

## **TAM Analysis of Baharagora Dialect**

**Smita Sahu, M.A. (Linguistics), Resource Person, CIIL**  
**Manish Kumar Singh, Ph.D. (Linguistics)**

=====

### **Abstract**

For the purpose of mechanical linguistic utilization of any language, as a first step we analyze the TAM (Tense, Aspect, and Mood) features of that language. In the present paper, we study the less explored dialect, Bahraagi (a namesake as the dialect has no specific name), spoken in and around a small town called Baharagora situated in the East Singhbhum district of Jharkhand, which is located in the south east corner of the state. The paper has unfolded the Tense-Aspect-Mood system (Verbal Morphology) of Bahraagi. Moreover, since TAM contains the verbal as well as agreement features of a language, the paper has also unfolded the agreement (Person-Number-Gender) features of Bahraagi.

**Keywords: Bahraagi Dialect, Tense, Aspect and Mood.**

### **1. Introduction**

The major role of TAM (tense, aspect, and mood or modality) is categories played in establishing finite verbal forms. Verbs are grammatical units stating action or event and the state of a sentence. We can find in languages infinitive forms used for naming these actions or situations. They need to be inflected, i.e. put into finite forms, in order to be functional in the language. Inflected verbs become functional in a language by entering into multi-dimensional relations with the other words and take the biggest share in the formation of sentences. The classification of TAM plays the major role, together with person and number, in constituting finite verbal forms. Its chunk provides the location of the action on the temporal line while mood shows the way or style of the action that is being done, and aspect indicates the physiological and psychological status of the speaker with regards to the meaning conveyed by the finite form of the verb. The key issue is that languages can have many different ways of verb inflection and different ways of thinking and phrase-chunking with regards to their TAM systems.

#### **1.1 Literature Review**

Many scholars have already done work on TAM for several South Asian Languages (SALs), such as Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, and Austro-Asiatic. The theoretical discussion is based mainly on Dahl (1985), Bybee et al (1994), and Givón (2001). Besha (1989) is a study of tense and aspect in Shambal. Annie Montaut's "*The evolution of the tense-aspect system in Hindi/Urdu*" and Grierson's *Linguistic Survey of India* (11 vol.) are some other references. Grierson's work represents the beginning of the Munda and Mon-Khmer languages as a distinct family (still called Austric or Austro-Asiatic) just after Dravidian languages had been separated as the second distinct Indian family. The first one was the Indo-Aryan family identified right

after the famous discovery by William Jones in 1786 that Sanskrit and Latin-Greek were sister languages.

## 1.2 What is TAM?

**Tense:** Tenses are verb forms that show time. The tense in any language indicates when the time of assertion, completion, or evolution occurs in temporal relative sentences. Tenses can also make finer distinctions between simple past, present, and future.

**Aspect:** Aspect is defined according to Reichenbach (1947) and relates the concepts of Time of Utterance (TU), Topic Time (TT), and Situation Time (TSit) to define tense and aspect categories. Topic Time (TT) and Situation Time (TSit) are conceived as spans while Time of Utterance (TU) is a single point. According to functionality, we can distinguish between the inherent and grammatical aspect. Grammatical aspect is described using the morphological features of a verb. Inherent aspect is inherent to the verb or to the combination of the verb with some other parts of the sentence. Not only is there a subjective perspective on an individual's choice of TAM marking, but there is also imprecision in the entire system of TAM (Dahl 1985:20f). Although everyone knows what the prototypical cases of TAM are, it is not always clear how to distinguish the less typical ones.

In traditional grammar, TAM have been defined from a semantic point of view. However, Dahl (1985:23-26) introduces the new notion of dominance in distinguishing the tense and aspect. Dahl suggests that grammatical TAM morphemes typically combine semantic features. He classifies that Past as an event closed or perfective activities; and there is no Future tense. Tense is classified into past or non-past, or perfective and imperfective.

The above scholars have classified that present tense as a progressive aspect, and imperfective aspect. In accordance with these findings, Bybee et al. (1994:140) argues that a present tense marker expresses the meaning of present imperfective situations in order to illustrate the problems with categorizing the present. Hence the past and future tenses in the most of languages were classified partly with the help of auxiliaries.

**Mood:** Mood refers to grammatical manifestations of the way the speaker views the reality of the sentence; it is an expression of statement and declarative sentences. The grammatical category of mood must be kept separate from the semantic category of modality. Generally, modality may be expressed by auxiliary verbs called modals rather than by mood. Grammatical mood is the morphological marking of modality on a verb. Modality is concerned with the status [from the speaker's point of view] of the proposition that describes the event" (Palmer 2001:1), and can be expressed either by affixal morphology or through periphrastic/phrasal constructions.

