

4.3.1 Cardinal numbers from 1 to 10

The most usual system of numeral lexemes from 1 to 10 is given under (I); then follows the same series without the ubiquitous *-si* suffix under (II). No. (III) is an alternative way of counting as used in several village dialects. (IV) and (V) are variants of (I) and (III), respectively.

	(I)	(II)	(III)	(IV)	(V) (= dialect of Rangaon Pyt.)
1	thik, lotthik, loccha, locha	thik			
2	nechi, necchi	net			
3	sumsi	sum			
4	li·si	li·			
5	ɳa·si, na·si	ɳa·, na·			
6	tuksi	tuk			

	(I)	(II)	(III)	(IV)	(V)
7	nu•si	nu•	yechi	nu•si	yechi
8	yechi, εchi	yeτ, ετ	phaŋsi	phaŋsi	phaŋsi
9	phaŋsi	phaŋ	ibo•ŋ	ibo•ŋ	nu•si
10	thibo•ŋ	thibo•ŋ	thibo•ŋ	thibo•ŋ	thibo•ŋ

4.3.2 Cardinal numbers from 11-1000

11	thik-thik
12	thik-nechi, thik-net
13	thik-sumsi, thik-sum <i>etc.</i>
20	nibo•ŋ
21	nibo•ŋaŋ-thik, netthik
22	nibo•ŋaŋ-neçchi, netnet
30	sumbo•ŋ
31	sumbo•ŋaŋ-thik, sum-thik
40	libo•ŋ
50	ŋabo•ŋ, nabo•ŋ
60	(unusual)
70	(unusual)
80	(unusual)
90	(unusual)
100	kip-thik, thikip, kugipthik (ku- = 3rd sg.poss.pr.)
1,000	henchiŋ

Limbu primers published in India quote the short forms from 11 to 99 for all numbers. They count units to the power of ten upto 10¹⁸ using the Limbu lexical stock (!). The full hundreds may still be used in remote areas or by old people. It happens, however, that several numbers such as negip, nigip (originally 200), ligip (400), ŋagip (500), phaŋgip (900) have switched their original values and are now used as the corresponding decade numbers 20, 40, 50, and 90 (a fact already observed 80 years ago, cf. *Linguistic Survey of India*). The original decade numbers have vanished from the counting system such that a hybrid transitional stage results as follows (data from Syabrumba Pāncayat):

20 negip, 21 nethik, 30 sumbo•ŋ, 40 ligip, 50 ŋagip, 90 phaŋgip, 100 kipthik.

It also happens that the original root for 100, i.e., *kip*, is replaced by the number that originally is 1,000 (*henchiŋ*). In Olane Pyt. of Panchthar 100 was rendered by one informant as *thik-henchiŋ*.

4.3.3 Ordinal numbers

There is no separate set of ordinal numbers starting with 'first, second, third,...'. 'The first' is expressed as 'the one in front, that one which is in front'; the basic lexeme used in this construction is *togaŋ* where *-aŋ* is a directional marker. 'The second' is rendered as 'the middle one' = (*ku-*)*lummo[?]ba* (*Lit.* the one / that which is in (his/her/its) middle). The ordinal numbers are conceptually replaced by lexemes which are based on spatial orientation and can be grouped to antonymous pairs such as upper vs. lower, front vs. back, right vs. left. Examples:

<i>togaŋba luŋ</i>	<i>Lit.</i> The stone in front (= conceptually equivalent to 'the first stone')
<i>kudzəŋdhaŋba luŋ</i>	<i>Lit.</i> The upper stone (= the first stone)
<i>kulummo[?]ba luŋ</i>	<i>Lit.</i> The middle/central stone (= the second stone)
<i>kusi.gəŋba luŋ</i>	<i>Lit.</i> The lower stone (= the third stone)

4.3.4 Distributive numerals

1 each *loccha-loccha, thik-thik, loloccha, thithik*

2 each *necchi-necchi, nenecchi, netnecchi*

3 each *sumsi-sumsi, sumsumsi*

4 each *li•si-li•si, lilisi*

5 each *ŋa•si-ŋa•si, ŋaŋasi*

All other distributive numerals exist only in their fully reduplicated forms (*tuksi-tuksi, etc.*).

4.3.5 Multiplicative numerals

They are based on constructs entailing the suffix *-leŋ* 'times':

<i>thit-leŋ</i>	Once
<i>necchileŋ</i>	Twice
<i>sum-leŋ</i>	Thrice
<i>lileŋ</i>	Four times, <i>etc.</i>

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CONCISE LIMBU GRAMMAR AND DICTIONARY

Concise Limbu Grammar

Nominal Paradigms and Verbal Paradigms

Concise Limbu-English Dictionary

English-Limbu Vocabulary

Lobster Publications

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