

MAITHILĪ SKELETON GRAMMAR.

I.—Nouns.—A noun has three forms. (1) Short, (2) Long, (3) Redundant. Thus—

	Short.		Long.	Redundant.	
	<i>ghōrā</i>	a horse	<i>ghor^{wā}</i>	<i>ghorauā</i>	The short form may be weak or strong. Thus <i>ghōr</i> or <i>ghōrā</i> , a horse. Usually only one form is used, but sometimes both.
	<i>ghar</i>	a house	<i>ghar^{wā}</i>	<i>gharauā</i>	
	<i>mālī</i>	a gardener	<i>māliyā</i>	<i>māliwā</i>	
	<i>nāū</i>	a barber	<i>nanā</i>	<i>nauawā</i>	
Adjectives	<i>mīḥā</i>	sweet	{ <i>mīḥ^{kā}</i> <i>mīḥākkā</i>	{ <i>mīḥākk^{wā}</i>	
	<i>mīḥī</i> (fem.)	sweet	{ <i>mīḥ^{kī}</i> <i>mīḥākkī</i>	{ <i>mīḥākkīyā</i>	

Number.—Plural is formed by adding a noun of multitude, such as *sabh* or *sabāh*, all; *lokani*, people. Thus, *nēnā*, a boy; *nēnā sabh*, *nēnā sabāh*, *nēnā lokani*, boys.

Case.—The only true case is the Instrumental formed by adding *ḍ*, before which a final *ā* is elided, *i* becomes *ī*, and *ī* or *ū* shortened. Thus *nēnḍ*, by a boy, *nēnā sabāhīḍ*, by boys; *phal*, a fruit, *phalḍ*; *pāni*, water, *pāniḍ*; *nēni*, a girl, *nēniḍ*; *Raghū*, nom. prop., *Raghūḍ*. To these may be added a rare locative in *ḍ*, *h*, or *hī*, as *gharḍ*, *gharāhī*, or *gharāhīḍ*, in the house. Also a Genitive in *ak* or *k*, as in the following,—*nēnāk*, of a boy; *nēnā sabhak* or *sabāhik*, of boys; *phalak*, of a fruit; *pānik*, of water; *nēnik*, of a girl; *Raghūk*, of *Raghū*.

Other cases are formed by postpositions, added to the form of the Nominative, or to the oblique form when such exists. Some of these are *kḍ*, to; *sā*, *saḍ*, from or by; *kēr* or *kar*, of; *mḍ*, *mā*, in. Thus, *nēnā kḍ*, to a boy.

Gender.—*Tadbhava* nouns and adjectives in *ā*, form the feminine in *ī*. Thus, *nēnā*, fem. *nēnī*. Long forms in *wā*, have fem. in *iyā*. Thus, *nan^{wā}*, *nēniyā*. Redundant forms in *auā* have *iwā* in the fem. Thus, *nanauā*, *nēniwā*. *Tadbhava* adjectives ending in silent consonant form the fem. in *ī*. Thus *baḍ*, great, fem., *baḍī*; *adh^{lā}h*, bad, fem. *adh^{lā}hī*. So also some *Tatsama* words, e.g., *sundar*, beautiful; fem. *sundarī*.

Oblique form.—Certain nouns, principally ending in *b*, *r* and *l*, have an oblique form in *ā* used before postpositions. Thus, *paḥar*, a guard; *paḥ^{rā} saḍ*, from a guard. These are principally verbal nouns in *b* and *l*. Thus *dēkhāb*, to see, *dēkh^{bā} saḍ*, from seeing; *dēkh^{bā} kḍ*, of seeing; *pachh^{tā}ol*, regretting, *pachh^{tā}olā* (or *pachh^{tā}olā*) *saḍ*, from regretting. So also, the verbal noun in *i* has an oblique form in *a* or *ā*. Thus *dēkhī*, the act of seeing; *dēkhā kḍ*, or *dēkhāī kḍ*, for seeing, and so on. Irregular are *dēb*, giving, obl. *dēmāi*; *lēb*, taking, obl. *lēmāi*.