## 1.3 The Bahraagi Language

Bahraagi is a dialect which has been the result of language convergence between Bangla and Odia, spoken in and around a small town named Baharagora which is situated in the East Singhbhum district of the south-east corner of Jharkhand. Baharagora is the entry point of Jharkhand from the two states, namely West Bengal and Odisha. It is located at the border and

West Bengal is approx 12 km and Odisha is approx 7 km from the town. Although the official language of the state is Hindi, the local language is a blend of Bangla and Odia. There is no discrete record of this dialect. Even the speakers of the dialect do not recognize it with any particular name and just recall it as “*the language spoken in Baharagora*”, so for the namesake we would be calling this dialect as “Bahraagi” throughout the study. The population of Baharagora is 148,000, as recorded in the 2001 census, which provides an estimate of the number of speakers of this dialect. It acts as a link language which is used to interact with people in the marketplace. We estimate that the whole population is using the language for their communication, even though it might not be their native language.

If Baharagora is considered the focal area of Bahraagi, then it could have spread within or outward a radius of around 30 km from the area. However, no specific details of this dialect have been found yet. Moreover, there is no linguistics work done by any scholar. The speakers do not have a specific written form of the language and use the Bangla Devnagri scripts for their writing purposes.

Bahraagi speakers are mostly farmers or traders. They need to be in constant contact with the marketplace, which encourage the use of this dialect. Now, being in atleast the fifth generation as a creolized form, we do not know how and when Bahraagi came in existence. It might have been a pidgin for communication purposes and now has been creolised. Note that a *pidgin* is a language with no native speakers; it is no one’s first language but is a *contact language*. That is, due to a multilingual setup, those who wish to communicate must find or improvise a simple language system that will enable them to do so. Holm (1988, pp. 4-5) defines a pidgin as:

*“a reduced language that results from extended contact between groups of people with no language in common; it evolves when they need some means of verbal communication, perhaps for trade, but no group learns the native language of any other group for social reasons that may include lack of trust or of close contact.”*

In contrast to a pidgin, a *creole* is often defined as a pidgin that has become the first language of a new generation of speakers. As Aitchison (1994, p. 111) says, ‘*creoles arise when pidgins become mother tongues*’. A creole, therefore, is a ‘normal’ language in almost every sense. Holmes (1992, p. 95) says that ‘*A creole is a pidgin which has expanded in structure and vocabulary to express the range of meanings and serve the range of functions required of a first language.*’

Thus, we can say that Bahraagi has emerged as a pidgin form which now has become creolized for the fifth generation.

## 2. Analysis

### 2.1 The Tense

Like any other modern Indian language family, Bahraagi has three distinct tenses: *Past*, *Present* and *Future*. Let us see the following table of absolute tense—

*SIMPLE PRESENT (SINGULAR):*

---

**Language in India** [www.languageinindia.com](http://www.languageinindia.com) ISSN 1930-2940 18:4 April 2018

Smita Sahu, M.A. (Linguistics) and Manish Kumar Singh, Ph.D. (Linguistics)

TAM Analysis of Baharagora Dialect

Table 1	English	Bahraagi
1P	I am	mu:i: a:c <sup>h</sup> -ɔ:ñ
2P	You are	tu:i: a:c <sup>h</sup> -u:
3P	He is	se a:c <sup>h</sup> -e

*SIMPLE PRESENT (PLURAL):*

Table 2	English	Bahraagi
1P	We are	a:ma:r a:c <sup>h</sup> -i:
2P	You are	tu:ma:r a:c <sup>h</sup> -ɔ:
3P	They are	ta:n a:c <sup>h</sup> -en

*SIMPLE PAST (SINGULAR):*

Table 3	English	Bahraagi
1P	I was	mu:i: t <sup>h</sup> i:-n-u:
2P	You were	tui: t <sup>h</sup> i:-l-u:
3P	He was	se t <sup>h</sup> i:-l-a:

*SIMPLE PAST (PLURAL):*

Table 4	English	Bahraagi
1P	We were	a:ma:r t <sup>h</sup> i:-l-i:
2P	You were	tu:ma:rt <sup>h</sup> i:-l-ɔ:
3P	They were	ta:nt <sup>h</sup> i:-l-a:n

