
Loss of object marking in verbal paradigms of Koĩc (Engl.: Sunuwar; Tibeto-Burman)

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Koĩc is traditionally spoken in eastern Nepal and is with about 38 000 speakers one of the bigger languages of the 123 languages of Nepal.

Koĩc once had a biactantial agreement system with transitive verbs agreeing with agents and patients. Verbal paradigms showing the biactantial agreement system have been collected in the 1980s by C. Genetti with the help of a speaker remembering his grandparents' language. Modern Koĩc, transitive verbs agree exclusively with the agent and follow different conjugation patterns, while the obsolete agreement markers were the same for all transitive verbs.

The biactantial agreement system disappeared without leaving data to trace the process of its disappearance or the ensuing changes of the language. A comparison of modern and obsolete Koĩc verbal paradigms shows, however, how forms and functions of old and new person and number markers are connected.

The old and new system of Koĩc agreement markers and the connections between both systems will be presented, followed by a discussion of the hypothesis that the changes in the agreement system and in some other parts of the grammar of Koĩc might be due to the influence of the local *lingua franca* Nepali (Indo-Iranian).

References: • Borchers, D. (2008): A Grammar of Sunwar. Descriptive grammar, paradigms, texts and glossary. Leiden: Brill. • Central Bureau of Statistics (2012): National Population and Housing Census 2011; 01. Kathmandu: Government of Nepal. • Genetti, C. (1988): Notes on the structure of the Sunwari transitive verb. In: Linguistics of the Tibeto-Burman Area 11.2; 62-92.