II.—Pronouns.—

	I		Thou		Self	This						
	Obsolete.	Modern.	Obsolete.	Modern.		Non-honorific.	Honorific.					
Sing.	<i>mḍ</i> <i>moh'</i>	<i>ham</i>	<i>tḍ</i> <i>toh'</i>	<i>tḍh</i> , <i>tḍ</i> ...	<i>āp^{nah}</i> <i>ap^{nā}</i> , <i>āp^{nah}</i>	<i>ī</i> , <i>ī</i> <i>ah'</i>	<i>ī</i> , <i>ī</i> ...					
Nom.		{ <i>hāmar</i> <i>hamār</i>						<i>tua</i> <i>tōr</i>	{ <i>tōhar</i> , <i>tohār</i>	<i>apan</i> , <i>appan</i>	<i>ē-kar</i>	<i>hinak</i>
Obl.												
Gen.	<i>mōr</i>											
Plur.	...	<i>ham sabh</i>	...	<i>tḍh sabh</i>	<i>āp^{nah} sabh</i>	<i>ī</i> or <i>ī sabh</i>	<i>ī</i> or <i>ī sabh</i>					
Nom.												

	That, he		Who		That, he		Who? (substantive)							
	Non-honorific.	Honorific.	Non-honorific.	Honorific.	Non-honorific.	Honorific.	Non-honorific.	Honorific.						
Sing.	<i>ḍ</i> <i>oh'</i>	<i>ḍ</i>	<i>jḍ</i> <i>jāh'</i>	<i>jḍ</i>	<i>sḍ</i> <i>tāh'</i>	<i>sḍ</i>	<i>kḍ</i> <i>kāh'</i>	<i>kḍ</i>						
Nom.									<i>hunaḥ</i> ...	<i>janik</i> ...	<i>ta-kar</i>	<i>tanik</i> ...	<i>ka-kar</i>	<i>kamik</i> ...
Obl.														
Gen.	<i>ḍ-kar</i>		<i>ja-kar</i>											
Plur.	<i>ḍ sabh</i>	<i>ḍ sabh</i>	<i>jḍ sabh</i>	<i>jḍ sabh</i>	<i>sḍ sabh</i>	<i>sḍ sabh</i>	<i>kḍ sabh</i>	<i>kḍ sabh</i>						
Nom.														

Kī, what? (substantive); Obl. base, *kathī*, gen. *kathik*.
Kōn, who? or what? (adjective), does not change.
Keo, anyone, someone (substantive); obl. *kāk^{rā}h*; gen. *kak^{rō}*. Also obl. *kāh*; gen. *kāhuk*.
Kōnḍ, any, some (adjective), does not change.

Kichh, something; obl. *kathū*, gen. *kathūk*.
Kichh, when it means anything, does not change. Thus *kathū kḍ*, to something; *kichhū kḍ*, to anything.

Honorific Pronoun, *ahā*, *ahaḍ*, *āp^{nah}* or *āpan*, your Honour; obl. *ahā*, *ahaḍ*, *āpan*.

MAITHILĪ SKELETON GRAMMAR.