*SIMPLE FUTURE (SINGULAR):*

Table 5	English	Bahraagi
1P	I will be	mu:i: t <sup>h</sup> a:-m-u:ñ
2P	You will be	tu:i: t <sup>h</sup> a:-b-u:
3P	He will be	se t <sup>h</sup> a:-b-e

*SIMPLE FUTURE (PLURAL):*

Table 5	English	Bahraagi
1P	We will be	a:ma:r t <sup>h</sup> a:-b-a:
2P	You will be	tu:ma:rt <sup>h</sup> a:-b-ɔ:
3P	They will be	ta:nt <sup>h</sup> a:-b-en

## 2.2 Present Tense

The present tense considering the speaker's utterance denotes the time of action at present. In Bahraagi, it is expressed by the verb with the null morpheme 'ϕ' to express aspect and tense. The following example exemplifies the present action-

- (a) mu:i:            bɔ:i:                            pɔ:ɗh-ɔ:ñ  
 I-1P-SG-nom book-acc            read-IMP-PRS-SG  
 "I read book."

The allomorphs used for present tense in agreement with person and numbers are specified in the following table: **Table 6.**

Person	Singular	Plural
<b>1P</b>	/-ɔ:ñ/	/-i:/
<b>2P</b>	/-u:/	/-ɔ:/
<b>3P</b>	/-e/	/-en/

It is generally used in the following contexts and the tensed verb form appears in the bold type:

### 2.3 Habitual/Simple Present

(i) su:rjɔ: bi:ka:[bela:ye **du:b-e**  
 sun-nom-SG evening sets-IMP-PRS-SG  
 “The sun sets in the evening.”

(ii) a:ma:r ʃɔ:kɑ:[**eu:tʰ-i:**  
 we-nom-PL morning get up-IMP-PRS-SG  
 “We get up in the morning.”

### 2.4 Incomplete/Progressive Present

(i) mu:i: tʰesi:s **nekʰ-ɔ:ñ-tɔ:ñ**  
 I-nom-SG thesis-acc-SG write-PROG-PRS-SG  
 “I am writing the thesis.”

(ii) se ta:r sewa: **kɔ:r-e-tɛ**  
 he-nom-SG him-gen-SG service do-PROG-PRS-SG  
 “He is serving him.”

### 2.5 Data Table of Relative Present Tense

*SIMPLE PRESENT (SINGULAR):*

Table 8	English	Bahraagi
<b>1P</b>	I work	mu:i: ka:jkɔ:r-ɔ:ñ
<b>2P</b>	You work	tu:i: ka:jkɔ:r-u:
<b>3P</b>	He work	se ka:jkɔ:r-e

*SIMPLE PRESENT (PLURAL):*

Table 9	English	Bahraagi
<b>1P</b>	We work	a:ma:r ka:jkɔ:r-i:
<b>2P</b>	You work	tu:ma:rka:jkɔ:r-ɔ:
<b>3P</b>	They work	ta:nka:jkɔ:r-en

*PRESENT CONTINUOUS (SINGULAR):*

Table 10	English	Bahraagi
<b>1P</b>	I am working	mu:i: ka:jkɔ:r-ɔ:ñ-tɔ:ñ
<b>2P</b>	You are working	tu:i: ka:jkɔ:r-u:-tu:
<b>3P</b>	He is working	se ka:jkɔ:r-e-tɛ

*PRESENT CONTINUOUS (PLURAL):*

Table 11	English	Bahraagi
1P	We are working	a:ma:r ka:jkɔ:r-i:-ʈi:
2P	You are working	tu:ma:rka:jkɔ:r-ɔ:-ʈɔ:
3P	They are working	ta:nka:jkɔ:r-en-ʈen

### Present Perfect (Singular)

Table 12	English	Bahraagi
1P	I have done the work	mu:i: ka:j ta: kɔ:ri:-ni:c <sup>h</sup> -ɔ:ñ
2P	You have done the work	tu:i: ka:j ta: kɔ:ri:-ni:c <sup>h</sup> -u:
3P	He has done the work	se ka:j ta: kɔ:ri:-ni:c <sup>h</sup> -e

### Present Perfect (Plural)

Table 13	English	Bahraagi
1P	We have done the work	a:ma:r meneka:j ta: kɔ:ri:-ni:c <sup>h</sup> -i:
2P	You have done the work	tu:ma:rmeneka:j ta: kɔ:ri:-ni:c <sup>h</sup> -ɔ:
3P	They have done the work	ta:nmeneka:j ta: kɔ:ri:-ni:c <sup>h</sup> -en

### PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS (SINGULAR):

Table 14	English	Bahraagi
1P	I have been working for two hours	mu:i: du: g <sup>h</sup> ɔ:nʈa:ru: ka:jkɔ:r-ɔ:ñ-ʈɔ:ñ
2P	You have been working for two hours	tu:i: du: g <sup>h</sup> ɔ:nʈa:ru: ka:jkɔ:r-u:-ʈu:
3P	He has been working for two hours	se du: g <sup>h</sup> ɔ:nʈa:ru: ka:jkɔ:r-e-ʈe

### PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS (PLURAL):

Table 15	English	Bahraagi
1P	We have been working for two hours	a:ma:r du: g <sup>h</sup> ɔ:nʈa:ru: ka:jkɔ:r-i:-ʈi:
2P	You have been working for two hours	tu:ma:r du: g <sup>h</sup> ɔ:nʈa:ru: ka:jkɔ:r-ɔ:-ʈɔ:
3P	They have been working for two hours	ta:n du: g <sup>h</sup> ɔ:nʈa:ru: ka:jkɔ:r-en-ʈen

## 2.6 Past Tense

The past tense is used in situations which occurs prior to the present moment of speech. In Baharaagi, it is expressed by the verb with the morpheme '-l' to express aspect and tense. The following instances exemplify the past actions expressed by the verb, which appear in bold type-

- (a) ra:m                      g<sup>h</sup>ɔ:r                      **g-e-l-a:**  
 Ram-nom-SG home-acc                      go-IMP-PST-SG  
 "Ram went home."

- (b) se ba:ja:r-ru: bə:i: ki:n-l-a:  
 He-nom-SG market-abl book-acc buy-IMP-PST-SG  
 “He bought a book from the market.”

The allomorphs used for the past tense in agreement with person and numbers are specified in the table below: **Table 16**

Person	Singular	Plural
<b>1P</b>	/-nu:/	/-li:/
<b>2P</b>	/-lu:/	/-lɔ:/
<b>3P</b>	/-la:/	/-la:n/

Beside the above general convention, there are some specific circumstances in which past tense are indicated. Such circumstances marked with the past tense appear in bold type in the below:

### 2.7 Past Continuity

- (i) se ma:tʰe dɔ:u:d-i:-te-tʰi:-la:  
 he-nom-SG field-loc run-PROG-PST-SG  
 “He was running in the field.”

- (ii) ta:n bə:ne rɔ:h-i:-te-tʰi:-la:n  
 they-nom-PL jungle-loc live-PROG-PST-PL  
 “They were living in the jungle.”

### 2.8 Prior to Past Action

- (i) mɔ:r a:sba:r a:gʰu: se su:-i:-tʰi:-la:  
 I arrival before he-nom-SG sleep-PFT-PST-SG  
 “Before my arrival, he slept.”

### 2.9 Data Table of Relative Past Tense

*SIMPLE PAST (SINGULAR):*

Table 17	English	Bahraagi
<b>1P</b>	I worked	mu:i: ka:jkɔ:r-n-u:
<b>2P</b>	You worked	tu:i: ka:jkɔ:r-l-u:
<b>3P</b>	He worked	se ka:jkɔ:r-l-a:

*SIMPLE PAST (PLURAL):*

Table 18	English	Bahraagi
<b>1P</b>	We worked	a:ma:rka:jkɔ:r-l-i:
<b>2P</b>	You worked	tu:ma:rka:jkɔ:r-l-ɔ:
<b>3P</b>	They worked	ta:nka:jkɔ:r-l-a:n

*PAST CONTINUOUS (SINGULAR):*

Table 19	English	Bahraagi
<b>1P</b>	I was working	mu:i: ka:jkɔ:r-te-tʰi:-n-u:

<b>2P</b>	You were working	tu:i: ka:jkɔ:r-te-tʰi:-l-u:
<b>3P</b>	He was working	se ka:jkɔ:r-te-tʰi:-l-a:

*PAST CONTINUOUS (PLURAL):*

<b>Table 20</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Bahraagi</b>
<b>1P</b>	We were working	a:ma:r ka:jkɔ:r-te-tʰi:-l-i:
<b>2P</b>	You were working	tu:ma:rka:jkɔ:r-te-tʰi:-l-o:
<b>3P</b>	They were working	ta:nka:jkɔ:r-te-tʰi:-l-a:n

