

**DOCUMENTATION AND DESCRIPTION OF
CHARA VERB MORPHOLOGY**

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**Thesis Submitted for the Degree of M.A in
Documentary Linguistics and Culture, School
of Graduate Studies Addis Ababa University**

July, 2011

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DOCUMENTATION AND DESCRIPTION OF
CHARA VERB MORPHOLOGY

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Acknowledgements

First of all I would like to thank my advisors Dr. Binyam Sisay and Dr. Graziano Sava for their crucial advice and encouragement.

Next I would like to extend my appreciation to my friends Kifle Meshesha and Habitamu G/Silasse who helped me by providing material support.

Then my appreciation extends to my informants, Dejene and Ashnafi Alemu who have helped me in providing important data for the project work. Finally, I would like to thank my sister Kebebush Sahile and my brother Solomon Sahile who have helped me in financial and material support.

Abstract

This paper presents the study on the documentation and description of Chara verb morphology. The section under verb morphology of the Chara language consists, the background information of the Chara people, their language, objectives of the study, methodology of the study, review of the previous works and sketch grammar on the verb morphology of the Chara language and sample words and sentences of the language. The basic issues discussed under the verb morphology of Chara language comprise: verb inflections and derivations of the language. Under verb inflection, some of the verb inflections like: tense, number, gender, negation, mood and person were treated by giving example data under each grammatical categories. After discussing the above grammatical categories under the verb inflection of the language, it was concluded that, the verbs of the Chara language are inflected for tense, number, gender, negation, mood and person. Under the verb derivations of the language, different word classes were discussed; these are: verbal nouns, verbs and adjectives. In doing so the analysis was supported by citing sample (example data) of the language under study. The discussion under verb derivation of the language revealed that the verbs of the Chara language are derived from verbal nouns, adjectives and from the infinitive form of the verb through stem- modification and suffixation processes.



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Lists of abbreviations and symbols

Abbreviations	meanings it represents
Pre.	Present
Pern.	Person
Pl.	Plural
Sg.	Singular
–	Morpheme boundary
Perf.	Perfective
Prog.	Progressive
Fut.	Future
Imp.	Imperative
Subj.	Subjunctive mood
Jus.	Jussive mood
Intrro.	Interrogative
Neg.	Negative
Ref.	Reference
Phon.	Phonetic transcription
Phom.	Phonemic transcription
Masc.	Masculine
Fem.	Feminine
1 st	first
2 nd	second
3 rd	third