All the above Genitives have an oblique form in *ā*, as follows:—

Direct.	Oblique.	
<i>mōr</i> <i>hama</i> <i>tōr</i> <i>tōhar</i> <i>apan</i> <i>ā-kar</i> <i>hīnak</i> <i>ō-kar</i> <i>hanak</i> <i>ja-kar</i> <i>janik</i> <i>ta-kai</i> <i>tanik</i> <i>ka-kar</i> <i>kanik</i>	<i>mōrā</i> <i>ham'rā</i> <i>tōrā</i> <i>toh'rā</i> <i>ap'nā</i> <i>ek'rā</i> <i>hīn'kā</i> <i>ok'rā</i> <i>hun'kā</i> <i>jak'rā</i> <i>janikā</i> <i>tak'rā</i> <i>tanikā</i> <i>kek'rā</i> <i>kanikā</i>	Each of these oblique genitives can all be used as a kind of secondary oblique base to which the postpositions can be attached. Thus besides <i>jāh' kē</i> , to whom, we can have <i>jak'rā kē</i> , and so on. For the modern forms of the first and second persons, and for the Honorific forms of the other pronouns, these are the only forms used. Thus accusative, <i>ham'rā</i> ; dat., <i>ham'rā kē</i> , <i>toh'rā kē</i> , <i>hīn'kā kē</i> , and so on. We even have nominative plural like <i>ham'rā sabh</i> , <i>toh'rā sabh</i> . The non-honorific oblique forms are also used as adjectives, and <i>eh'</i> and <i>oh'</i> are only used as adjectives, or as substantival pronouns referring to inanimate things. The secondary oblique bases are never used as adjectives. <i>Ki</i> is never used as an adjective. These oblique forms agree with nouns in oblique cases. Thus, <i>hamar ghar</i> , my house; but <i>ham'rā ghar sā</i> , from my house.

III.—Verbs.—

A.—Auxiliary Verb, and Verb Substantive.—Present Participle, *achhāit*, existing.

Present, I am—

Form 1.	Form 2.	Form 3.	Form 4.
1. <i>chhi</i> , <i>chhiai</i> ¹ 2. <i>chhdā</i> ² 3. <i>achh'</i> , <i>chhai</i> ³	<i>chhiaiinh'</i> <i>chhahūnh'</i> <i>chhainh'</i>	<i>chhi</i> , <i>chhiai</i> ¹ <i>chhi</i> , <i>chhiai</i> ¹ <i>chhat'</i>	<i>chhiaiinh'</i> <i>chhiaiinh'</i> <i>chhatihnh'</i> ⁴

Optional forms, (1) *chhiāh'*; (2) *chhē*, *chhā*, *chhahāk*, *chhahik*; fem. *chah'*; (3) *chhik*, *chhah'*, *ah'*, *hai*; (4) *chhathūnh'*.

Alternative form, I am—

Form 1.	Form 2.	Form 3.	Form 4.
1. <i>thikāh'</i> , <i>thikiai</i> ¹ 2. <i>thikāh'</i> ² 3. <i>thik</i> , <i>thikai</i> ³	<i>thikiaiinh'</i> <i>thik'hūnh'</i> <i>thikainh'</i>	<i>thikāh'</i> , <i>thikiai</i> ¹ <i>thikāh'</i> , <i>thikiai</i> ¹ <i>thikāh'</i>	<i>thikiaiinh'</i> <i>thikiaiinh'</i> <i>thik'thinh'</i> ⁴

Optional forms, (1) *thikāh'*; (2) *thikē*, *thikā*, *thik'hāk*, *thik'hik*; fem. *thikih* or *thikih'*; (3) *thik*, *thikāh'*; fem. *thik'*; (4) fem. *thikih* or *thikih'*; (5) *thik'thūnh'*.

Past, I was—

Form 1.	Form 2.	Form 3.	Form 4.
1. <i>chhalāh'</i> , <i>ghhaliai</i> ¹ 2. <i>chhalāh'</i> ² 3. <i>chhal</i> , <i>chhalai</i> ³	<i>chhaliaiinh'</i> <i>chhal'hūnh'</i> <i>chhalainh'</i>	<i>chhalāh'</i> , <i>chhaliai</i> " " " <i>chhalāh'</i> ⁴	<i>chhaliaiinh'</i> <i>chhal'thinh'</i> ⁴

Optional forms, (1), (2), (3), (4), as in *thikāh'*; (5) *chhalāh'*; fem. *chhal'*.

