

Report
Morphology 2

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE JRPS

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LANGUAGE/ MT: BIRJIA

This report describes the nominal morphology of the Birjia language (a continuation of May 2015 report) from limited data collected from the field. It includes the types of pronouns and the case system.

Nominal Morphology:

1. *PRONOUNS*

Birjia exhibits five types of pronouns, viz personal pronouns, demonstrative pronouns, interrogative pronouns, possessive pronouns and reflexive pronouns. Let us discuss the personal pronouns first:

PERSONAL PRONOUNS

Personal pronouns in Birjia have three numbers- singular, dual and plural. 1st person includes *nja* (singular and plural). 2nd person includes *ama?* (singular), *aban* (dual) and *ape* (plural). 3rd person includes *huni* ‘he’ and ‘she’ (singular) *hukin* (dual) and *huku* (plural). /kin/ and /ku/ are dual and plural markers respectively.

Table 1

Persons	Singular	Dual	Plural
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First	/ɲia/		/ɲia /
second	/amaʔ/	/aban/	/ape/
Third	/huni/ 'he/she' There is no lexical or grammatical difference between Birjia 'he' and 'she'.	/hukin/	/huku/

Pronominal Paradigm

First Person – Table 2

Case	Singular	Dual	Plural
Nom	/ɲia/		/ɲia /
Acc	/ɲia /		/ɲia /
Inst	/ɲia /		
Dative			
Ablative			
Possessive	/ɲiaraʔ/, /ɲiarinkin/, /ɲiarinku/, ɲiaraʔ (inanimate) (refer Report May)	incl:/alaŋ-rini/ and /alaŋ-rinkin/, excl:/alin-rini/ and /alin-rinkin/ in case of animate Use of suffix - /raʔ/in case of inanimate] (refer Report May)	Incl:/abun-rini/ and abun-rinku, excl-/alin-rini/ and /alin-rinku/ in case of animate] Use of suffix - /raʔ/in case of inanimate] (refer Report May)
Locative			

Second Person – Table 3

Case	Singular	Dual	Plural
Nom	/amaʔ/	/aban/	/ape/
Acc	/amaʔ/		/amaʔ/
Inst			
Dative			
Ablative			
Possessive	/amaraʔ/	/amaraʔ/	/amaraʔ/
Locative			

Third Person – Table 4

Case	Singular	Dual	Plural
Nom	/huni/	/huni/	/huku/
Acc	/huni/	/huni/	/huku/
Inst	/huni/		
Dative			
Ablative			
Possessive	/huniraʔa/	/huniraʔ/	/hukuraʔa/
Locative			

The different states of occurrences are shown below:

- a) /**nia** oʔa ariʔa/
 1sg house be
 ‘I am in my house.’
- b) /**nia** oʔe nel laʔah/
 1pl bird see - past
 ‘We (plural) saw the bird.’
- c) /**huni** oʔe tidi aj/
 3sg bird kill - past
 ‘He killed the bird.’
- d) / **huni** oʔe tidi aj/
 3sg(F) bird kill past
 ‘She killed the bird.’
- e) /**huku** goʔe nonde ku weʔoa:/
 3pl all here pl come
 ‘They (pl) come here.’
- f) /**hukin** hoʔ goʔa oʔe ku nel laʔah/
 3du man all men bird pl see - past
 ‘They (dual) saw the bird.’
- g) /**huni** oʔe nel taʔ/
 3non-hum bird see - past participle
 ‘It had seen the bird.’

- h) /goʈe hoʈ mi:tiŋ re weʔo lagao/
 all man meeting for come have-3sg (compulsion)
 ‘Everybody has to come for the meeting.’

/laʔah/ and /aj/ are two past markers.