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Section one

Grammatical description of Chara verb morphology

Chapter one

Introduction

1 Background of the study

1.1 The people

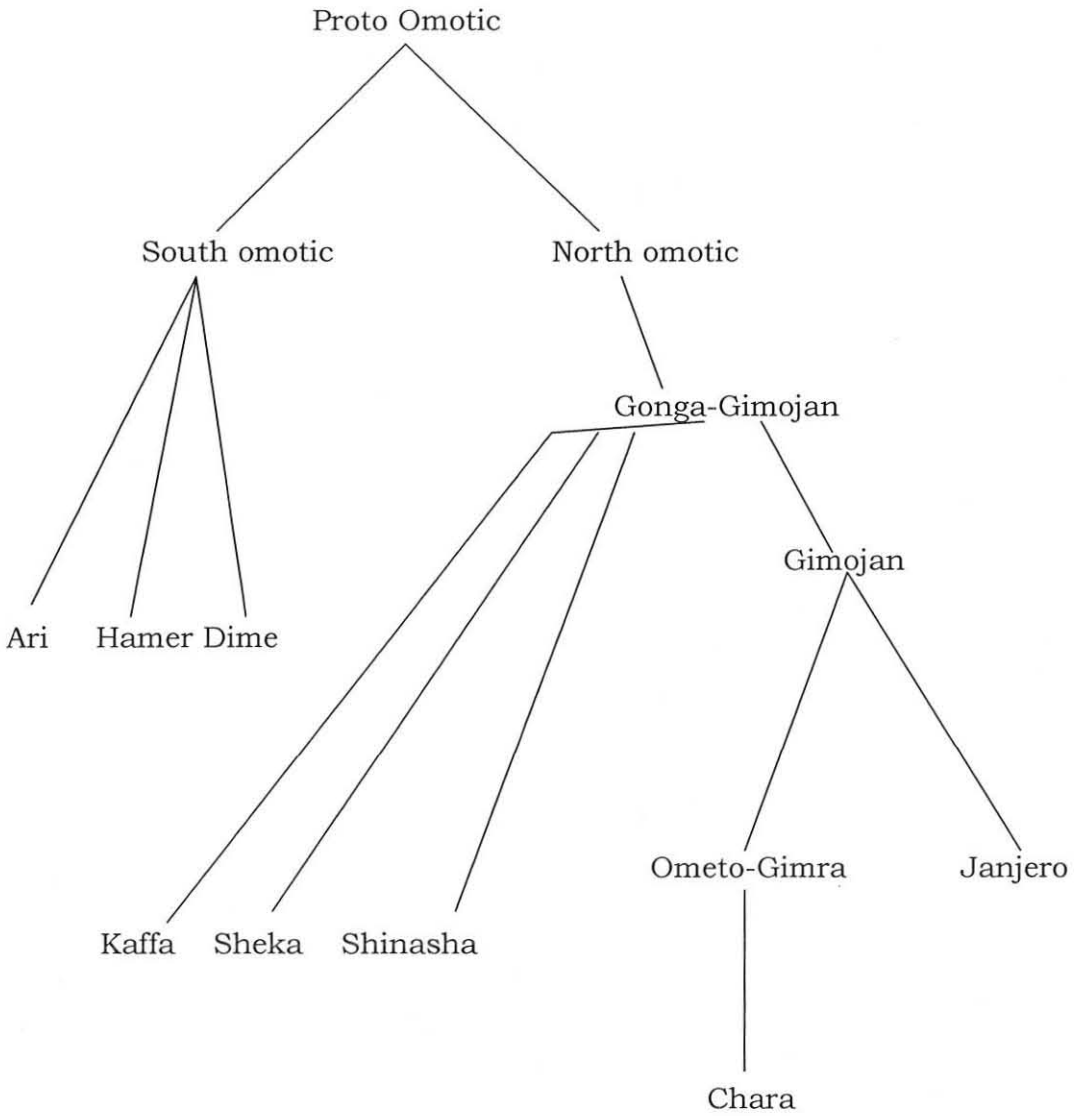
Chara is geographically situated to the south east of Nayi, west of Kullo, east of Mesketo and North West of Gofa.

Chara speakers live in Southern Nation Nationalities and People's Region in the Kaffa and Debub Omo zone on both sides of the Omo River. Chara has approximately 7,000 speakers which are scattered in three villages: Geba Mecha, Buna Anta and Kumba. Of these only 5,556 are monolingual in Chara. Native speakers also speak Melo, Wolaytta which has 54% lexical similarity with Chara to the east and Kaffa to the west.

1.2 The language

Chara, alternatively Ciara, is an Afro-Asiatic language spoken in the Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's Regions in the Central Kaffa Region of Ethiopia just north of the Omo River. (Gordon Jr, ed.2005.)

Language families



Source [Http//en Wikipedia.org/Chara language](http://en.wikipedia.org/Chara language)

1.3 Statement of the problem

Documenting the language is a complex process that involves finding speakers who can serve as the language teachers (often called language consultants) and working together with them to study the language and its use. (Himmelmann 1998). According to (Himmelmann1998), language documenters are expected to begin the documentation work by recording words and expressions, transcribing and analyzing them. He also suggests that language documenters should aim at collecting texts such as: stories, narratives personal histories, expressions of how culturally important activities are carried out, speeches and other literary forms including poems and songs. As morphology is the systematic study of the morphemes and how morphemes join to form words, in the analysis of verb morphology of Chara language I give emphasis to the significant morphemes and morphological processes in forming the verbs of Chara language, the verb conjugations and derivations of the Chara language.