Alternative form, I was—

Form 1.	Form 2.	Form 3.	Form 4.
1. <i>rahī</i> , <i>rahiai</i> ¹ 2. <i>rahāh'</i> ² 3. <i>rahai</i> ³	<i>rahiaiinh'</i> <i>rah'hūnh'</i> <i>rahainh'</i>	<i>rahī</i> , <i>rahiai</i> ¹ " " " <i>rahāh'</i> ²	<i>rahiaiinh'</i> ¹ " " " <i>rah'thinh'</i> ⁴

Optional forms, (1) *rahīāh'*; (2) *rah*, *rah'hāk*, *rah'hik*; fem. *rahāh'*; (3) *rahai* is seldom used, *raha* being generally employed instead; (4) *rah'thūnh'*.

B.—Transitive Verb.—dēkhab, to see. Root, dēkh.

Verbal Nouns, (1) *dēkhab*, obl. *dekh*ba*; (2) *dēkhal*, obl. *dekh*la*; (3) *dēkh'*, obl. *dēkha* or *dēkhāi*.

Participles, *Pres.*, *dekhait*, fem. *dekhait'*; *Past*, *dēkhal*, fem. *dēkhal'*.

Conjunctive Participle, *dēkh' kō* (or *kuī*, or *kai-kā*), having seen.

Adverbial Participle, *dekhitāh'*, on seeing.

Simple Present, I see; *Present Conditional*, (if) I see:

Form 1.	Form 2.	Form 3.	Form 4.
1. <i>dēkhī, dekhiai</i> 2. <i>dēkhāh'</i> 3. <i>dekhai'</i>	<i>dekhiainh'</i> <i>dekh'hūnh'</i> <i>dekhainh'</i>	<i>dēkhī, dekhiai</i> " " " <i>dēkhāh'</i>	<i>dekhiainh'</i> " " " <i>dekh'thinh'</i>

Optional forms, (1) *dekh'hāk, dekh'hik*; fem. *dēkhāh'*; (2) *dekhai* is only used in the simple present, *dekhau* being generally employed instead in the Present Conditional; (3) so also, *dekhauh'* is generally employed in the Conditional; (4) *dekh'thūnh'* is more usual than *dekh'thinh'*.

Future, I shall see. Three varieties:—

First variety, the same as the Simple Present, to which, however, the syllable *gd* is generally added. Thus, *dēkhī-gd*, I shall see.

Second Variety—

Form 1.	Form 2.	Form 3.	Form 4.
1. <i>dēkhab, dekh*bai</i> 2. <i>dekh*bāh'</i> 3. Wanting	<i>dekh*bainh'</i> <i>dekh*bahūnh'</i> wanting	<i>dēkhab, dekh*bai</i> " " " wanting	<i>dekh*bainh'</i> " " " wanting

Optional forms, (1) *dekh*bē, dekh*bahāk, dekh*bahik*; fem. *dekh*bāh'*. The syllable *gd* may be added to any form. Thus, *dēkhab-gd*.

Third Variety—

Form 1.	Form 2.	Form 3.	Form 4.
1. <i>dekh'tiai'</i> 2. wanting 3. <i>dēkhal, dekh'tai</i>	<i>dekh'tiainh'</i> wanting <i>dekh'tainh'</i>	<i>dekh'tiai'</i> " " " <i>dekh'tāh, dēkhāh'</i>	<i>dekh'tiainh'</i> " " " <i>dekh'thūnh'</i>

Optional forms, (1) *dekhitāh'*; (2) fem. *dēkhāi'*; (3) fem. *dekh'tih, dekh'tih'*; (4) *dekh'thinh'*. The syllable *gd* may be added to any form. Thus *dekh'tiai-gd*.

