# 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.

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 Birbhum 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 Birbhum 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 Birbhum 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 bhalo bɛpar 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

INIFINITIVE	STEM	INF-MARKER	GLOSS
pəṛ-α-no	bəi	-no	'Teaching'
poṛ-α-no	boĹ	-no	'Burning'
<b>č</b> ʊlk-a-no	<b>čulk</b> a	-no	'Scratching'
kam ṛ-a-no	<b>k</b> a <b>m</b> ŗ	-no	'Biting'

### ii. '-te'-INFINITIVE

INIFINITIVE	STEM	INF-MARKER	GLOSS
pəṛ-α-te	pəŗ	-te	'to teach'
poṛ-α-te	por	-te	'to burn'
čʊlka-te	<b>čulk</b> a	-te	'to scratch'
kamṛ-a-te	ka <b>m</b> ŗ	-te	'to bite '
ja <b>n-te</b>	ja <b>n</b>	-te	'to know'

# iii. '-ya'-INFINITIVE

INIFINITIVE	STEM	INF-MARKER	GLOSS
<b>jə-o-y</b> a	jə	<b>-y</b> a	'to go'
<b>de-o-y</b> a	dI-I	<b>-y</b> a	'to give'
le-o-ya	lI-I	<b>-y</b> a	'to scratch'

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

- 2. šərmila phərası-to pr-te jan-e sharmila-N-FS persian-N-DEF read-V-INF know-V+PRS-3S 'Sharmila knows how to read French.'
- 3. kərɪm səlma ke taka-to rak<sup>h</sup>-te diyeč<sup>h</sup>e kareem-N-MS salma-N-FS-ACC money-N keep-V-INF give-V+PST-3S 'Kareem gave Salma money to keep.'
- 4. dipes simrən ke khabar bana-i-te bullo deepesh-N-MS simrən-N-FS-ACC food-N make-V-INF say/tell-V+PST-3S 'Deepesh asked simrən 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 imperfect participle occurs in an adverbial function as a manner adverbial.
  - 5. υ čələntə gari t<sup>h</sup>eke pər-e gε-l-o 3S running- train-N ABL fall-V1-SFM go-V2-PST-3S ADJ

'He fell from the running train.'

6. 
$$v$$
  $v_{rente}$  biman  $t_{eke}$   $t_{ap}$  di-l-o

'He jumped from the flying plain.'

'-čələntə gari t<sup>h</sup>eke''from the running train' and '-ʊṛəntə biman t<sup>h</sup>eke' '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 stateresulting from the process or action denoted by the verb.

'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.

'The house constructed by him fell down.'

'-bana-no bari-to per-e g $\epsilon$ -l-o' 'constructed house fell down' marks the perfective participle in the above example.

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

'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. 
$$tərkar$$
  $r\tilde{a}d^{h}-a$   $a\tilde{c}^{h}-e$ 

'The vegetable is cooked.'

'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. Ω **b**aja**r** gi-ye tərkar kin-e **b**ari e-l-o 3S ao-V bring-N come-V-PST-3S market vegetable buv-V 'He went to the market and bought vegetables.'
- 12. U ekhan kar kaj kər-e Ukhane 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. mu bari e-se kapər bodle šu-ye pər-l-am 15 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. v vkhane la gI-ye bajar-e čo-l-e gɛ-l-o 3S there no-NEGgo-V market-N-SFM walk-V go-V-PST-3S 'Instead of going to the school, he went to the market.'
- 15.  $\ensuremath{\sigma}$  dhəni həy-e- o konjus-i bəţ-e 3S rich be-V-EMP miser-ADJ COP-PRS-3S 'In spite of being rich, he is miser.'
- 16. v dhəni həy-e-o dəyalv bət-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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