

Report: Birjia

SYNTAX

NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE IRPS

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LANGUAGE/ MT: BIRJIA

This report describes the syntactical system of the Birjia language from limited data collected from the field. It focuses on different types of sentences and word order of the Birjia language.

1) **Simple Sentence:**

Simple sentences are of three types- Verbal sentences, Copular sentences and Verbless sentences.

Verbal sentences are of the following types:

a. Declarative

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

/haram haʔ^{hi} goʔ-janai/
old elephant die-past
'The old elephant died.'

b. Interrogative

/amaʔ uket iri biriʔijen/
2sg when get up
'When do you get up?'

/amaraʔ niumun titana hakeʔ/
Your name what be
'What is your name?'

c. Imperative

Imperative sentences are marked by verbal suffix 'mi'.

/amaʔ rini hopon-mi ragemi/
your daughter- call
'Call your daughter'

/g^hās giḍemi/
grass remove
'Remove the grass'

/duar sinemi/
door close
'Close the door'

/nia oṛa ʃu/
my house go
'Go to my house'

/gēndra capagimi/
clothes wash
'Wash the clothes, please'

/nia ciṭṭ^hi dan/
I letter give
'Give me the letter'

Copular sentences

Presence of multiple copular forms has been found in this preliminary analysis of the copular sentences. Some of them are:

- /ram raŋget **tanai**/
ram hungry be

'Ram is hungry.'

- /ram hasu **tanai**/
ram pain be
'Ram is in pain.'
- /ram-raʔ top **harije**/ (No external manifestation of copula 'is')
ram-poss cap be
'Ram's cap is blue'
- /nia oʔa etertajum bagica **idena**/
my house behind garden be
'There is a garden behind my house'
- /nia kaʔ^h aʔ^hao **rinije**/
I tree beside be
'I am beside the tree.'
- /amara niumun titana **hake**/
you name what be
'What is your name?'
- /huni oke **hake**/
he who be
'Who is he?'
- /nuku goʔe ʔiliŋ **jaku**/
these all tall are
'These men are tall.'
- /huni hor mota **aje**/
that man fat be
'That man is fat.'
- /nui mien bilai **hake**/
here one cat be
'Here is a cat.'
- /hondore barija gaekin **idana**/
there two cows be
'There are two cows'
- /niara gendra humra gendra tane bagra safa **hake**/
my uniform his uniform than more white be

'My uniform is whiter than his uniform.'

2) Complex Sentence:

- /huni koʁa rage pe gilasi rapuht dolo laʔae/
that boy call who glass break-past
'Call the boy who broke the glass.'
- /huni kat^hao laʔ mandʒi banaotaha pasand teʔ/
she said that meal cook likes to
'She said that she likes to cook'
- /huni aet kote seno tenae agar/
'I shall go if he comes.'

3) Compound Sentence:

- /sin kamemi aʔup gititkumi/
day work night sleep
'Work in the day and sleep at night'
- /nui mian bilai hake nui mian seta hake/
here one cat is here one dog is
'Here is a cat and a dog'

4) Word Order

Word order in a sentence of Birjia is predominantly :
Subject+ Verb+ Object (SVO)

- /huni oʔe tidi aj/
3sg(F) bird kill past
'She killed the bird.'

- /miŋɾa gẽnd^h eʔ eneŋ janei/
boy-nom ball with play-prog aux-be
'The boy is playing with a ball.'
- kuɕi mandɨ ʝom doholajeʔ
girl meals eat past perfect
'The girl had eaten the meals.'

In interrogative sentences:

/huni oke hake/
he who is
'Who is he?'

5) Auxiliary Elements

The auxiliary elements appear to be /sakaoje/, /cahi/ and /doholena/.

/huni oɾe ruʔb sakaoje/

3rd.sg bird kill may

'He may kill the bird'

/ɲia weʝu cahi/

1st.sg come should

'I should come'

/ɲia noa kam ka karao doholena/

1st.sg this work do PST-PARTICIPLE

'I should have done the work'

6) Optative Form

Optative forms are marked by verbal suffix 'oajemi'.

/huni ikar sen-oajemi/
'Let him go.'

/huni ikar sen-oajemi/
'Let it go.'

7) Obligatory Form

/ama? barija kera ʃome cahi/
2nd.Sg two bananas eat should
'You should eat two bananas'

8) Conditional Form

/agər ama? miṭ^hai kam wan redo ijam/
If you sweets neg cry
'If you don't give me the sweets, I will cry'

9) Habitual Form

/pia nɔ baʃe ofis e seno-doholena/
1st.S nine time office go-habitual
'I used to go to office at 9 o'clock'

/ramʃit nɔ baʃe baʃər seno-doholena/
Ramjit nine time market go-habitual
'Ramjit used to go to market (bazaar) at 9 o'clock'

10) Reflexive Pronouns

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

/huni apante gagri rakabʔla/
3sg(F) herself pot lift.past
'She lifted the pot herself.'

/huni apante paɬ^h parhaolena/
3sg himself lessons study.past
'He studied the lessons himself.'

/huni apante goit gana/
3sg.inani itself die past
'It died by itself.'

11) Negation

Negation in Birjia is expressed by the markers /kan/, /kae/, /kaie/ and /erao/.

Examples:

1. /nia iskul kan sena/

1st.Sg school neg go
'I don't go to school.'

2. /huni horoa iskul kaie sen doholena?/

3rd.Sg.M yesterday school neg go -past
'He did not go to school yesterday.'

3. /huni noa kam kae karaolaʔah/

3rd.Sg.F. this work neg do -perfect
'She has not done the work.'

4. /noa kam okerhōe erao kara-ole/

this work anybody no do- potentiality
'Nobody can do this work.'

12) Comparative sentences

Degrees of Comparison are denoted syntactically. The adjective is not inflected to denote the degrees of comparison. The post positional element 'tena' is used to denote the comparative degree after the words with which something is to be compared

In comparative degree, / tena / is used to denote comparison. /bagra/ means more

1. /ɟoria-raʔ dah ɟhil-raʔ dah tena bagra ac^ha hake/
river-poss water lake-poss water than more clean be
'River water is cleaner than lake water.'

2. /ɟia-raʔ gendra huni-raʔ gendra tena bagra safa hake/
My uniform/cloth his uniform/cloth than more white/clean be
'My uniform is whiter than his uniform.'

13) Reduplication

Reduplication is seen in interrogative and declarative sentences. The whole word is repeated and from the limited data it is found that the repeated words are question words and adverbs.

1. /amaʔ rānci **uket ukethila** senam/
you ranchi when when
'When (kab kab) do you go to Ranchi?'
2. /huni bia re **citan citan** ɟom laʔah/
he marriage at what what eat -PST
'What (kya kya) did he eat in the marriage?'

3. /**oke oke** gutija re oit lenaku/
who who feast in come
'Who (kaun kaun) came in the feast?'

4. /huni **bisad bisad** sen doholena/
3rd.sg. slowly slowly walk-PST-CONT.
'He was walking slowly slowly.'

From the limited data collected from field, there is no evidence of echo formation in Birjia.