In general this study answers the following questions:

- What would be the derivations of verb in Chara language?
- What are the verb conjugations of Chara language?
- Which morphological processes are used in the verb morphology of Chara language?

1.4 Objectives of the study

1.4.1 General objectives

This study aims at:

Documenting and describing verb morphology of Chara language

1.4.2 Specific objectives

This study in particular aims at:

Describing and documenting the verb derivations of Chara language

Describing and documenting the verb conjugations of the language

Identifying the morphological processes that used in the verb morphology of the language

1.4 .3 Methodology of the study

The following methods were used during the project work.

First words, phrase and sentences were listed; besides, two texts (proverb and description of how the hat is built in among Chara people) were selected. Then the data were collected through elicitation and recording. Finally, the audio and video texts were annotated using the Élan and Praat software.

1.4.4 Significance of the study

As the language is on the verge of extinction, the purpose of this study was primarily:

To preserve verb morphology of Chara language and

To develop our knowledge of the language

1.4.5 Limitations of the study

It seems good if the study included all the language elements and the tone of the language.

1.4.6 Delimitation of the study

Chara language is spoken in Dishu and Shashi Kebeles of Decha district which found in Kaffa zone. But this study was conducted in Shashi kebele.

1.4.7 Documentation tools.

The purpose of documentation is to create and provide comprehensive primary linguistic data which are collected from the native speakers under natural setting. Because of this, both audio and video texts, words and sentences were collected and transcribed, glossed and translated using the praat and Elan software.

Chapter two

2. Review of related literature

In this section some of the previous works which have been done on the language under study are reviewed. It is hard to get adequate information about the Chara Language. One of few linguistic works which was made on the language under study is the sociolinguistic survey of Chara language by (Akililu Yilma in 1994.) Though detailed explanation and description is not revealed in Akililu's work, it is very significant for this study. In his study Akililu highlights on phonology and noun morphology of the Chara Language. According to the Akililu (1994), Chara language has 25 consonants and five vowels. In addition to this Akililu (1994) criticizes the article published by the Cerulli (1938). Cerulli (1938) includes the alveolar implosive [d'] in his phonemic inventory; but Akililu (1994) does not consider it as the distinctive phoneme. Regarding the status of the above alveolar implosive [d'], I would like to support the Akililu's description because none of the items from the data that I collected revealed the above consonant as a phoneme. Also Akililu tries to mention the bilabial implosive /ɓ/ which is not found in Cerulli's phonemic inventory. According to Akililu the bilabial implosive /b'/ occurs in five lexical items and considered as distinctive phoneme. In the same article Akililu tries to show the noun morphology of the Chara language. According to Akililu Chara nouns are inflected for: number, gender, definiteness, case and possessive. Akililu summarizes the consonant and vowel phonemes of Chara language as follow:

The following table summarizes the consonant phonemes of chara language by Akililu Y. 1994.

	Bilabial	Alveolar	post alveolar	velar	Glottal
Stops					
Vd	b	d		g	
Vl	p	t		k	ʔ
Ejective	p	t'		k	
Implosive	ɓ	(d')			
Fricatives	[f]	t	ʃ		h
Affricates		ts	tʃ		
Vl					
Ejective		s'	tʃ'		
Nasals	m	n	[ɲ]		
Laterals		l			
Trill		r			
Semivowel	w		y		

Chart one consonant phonemes of chara language adapted from Akililu 1994.

