

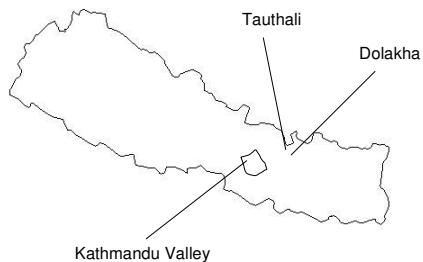
Preliminary Notes on the Tauthali Dialect of Newar

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Newar

- Newar is a Tibeto-Burman language spoken in Nepal
- The primary concentration of Newars is in the Kathmandu Valley, which the Newars controlled politically for many centuries
- There are other Newar settlements throughout Nepal, some quite old
- In this talk, I will be focusing on two Newar varieties spoken to the northeast of Kathmandu:

Rough Location of Dialects

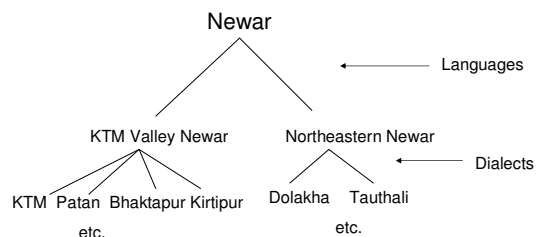


Mutual Intelligibility

- Neither Dolakha Newar nor Tauthali Newar is mutually intelligible with Kathmandu Newar; true mutual intelligibility indicates that, *based on purely linguistic criteria*, the northeastern varieties constitute a separate language
- However, Dolakha and Tauthali Newar appear to be mutually intelligible for the most part
- The Dolakha and Tauthali varieties are dialects of a single language “Northeastern Newar”

Implications

- The structure of the Newar family should minimally contain:



Data

- Collected during one month of fieldwork in Kathmandu in February of 2004
- Speaker: Miss Sabitri Shrestha
 - Monolingual in Tauthali until the age of six
 - Moved to Kathmandu at the age of twenty
 - Aged twenty-two in 2004
- Tauthali used only with older Tauthali speakers and at meetings of civic organization of Tauthali Newars; otherwise she speaks Nepali

Lexicon

- The majority of lexical items are cognate in Tauthali and Dolakha Newar and have the same or very similar forms

	Dolakha	Tauthali
'here'	<i>uku</i>	<i>iku</i>
'this'	<i>u</i>	<i>yu</i>
'where'	<i>gana</i>	<i>gi</i>
'go'	<i>on-</i>	<i>un-</i>
'potato'	<i>ālu</i>	<i>he</i>

Tauthali Phoneme Inventory

p	t	t̪	c	k	i, ĩ	u, ũ
ph	th	t̪h	ch	kh	e, ē	a, ā
b	d	d̪	j	g		o, ō
bh	dh	d̪h	jh	gh		ā, ā̃
	s				ai, āi, au, āu, eu	
m	n				ui, oi, ai, āi, ei	
	r					
	l					
w			y			

Retroflex Consonants

- Distinction maintained between dental and retroflex; lost in Valley dialects
- Shared retention in Northeastern Newar; loss in Valley
 - 'leg': Dolakha / Tauthali Kathmandu *tuṭi*
tuti
 - 'long': Dolakha / Tauthali Kathmandu *ṭāhāgau*
tā:hāka:
 - 'buried': Dolakha / Tauthali Kathmandu *ṭhun-ju*
thun-a
 - 'stand' Dolakha/Tauthali Kathmandu *ḍon-*
don-

Breathy-Voice Consonants

- Tauthali Newar maintains robust pronunciation of breathy voice in a series of breathy-voiced stops
- Tauthali: *bhi* 'snake', *dhū* 'tiger', *ḍhoka* 'big', *jhar* 'flame', and *ghyār* 'coals'
- In Dolakha Newar breathy voice is sporadic; limited to a few words
- In Valley dialects, breathy voice is extensive, occurring with all voiced consonants

Musing on Breathy Voice

- Could breathy-voice be the reflex of an old tonal distinction that occurs with all voiced initials in the KTM Valley, but has been restricted to stops only (under influence from Nepali) in the NE?