*PAST PERFECT (SINGULAR):*

<b>Table 21</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Bahraagi</b>
<b>1P</b>	I had done the work	mu:i: ka:j ta: kɔ:r-i:-ni:-tʰi:-n-u:
<b>2P</b>	You had done the work	tu:i: ka:j ta: kɔ:r-i:-ni:-tʰi:-l-u:
<b>3P</b>	He had done the work	se ka:j ta: kɔ:r-i:-ni:-tʰi:-l-a:

*PAST PERFECT (PLURAL):*

<b>Table 22</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Bahraagi</b>
<b>1P</b>	We had done the work	a:ma:r ka:j ta: kɔ:r-i:-ni:-tʰi:-l-i:
<b>2P</b>	You had done the work	tu:ma:rka:j ta: kɔ:r-i:-ni:-tʰi:-l-o:
<b>3P</b>	They had done the work	ta:nka:j ta: kɔ:r-i:-ni:-tʰi:-l-a:n

*PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS (SINGULAR):*

<b>Table 23</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Bahraagi</b>
<b>1P</b>	I had been working for two hours	mu:i: du: gʰɔ:nʈa:ru:ka:jkɔ:r-te-tʰi:-n-u:
<b>2P</b>	You had been working for two hours	tu:i: du: gʰɔ:nʈa:ru: ka:jkɔ:r-te-tʰi:-l-u:
<b>3P</b>	He had been working for two hours	se du: gʰɔ:nʈa:ru: ka:jkɔ:r-te-tʰi:-l-a:

*PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS (PLURAL):*

<b>Table 24</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Bahraagi</b>
<b>1P</b>	We had been working for two hours	a:ma:r du: gʰɔ:nʈa:ru: ka:jkɔ:r-te-tʰi:-l-i:
<b>2P</b>	You had been working for two hours	tu:ma:r du: gʰɔ:nʈa:ru: ka:jkɔ:r-te-tʰi:-l-o:
<b>3P</b>	They had been working for two hours	ta:n du: gʰɔ:nʈa:ru: ka:jkɔ:r-te-tʰi:-l-a:n

## 2.10 Future Tense



Future tense refers to an event which occurs after the present moment of speech. In Bahraagi, it is expressed by the verb with the morpheme ‘-b’ to express aspect and tense. The following example exemplifies the future action which appears in bold type----

- (i) mu:i:            bə:i:            **pə:d-mu:ñ**  
 I-nom-SG    book            read-IMP-FUT-SG  
 “I shall read the book.”

The allomorphs used for present tense in agreement with person and numbers are specified in the below table: **Table 25**

Person	Singular	Plural
<b>1P</b>	/-mu:/	/-ba:/
<b>2P</b>	/-bu:/	/-bə:/
<b>3P</b>	/-be/	/-ben/

The following instances exemplify the future form of the action in different contexts in which the verbs appear in bold type---

### 2.11 Future Action

- (i) mu:i:            g<sup>h</sup>ə:r            **ja:-mu:ñ**  
 I-nom-SG    home    go-IMP-FUT-SG  
 “I will go home.”
- (ii) ra:m            bəya:karəŋ    **pə:d<sup>h</sup>-b-e**  
 ram-nom-SG    grammar    read-IMP-FUT-SG  
 “Ram will read grammar.”

### 2.12 Possible Future

- (i) ka:l            c<sup>h</sup>u:ʈi: hi:ne mu:i: g<sup>h</sup>ə:r **ja:-mu:ñ**  
 tomorrow holiday    become I    home    go-IMP-FUT-SG  
 “I shall go home if it becomes a holiday tomorrow.”

### 2.13 Habitual Future

- (i) ra:m    prətyek            mə:ŋgə:[ba:r    mə:ndi:r            **ja:-b-e**  
 ram-nom-SG every    Tuesday            temple go-IMP-FUT-SG  
 “Ram will go to temple every Tuesday.”

### 2.14 Unfinished Future

- (i) hə:ri: ka:l            di:nerbeʎa:e    sku:le **t<sup>h</sup>a:-b-e**  
 hari-nom-SG tomorrow            daytime            school be-IMP-FUT-SG  
 “Tomorrow at daytime Hari will be at school.”