As one can see from the above table, in his phonemic inventory, Akililu mentions twenty-five consonant phonemes of Chara language. In their phonemic inventory both Akililu and Cerulli did not consider the alveolar voiced fricative consonant phoneme /z/. Therefore, I propose to revise this analysis. This is because the alveolar voiced fricative consonant phoneme /z/ occurs in more than two lexical items as in /gaza/ which is wild animals and /goza/ which is pumpkin, it also appears in minimal pairs with /s/ and /ʃ/ as in /gasa/buffalo and in /goʃa/ farm and /gosa/ barley. Hence in the Chara Language I considered as a distinctive phoneme. Therefore, the revised consonant chart of the Chara language looks like the following



	Bilabial	alveolar	post alveolar	velar	Glottal
Stops					
Vd	b	d		g	
Vl	p	t		k	ʔ
Ejective	p'	t'		k'	
Implosive	ɓ	(d')			
Fricatives					
Vl	[f]	s	ʃ		h
Vd		z			
Affricates					
Vd			j		
Vl		ts'	tʃ		
Ejective		s'	tʃ'		
Nasals	m	n	[ɲ]		
Laterals		l			
Trill		r			
Semi vowel	w		y		

Revised consonant chart of the Chara language

Aklilu (1994) also considered the alveopalatal fricative [ʒ] as rare in the language and describes its occurrence in the word. According to Aklilu the alveopalatal fricative [ʒ] occurs word medially following the vowel /i/ and preceding /a/. But according to the data that I collected the description presented by the Aklilu needs modification. My data reveals that, the alveopalatal fricative [ʒ] occurs word medially following /a/ as in [gaʒra] 'metal used for cutting the wood, grass etc.' and preceding /i/ as in [gabaʒi], the name of the specific area in the community. [ʒ] is not phoneme; because none of the data that I collected reveals its status as a phoneme.

Vowels of Chara language

The following chart summarizes the vowels of Chara Language

Front-high	i	u	back-high
Front-mid	e	o	back-mid
Front-low	a		

Chart one Vowels of Chara

Chapter three

3. Theoretical frame work

This section presents some important concepts about the morphology in general and inflectional and derivational morphology in particular. According to Matthews (1991), morphology is defined as the branch of linguistics which is concerned with the forms of the words in different uses and constructions.

Inflection is a change made in the form of a word to express its relation to other words in the sentence and in the grammar of some languages. Inflection will describe the declensions of nouns, adjectives and pronouns and the conjugation of verbs according to selected models of formation or paradigm. Lyons (1968:195)

Lyons (1968) also explains derivation as a term in which new words are formed from the existing words or roots.

Inflectional morphology is the part of the morphology which deals with the way in which lexical stems are brought together with grammatical markers like for those plural and past markers Brown Keith (1991). He also defines derivational or lexical morphology as the part of the morphology which deals with the way in which lexical stems are formed. The formation of the new words in the sense of new lexeme is the field of lexical or derivational morphology (Brown, Keith 1991: 225). He also suggested some of the principal criterion for the analysis of the words such as: The formal difference between sets of words; For instance in the case of boys we can start with the set boy and boys which differ in that the former lacks and the second contains the segment-s. Semantic distinction for example cat (analogously girl, boy so on) is found in sentences describing single object and cats, boys and girls in a sentences appropriately applied to situations describing more than one subject of

the same kind. Grammatical analysis according to Brown Keith (1991), this criterion helps one to identify the stem and the inflections. To reinforce the above idea he gave the following example:

In the case of **cats**, **cat** is a noun stem and **-s** is a plural marker and plural is a term in the grammatical category of number and the whole word is a noun (the plural form of cat). And analogously in the case of **attacked**, **attack** is a verb stem and **-ed** is a past tense marker and past tense is a term in the grammatical category of tense and the whole word is a verb. Brown Keith (1991) also presented two different models of inflectional morphology:

a) The item and arrangement model –it involves the division of word formation between syntax (identification and breaking constituents from the largest (sentences) to the smallest and phonology.

b) The word and paradigm model of morphology-this model sees the word as the smallest unit with which syntactic description is concerned. The formation rules for words are seen as different in kind to the formation rule required for phrases or sentences structure. According to this model word formation necessarily involves an independent descriptive component. Elements like past and plural are seen as features of a complex word rather than as constituents in their own right.

