

Abstract of 'Ombule marker <=ya ~ -i ~ -e>'

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Ombule marker <=ya ~ -i ~ -e>. Paper presented at the European Project on Himalayan Languages. Rijksuniversiteit Leiden, The Netherlands, 18 June 1999.

In this presentation, I will introduce a formal and semantic characterization of the Ombule marker <=ya ~ -i ~ -e>. This marker can be added to the following types of word classes:

- nouns and pronouns, e.g. *uŋgu* 'I' > *uŋgu=ya* 'me too'
- interrogative pro-forms, e.g. *ama* 'what' > *ama=ya* 'nothing (at all)'
- verbs (only finite items) which occur in:
 - main clauses, e.g. *Un thal ba:-nu-i?* 'Where are you^s?''
 - subordinate clauses, e.g. *Un thal ba:-nu-i, ung il ywa-ŋ-m.* 'Where ever you^s are, I will come.'
 - subordinate clauses after the 'conditional' suffix <-ŋwa>, e.g. *Ama ja-m-ŋwa-i, ung khwakti gwa-?u-mei.* 'Whatever they^p eat, I [will have] given it to them^p.'

Lexical items which contain marker <=ya~-i~-e> are generally translated into Nepali by means of the word *pani* 'too, also'. This marker may exemplify a general pattern with respect to the dependent elements in Ombule that morphophonological simplification or reduction is accompanied by a change in morphological status, i.c. clitic /ya/ becomes affix /i, e/.