### 2.15 Data Table of Relative Future Tense

*SIMPLE FUTURE (SINGULAR):*

Table 26	English	Bahraagi
<b>1P</b>	I will work	mu:i: ka:jkə:r-m-u:
<b>2P</b>	You will work	tu:i: ka:jkə:r-b-u:

<b>3P</b>	He will work	se ka:jkɔ:r-b-e
-----------	--------------	-----------------

*SIMPLE FUTURE (PLURAL):*

<b>Table 27</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Bahraagi</b>
<b>1P</b>	We will work	a:ma:rka:jkɔ:r-b-a:
<b>2P</b>	You will work	tu:ma:rka:jkɔ:r-b-ɔ:
<b>3P</b>	They will work	ta:nka:jkɔ:r-b-en

*FUTURE CONTINUOUS (SINGULAR):*

<b>Table 28</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Bahraagi</b>
<b>1P</b>	I will be working	mu:i: ka:jkɔ:r-te-t <sup>h</sup> a:-m-u:
<b>2P</b>	You will be working	tu:i: ka:jkɔ:r-te-t <sup>h</sup> a:-b-u:
<b>3P</b>	He will be working	se ka:jkɔ:r-te-t <sup>h</sup> a:-b-e

*FUTURE CONTINUOUS (PLURAL):*

<b>Table 29</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Bahraagi</b>
<b>1P</b>	We will be working	a:ma:r ka:jkɔ:r-te-t <sup>h</sup> a:-b-a:
<b>2P</b>	You will be working	tu:ma:rka:jkɔ:r-te-t <sup>h</sup> a:-b-ɔ:
<b>3P</b>	They will be working	ta:nka:jkɔ:r-te-t <sup>h</sup> a:-b-en

*FUTURE PERFECT (SINGULAR):*

<b>Table 30</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Bahraagi</b>
<b>1P</b>	I will have worked	mu:i: ka:jta: kɔ:r-i:di:-t <sup>h</sup> a:-m-u:
<b>2P</b>	You will have worked	tu:i: ka:jta: kɔ:r-i:-di:-t <sup>h</sup> a:-b-u:
<b>3P</b>	He will have worked	se ka:j ta:kɔ:r-i:-di:-t <sup>h</sup> a:-b-e

*FUTURE PERFECT (PLURAL):*

<b>Table 31</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Bahraagi</b>
<b>1P</b>	We will have worked	a:ma:r ka:j ta: kɔ:ri:-di:-t <sup>h</sup> a:-b-a:
<b>2P</b>	You will have worked	tu:ma:rka:j ta: kɔ:r-i:-di:-t <sup>h</sup> a:-b-ɔ:
<b>3P</b>	They will have worked	ta:nka:j ta: kɔ:r-i:-di:-t <sup>h</sup> a:-b-en

*FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS (SINGULAR):*

<b>Table 32</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Bahraagi</b>
<b>1P</b>	I will have been working	mu:i: ka:jkɔ:r-te-t <sup>h</sup> a:-m-u:
<b>2P</b>	You will have been working	tu:i: ka:jkɔ:r-te-t <sup>h</sup> a:-b-u:
<b>3P</b>	He will have been working	se ka:jkɔ:r-te-t <sup>h</sup> a:-b-e

*FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS (PLURAL):*

<b>Table 33</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Bahraagi</b>
<b>1P</b>	We will have been working	a:ma:r ka:jkɔ:r-te-t <sup>h</sup> a:-b-a:

<b>2P</b>	You will have been working	tu:ma:rka:jkɔ:r-te-tʰa:-b-ɔ:
<b>3P</b>	They will have been working	ta:nka:jkɔ:r-te-tʰa:-b-en

### 3 The Aspect

#### 3.1 Progressive Aspect

The progressive implies that an action or process is in progress, demonstrative the dynamic character of the action as opposed to being wholly static. It occurs with tense auxiliaries to form present, past and future progressive tenses.

- (i) se ma:tʰe **ɖɔ:u:d-e-tɛ**  
 he-nom-SG field run-PROG-PRS-SG  
 “He is running in the field.”
- (ii) ka:lke se pʰu:tʰɔ:l **kʰel-te-tʰi:-l-a:**  
 Yesterday he-nom-SG football play-PROG-PST-SG  
 “Yesterday, he was playing football.”
- (iii) bɔ:rsa: **hɔ:-e-tɛ**  
 rain become-PROG-PRS-SG  
 “It is raining.”
- (iv) ra:m ɔ:di:fa:e **rɔ:h-e-tɛ**  
 Ram-nom-SG odisha stay-PROG-PRS-SG  
 “Ram is staying in Odisha.”
- (v) mu:i: u:pɔ:nya:s **pɔ:ɖh-ɔ:ñ-tɔ:ñ**  
 I-nom-SG novel read-PROG-PRS-SG  
 “I am reading the novel.”