As cited in Epehrem (1999) according to Spencer (1991), inflections do not change class category of a given word in to which they are attached. According to Spencer (1991), inflections leave untouched the syntactic category of the base but they add extra elements. These are elements of meaning like, tense, aspect, negation etc.

Therefore, most of the issues discussed in this section would be relevant for the analysis and interpretation of the data and success of this study.

Chapter four

4. Verb inflection of Chara language

Under this section the verb inflection of Chara language is discussed.

Verbs in Chara are inflected for: tense, aspect gender, number person and mood.

4.1 Tense

The term tense derives (via old French) from the Latin translation of the Greek word for the time. (Lyons 1968:305)

According to Lyons (1968), the essential characteristics of the category of tense are that it relates the time of action, event or state of affairs to the time of utterances.

Lyons (1968) also suggests ways of categorizing tense. He states that theoretical zero point (the now of utterance) might be either past or future to yield a dichotomy between future and non future or a dichotomy between past and non past. He also suggests the notion of proximity as important way in categorizing tenses. For instance, some languages categorize a tense as a trichotomy of now, proximate and remote. Therefore, based on Lyons (1968), I categorize the tense based on the dichotomy future non future and the proximity of the event as: present and past.

4.1.1 Present-tense

Let us consider the following examples:

Example -1

a) [*tani misa maʔrbe*] ‘I eat lunch.’

| *tani misa ma-ʔrbe* |

I lunch eat-pre.

b) [*iza misa maʔrbe*] ‘She eats lunch.’

| *iza misa ma-ʔrbe* |

she lunch eat-pre.

c) [*nuni misa maʔrbe*] ‘We eat lunch.’

| *nuni misa ma-ʔrbe* |

We lunch eat-pre

d) [*ʔsēdi misa maʔrbe*] ‘They eat lunch.’

| *itsendi misa ma-ʔrbe* |

they lunch eat-pre

e) [*fisnti misa maʔrbe*] ‘You (2nd persn.pl.) eat lunch.’

| *hisnti misa ma-ʔrbe* |

you (2nd persn. pl) lunch eat-predm

f) [*nənu misa məʃrbe*]

'You(2nd persn. sg.) eat lunch'

| *neni* *misa* *ma-orbfe* |

you2nd persn. Sg lunch eat- Pre

As one can see from the above data, there is a kind of regularity in the present tense construction of the Chara language. That is the suffix /-oʃrbe/ is used in the same way at the same position in the data with different subjects. Therefore we can say that in the Chara language, present tense is marked inflectionally by the suffix /-oʃrbe/. When we extend the interpretation based on the above data, we can say that in contrast to English verbs, verbs of the Chara language are marked identically by the same suffix /-oʃrbe/ for all persons. That is verbs of the Chara language take identical suffix /-oʃrbe/ both for singular and plural subjects in the simple present construction. The suffix morpheme /-oʃrbe/ is the inflectional morpheme which marks the simple present tense of the Chara language and suffixation is one of the morphological processes used in the verb inflection of the language.

4.1.2 Simple past tense^o

Consider the following example

Example -2

2a) [*tanu misa məembe*]

' I ate lunch.'

| *tani* *misa* *ma-embe* |

I lunch eat-past

b) [nɔru misa maɛmbɛ] 'We ate lunch.'

| nuni misa ma-embe |

we lunch eat-past

C) [izi misa maɛmbɛ] 'He ate lunch.'

| izi misa ma-embe |

he lunch eat-past

d) [iza misa maɛmbɛ] 'she ate lunch.'

| iza misa ma-embe |

she lunch eat-past

e) [hisnti misa maɛmbɛ] 'You (2ndpern.pl) ate lunch.'

