

ECOSEMANTIC DOCUMENTATION OF BIRHOR LANGUAGE

Serial No. 1 (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g): The Birhor of Jharkhand presently lives in two types of houses viz. concrete and mud houses. In Birhor language house is called /oṛa/ and mud house as /hasa oṛa/. The concrete houses have been provided by the government of India and Tata Steel Corporation. Mud houses contain two different types of roof-tops viz. one made of earthen tiles (/ṭali/) (Pic-1) and another thatched by hay (/k^her/)(Pic-1(a)). The basic structure is made by bricks but they coat the inside and outside walls with mud. The size of the interior part of houses is approximately 8ft × 9ft. Most of the Birhor houses have two doors, one at the front side (Pic-1) and another at the back side (Pic-2). With all these we must mention that they do not have any window in their houses but a ventilator is present in each of those. Although windows are present in the houses provided by government and Tata Steel Corporation, they do not use these windows. There is a veranda in every house. In summer Birhor people sleep on veranda as well. Livestock are kept separately either outside the house or in a different room in the same house (Pic-11).

The Birhor live their life as woodcutters. Both men and women work in forest for cutting wood, hunting animals like monkey, wild pig and to collect material for cooking.

There is a peculiarity in working of men and women in forests. Women cut the branches of trees and bring home (Pic-19) whereas the men cut the stem of trees (Pic-13). The wood brought from forests is being sold in minimum rate in the market places. Birhor men engage themselves in hunting and fishing (Pic-15, 16), very few Birhor men participate in cultivation. Some of them work as labor and driver in Tata Steel Corporation. Apart from work in forests Birhor women do all house hold work. They make ropes from jute (Pic-20(b)) and bark (20(b)) of the trees. They also use Nylon/PVC for making ropes (Pic-18). Brooms are made from kind of bushes (Pic-20). They weave mats, which are used in houses as well as sold in the market.

[PIC- 1,1(a), 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20, 20(a), 20(b)]



Pic-1.Front view of the house, Place- Pattipani, Jharkhand.Date-02.02.14 Serial No.1 (a), Cf.. 2



Pic-1(a). Front view of the house, Place- Bhadua. Date- 13.02.14. Serial No. 1



Pic-2.Back side of the house /oṛa/. Place- Pattepani.Date-02.02.14. Serial No. 1(b)



Pic-3.Side view of the house. 'hasa oṛa' Place- Pattepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No. 1(c)



Pic-4. Side view of the house. 'hasa oṛa' Pattepani. Date-13.02.14. Serial No. 1(c)



Pic-5. Side view of Birhor house. 'hasa oṛa' Bhadua. Date- 13.02.14. Serial No. 1(d), cf. 3(a)



Pic-6. Side view of Birhor house. 'hasa oṛa' Bhadua. Date- 13.02.14. Serial No. 1(c)



Pic-7. Concrete house of Birhor people. 'oṛa' Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No. 1.(a)



Pic-8. Concrete house of Birhor people. 'ora' Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No. 1(d), cf.-3(a)

Serial No. 2 Earthen pots, known as 'handi', for keeping pigeons, hanging in front of the houses (Pic-9)





Pic-10. Front view of Birhor house (with Birhor Man), Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No. 1.(a), cf. 2, 21.



Pic-11. Interior view of Cowshed. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No. 1(e)



Pic-12. Cages, for keeping fowls /sim/ hanging from the side of the house. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No. 1(e)



Pic-13. Birhor man carrying wood. Pattipani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No. 1(f) cf.. 21



Pic-14. Birhor men carrying wood. Pattipani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No. 1(f), cf. 21



Pic-15. Birhor man with fishing net. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No. 1(f) cf.. 2.



Pic-16. Birhor man with fishing net. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No. 1(f), cf.. 21.



Pic-17. Birhor woman cutting grass on a handmade saw . Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No. 1(g), cf.. 21.



Pic-18. Birhor woman making broom. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No. 1(g), cf.. 21.



Pic-19. Birhor woman carrying wood , Chota Banki, Date-22.01.14. Serial No. 1(g)



Pic-20. Birhor woman making rope, Chotabanki, Date-22.01.14. Serial No. 1(f)



Pic-20 (a). Bark of the tree used for making ropes. Bhadua. Date- 13.02.14. Serial No.1(g).



Pic-20 (b). Jute (used for making ropes and mats) . Patepani. Date- 17.02.14. Serial No. 1(g).