#### 3.2 Perfect Aspect

The perfect aspect locates a situation within a period of time beginning in the past and extending forward to include the respective tense. Generally, it is used to indicate a completed action without any specific time reference. All the three tenses have perfect aspect.

- (i) se bɔ:i:ta: **pɔ:ɖh-i:-ni:-ch-e**  
 He-nom-SG book read-PFT-PRS-SG  
 “He has read the book.”
- (ii) ra:m sku:l **ja:i:-ch-e**  
 Ram-nom-SG school go-PFT-PRS-SG  
 “Ram has gone to school.”
- (iii) ra:m sku:l **g-e-l-a:**  
 Ram-nom-SG school go-PFT-PST-SG  
 “Ram went to school.”
- (iv) tu:i: pu:ri: **ja:i:-cʰ-u:**  
 You-nom-SG puri go-PFT-PRS-SG  
 “Have you been to Puri?”
- (v) tu:i: pu:ri: **g-e-l-u:**  
 You-nom-SG puri go-PFT-PST-SG  
 “Did you go to Puri?”

### 3.3 Imperfect Aspect

The imperfect aspect is used to denote the internal time structure of a situation. It generally refers to the habitual action or normal process or incomplete action. All the three tenses have their respective imperfect aspect which is represented through the auxiliaries.

- (i) ra:m            kə:bi:ta:        nek<sup>h</sup>-e  
Ram-SG        poetry write-IMP-PRS-SG  
“Ram writes poetry.”
- (ii) si:ta:        b<sup>h</sup>a:t            k<sup>h</sup>a:-e  
Sita-SG        rice            eat-IMP-PRS-SG  
“Sita eats rice.”

## 4. The Mood

### 4.1 Imperative Mood

The imperative mood does not express merely command but also entreaty, benediction, courteous enquiry, gentle advice, ability, etc.

- (i) tu:i:            sku:l            ja:  
You-SG        school go-IMP-PRS-SG  
“You go to school.”
- (ii) b<sup>h</sup>ə:gəba:n    tə:r    mə:ŋgə:l        kə:r-u:  
God-SG        your    bless            do-IMP-PRS  
“God may bless you.”
- (iii) ta:ke    t<sup>h</sup>i:k    sə:mə:e        u:t<sup>h</sup>a:u:tʃi:t  
He-SG right    time            rise-IMP-PRS-SG  
“He should get up at right time.”
- (iv) mu:i:    tə:r    ki:    sa:ha:jjə:        kə:rʃepa:rə:ñ  
I-SG    your    what    help            do-IMP-PRS-SG  
“What can I help for you?”
- (v) mə:ke    ə:k<sup>h</sup>u:n    ka:ma:ɳə:u:tʃi:t  
i-SG    now    earn-IMP-PRS-SG  
“I should earn now.”

### 4.2 Potential Mood

The potential mood expresses the sense of command or directing a subordinate, pressing invitation, giving permission, telling one to attend to an honorary office or duty, courteously asking a person a question, prayer, etc.

- (i) deʃer            seba:            kə:ra:u:tʃi:t  
Nation        serve            do-IMP-PRS-SG  
“One should serve the nation.”
- (ii) tə:ke            mə:r    ba:ha:gə:re        a:sa:u:tʃi:t  
You-SG        my    marriage        come-IMP-PRS-SG  
“You should come to my marriage.”
- (iii) mu:i:    e<sup>h</sup>əru:    pa:ɳi:    k<sup>h</sup>a:i:pa:rə:ñ  
I-SG    here    water    drink-IMP-PRS-SG  
“May I drink from here.”
- (iv) tə:ke    ə:u:    sə:mə:e        pə:dʃa:u:tʃi:t

You-SG this time read-IMP-PRS-SG  
 “You should read at this time.”

- (v) besi: kɔːtʰaːbɔːlaːuːtʃiːtnaːɪ  
 Lot talk-PRS-NEG-SG  
 “One should not talk a lot.”

### 4.3 Conditional Mood

The conditional is used in sentences in which the potential may be used when the non-performance of the action is implied or in which the falsity of the antecedent is involved as a matter of fact.

- (i) jɔːdiː dɔːme bɔːrʃaːhɔːe taːhiːnepʰɔːsɔːlbʰaːlaːhɔːbe  
 if heavy rain is then crop good-PRS-SG  
 “If there is heavy rain, then there will be good crop.”

