

## 2. WORD ORDER

The most basic fact about Khaling word order is that the main verb of the sentence is found in sentence final position.

### 2.1. Declarative

In sentences with nominal subject and object, the subject precedes the object and the verb stands at the end of the sentence. Thus the order of the elements in such a sentence would be S O V.

- (1) has-ä 'po 'thaah-tä (man-AG pig hit-past-3 sg) 'The man hit the pig'.

### 2.2. Interrogative

Interrogative sentences in Khaling are either introduced by question words or ended with a question marker. Question words usually take the position of the noun or noun phrase that they question. Thus, if one were to question the locative phrase in the declarative sentence,

- (2) ung kam-bi mu-ngaa (I house-in be an.-1sg) 'I am in the house'.

he would simply replace the locative phrase with the corresponding locative interrogative:

- (3) in khä-bi i-mu? (you where-in you-be an.-2sg) 'Where are you?'

In the same way, if one were to question the activity performed in

- (4) am-häm-ä u 'kaah-nu (he-pl field hoe-3pl) 'They hoe the field'

he would replace the declarative verb phrase by the corresponding interrogative

- (5) am-häm-ä maang mu-nu (he-pl-AG what do-3pl)  
'What do they do?'

The question marker is simply added to the declarative sentence

- (6) phö kam-bi mu o (chicken house-in be an. q)  
'Is the chicken in the house?'

For selective questions only one question marker is needed between the questioned items

- (7) am kam-bi mu o u-bi mu? (he house-in be an.-  
3s q field-in be an.-3s) 'Is he in the house  
or in the field?'

### 2.3. Conditional

The protasis of the conditional construction precedes the apodosis.

- (8) aa-mäm baajaar khwaay-kho, ung yo khwaay-ngaa  
(my-mother market go-if I also go-1s) 'If my  
mother goes to the market I go too.'

### 2.4. Noun phrase

In the noun phrase the modifying adjective precedes the noun.

- (9) mä kekem khlep (that black dog) 'that black  
dog'
- (10) ghwaal-pä has pi (grow-result man comes)  
'A great man comes.'

Like the adjectives so also demonstratives and numerals precede the noun:

- (11) tām 'sukpu baang-pä saathi-häm 'khös-tä-nu  
(that three good-result friend-pl go-past-  
3pl) 'Those three good friends left'.

The modifying relative clause also precedes the noun.

- (12) am-ä yaad-ü-m pungme tä-bi gö (he-AG like-  
3sg-rel flower here-in be inan.) 'Here is  
the flower he likes.'

In the construction of a nominal apposition involving a proper and a common noun, the order is proper -common.

- (13) am kaali 'yo-thaa khwaay (he Kali river-DIR  
go) (He goes to the Kali river.'

The genitive precedes the governing noun.

- (14) del-po kam sen-t-aa (village-gen house see-  
past-1s) 'I saw a village house'

Khaling is a language using postpositions rather than prepositions. As this phenomenon will be discussed in detail under noun morphology one example will be sufficient here.

- (15) sang-tü salpu mu (tree-Loc bird be an.)  
'On the tree sits a bird'.

## 2.5. Adjective phrase

Adverbs precede the adjective they are modifying.

- (16) ghölä swaar-pä has-häm mu-nu (very crowd-  
result man-pl be an.-3pl) 'There are very  
many people.'

## 2.6. Verb phrase

Adverbial modifiers precede the verb.

- (17) am wātaakaa ho-t-ä (he slowly come-past-3s)  
'He came slowly.'

The subordinate verb qualifying a main verb precedes it. This includes expressions of purpose and volition.

- (18) ung-aa salpu sey-bi khwaay-ngaa (I-AG bird  
see-pu go-1s) 'I go to see the bird.'
- (19) in-ä nör sen-nä i-yaad-ü o? (you-AG tiger  
kill-inf you-like-2s q) 'Do you want to kill  
the tiger?'

The negative is formed by prefixing mu- to the verb. In the negative the past tense marker -t- becomes -w-.

- (20) am-häm mu-pu-w-änu (he-pl neg-come-neg-3pl)  
'They did not come.'