Serial No. 3 (a), (b): The Birhor houses comprise of only one room with a veranda. They use this room for all purposes like as bed room and kitchen both (Pic-21, 22, 23, 24, 25). In summers they sleep in the veranda as well.

[PIC-21,22, 23, 24, 25]



Pic-21. Interior view of Birhor house. Patepani. Date-17.02.14. Serial No. 3(b)



Pic-22. Interior view of Birhor house. Pattepani. Date-17.02.14. Serial No. 3(b)



Pic-23. Interior view of Birhor house. Bhadua. Date- 13.2.14. Serial no.3(b), cf. 12



Pic-24. Interior view of the Birhor house with a traditional chulha and utensils used for cooking amid other things like broom etc. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial no.3(b), cf.. 12



Pic-25. Utensils inside the room, Patepani. Date: 02.02.14. Serial no.3(b),cf.. 12.



Pic-26. Basket made of bamboo used for paddy storage. Pattepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial no. 3(b).

Serial No. 4 The Birhor community does not use any pots for storing grains which may have traditional value(s). But they use baskets made of bamboo just as being used by

other people in their vicinity (Pic-27,28), some iron vessels (Pic-57,58) to store vegetable, fruits, grains and liquids.

PIC-23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 57, 58, 59, 60.



Pic-27. Basket made of bamboo used in storing paddy. Pattepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No 4.(cf.. 20).



Pic-28. Basket made of bamboo used in storing paddy. Pattepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial no 4.(cf. 20)

Serial No. 5 In Birhor kitchen traditional oven, different kind of pots made of aluminium, iron, steel are present. They use earthen pots as well.

PIC-21,22,23,24,25,29,31,32.



Pic-29. Traditional chulha, utensils in Birhor kitchen. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial no. 5.(cf. 3(b),10).



Pic-30. Utensils to store water. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial no.3(b),(cf. 4, 14).



Pic-31. Traditional chulha. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial no.3(b).(cf.5, 10).



Pic-32. A traditional chulha with an aluminium pot over it. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial no.3(b).(cf. 5, 10).



Pic-33. Dried ants. Pattepani.Date-02.02.14. Serial no.20.



Pic-34. Dried ants(used as a cuisine). Patepani. Date: 02.02.14. Serial no.20.



Pic-35. Dry leaves used as a cuisine, Patepani. Date: 02.02.14. Serial no.20.



Pic-36. Dry leaves used as a cuisine, Patepani. Date: 02.02.14. Serial no.20.



Pic-37. Dried flowers /baha/ used as cuisine, Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial no.20.



Pic-38. Dried flowers /baha/ used as cuisine, Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No. 20.

Serial No. 6 Materials used in making the basic structure of house- NOT FOUND.

Serial No. 7 Birhor people use different kinds of tools for gardening purposes as depicted by following pictures. Different kinds of sharp instruments i.e. machete (Pic-39, 40, 42 and 44), hoe (Pic-41), axe (Pic-44).

[PIC39,40,41,42,43,44.]



Pic-39. Garden Equipment; a kind of machete (ḍa). Bhadua, Date-13.02.14. Serial No.7.cf. 15



Pic-40. Garden Equipments; a kind of machete (ḍa) . Bhadua, Date-13.02.14. Serial No.7. Cf.. 15



Pic-41. Garden Equipments; a kind of hoe (kodjal) with a wooden handle. Bhadua, Date-13.02.14. Serial No.7. Cf.. 15.



Pic-42. Garden Equipments; machete (dața șa). Bhadua, Date-13.02.14. Serial No.7. (cf. 15)



Pic-43. Garden Equipments. Bhadua, Date-13.02.14. Serial No.7. (cf. 15)



Pic-44. Garden Equipments; axe(ṭaṇa) and a kind of machete (ḍa), Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.7. (cf. 15).

Serial No 8. Vessels used for bathing - **NOT FOUND**

Serial No 9. Birhor people use stones /sil/ (as mortar and pestle) for grinding grains and spices (Pic- 45, 46, 47and 48).

[PIC- 45, 46, 47, 48]



Pic-45. Grinding spice. Chotabanki. Date-17.02.14. Serial No.9.



Pic-46. Close view ; Spice grinding .Chotabanki.Date-17.02.14. Serial No.9.



Pic-47. Stones /sil/ used as Mortar and pestle . Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.9.