## 5. Conclusion

From the above analysis of data, we can deduce the following conclusions:

1. Bahraagi belongs to the Indo-aryan language family, as it has resulted from the language contact of Bangla and Odia. It is an inflecting language, and it follows the SOV word order.
2. The language exhibits person and number agreement in all tenses. The following chart exhibits the number and person inflections in present tense represented among the verbs in Bahraagi:

Person	Singular	Plural
1P	/ɔːñ/	/iː/
2P	/uː/ , /ɔː/	/ɔː/
3P	/e/	/en/

The above data is verifying the ‘*go+ inflection*’ in simple sentences (affirmative) with agreement with all ‘*traditional person*’. What we find after that analysis is, ‘*jaː*’ is the root and---  
*ɔːñ* – is first person singular agreement marker in the root.

*iː* - is first person plural agreement marker in the root.

*uː* - is [-hon] and second person singular marker.

*ɔː* - is [+hon] and second person singular marker.

*ɔː* - is [±hon] and second person plural marker.

*e* – is third person singular marker.

*en*– is third person plural marker.

3. The verb is inflected only in the case of third person [+human] plural form.

*cʰaː taː kʰæle*– singular present

*cʰaː gaː kʰæle-en* – plural present [+human]

*kuːkɔːrtaː kʰæle* - singular present

*kuːkɔːrgaː kʰæle* – plural present [-human]

4. The language does not carry any gender inflection. For gender distinction it has lexical terms but no inflection forms or agreement.

5. The present tense is expressed by the verb with the null morpheme ‘ $\phi$ ’ to express aspect and tense. The past tense is expressed by the verb with the morpheme ‘-n’ for

- first person singular and ‘-l’ for the all others to express tense and aspect, and the future tense is expressed by the verb with the morpheme ‘-m’ for first person singular and ‘-b’ for the others to express aspect and tense.
- Bahraagi has identical marker for both continuous and perfect continuous, so we can deduce from it that the language has only continuous tense, no perfect continuous.
6. Bahraagi has ‘-te’ as the progressive aspect marker.
  7. We could recognize only three mood systems in Bahraagi, namely: *imperative, potential and conditional*. It is possible that there are more, which we have been left for more detailed study on this dialect.

---

### References

- [1] Ö. Dahl, “Tense and aspect systems,” 1985.
- [2] J. L. Bybee, R. D. Perkins, and W. Pagliuca, *The evolution of grammar: Tense, aspect, and modality in the languages of the world*. University of Chicago Press Chicago, 1994, vol. 196.
- [3] T. Givón, *Syntax: an introduction*. John Benjamins Publishing, 2001, vol. 1.
- [4] R. M. Basha, *A study of tense and aspect in Shambala*. D. Reimer, 1989, vol. 10.
- [5] A. Montaut, “The evolution of the tense-aspect system in hindi/urdu,” in *Proceedings of LFG Conference 2006*. enligne (CSLI publications), 2006, p. prépublication.
- [6] G. A. Grierson, *Linguistic survey of India*. Office of the superintendent of government printing, India, 1906, vol. 4.
- [7] L. Campbell, “Why sir william jones got it all wrong, or jones’ role in how to establish language families,” *Anuario del Seminario de Filología Vasca “Julio de Urquijo”*, vol. 40, no. 1-2, pp. 245–264, 2006.
- [8] H. Reichenbach, “The tenses of verbs,” *Time: From Concept to Narrative Construct: a Reader*, 1947.
- [9] A. Lindfors, “Tense and aspect in swahili,” Unpublished PhD thesis, Uppsala University, Uppsala, 2003.
- [10] F. R. Palmer, *Mood and modality*. Cambridge University Press, 2001.
- [11] J. Holm, “Pidgins and creoles. 2 vols,” Cambridge.CUP, 1988.
- [12] J. Aitchison, “Language change,” in *The Routledge Companion to Semiotics and Linguistics*. Routledge, 2005, pp. 111–120.
- [13] J. Holmes and N. Wilson, *An introduction to sociolinguistics*. Routledge, 2017.

---

---

### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- SG singular
- PL plural
- PST past
- PRS present
- FUT future
- 1P first person
- 2P second person
- 3P third person
- IMP imperfect
- PFT perfect
- PROG progressive
- HON honorific

---

---

Smita Sahu, M.A. (Linguistics)  
Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore  
[annesmita93@gmail.com](mailto:annesmita93@gmail.com)

Manish Kumar Singh, Ph.D. (Linguistics)  
Department of Linguistics  
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi  
[maneeshhsingh100@gmail.com](mailto:maneeshhsingh100@gmail.com)