'brinjal' bəɪgənɪ 'purple'
ret 'sand' retɪla 'sandy'
- (iii) Adjective to Noun
k^hamoɟ 'silent' k^hamoɟɪ 'silence'
t̪alæk 'clever' t̪alækɪ 'cleverness'
- (iv) Noun to Verb
k^han 'food' k^haua 'to eat'
mar 'beat' marua 'to beat'
- (v) Noun to Adverb
dɔɾ 'run' dɔɾɛ 'by running'
samna 'face' samne 'in front'
- (vi) Adverb to Adjective
d̪ɔɾɪdɪ 'quick' d̪ɔɾɪdbad̪ɔ 'quickly'

(vii) Verb to Verb

bɪk 'get sold'
sola 'to make sleep'

betʃ 'sell'
so 'sleep'

(viii) Adjective to Adjective

baki 'remaining'

bəkaja 'remaining'

(ix) Adverb to Adverb

rodʒ 'daily'

rodʒana 'daily'

The list of the possible case endings appearing with different parts of speech is given below.

Noun	Types		Nom.		Acc./Dat.		Gen.		Abl./Ins.		Loc.	
	Case Markers		Ø		-k /-ɔk		-r/-er		sɛ/de		-t/-ɔt	
	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.	Sg	pl	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.		
Proper	ram	.....	ram- ɔk	.....	ram-er	..... ....	ram sɛ	.....	ram-ɔt	..... ...	
Common	tʃʰʊva	tʃʰʊv a-la	tʃʰʊv a-k	tʃʰʊva la-k	tʃʰʊva-r	tʃʰʊva -la-r	tʃʰʊva sɛ	tʃʰʊva la sɛ	tʃʰʊva -t	tʃʰʊva la-t		
Material	sona	sona -la	sona -k	sona- la-k	sona-r	sona- la-r	sona sɛ	sona-la sɛ	sona-t	sona- la-t		
Collective	pəɾɪʋar	pəɾɪ ʋar - la	pəɾɪ ʋar- ɔk	pəɾɪʋa r-la-k	pəɾɪʋar -er	pəɾɪʋa r-la-r	pəɾɪʋar sɛ	pəɾɪʋar -la sɛ	pəɾɪʋar -ɔt	pəɾɪʋa r-la-t		
Abstract	sɔpən	sɔpə n -la	sɔpə n -ɔk	sɔpən -la-k	sɔpən- er	sɔpən -la-r	sɔpən sɛ	sɔpən -la sɛ	sɔpən- ɔt	sɔpən -la-t		
Pronoun	Personal	1p.	mũɪ	həmr a	mok	həma- k	mor	həmar	mor sɛ	həmar sɛ	mot	həmat
		2p	tʊɪ	tʊmr a	tok	tʊmh- ak	tor	tʊmh- ar	tor sɛ	tʊmhar sɛ	tot	tʊmhat
	Demo	3p.	vəhãj	vəra	vəha k	vərak	vəhar	vərar	vəhar sɛ	vərar sɛ	vəha-t	vəra-t

nstrati ve pronou n	<i>Pr oxi ma te</i>	ɪ-ɖa	ɪ-la	ɪ- ɖa-k	ɪ-la-k	ɪ-ɖa-r	ɪ-la-r	ɪ-ɖa-r sɛ	ɪ-la-r sɛ	ɪ-ɖa-t	ɪ-la-t
	<i>Re mo te</i>	ʊ-ɖa	ʊ-la	ʊ- ɖa-k	ʊ-la-k	ʊ-ɖa-r	ʊ-la-r	ʊ-ɖa-r- sɛ	ʊ-la-r sɛ	ʊ-ɖa-t	ʊ-la-t
Reflexive		əpna	.....	əpnak	.....	əpnar	.....	əpnar sɛ	.....	əpnat	.....
Relative		dʒəhāj	.....	dʒəhak	.....	dʒəhar	.....	dʒəhar sɛ	.....	dʒəhat	.....
Interrogative		ke	.....	kəha-k	.....	kəha-r	.....	kəha-r sɛ	.....	kəha-t	.....
Reciprocal		ek dusra dʒɔn	.....	ek dusra dʒɔn- ɔk	.....	ek dusra dʒɔn-er	.....	ek dusra dʒɔn sɛ	.....	ek dusra dʒɔn-ɔt	.....

Morphophonemic Changes

Morphophonemic change which is also one of the important characteristic features in word-formation are evident both intra-categorically and inter-categorically.

Intracategorical

<u>Word</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	=	<u>New Word</u>
b ^h əɪ	+ -sən	=	b ^h əʊsən
‘brother’			‘younger brother’s wife’
NOUN			NOUN
ke	+ -har	=	kəhar
‘who’			‘whose’
Wh-word			Wh-word
boɮ ^h	+ be	=	boɮ ^h be
‘sit’	‘fut.’		‘sit fut.’
VERB			VERB

Intercategorical

<u>Word</u>	<u>Suffix</u>	=	<u>New Word</u>
b ^h ap	+ -al	=	b ^h əpal
‘steam’			‘steamed’
NOUN			ADJ.
kap	+ -ni	=	kəpni
‘shiver’			‘shiver’
VERB			NOUN
tʃatʃa	+ era	=	tʃətʃera
‘uncle’			‘descent from paternal uncle’
NOUN			ADJ.
məst	+ gul	=	məsgul
‘great’			‘engrossed’
ADJ.			VERB

Other Types of Words in Surjapuri

Besides these above mentioned word-formation processes there are other types of words in Surjapuri which are discussed below-

	<i>Noun</i>	<i>Adjective</i>	<i>Verb</i>
<i>Echo word</i>	kəm səm 'work and the like'	gələt tələt 'wrong and the like'	k ^h ava dəva 'food habit'
<i>Onomatopoeic</i>	mɪjaõ mɪjaõ 'meow'	ʈɪpɪɪ ʈɪpɪɪ 'drizzling'	tʃ ^h ɪk uk 'sneeze & the like'
<i>Endocentric compound</i>	g ^h unnɪ baer 'whirl-wind'	kəndʒus kəndʒus 'tight-fisted miser'	ʈuʈε gəl 'Break-down'
<i>Exocentric compound</i>	səman- matʃ ^h a 'even-minded'	tɪja nak ^h a /nak ^h ɪ 'parrot nosed' bajã laɪɪ 'left-handed'	bɪtʃ ^h al matʃ ^h a 'scatterbrain'
<i>Copulative compound</i>	rat-dɪn 'around the clock' bap-dada 'ancestors' mɔg-tʃ ^h ʊala 'family'	suk duk 'all weather'	

Conclusion

In every language, there are several forms of lexeme or vocabulary word. These different forms may be inflexional, derivational and/or compounds. In Surjapuri the processes of inflexion or derivation occurs with parts of speech like Noun/Pronoun, Verbs and Adjectives and therefore, can be categorized as open-class of words. Whereas Adverbs, Post-positions, Interjection and Conjunction, which do not give rise to new forms, can be categorized into closed class of words. In studying the word-forms which arises from open-class, we see that word internal morphological structure is needed to account for a number of phenomena.

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