

**Report**  
**Morphology 3**

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**LANGUAGE/ MT: BIRJIA**

This report presents a brief description of the Verb Morphology of the Birjia language (a continuation of July 2015 report) from limited data collected from the field.

## VERB MORPHOLOGY

### Simple Verb Bases

At the outset some Simple Verb bases are presented below:

Bases	Glosses
/egeri-/	‘to abuse’
/sod <sup>h</sup> ao-/	‘to ask question’
/koe-/	‘to ask for something’
/saḍi-/	‘to beat (a drum)’/ ‘to play (musical instrument)’
/humage-/	‘to beat (somebody)’
/bahaio-/	‘to bloom’
/oŋe-/	‘to blow (with the mouth)’
/sarihjo-/	‘to believe’
/tole-/	‘to bind’
/jhuko-/	‘to bow (bend the body)’
/banao-/	‘to brew’
/hare-/	‘to bury (a dead body)’
/hakao-/	‘to call’
/jolai-/	‘to catch (chase and catch)’
/manao-/	‘to celebrate’
/badli-/	‘to change (alter)’
/kat <sup>h</sup> ai-/	‘to chant (mantras)’
/ḵolai-/	‘to chase (pursue with intent to catch)’

/sine-/

‘to close’

/bide-/

‘to cultivate (tend crop)’

/kame-/

‘to earn’

## COPULA VERB

In Birjia /**hake**/, /**tanai**/, / **idana**/, /**rinije**/, /**jaku**/ and /**aje**/ are copula verbs. For example:

/hui mien bilai **hake**/

here one cat be

‘Here is a cat.’

/ram hasu **tanai**/

ram pain be

‘Ram is in pain.’

/hondore barija gaekin **idana**/

there two cows be

‘There are two cows.’

/ɲia kaɬ<sup>h</sup> a                    t<sup>h</sup>ao **rinije**/

1<sup>st</sup>.Sg tree possessive beside be

‘I am beside the tree.’

/nuku goɬe jiliɲ **jaku**/

these all tall be

‘These men are tall.’

/huni hoʔ moʔa aje/

that man fat be

‘That man is fat.’

## PERSON & NUMBER

Birjia verb does not have markers for denoting person and number.

For example:

/pia oʔe nel jana/

1<sup>st</sup>.Sg bird see –present

‘I see the bird.’

/pia oʔe nel jana/

1<sup>st</sup>.Pl bird see –present

‘We see the bird.’

/amaʔ oʔe nel jana/

2<sup>nd</sup>.Sg bird see –present

‘You see the bird.’

/huni oʔe nel jana/

3<sup>rd</sup>.Sg.M bird see –present

‘He sees the bird.’

/huni kuʔi oʔe nel jana/

3<sup>rd</sup>.Sg.F bird see -present

‘She sees the bird.’

/huku oʔe ku nel jana/

3<sup>rd</sup>.Sg.F bird –plural see –present

‘They see the bird.’

## **TENSE**

Birjia has separate markers for present and a common marker for past and future tenses.

*Present Tense:*

/ɲia oʔe nel jana/

1<sup>st</sup>.Sg bird see –present

‘I see the bird.’

/amaʔ oʔe nel jana/

2<sup>nd</sup>.Sg bird see –present

‘You see the bird.’

*Past Tense:*

/abun oʔe nel laʔah/

1Pl.Inc bird see –past

‘We saw the bird.’

/ɲia oʔe nel laʔah/

1<sup>st</sup>.Pl bird see -past  
'We (plural) saw the bird.'

*Future Tense:*

/huni oʔe nel laʔah/  
3<sup>rd</sup>.Sg bird see -future  
'He will see the bird'

/nuku hoʔ goʔa oʔe ku nel laʔah/  
these (animate) men all bird –plural see -future  
'They will see the bird.'

## **ASPECT**

Perfect:

The perfect marker is the same in present and past.

Present Perfect Aspect:

/nia oʔe nel lid<sup>hi</sup>ʔajah/  
1<sup>st</sup>.sg bird see -present perfect  
'I have seen the bird.'

/nuku hoʔ goʔe oʔe ku nel lid<sup>hi</sup>ʔajah/  
these (animate) men all bird-plural see -present perfect  
'They have seen the bird.'

Past Perfect Aspect:

/nia oʔe nel lid<sup>hi</sup>ʔajah/

1<sup>st</sup>.Sg bird see -past perfect  
'I had seen the bird.'

Future Perfect Aspect:

/ɲia oʔe nel taʔah/

1<sup>st</sup>.Sg bird see future perfect  
'I shall have seen the bird.'

Continuous:

Present Continuous Aspect

/ɲia nonɖeŋ weʔjo goŋa/

1<sup>st</sup>.Sg. here come-PRS-CONT  
'I am coming here'

/amaʔ nonɖeŋ weʔjo goŋa/

2<sup>nd</sup>.Sg here come-PRS-CONT  
'You are coming here'

Past Continuous Aspect

/ɲia oʔe nel jan doholena/

1<sup>st</sup>.Sg bird see-PST-CONT  
'You were seeing the bird'

/huni oʔe nel jan doholena/

3<sup>rd</sup>.Sg.M bird see-PST-CONT  
'It was seeing the bird'

Future Continuous Aspect

/amaʔ teʔed boŋga nel-ʔla/

2<sup>nd</sup>.Sg moon see-FUT-CONT

‘You will be seeing the moon’

Perfect Continuous:

No data has been found

## MOOD

a) Indicative - Indicative forms are unmarked.

/huni oʔa bhitar rinije/

3<sup>rd</sup>.Sg.M house in be

‘He is in the house.’

/gãe dudd<sup>h</sup>u ema/

cow milk give

‘The cows give milk.’

/seta b<sup>h</sup>uklaje/

dog bark

‘The dog barks’

b) Imperative – Imperative forms are marked by verbal suffix ‘mi’.

/amaʔ rini hoponmi ragemi/

your daughter call-IMP

‘Call your daughter.’

/g<sup>h</sup>ãs giðemi/

grass remove-IMP  
'Remove the grass.'

/duar sinemi/  
door close-IMP  
'Close the door.'

/durumi /, /duru kumi/  
sit-IMP  
'Sit down/Please sit down.'

c) Optative – Optative forms are marked by verbal suffix 'oejemi'.

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

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

## INFINITIVES

Infinitives in Birjia are expressed by / ta?/

/huni jo? jom ta? pasanta?/  
3<sup>rd</sup>.Sg.M fruit to eat liked

'He liked to eat fruit.'

/huni kat<sup>hao</sup> la? mandqi banaota? pasanta?/  
3<sup>rd</sup>.Sg.F. said that (she) food to cook likes

'She said that she likes to cook.'

## NEGATION

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

Examples:

1. /nia iskul kan sena/

1<sup>st</sup>.Sg school neg go

‘I don't go to school.’

2. /huni horoa iskul kaie sen doholena?/

3<sup>rd</sup>.Sg.M yesterday school neg go -past

‘He did not go to school yesterday.’

3. /huni noa kam kae karaola?ah/

3<sup>rd</sup>.Sg.F. this work neg do -perfect

‘She has not done the work.’

4. /noa kam okerhõe erao kara-ole/

this work anybody no do- potentiality

‘Nobody can do this work.’