Imperative, Let me see—

Form 1.	Form 2.	Form 3.	Form 4.
1. <i>dēkhū, dekhiai</i> 2. <i>dēkh, dēkhāh'</i> 3. <i>dēkhau</i>	<i>dekhiainh'</i> <i>dekh'hūnh'</i> <i>dēkhauh'</i>	<i>dēkhū, dekhiai</i> " " " <i>dēkhāh'</i>	<i>dekhiainh'</i> " " " <i>dekh'hūnh'</i>

Optional forms, (1) *dēkhē, dekh'hāk, dekh'hik*; fem. *dēkhāh'*; Preteritive form, *dekhihā*, be good enough to see; *dēkhal jāh*, etc.

Past Conditional, (if) I had seen—

Form 1.	Form 2.	Form 3.	Form 4.
1. <i>dekhitāh', dekhitai'</i> 2. <i>dekhitāh'</i> 3. <i>dekhait, dekhitai</i>	<i>dekhitainh'</i> <i>dekhit'hūnh'</i> <i>dekhitainh'</i>	<i>dekhitāh', dekhitai'</i> " " " <i>dekhitāh'</i>	<i>dekhitainh'</i> " " " <i>dekhit'thinh'</i>

Optional forms, (1) *dekhiti*; (2) *dekhitē, dekhit'hāk, dekhit'hik*; fem. *dekhitāh'*; (3) *dekhit'thūnh'*. Some people say *dekhaitāh'* instead of *dekhitāh'*, and so throughout.

Present Definite, I am seeing—

Masculine, *dekhait chhī*, or *dekhaitchhī*, and so throughout.

The 3rd person singular is commonly *dekhaitchh'*.

Feminine, *dekhait' chhī* or *dekhaitchhī*, and so throughout.

The verb *thikāh'* may be substituted for *chhī* throughout.

Imperfect, I was seeing—

Masculine, *dekhait chhalāh'* or *dekhaitchhalāh'*, and so throughout.

Feminine, *dekhait' chhalāh'* or *dekhaitchhalāh'*, and so throughout.

The verb *rahi* may be substituted for *chhalāh'* throughout.

Past, I saw—

Form 1.	Form 2.	Form 3.	Form 4.
1. <i>dēkhal, dekh'lai</i> ¹ 2. <i>dekh'lāh</i> ² 3. <i>dekh'lak, dekh'al'kai</i>	<i>dekh'lainh'</i> ³ <i>dekh'lāhūmh'</i> <i>dekh'lakainh'</i>	<i>dekh'al, dekh'lai</i> ¹ <i>dekh'lānh', dekh'lāth'</i>	<i>dekh'lainh'</i> ³ <i>dekh'al'ainh'</i> ⁴

Optional forms, (1) *dekh'lāh*², *dekh'li*, *dekh'lai*, the fem. of *dēkhal* is *dēkhal'*; (2) *dekh'lō*, *dekh'laṛ*, *dekh'lāhāk*, *dekh'lāhik*, fem. *dekh'lāh'*, or *dekh'lāh'*; (3) *dekh'liainh'*; (4) *dekh'al'hūnh'*.

Perfect, I have seen. Two varieties :—

(1) Formed by adding *achh'*, etc., throughout to all persons of the Past. Thus *dēkhal achh'*, *dekh'lai achh'*, etc., I have seen.

(2) Formed by adding the present of the Auxiliary Verb to *dekh'lō*, the Instrumental of the second verbal noun. Thus *dekh'lō chhī*, I have seen, and so on.

Pluperfect, I had seen. *dekh'lō chhalāh*² (or *rahī*), and so on.

C.—Neuter Verb.—*Sūtab*, to sleep.

The second and fourth forms are rarely used in Neuter Verbs.

Simple Present, and Present Conditional, I sleep, (if) I sleep; *sūti*, as in the Transitive Verb.

Future, I shall sleep, *sūtab*, etc., as in the Transitive Verb.

Imperative, Let me sleep, *sūṭū*, as in the Transitive Verb.

Past Conditional, (if) I had slept, *sutitāh*², as in the Transitive Verb.

Present Definite, I am sleeping, *sutait chhī*, etc., as in the Transitive Verb.

