

## Abstract

### Contact-Induced Change: A study of Grammatical Case in Garhwali

In this study, I present a descriptive account of four types of changes in Grammatical Case that can be synchronically attested in Garhwali, a Central Pahari Indo-Aryan language spoken in India, due to contact with Hindi, the official language of India. These changes are:

- (i) Gradual decline in the use of the ‘first layer’ (Masica 1991) Genitive Case to the Hindi-style [Oblique Case + Postposition]:

	Genitive Case		Oblique Case + Postposition	
01.	nənɔ: g <sup>h</sup> ɔr	nənɔ: g <sup>h</sup> ɔr	nənə-kɔ g <sup>h</sup> ɔr	nənɔ-kɔ g <sup>h</sup> ɔr
	boy.SG.GEN house.MSG	girl.SG.GEN house.MSG	boy.OBL-GEN house.MSG	girl.OBL-GEN house.MSG
	‘The boy’s house’	‘The girl’s house’	‘The boy’s house’	‘The girl’s house’

- (ii) Loss of Case stacking/Semantic Case:

In certain contexts, more than one case-marking postposition can be ‘stacked’ on a DP in Garhwali:

02.	ḍ <sup>h</sup> arama	kɔ	geŋɔ	par	ḍjek <sup>h</sup>	εε <sup>1</sup>
	mountain-side.LOC	GEN.MSG	star	there	see.IMP	come.PERF

“Look, the star of the mountainside has appeared.”

Hindi doesn’t allow more than one case postposition following a single nominal. Due to intensive contact and teaching of Hindi prescriptive grammar at school, younger Garhwali speakers tend to use only one postposition (the syntactic one) in such contexts.

- (iii) To avoid the existing syncretism and for better distinguishability, younger speakers tend to use the borrowed Hindi /se/ Instrumental case postposition instead of the existing /nə/ which also acts as the ergative marker in Garhwali. This results in case postposition alternation i.e. co-existence of both the original and the borrowed element.

- (iv) Semantic Changes in the use of Locative /ma/- Due to contact with Hindi, the Garhwali locative marker /ma/ which had larger semantic field seems to have been gradually restricted to the purely locative function.

03.	min	ram-ma	boli	→	min	ram-t̃ɛ	boli
	1.ERG	Ram-LOC	say.PERF		1.ERG	Ram-ACC	say.PERF
		‘I told Ram...’				‘I told Ram...’	

#### References:

Masica, C. P. 1991. *The Indo-Aryan Languages*. Cambridge University Press.

<sup>1</sup> This sentence is taken from a Garhwali folk song sung by Narendra Singh Negi.