### 3. NOUNS

#### 3.1. Number

Khaling distinguishes singular, dual and plural. Uniform endings for dual and plural are used nouns as well as pronouns and ditransitive verbs.

##### 3.1.1. Singular

Singular is not marked by any ending. Neither definite nor indefinite articles are needed to show singularity.

lung 'the stone', 'a stone'

sang 'the tree', 'a tree'

bebüläm 'the butterfly', 'a butterfly'

##### 3.1.2. Dual

The dual ending is -su. The use of the numeral before the noun is optional.

lung-su 'two stones'

saahpu lungsu 'two stones'

khlep-su 'two dogs'

saahpu khlep-su 'two dogs'

##### 3.1.3. Plural

The plural ending for nouns and pronouns is -häm. If there is also a numeral, the plural ending may be omitted.

sos-häm 'dishes'

bhöm sos 'five dishes'

ghölä sos-häm 'many dishes'

The plural ending is also used as a means of generalization:

maag-häm-bi (maag i.e. January-pl-in)  
'around January'

### 3.2. Gender

Gender distinction appears in kinship terms:

saalaacö	'boy'
saalaame	'girl'
delcö	'son-in-law'
delme	'daughter-in-law'
re	'brother-in-law'
reme	'sister-in-law'
yös	'nephew'
yösne	'niece'
helpö	'father of son/daughter-in-law'
helme	'mother of son/daughter-in-law'

For proper names a Nepali loan is employed:

Rimaane-nim	'Rimaane's wife'
sohpu-nim	'wife of the Yeti'

For animals, the female is often called 'mother':

phö-po-mäm	(chicken-gen-mother)	'hen'
bay-po-mäm	(cow-gen-mother)	'cow'
grod-po-mäm	(goat-gen-mother)	'she-goat'

### 3.3. Case

Khaling is a language which marks the relationships between nouns and noun phrases within a sentence for the most part through case endings. The Khaling case system is typically ergative, a fact common in the Tibeto-Burman language family to which Khaling belongs. In the ergative case system the subject of the transitive verb is marked with the agentive case ending. The subject of intransitive verbs and the object of transitive verbs remain unmarked. The agentive case ending in Khaling is also used for the instrumental case, an inanimate agent or subject of a transitive verb so to speak.

There are six different cases which are formally marked. They are:

Agentive	-ä
Instrumental	-ä
Genetive	-po
Locative	-bi, -tü, -yu
Temporal	-bi, kaa, -sama
Directional	-thaa, -kaa, -sama, -laakaa

## 4. PRONOUNS

## 4.1. Personal pronouns

	singular	dual	plural
1st person	ung		
incl		ici	ik
excl		ocu	ok
2nd person	in	eci	en
3rd person	am	amsu	amhäm

The meaning of am is 'he', 'she'. For neuter, the demonstrative pronoun is used, i.e. animals, things.

## 4.1.1. Agentive

The agentive forms are made by adding -aa for first person singular and plural exclusive. All other agentive forms take -ä.

(31) ung 'khwaay-ngaa (I go-1s) 'I go'

(32) ung-aa ku pid-u (I-AG water fetch-1s)  
'I fetch water.'



## 4.1.2. Possessive pronouns

Possessive forms of pronouns are made by suffixing the genitive case ending *-po* to the personal pronoun. The first person singular has two forms for the possessive, aapo and ungpo. The latter, however, is less common than the former.

- (33) *tä aa-po kam* (that my-Gen house) 'That is my house.'

## 4.1.3. Possessive adjectives

Possessive adjectives have the same form as the possessive pronouns. In addition to the possessive pronouns there are possessive prefixes. These are prefixed to kinship terms, body parts and other items which are considered to be parts of larger units, such as expressions of time or place.

	singular	dual	plural
1st person	aa-		
incl.		is-	ik-
excl.		os-	ok-
2nd person	i-	es-	en-
3rd person	u-	us-	un-

- (34) *aa-po kam ghwaal-pä* (my-Gen house grow-result) 'My house is big.'
- (35) *aa-'mäm mu-mu* (my-mother neg-be an.) 'my mother is not here.'