Pic-48. /sil/ .Patepani.Date-02.02.14. Serial No.9.

Serial No. 10 Ethnic oven used in Birhor kitchens are of two types. One is made up of mud only (Pic-29) and other is made of bricks coated with mud (Pic-31, 32)

[PIC-29,31,32.]

Serial No. 11 The Birhor generally use different kinds of steel plates (Pic-49, 50, 51, 52, and 53) for serving food etc.

[PIC-23, 24, 25, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53.]



Pic-49. Steel plate used for serving food. , Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.12, (cf. 20).



Pic-50. The Birhor child having food in a Steel plate, Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No.11, 12. cf. 20.



Pic-51. The Birhor having food in a steel plate. Chotabanki. Date-17.02.14. Serial No.11,12 cf. 20.



Pic-52. The Birhor having food in a steel plate (close frame). Chotabanki. Date-17.02.14. Serial No.11,12, (cf. 20).



Pic-53. A Birhor child having food in steel plate. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No.11, 12, (cf. 20).

Serial No.12 Apart from these Steel plates Birhor people serves food in steel bowls (Pic-54, 55, 56).

[Pic-23,24,25,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56.]



Pic-54. Steel plate. Bhadua Date-13.02.14. Serial No.12, Cf.. 20.



Pic-55. Steel Bowl also used for food. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No.12, Cf.. 20



Pic-56. Steel Bowl used for serving food. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No.12, Cf.. 20.

Serial No.13 Birhor people have no traditional measuring equipments.

Serial No. 14 To store liquids, Birhor people use iron bucket and other large drums made of iron. (Pic-30, 57)

[PIC-30, 57]



Pic-57. Iron pot to store Alcohol. Bhadua.Date-13.02.14. Serial No.14. Cf.. 20, 4.



Pic-58. Iron pot and a basket made of bamboo to store fruits. Bhadua.Date-13.02.14. Serial no. 20.Cf.. 4.

Serial No. 15. Birhor people use many kinds of tools for gardening. Some sharp instruments i.e. different kinds of machete (ḍa) (Pic- 39, 40, 42 and 44), hoe (Pic-41), axe (Pic-44).

[PIC-39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44.]

Serial No. 16 For fishing Birhor people use net (Pic-15, 16). They also make different kinds of structures using bamboo by which they catch fish in deep and shallow waters (Pic-67, 68, 69, 70). For hunting birds Birhor people use catapult (Pic-61), bird catcher /tʃeŋe pʰasa/ (Pic-63, 64). For hunting animals they use bows and arrows (Pic-62), net (Pic- 65, 66). A particular trap /dʒala/ is used for hunting monkeys (Pic-65, 66). The skin of monkeys (pic-66(a)) are used for making drums /nagra/.

[Pic- 15, 16, 59,60,61, 62,63,64,65,66, 66(a), 67, 68,69,70]



Pic-59. Basket to store fish. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No 16



Pic-60. Basket to store fish. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No 16



Pic-61. Catapult to hunt birds and small animals. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No. 16



Pic-62. Bow and arrow to hunt animals in forest. Patepani. Date- 02.02.14. Serial No. 16.



Pic-63. Trap used to catch birds. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No. 16.



Pic-64. Trap used to catch birds. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No. 16.



Pic-65. Net used for catching wild animals like monkeys etc. Date: 02-02-14. Serial No.16.



Pic-66. Net used for catching wild animals like monkey etc. Date: 02.02.14.Serial No. 16.



Pic-66(a) Skin of monkey hanging from a branch of a tree (used for making drum).
Bhadua.Date: 13.02.14. Serial No. 16.

Serial No.17 For fishing Birhor people use net (Pic-15, 16). They make different kinds of structures with bamboo by which they catch fish in deep and shallow waters (Pic-67, 68, 69, 70).

[Pic-67,68,69,70]

Serial No. 18 No equipment pertaining entertainment was found in Birhor people's house.



Pic-67. Used for catching fish in shallow waters. Date: 13-02-2014. Serial No. 17.



Pic- 68. This item is used for catching fish in shallow waters. Date: 13.02.2014. Serial No.17



Pic-69. Article used for catching fish in deep waters. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No. 17.



Pic-70. Article used for catching fish in deep waters. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No. 17.

Serial No. 19 For cultivation Birhor people use different kind of seeds and

[PIC- 71,72]



Pic-71. Traditional tiller used in cultivation. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No. 19



Pic-72. Seeds used in farming. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No. 19.

