

## Lesson 9

### *Numerals – generic particles – numeral classifiers*

Classical Newari follows the decimal system; there are no different forms for cardinals and ordinals, although in the paratext of manuscripts, ordinals are more often than not expressed through Sanskrit or NIA loans. The numbers from one to ten are:

१ <sup>1</sup> cha	२ <sup>2</sup> ne	३ <sup>3</sup> sō	४ <sup>4</sup> pe	५ <sup>5</sup> ñā
६ <sup>6</sup> khu	७ <sup>7</sup> nhas	८ <sup>8</sup> cyā	९ <sup>9</sup> gu	१० <sup>10</sup> ji

NB – The following variants are recorded: for **cha**, **chi** occurs regularly after the numerals **sata** “hundred” and **dol** “thousand” (see below); **ne** and **pe** also occur with lowered vowel **ni** and **pi**.

The tens are formed from an apocopated form of the ones by means of a formant {-ya}:\*

20 niya	30 suya	40 piya	50 ñaya
60 khuya	70 nhaya	80 caya	90 guya

Commonly encountered higher numerals are **sata** (variants **sala**, **sa**) “hundred”, **dol** “thousand”, and **lakha** (*var.* **lakṣa**) “lakh”. The numbers “100” and “1,000” are usually followed by **chi**: **sata-chi**, **sala-chi** “one hundred”; **dol-chi** “one thousand”. In all other instances, the multiplier precedes: **ne-sala** “two hundred”, **ñā sala** “five hundred”.

Higher units precede the smaller ones, thus **niya cha** “twenty-one” etc. In composition, **ji** takes a suffix {-ma}, thus **jima-cha** “eleven”, **jima-ne** “twelve” etc. The numerals **sata** and **dol** take the sociative case marker: **sa-chi-wo niya ñā** “one hundred and twenty-five”.

Numerals are generally suffixed with a numeral classifier (see below).

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\*) Not usually spelt <ye>, and probably pronounced [y<sup>ə</sup>] or [i]; in MN, this formant survives as lengthening or *umlaut* of the preceding vowel.

84 “**Generic particles**”. The basic function of these clitics is to mark a NP for animate or inanimate gender – {-**mhā**} (*var.* {-**mhā**}, especially Bhp.) for the former, and {-**guli**} (*varr.* {-**gu**}, {-**go**}) for the latter. They can be used as (1) numeral classifiers, (2) agreement markers, and (3) nominalisers.

85 *Numeral classifiers*: Any numeral serving as an extension of a NP must be marked with one of the generic particles, unless it is marked with a numeral classifier (see below); the choice of the generic particle is predicated on the gender of the head. Note that the numeral is usually, though not always, placed after the head of the NP.

(9.1) जुवा ब्राह्मन स्वम्हंसेन कन्याया बबूयाके धालं ।

**juḃā brāhmana so-mhā-sen kanyā-yā babu-yāke dhāl-ā.**

“Three young brahmans spoke to the girl’s father.”

(9.2) लिथें जताधारी जुवम्हंन ... नगर छगुलिस वनं ।

**lithē jaṭādharī juwo-mhā-n ... nagara cha-guli-s won-ā.**

“Later, the one who had become an ascetic ... went to a (certain) town.”

86 *Agreement markers*: The generic particles can be tagged on to a leftward extension of any given NP (usually, a pronoun or adjective), marking it for agreement with the head. In contrast to Modern Newari, their use is completely optional, and actually quite rare. Added to a pronoun, the generic particles seem to express emphasis.

NB – There is a growing tendency, observable since the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, to add the inanimate generic particle to the genitive case forms of personal pronouns, e.g. **jeguli**, **jigu(li)** “my”. This usage resulted in the subsequent reanalysis of {-**gu**:} as genitive case marker in MN pronominal paradigms.

(9.3) थ्वम्हं कापालिक बिल्वफलया दाता ।

**thwo-mhā kāpālīka-Ø bilbaphala-yā dātā-Ø.**

“This *very* ascetic is the giver of the bilva fruits.”

(9.4) थ्वगुली खंस राजा विक्रमादित्यया बोहोलेस चोड वेतालन राजायाके सेयकलं ।

**thwo-guli khā-s rājā bikramāditya-yā bohola-s coṅ-a betāla-n rājā-yāke seyakal-ā.**

“[At that speech=] When (he had told) this story, the *vetāla* that was on King Vikramāditya’s shoulder spoke to the king.”