Syllable Structure

- Tauthali Newar, like Dolakha, maintains syllable-final consonants
- In the Valley dialects, syllable-final consonants have been lost, resulting in compensatory lengthening of vowel
- Shared retention in Northeastern Newar

<u>Kathmandu</u>	<u>Dolakha/Tauthali</u>	
<i>nibhaa</i>	<i>nibār</i>	'sun'
<i>khwāā</i>	<i>khwāl</i>	'face'
<i>jū</i>	<i>jin</i>	1sERG

Vowel Harmony

- Prefix vowel harmonizes with vowel of root; blocked by complex onset
- Possibly innovative in Northeastern Newar

Dolakha	Tauthali	
<i>mā-yārgi</i>	<i>mā-yārgi</i>	'I did not/do not come'
<i>mo-khorgi</i>	<i>mo-khorgi</i>	'I did not/do not cry'
<i>mo-urgi</i>	<i>mo-hurgi</i>	'I did not/ do not dance'
<i>ma-nargi</i>	<i>ma-nargi</i>	'I did not / do not eat'
<i>ma-dīngi</i>	<i>ma-dīngi</i>	'I did not/do not sleep'
<i>ma-yetki</i>	<i>ma-yetki</i>	'I did not / do not do'
<i>ma-gyātki</i>	<i>ma-gyātki</i>	'I did not/do not fear'

Abslutive Personal Pronouns

	Kathmandu	Dolakha	Tauthali
1s	<i>jī</i>	<i>jī</i>	<i>jī</i>
1pExcl	<i>jipū</i>	<i>isi</i>	<i>jisi</i>
1pIncl	<i>jhi(pū)</i>	<i>chiji</i>	<i>chiji</i>
2s	<i>cha</i>	<i>chī</i>	<i>chī</i>
2p	<i>chipū</i>	<i>chīpen</i>	<i>chaben</i>
2sHON	<i>chi</i>	<i>thamu</i>	<i>thau</i>
2pHON	<i>chaapū</i>	<i>thapen</i>	<i>thauben</i>
3s	<i>wa</i>	<i>āmu</i>	<i>āmu</i>
3p	<i>ipī</i>	<i>āpen</i>	<i>āpen</i>

	Dolakha	Tauthali
2p	<i>chipsin</i> (ERG) <i>chipista</i> (DAT) <i>chipe</i> (GEN)	<i>chabasin</i> (ERG) <i>chaubasta</i> (DAT) <i>chabai</i> (GEN)
2s Honorific	<i>thamun</i> (ERG) <i>thaeta</i> (DAT) <i>thae</i> (GEN)	<i>thauna</i> (ERG) <i>thauta</i> (DAT) <i>thauye</i> (GEN)
2p Honorific	<i>thapsin</i> (ERG) <i>thapista</i> (DAT) <i>thape</i> (GEN)	<i>thaupasin</i> (ERG) <i>thaupasta</i> (DAT) <i>thaupai</i> (GEN)
3p	<i>āpsin</i> (ERG) <i>āpista</i> (GEN) <i>āpe</i> (PL)	<i>āpasin</i> (ERG) <i>āpasta</i> (DAT) <i>āpai</i> (GEN)

Numerals

- Numerals in Dolakha and Tauthali are almost identical up to 40

'one'	<i>the</i> (T) / <i>thi</i> (D)	'six'	<i>khu</i>
'two'	<i>nis</i>	'seven'	<i>nas</i>
'three'	<i>swā</i> (T) / <i>sō</i> (D)	'eight'	<i>cyā</i>
'four'	<i>pe</i>	'nine'	<i>gu</i>
'five'	<i>ṅā</i>	'ten'	<i>jī</i>

- 'eleven' *jim-the*, 'twelve' *jim-nis*, etc.
- 'twenty' *ni(i)*, 'twenty-one' *nii-the*, etc.
- 'thirty' *swi*, 'thirty-one' *swi-the*, etc.

Dolakha Decimal System

- After 40, Dolakha has two competing systems
- Decimal: follows the same pattern as 10-49 with the following forms for multiples of ten:

'40'	<i>pi</i>
'50'	<i>ηai</i>
'60'	<i>khwi</i>
'70'	<i>nai</i>
'80'	<i>cyai</i>
'90'	<i>gwi</i>

Dolakha Vigesimal System

- *ne-ni-X-thāĩ* 'two-GEN-two-X-place'

40	<i>ne-ni-nis-thāĩ</i>
50	<i>ne-ni-nis-thāĩ-o-ji</i> (2-of-2-2-place-and-ten)
60	<i>ne-ni-sō-thāĩ</i>
70	<i>ne-ni-sō-thāĩ-o-ji</i>
80	<i>ne-ni-pi-thāĩ</i>
90	<i>ne-ni-pi-thāĩ-o-ji</i>
100	<i>sar</i>