Serial No. 20 Birhor people eat cooked rice/tjauli/ and /haqia/- a kind of hallucinating liquid as stable food. With the rice they mix some particular herb and keep that for 2 or 3 days. Apart from these they also eat different kind of vegetables, flowers collected from the forest. They dry some flowers, leafs, roots of trees to use those later. Birhor people hunt small animals like rats, rabbits, and monkeys and eat them. They also eat fish, chicken, mutton, beef and pork.

[PIC-27,28,33,34,35,36,37,38,49,50,51,52,53,54,55,56,57,58]

Serial No. 21 Ethnic profile of man woman of the community

[PIC-10,13,14,15,16, 73(a),73(b),74,75,76,77,78,79,80,81,82,83,84,85,86,87]



Pic-73(a) Birhor old man and woman. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.21



Pic-73(b). Old woman of Birhor tribe. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.21.



Pic-74. Old man of Birhor tribe.Patepani.Date-02.02.14. Serial No.21.



Pic-75. Birhor young man. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.21.



Pic-76.Young woman with baby. Patepani. Date-17.02.14. Serial No.21.



Pic-77. Middle aged women of Birhor tribe,Patepani.Date-02.02.14. Serial No.21.



Pic-78. Middle age woman (Close Frame) of Birhor tribe. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.21.



Pic-79. The Birhor Child. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No.21.



Pic-80. Birhor children. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.21.



Pic-81. Girl of Birhor tribe. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No.21.



Pic-82. Girls of Birhor tribe. Chotabanki. Date-17.02.14. Serial No.21.



Pic-83. Children of Birhor tribe. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No.21.



Pic-84. Children of Birhor tribe. Chotabanki. Date-17.02.14. Serial No.21.



Pic-85. New born baby of Birhor tribe. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.21.



Pic-86. New born babies of Birhor tribe. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.21.

Serial No.22. Traditional attire of woman in this community is white saree with blue border.

[PIC- 87, 88].



Pic-87.Traditional attire of Birhor woman. Bhadua.Date-13.02.14. Serial No.21.cf. 22



Pic-88.Traditional Birhor attire. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No.22.

Serial No. 23. Birhor women use bangles made of iron (Pic- 89, 90), colored glasses (Pic- 93, 94) and other metals (Pic-92), a kind of bangle known as /sank'a/to wear in hands.They wear different kind of chains and necklaces (Pic-94, 95, 96, 97). A kind of

woolen anklet for children is used (Pic-98). Birhor woman make tattoo on their hand (Pic-99,100).

[PIC-89,90,91,92,93,94,95,96,97,98,99,100]



Pic-89. Steel and iron bangles. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.23.



Pic-90. Steel and iron bangles. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.23.



Pic-91. Bangle known as *Sankha* , Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.23.



Pic-92. Golden coloured bangle. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.23.



Pic-93. Coloured bangles. Patepani. Date-02,02,14. Serial No.23.



Pic-94. Red coloured bangles and black/silver iron chain worn by the woman.Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.23.



Pic-95. Mono colour Necklace in child's neck. Chotabanki. Date-17.02.14. Serial No.23.



Pic-96. Bronze pendulum with black thread worn to children. Chotabanki. Date-17.02.14. Serial No.23.



Pic-97. Necklace made by iron beads. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.23.



Pic-98. Anklet made by wool. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.23.



Pic-99. Tadoo on hand. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.23.



Pic-100. Tadoo on hand. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.23.

Serial No. 24 There is no temple in Birhor locality. Though they worship /*siñi-bona*/ "the god of forest" and one particular day they sacrifice fowls or goat to please God.

Serial No. 25 Birhor people do not have their own judiciary system.

Serial No. 26 The Birhor also celebrate festivals.

Serial No.27 The Birhor people have their own cart made of wood.(Pic-101, 102, 103, 104)



Pic-101. Ethnic transport-cart. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No.27.



Pic-102. Ethnic transport-cart. Bhadua. Date-13.02.14. Serial No.27.



Pic-103.Ethnic transport-cart. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.27.



Pic-104.Ethnic transport-cart. Patepani. Date-02.02.14. Serial No.27.

Serial No. 28 Ethnic practices e.g. Birth ceremony, Marriage, death ceremony - Not found.

Serial No. 29 Native Games- Not found.

Serial No. 30 Ethnic healing system- Not found.