Imperfect, I was sleeping, *sutait chhalāh*², etc., as in the Transitive Verb.

Past, I slept.		Perfect, I have slept.	
Form 1.	Form 2.	First variety.	
1. <i>sut'li, sut'lai</i> ¹ 2. <i>sut'lāh</i> ² 3. <i>sūtal</i> ³	<i>sut'li, sut'lai</i> ⁴ " " <i>sut'lāh</i> ⁴	<i>sut'li achh'</i> , etc., after the analogy of Transitive Verbs.	
		Form 1.	Form 2.
		1. <i>sūtal chhī</i> 2. <i>sūtal chhāh</i> 3. <i>sūtal achh'</i>	<i>sūtal chhī</i> " " <i>sūtal chhath</i>
		Feminine <i>sūtal' chhī</i> , and so on. Any form of the Auxiliary may be used.	
Optional forms, (1) <i>sut'lāh</i> ² (2) <i>sut'lō</i> , <i>sut'laṛ</i> , <i>sut'lāhāk</i> , <i>sut'lāhik</i> ; fem. <i>sut'lāh'</i> , or <i>sut'lāh'</i> ; (3) <i>sut'lai</i> ; fem. <i>sut'ai</i> ; (4) <i>sut'lānh'</i> ; fem. <i>sut'lāh'</i> , <i>sut'lāh'</i> .			
Pluperfect, I had slept, <i>sūtal chhalāh</i> ² , etc., as in the Perfect.			

D.—Verbs whose roots end in *āb*; *pāeb*, to obtain; first and third forms only given. Present Part., *pābait* or *pāit*; Past Part., *pāol*; Root, *pāh*.

Simple present.	Future.	Imperative.	Past Conditional.	Past.	Perfect.	Pluperfect.
1. <i>pābi</i> or <i>pāi</i>	<i>pāeb, pāob</i>	<i>pāū</i> ²	<i>paitāh</i> ²	<i>pāol, paulai</i>	<i>pāol achh'</i> or <i>paulō chhī</i>	<i>paulō chhalāh</i> ²
2. <i>pābāh</i>	<i>pāibāh, paubāh</i>	<i>pābāh</i>	<i>paitāh</i>	<i>paulāh</i>
3. { I. <i>pātau, pābau</i> III. <i>pābath'</i>	<i>pāst, pāut</i> <i>paitāh, paulāh</i>	<i>pātau, pābau</i> <i>pābath'</i>	<i>pābait</i> <i>paitāh'</i>	<i>paulak</i> <i>paulānh'</i>

These include all causal verbs, the verbs *gāeb*, to sing, and *āeb*, to come, and all Transitive Verbs with infinitives in *āeb*, except *khāeb*, to eat. Other Intransitive Verbs whose infinitives end in *āeb* and *khāeb*, are conjugated as follows :—

Simple Present.	Future.	Past Conditional.	Past.	E.—Irregular Verbs.
1. <i>khāi</i>	<i>khāeb</i>	<i>khaitāh</i> ²	<i>khāel</i>	<i>jāeb</i> , to go. Past Part., <i>gāl</i> .
2. <i>khāh</i>	<i>khāsbāh</i>	<i>khaitāh</i>	<i>khāilāh</i>	<i>karab</i> , to do. Past Part., <i>kail</i> .
3. { I. <i>khāau</i> III. <i>khāth'</i>	<i>khāet</i> <i>khaitāh</i>	<i>khāet</i> <i>khaitāh'</i>	<i>khāilak</i> <i>khāilānh</i>	<i>dharab</i> , to seize, place. Past Part., <i>dhal</i> .
				<i>dō</i> , to give. Past Part., <i>dāl</i> .
				<i>lōb</i> , to take. Past Part., <i>lāl</i> .
				<i>hōeb</i> or <i>hāib</i> , to become. Past Part., <i>bhāl</i> .
				<i>marab</i> , to die. Past Part., <i>māil</i> or <i>maral</i> .

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