Tauthali: Vigesimal system only

- *bāgal* 'group'
- As a noun, refers to a group of unspecified number
- In vigesimal system, refers to twenty exactly
- *nis-bāgal* 'two-twenty' = 'forty'
- *swā-bāgal* 'three-twenty' = 'sixty'

Verb Stems

- Like Dolakha Newar, verbs fall into four inflectional stem classes: n-stem, t-stem, r-stem, and l-stem
- Complex patterns of stem alternations across inflections are very similar in Dolakha and Tauthali dialects with only minor differences due to low-level phonological rules

Verbal suffixes

- Verbal agreement system is clearly cognate to that of Dolakha Newar and shows the same level of complexity
- Indisputably, the two synchronic systems are reflexes of a common historical source

Tense

- As with Dolakha Newar, Tauthali has four distinct inflectional tenses
- Dolakha Newar: past anterior, past, present, and future
- Tauthali Newar: some evidence that the semantic distinctions might be different (more work needed)
- Development of “past anterior” and present inflections appear to be shared innovations of Northeastern Newar

Agreement

- Verb agrees in person, number, and (for second person) honorific status with the subject of the clause
- The morphology between the two dialects is clearly cognate, although there are some interesting differences

Past Anterior

- Tauthali Newar retains /g/ of affix, while it is lost in Dolakha
 - Dolakha *kā-u-ī* ‘I used to take’
 - Tauthali *na-gu-ī* ‘I used to eat’
- Third-singular form in Dolakha allows *-ju*, presumably extended by analogy with 3sPast; Tauthali does not:
 - Dolakha *kā-u(-ju)* ‘s/he used to take’
 - Tauthali *na-u* ‘s/he used to eat’

Past Anterior, cont.

- Third-person plural suffix is *-tan* in Dolakha, *-ten* in Tauthali
 - Dolakha ***kā-u-tan*** 'They used to take'
 - Tauthali ***na-u-ten*** 'They used to eat'
- Second-person plural suffix is *-min* in Dolakha, *-nin* in Tauthali
 - Dolakha ***kā-u-min*** 'You (pl.) used to take'
 - Tauthali ***na-gu-nin*** 'You (pl.) used to eat'

Past

- Second-person plural is *-min* in Dolakha, *-munin* in Tauthali
 - Dolakha ***kār-min*** 'You (pl.) took'
 - Tauthali ***nar-munin*** 'You (pl.) ate'
- Both dialects have *-ju* for 3sPST of transitive verbs and *-a* for 3sPST of intransitive verbs
 - Both dialects: ***nar-ju*** 's/he ate'
 - yer-a*** 's/he came'

Past (cont.)

- Third-person plural has *-hin* in Dolakha, *-in* in Tauthali
 - Dolakha ***kār-hin*** 's/he took'
 - Tauthali ***nar-in*** 's/he ate'

Present

- Second-person singular is *-n* in Dolakha, *-min* in Tauthali
 - Dolakha ***kār-a-n*** 'you take'
 - Tauthali ***nar-a-min*** 'you eat'
- Third-person plural is *-hin* in Dolakha, *-hen* in Tauthali
 - Dolakha ***kār-a-hin*** 'they take'
 - Tauthali ***nar-a-hen*** 'they eat'

Future

- Second-person honorific form is *-ta* in Dolakha, *-gu* in Tauthali
 - Dolakha ***kār-i-ta*** 'you (HON) will take'
 - Tauthali ***nar-i-gu*** 'you (HON) will eat'
- Third-person singular form is *-e-u* in Dolakha but *-y-au* in Tauthali
 - Dolakha ***kā-e-u*** 's/he will take'
 - Tauthali ***na-y-au*** 's/he will eat'

Future (cont.)

- Third-person plural is *-e-u* in Dolakha (same as third-person singular) but *-i-tan* in Tauthali (< *-i* FUT + 3p *-tan* found in past anterior)
 - Dolakha ***kā-e-u*** 'They will take'
 - Tauthali ***na-i-tan*** 'They will eat'

Summary of verb morphology

- Although a number of verb forms (11 of 28 or 39%) are distinct, in every case the forms are either very similar or utilize elements found in other parts of the paradigm
- Overall structure of the paradigms and the inflectional elements are clearly cognate
- The similarities are too great to be attributed to independent development and must be inherited from a single historical source

Conclusions

- The Tauthali and Dolakha varieties of Newar are two somewhat different dialects of a single language, which I propose to call "Northeastern Newar"
- The Dolakha variety is not a lone quirky and conservative outlier but one of a set of dialects of a distinct Newar language
- More work is needed in the Newar villages of Nepal to determine the full extent of this language family and the relationships among modern varieties.