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS

Demonstratives in Birjia are of two types - Proximate and Distal. They both can be of singular (proximate- /noa/ in inanimate, /huni/ in animate and distal- /hona/ in inanimate, /huni/ in animate) and plural (proximate- /noa goʈa/ in inanimate, /nuku goʈe/ in animate and distal- /hũku/ goʈe, goʈa ‘all’). /goʈe/, /goʈa/ ‘all’ are plural marker in plural demonstrative pronouns

Table 5

Number	Singular	Plural
Proximate	/noa/(inanimate), (animate)	/huni/ /noa goʈa/ inanimate),, /nuku goʈe/ (animate)
Distal	/hona/(inanimate), (animate)	/hũku goʈe/ / /hũku goʈa/ /goʈa/ , /goʈe/ ‘all’,

The different states of occurrences are shown below:

- a) /**noa** mien oʈa hake/
 this one house be-pres
 ‘This is a house.’
- b) /**hona** esan tʰao hake ci honde gaj carao oje/
 that place be which cows graze potentiality
 ‘That is the place where the cows graze.’

- c) /**huni** hoꞥ nia gati hake/
 this (animate) man my friend be-pres
 ‘This man is my friend.’
- d) /**huni** hoꞥ moꞥa aje/
 that (animate) man fat be-pres
 ‘That man is fat.’
- e) /**noa** goꞥa nia oꞥa hake/
 these all my houses be-pres
 ‘These are my houses.’
- f) /**nuku** goꞥe jiliꞥ haku/
 these (animate) all tall be-pres
 ‘These men are tall.’
- g) /**huku** goꞥe saonjia hor hake/
 those (ani) all strong men be-pres
 ‘Those men are strong.’
- h) /**noa** kam okerhõe erao kara-ole/
 this work anybody no do- potentiality
 ‘Nobody can do this work.’
- i) /**noa** kam okerhõe karao saka-oje/
 this work anybody positive do-potentiality
 ‘Anybody can do this work.’

Demonstratives can also be expressed by ‘here’ (hui) and ‘there’(hondore)

For examples-

a) /hui mien bilai hake/
 here one cat be
 ‘Here is a cat.’

b) /hondore barija gajkin idana/
 there two cows be
 ‘There are two cows.’

INTERROGATIVE PRONOUNS

Interrogatives in Birjia include how ‘cilkə’, what ‘titana’, when ‘uket iri’, where ‘okare’, which ‘cilkana’, who ‘oke’, why ‘cikalena’.

Interrogative pronouns lie in the middle of a sentence.

Table 6

English Interrogative pronouns	Birjia Interrogative pronouns
How	cilkə
What	titana
When	uket iri
Where	okare
Which	cilkana
Who	oke
Why	cikalena

The different states of occurrences are shown below:

- a) How are you?- /aman cilkə ama?/
- b) What is your name?- /amara niemun titana hake/
- c) When do you get up ?- /ama uket iri biri? ijen/
- d) Who is he ?- /huni oke hake/
- e) Whose horse is that ?- /huni oke re mi sadom hake/
- f) How much did you get? /ama uked nijam lena/

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS

There is presence of animate possessive pronouns in Birjia like my ‘nia’, our (dual) ‘alaŋ’ for inclusive and ‘alin’ for exclusive and our (plural) ‘abun’ for inclusive and ‘alin’ for exclusive. /rini/, /rinkin/ and /rinku/ are animate number markers for singular, dual and plural respectively. /ra?/ is inanimate number marker.

Examples of presence of possessive pronouns in singular, dual and plural forms in Birjia are given below :

- a. My kid- /ɲiarini sengoit/
- a. Our (dual) kid – /alaɲrini sengoit/ (inclusive)
/alinrini sengoit/ (exclusive)
- b. Our (plural) kid- /abunrini sengoit/ (inclusive)
/alinrini sengoit/ (exclusive)
- c. My kids (dual)- /ɲiarinkin sengoitkin/
- d. Our (dual) kids (dual) – /alaɲrinkin sengoitkin/ (inclusive)
/alinrinkin sengoitkin/ (exclusive)
- e. Our (plural) kid(plural)- /abunrinku sengoitku/ (inclusive)
/alinrinku sengoitku/ (exclusive)
- f. My tree- /ɲiara? kaʈʰ/
- g. Our (dual) tree – /alaɲra? kaʈʰ/ (inclusive)
/alinra? kaʈʰ/ (exclusive)
- h. Our (plural) tree- /abunra? kaʈʰ/ (inclusive)
/alinra? kaʈʰ/ (exclusive)
- i. My trees (dual)- /ɲiara? bariya kaʈʰ/
- j. Our (dual) kids (dual) – /alaɲra? bariya kaʈʰ/ (inclusive)
/alinra? bariya kaʈʰ/ (exclusive)
- k. Our (plural) kid(plural)- .abunra? peya kaʈʰ/ (inclusive)
/alinra? peya kaʈʰ/ (exclusive)