*Nominalisers*: Added to a verb form, the generic particles can serve as nominalisers; again, this usage is completely optional, and seems to indicate deictic emphasis (similar to Nepali **-cāhī** in this function): 87

(9.5) बिल्वफल विवम्हं जेन सोय वोंड हि ।

**bilbaphala biwo-mhā-Ø je-n so-ye won-a hi-Ø.**

“Fetch the one who brings the bilva fruits so that I can look at him.”

(9.6) छन ययागुली साधलपीव ।

**cha-n yeyā-gulī-Ø sādha-lap-iwo.**

“That which you desire will be fulfilled.”

**Numeral classifiers.** Like many South Asian languages, Classical Newari employs a system of numeral classifiers that are regularly tagged on to the numeral (the pronoun **mewo** “other” is also treated like a numeral in this respect). If the numeral is the extension of a NP, use of numeral classifiers is mandatory. In addition to the generic particles introduced above, Classical Newari has a number of other classifiers that apply exclusively to round objects {-**gol**} (frequent orthographic variants), abstract concepts {-**tā**}, units of time {-**nhu**}, flat objects {-**pā**}, long objects and weapons {-**pu**} etc. If the numeral is the head of a NP, its marking with either of the two agreement markers is mandatory. 88

(9.7) थना जिथी मिसा छम्हं खंडाव मित्रन ल्हालं ।

**thanā jithi misā cha-mhā-Ø khañ-āwo mitra-n lhāl-ā.**

“There, when he saw an old woman, the friend spoke.”

(9.8) लिथे जताधारी जुवम्हनं ... नगर छगुलिस वनं ।

**lithē jaṭādhāri juwo-mhā-n ... nagara cha-gulī-s won-ā.**

“Later, the one who had become an ascetic ... went to a (certain) town.”

(9.9) छन्हुया क्षनस पद्मावतीन राजपुत्रयाके डेनं ।

**cha-nhu-yā kṣana-s padmāvatī-n rājaputra-yāke ñen-ā.**

“One day, Padmāvatī asked the prince.”

(Literally: “on the moment of one day”)

(9.10) छम्हायातं म बिस्यं तलं ।

**cha-mhā-yātā ma bi-sē tal-ā.**

“(He) ended up giving (her) to no one.”

- (9.11) सोलडास्यं छग्वड छग्वड बिल्वफलस पञ्च रत्न दव ।  
**sol-añāsē cha-gola cha-gola bilbaphala-s pañca ratna-Ø da-wo.**  
 “When he looked, he saw five jewels in each and every bilva fruit.”
- (9.12) नेपा लाहातनं वृद्धाया मुखस केचकलं ।  
**ne-pā lāhāta-n-ā br̥ddhā-yā mukha-s keca-kal-ā.**  
 “With both hands, (she) smeared the face of the old woman.”

### Exercise 9

*Translate the following sentences.*

- 1) थ्वगुली खंस वेतालन राजायाके ल्हालं ।  
**thwoguli khās betālan rājāyāke lhālā.**
- 2) हे द्वारी । दिनप्रति सुवर्णं पर सल छिव निय डा थ्वते जिते बिय माल ।  
**he dwārī, dinapratī subarṇa pala sala chiwo niya nā – thwote jite biye māla.**
- 3) थनी शुक्लपक्षया दशमी । थ्वतेन डान्हु पुन्हु नी वानके ।  
**thani śuklapakṣayā daśamī, thwoten nānhu khunhu ni wānake.**
- 4) छ न्ह्या क्षनस थ्वपनी नेमहं अहड वने धकं सडं गयाव वन दुहा वनं ।  
**cha nhuyā kṣanas thwopani nemhā ahala wone dhakā sala gayāwo bana duhā wonā.**
- 5) सरोवरतीरस छेन खंडाम्हं राजपुत्रपनी जेछेस थेनो ।  
**sarobaratīras chen khañāmhā rājaputrapani jeches theno.**
- 6) हे राजन् । जे मेवता सामग्री म दू । खङ्ग छपू हाथ नेपावो थ्वते दवः ।  
**he rājan, je mewotā sāmagrī ma dū. khaḍga chapū hātha nepāwo thwote dawo.**