| hisnti misa ma-embe |

you (2ndpern.pl) lunch eat-past

f) [nɛnimisamaɛmbɛ] 'You (2ndpern.sg) ate lunch.'

| neni misa ma-embe |

you (2ndpern.sg) lunch eat-past

f) [ʔsɛdi misamaɛmbɛ] 'They ate lunch.'

| Isendi misa ma-embe |

they lunch eat-past

g) [ɪzi nanazi wot'embe] 'He killed the boy.'

| izi nanazi wot'-embe |

he boy kill-past

h) [ʔsedi nanazi wot'embe] 'They killed the boy.'

| isendi nanazi wot'-embe |

they boy kill-past

Now we can say that in chara language the simple past tense is marked inflectionally. Hence verbs in Chara language are inflected for simple past tense and the simple past tense of Chara language is marked by the suffix /-embe/. In general, according to the above data, the suffix /-embe/ is the inflectional morpheme which marks the simple past tense of the Chara language.

4.1.3. Present progressive (imperfective aspect in Chara language)

As Lyons (1968) said the most common function of the progressive aspect is to indicate duration. That is the question of for how long the action takes place and the status of the action at the time of utterance is indicated by the present progressive aspect.

Now let us consider the following data

Example-3

a) [ɪzi maɔsb] 'He is eating.'

| izi ma-osbe |

he eat-prog.

b)[*ɪza maɔsbɛ*] ‘She is eating.’

| *iza ma-osbe* |

she eat-prog

c)[*ʔtsɛdi maɔsbɛ*]

| *ʔtsedi maosbe* | ‘They are eating.’

[*itsendi ma-osbe*]

| *itsendi ma-osbe* |

they eat-prog

d)[*nɔnu maɔsbɛ*] ‘We are eating.’

| *nuni ma-osbe* |

we eat-prog

e)[*tanu maɔsbɛ*] ‘I am eating.’

| *tani ma-osbe* |

I eat-prog

f)[*nənu maɔsbɛ*] ‘You (2ndpern.sg.) are eating lunch’

| *neni ma-osbe* |

you (2ndpern.sg) eat-prog

As it is revealed in the above the root of the verb is |ma-|; and the morpheme |-osbe| is suffixed to it. In spite of number, person and gender here the suffix morpheme|-osbe| is commonly used as an inflectional morpheme by the different subjects of the sentences. So there

is the regular pattern of the verb inflection in the above data. This regularity is the suffix morpheme *|-osbe|* is common to all subjects of the above sentences. This is to mean the main or the infinitive form of the verb of the language under study takes the same inflectional morpheme *|-osbe|* for singular and plural subjects of the sentences. Based on our data we can say that the suffix morpheme *|-osbe|* is the present progressive maker of the language. In other words the present progressive aspect of the Chara language is marked by the morpheme *|-osbe|*. Therefore in Chara language the present progressive aspect is marked inflectionally by the morpheme *|-osbe|*. In general the present progressive aspect is one of the sub grammatical category in which the verbs of the Chara language are inflected to. In Chara language present progressive may indicate future progressive.

4.1.4. Past progressive tense (aspect)

This type of tense is used to refer the temporal action or event which took place sometime in the past. Now let us describe the system of past continuous tense construction in the Chara language. Let us consider the following data:

Example-4

a) [*tanimaʊsbɛ doa*] 'I was eating.'

| *tani ma-osbe-doa* |

I eat-prog- 'copula'

b) [*iza maʊsbɛdoadɔa*] 'She was eating.'

| *iza ma-osbe-doa* |

she eat-prog- copula'

c)[*nɔnumaɔsbɛdva*]

'We were eating lunch.'

| *nuni ma-osbe-doa* |

we eat-prog- copula'

As it is revealed in the above data in the Chara language the past continuous tense is marked inflectionally. Unlike the simple past and present perfect tenses of the Chara language, the present continuous and past continuous tenses of the language are marked by the different suffix morphemes. Here as we can refer from the above data, the past continuous tense is marked by the suffix morphemes /-osbe-doa/. But the suffix morpheme /-osbe/ is common both to the present continuous and past continuous tenses. Therefore we can say that in the Chara language the suffixes /-osbe/ marks the progressive aspect in general and present progressive aspect in particular and the suffix morphemes /-osbe-doa/ marks the past continuous tense. Hence the past continuous tense is one of the sub-grammatical category in which the verbs of the Chara language are inflected to.

