

Yakkha: markedness and neutralization

Pavel Iosad

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Yakkha verbs

We consider four forms: the infinitive, the negative converb, the 3SG subject past tense form (with a clitic =*na*), and the 3SG subject + 3SG object past tense form (also with =*na*). For reasons that we cannot go into here, we should treat the 3SG>3SG marker as consisting of two suffixes /a+u/ underlyingly. The 3SG>3SG form is for obvious reasons absent for intransitive verbs.

The transcriptions are given in slightly stricter IPA.

Infinitive	NEG.CVB	3SG.PST	3SG>3SG.PST	Gloss
waʔma	měwaʔle	wajana	wana	'wear'
soʔma	mensoʔle	sojana	sona	'look at'
piʔma	membɪʔle	pjana	pina	'give'
cama	menʒale	cajana	cona	'eat'
ama	měale	ajana		'descend'
sima	mensile	sjana		'die'
lapma	mělaple	labana	labuna	'seize'
apma	měaple	abana	abuna	'come'
jokma	mějokle	jogana	joguna	'search'
p ^h aʔma	memp ^h atle	p ^h atana	p ^h atuna	'help'
keʔma	menʒetle	ketana	ketuna	'bring up'
liʔma	mělitte	litana	lituna	'plant'
t ^h uʔma	ment ^h uʔle	t ^h urana	t ^h uruna	'sew'
poʔma	memboʔle	porana	poruna	'topple'
c ^h uma	men ^h ule	c ^h usana	c ^h usuna	'shrink'
jama	mějale	jasana	jasuna	'be able (to do)'

Reconstruct, as much as you can, the paradigm for the following infinitives:

- *cima* 'cool down'
- *cokma* 'do'
- *hoʔma* 'crumble, fall apart'

Yamphu verbs

This is a very artificially constructed dataset from the related language Yamphu. The patterns are similar to those of Yakkha, and will perhaps help you make more sense of the latter. The forms given are again the infinitive, as well as two negative non-past forms: the 1PL inclusive subject and the 1PL exclusive subject. You will need to make an additional generalization about the distribution of the suffixes.

Infinitive	1PL.INCL	1PL.EXCL	Gloss
apma	abini	abiŋmani	'come'
kepma	kebini	kebiŋmani	'stick'
kʰa:kma	kʰa:gini	kʰa:giŋmani	'scrape throat'
tʰeʔma	tʰeʔni	tʰeduŋmani	'lift'
hæ:ʔma	hæ:ʔni	hæ:duŋmani	'bite'
leʔma	ledini	lediŋmani	'be brief'
siʔma	siʔni	sit:uŋmani	'hit'

Considering what you have been able to figure out about Yamphu, reconstruct as much as you can of the the paradigms of the following verbs:

- *ʔokma* 'find'
- *triʔma* 'be contrary'

The data also attests patterns exemplified by *asiʔ* 'previously' ~ *asiʔ-em-ba* 'before'. How do they fit in with the previous data?