## 4.1.4. Demonstrative pronouns

In addition to their use as regular demonstrative pronouns, these also function as pronouns for third person. They have singular, dual and plural forms.

<u>singular</u>	<u>dual</u>	<u>plural</u>		
tä, täm	täsu	tähäm	'this'	'these'
mä, mäm	mäsu	mähäm	'that,	'those'
yakam	yakamsu	yakamhäm	'that',	'those'
				(distant)

## 4.1.5. Reflexive pronouns

(36) u-taap-ngaa mu (he-reflexive-emph be an.)  
'He lives by himself.'

(37) taap taap-po kam 'khös-nu-ye (reflexive re-  
flexive-Gen house go-2pl-imperative) 'Go  
each to your own house!'

## 4.2. Interrogative pronouns

maang	'what'	'maabi	'what for'
'sü	'who'	'süpo	'whose'
'khäbi	'where'		
hene	'when' (non-past)		
helo	'when' (past)		
he	'how'	hebe	'how much'
hesaa	'how' (quality)		
hekaa	'how many'		
'maene	'why? (indirect question)		
heke	'why? (direct question)		

### 4.3. Indefinite pronouns

#### 4.3.1. Positive indefinite

'maang khoyo	'anything'
'sü khoyo	'anybody'
'khäbi khoyo	'anywhere'
hene khoyo	'anytime'

#### 4.3.2. Negative indefinite

'maayo...mu-	'nothing'
'süyo...mu-	'nobody'
'khäbiyo...mu-	'nowhere'
heloyo...mu-	'never'

## 6. VERBS

Khaling is described as a complex pronominalized language. This means that the personal endings of the verb reflect closely the forms of the personal pronouns. Attached to the verb stem are aspect, tense, mode and person markers in that order. The negative is prefixed to the stem.

## 6.1. Ergative structure

The subject (agent) of a transitive verb is always marked with the ergative marker (see 3.3.).

(38) phö-su-ä 'rö jhä-su (chicken-dual-AG rice eat-dual) 'Two chicken pick rice.'

(39) ung-aa bay(häm) send-u-nu (I-AG cow opt. pl) see-1s-1pl) 'I watch the cows.'

## 6.2. Agentive and non-agentive ending

The majority of Khaling verbs are agentive (transitive). Non-agentive verbs (intransitive) include verbs of motion, body functions, jö-nä 'to eat' and mü-nä 'to do'.

Reflecting the ergative structure of Khaling, there are two sets of verbal endings. As far as semantically possible and feasible, either of the sets of endings may be attached to a verb. Both endings are in agreement with the person and number of the subject.

	pronoun Ergative	non-agentive verb ending	agentive verb ending
1st person singular	ung-aa	-ngaa	-u
incl.	ici-ä	-yi	-si
dual	ocu-ä	-yu	-su
incl.	ik-ä	-ki	-ki
plural	ok-aa	-kaa	-kaa
excl.			
2nd person singular	in-ä	∅	-ü
dual	eci-ä	-yi	-si
plural	en-ä	-ni	-ni
3rd person singular	am-ä	∅	-ü
dual	ansu-ä	-su	-su
plural	amhäm-ä	-nu	-nu

Synopsis of pronouns  
and  
verb endings

## 7. ADJECTIVES

## 7.1. Formation of adjectives

The majority of Khaling adjectives are verb stems with the result suffix -pă, although some of these are no longer used as actual verbs, nor in any other free form. Some examples are:

bu-nă	'to improve, become good'
bu-pă	'good, clean'
ghwaal-nă	'to grow'
ghwaal-pă	'big'
dhwaay-nă	'to straighten'
dhwaay-pă	'straight'
chü-nă	'to be late'
chü-pă	'far'
'do-nă	'to suffice'
'dok-pă	'sufficient'
seh-pă	'drunk, drunkard'
khă-pă	'bitter'

Still productive of new adjectives is -mim or -m. While it can be used parallel to -pă as in ghwaal-mim 'big', it can also make all kinds of new adjectives as needed, e.g. läl-mim kam 'the first house'.