REFLEXIVE PRONOUNS

Marker /apente/ is used to express reflexives in Birjia. Some instances are-

- a) /huni apante gagri rakabʔla/
3sg(F) herself pot lift.past
'She lifted the pot herself.'
- b) /huni apante paṭʰ parhaolena/
3sg himself lessons study.past
'He studied the lessons himself.'
- c) /huni apante goit gana/
3sg.inani itself die past
'It died by itself.'

DEFINITENESS

Birjia shows no definiteness in their constructions. /huni hoṭ/ means 'the man'. /mien/ 'one' is used when indefiniteness is expressed

But indefinite pronouns are present. For examples-

- a) /goṭe hoṭ mi:tiṅ re weʔo lagao/
'Everybody has to come for the meeting.'
- b) /noa kam oker hõe karao sakaoje/
'Anybody can do this work.'
- c) /noa kam oker hõe erao karaole/
'Nobody can do this work.'

2. CASE

In Birjia, there are six types of cases viz. nominative, accusative, instrumental, dative, ablative, and locative.

a) Nominative

Nouns of Birjia do not employ any distinguishing signs to express this case. They are used in

their basic unmodified form without any case- markers or post- positions. Nominative in Birjia is unmarked.

/koʃa enɛj janɛi/

boy-nom play-prog aux-pres-be
'The boy is playing'

/miŋʃa gɛndʰ eʔ enɛj janɛi/
boy-nom ball with play-prog aux-pres-be
'The boy is playing with a ball'

/məhes ul ʃom laje/
mahesh-nom mango eat -past
'Mahesh ate the mango'

/aja ab mandʒi idinɛj/
mother now cook -future
'Mother will cook now'

b) Accusative

The accusative case in Birjia is also unmarked.

/miŋʃa kera ʃom lajeʔ/
boy-nom banana-acc eat -past
'The boy ate a banana.'

/miŋʃa haku sab lajeʔ/
children-nom fish catch -past
'The children caught the fish.'

/sindra ku silib ku sab lajeʔ/
hunters.pl deer plural catch -past
'The hunters caught the deer.'

/kuʃi mandʒi ʃom doholajeʔ/
girl meal eat -perf
'The girl had eaten the meals.'

c) *Instrumental*

The Instrumental suffix is /-te/. This is used to indicate that a noun is the instrument or means by or with which the subject achieves or accomplishes an action. The noun may be either a physical object or an abstract concept.

/tangiʔ-te kaʔ maʔ laje/
axe- inst tree cut -passive
'The tree is cut with axe.'

/ram nia ra p^houn ten te ciʔ^hi lik^hao laje/
ram my-inst pen by letter write -past
'Ram wrote the letter with my pen.'

d) *Dative*

In Birjia, animate objects carry marker /-ʔta/.

/ram sejam -ʔta kitab ojali dije/
ram shyam -dat book give past
'Ram gave the book to Shyam.'

e) *Ablative*

Postposition /eteraʔ/ is used to denote the ablative case

/huni oʔa usul eteraʔ ɖeglen aje/
'He jumped from the top of the house.'

/gapa eteraʔ bəs ero weʔo laje/
'Tomorrow onwards the buses will not run.'

f) *Possessive*

The possessive suffix is /-raʔ/. The data is very limited. There is one example as below:

/ram -raʔ ʈop harije/
ram-poss. cap blue
'Ram's cap is blue'

g) Locative

The nouns of Birjia generally don't change their form for the expression of this case, but separate postpositions are used for denoting various locations.

/huni oʈa **bhitar** ria/

'He is **in** the house.'

/na kaʈʰ o **usul** rinije/

'I am **on** the tree.'

/na kaʈʰ a ʈʰao rinije/

'I am **beside** the tree.'