Adjectives may also be derived from a basic stem by reduplicating this stem and adding -mim. Colors and adjectives describing shape are of this form:

'cu-nă	'to point'
'cucu-mim	'pointed'

## 8. ADVERB

Khaling adverbs are not a uniform class. Some of the adjectives also function as adverbs. Adverbs of time and place show elements used also in forming pronouns referring to time and place.

## 8.1. Adverbs of place

täbi	'here'	täyo	'over here'
mäbi	'there'	mäyomäyo	'over there'
tätü	'up here'		
mätü	'up there'		
täthaa	'this way'		
mäthaa	'that way'		
gobi	'inside'		
tubi	'outside'		

(84) aachaa täthaa mäthaa lämthi (baby this way that way walk) 'The baby walks to and fro.'

(85) grodü mäyo 'khös-t-änu (goat over there go-past-3pl) 'The goats went over there.'

## 8.2. Adjectives of time

telo	'at this time'
melo	'at that time'
caalo	'sometimes'
än	'now'
änä	'recently'
änthasabaa	'nowadays'
äntaskaa	'these days'

## 9. CONJUNCTIONS

maanaa 'and' connects clauses. Two nouns or noun phrases are connected with -kolo, 'and'. If there is a string of more than two items, they are named one after the other with a comprehensive term at the end, e.g. kholengaa 'everything', which may also be omitted.

- (89) disä Dorphu 'khwaay-ngaa maanaa gß ing-u  
(tomorrow Dorphu go-1s and cloth buy-1s)  
'Tomorrow I'll go to Dorphu and buy cloth.'
- (90) ram-kolo chyaa-kolo gß. (salt-and tea-and  
is inan.) 'There is salt and tea.'
- (91) mes, bay, grodü, po mu-nu (water buffalo,  
cow, goat, pig be-an.-3pl) 'There are  
water buffalos, cows, goats,'

mebenaa 'and then' connects a sequence of events.

- (92) bay send-u mebenaa ku pid-u (cow see-1s  
and then water bring-1s) 'I watch the cow,  
then I fetch water.'

'molo 'but', 'however' is the disjunctive. It precedes the word which it disjoins.

- (93) am-po kam'khös-t-aa 'molo am mu-mo-w-ä  
(he-GEN house go-past-1s but he neg-be an.-  
past-3s) 'I went to his house but he was  
not there.'



## 10. PARTICLES.

yo 'also', 'too' connects nouns, noun phrases, and clauses:

- (94) aa-mām mu, aa-pāp yo mu (my-mother be an. my-father also be an.) My mother is home, and my father also.'

ngaa, ne express emphasis on the preceding word:

- (95) saahpu ngaa us-dumbu-po kam khös-t-i  
(two emphatic poss-husband-GEN house go-past-3dual) 'The two of them each went to her husband's house.'
- (96) ung-aa ne raksi mu-tung-u (I-AG emphatic rakshi neg-drink-1s) 'I don't drink rakshi.'

e signals reported speech in a discourse. It is placed at the end of the sentence.

- (97) aanam 'cupāp-hām-k thunām-'po se-ther-t-ānu e  
(long ago ancestor-pl-AG forest-pig kill-habitual-past-3pl report) 'Long ago, our ancestors used to kill the wild pig, we are told.'

## 11. INTERJECTIONS

minaa 'well now' introducing an utterance or a new topic of importance.

mäki, maakaa, mana 'right', 'I see' response of the listener, not necessarily agreement.

äyi, äyeye 'is that so!' surprise over something seen or heard.

aakaaye 'it hurts!'

ehoy 'hey!' calling some one far away.

hou 'hey!' calling some one, always used together with the name of the person called. The name precedes the interjection.

aa 'yes'.

moo 'no'

aalaasö 'thank you'

nüwo, ne 'please take this!' (giving a gift, offering food to a guest).

do 'let's go!' always followed by a finite verb form.

KHALING

Sueyoshi TOBA



BUNPŌ KYŌDŌ KENKYŪ PROJECT  
ASIA AFRICA GENGO BUNKA KENKYŪZYO  
TOKYO GAIKOKUGO DAIGAKU

1979