4.1.5. Future tense in Chara language

According to Lyons (1968) the theoretical zero point (now of utterance) might be included either past or future to yield a dichotomy between future and non future. Here I tried to categorize the following data under future tense based on the utterance of the informant. Therefore let us consider the following data

Example-6

a)[*tanumusamarhakɪts*]

'I will eat lunch.'

| *tani misa ma-irhakitos* |

I lunch eat-fut

b)[*iza musamarhakitɔs*] ‘She will eat lunch.’

| *iza misa ma-irhakitɔs* |

she lunch eat-fut

c)[*izi misa marhakitɔs*] ‘He will eat lunch.’

| *izi misa ma-irhakitɔs* |

he lunch eat-fut

d)[*nəni musamarhakitɔs*] ‘You (2ndpersn.sg) ‘will eat lunch.’

| *nəni misa ma-irhakitɔs* |

you 2ndpersn.sg lunch eat- fut

e)[*nɔni musamarhakitɔs*] ‘We will eat lunch.’

| *nuni misa ma-irhakitɔs* |

we lunch eat-fut

f)[*itsəndi musamarhakitɔs*] ‘They will eat lunch.’

| *itsəndi misa ma-irhakitɔs* |

they lunch eat-fut

Based on the above data we can say that future tense is marked inflectionally by the suffix morpheme | *-irhakitɔs* |.

4.1.6 Future continuous tense

The future continuous tense is used to refer the temporary situation in the future. Under this section the system of this tense in the Chara

language was discussed. For compressive understanding consider the following data:

Example-7

a) [*nɔnu wɔŋta iŋlɪzi tɪmɪrta tamarɔsbɛ*]

| *nuni wonta inglizi timirita tamar-osbe* |

we tomorrow English subject learn-prog

'We will be learning English tomorrow.'

b) [*itsendi wɔŋta iŋlɪzi tɪmɪrta tamarɔsbɛ*]

| *itsendi wonta inglizi timirita tamar-osbe* |

they tomorrow English subject learn-prog

'They will be learning English tomorrow.'

c) [*ɪzi wɔŋta iŋlɪzi tɪmɪrta tamarɔsbɛ*]

| *izi wonta inglizi timirita tamar-osbe* |

he tomorrow English subject learn-prog

'He will be learning English tomorrow.'

d) [*ɪza wɔŋta iŋlɪzi tɪmɪrta tamarɔsbɛ*]

| *iza wonta inglizi timirita tamar-osbe* |

she tomorrow English subject learn-prog

'She will be learning English tomorrow.'

As one can refer from the above data, the future continuous tense of the Chara language is marked inflectionally. As it is used as the present progressive marker above in section (3.1.4), the suffix morpheme /-osbe/ is used as the future progressive or future continuous tense marker of the language. Based on the above data and our previous knowledge of present continuous tense in Chara language, we can say that the present continuous and future continuous tenses of the Chara language are marked inflectionally by the same suffix morpheme /osbe/. And also we can say that the suffix morpheme /-osbe/ is the inflectional morpheme that marks the progressive aspect in the chara language. Since the same suffix is used both by the present continuous and future continuous tenses of the chara language, it is difficult to understand a sentence which has the progressive form if the adverbs of time is not given. The only way to level a given progressive form of the sentence as the present progressive or future progressive in the language is considering the utterances of the speaker or the context that the sentences used to refer the event or the action. Therefore the system of the present progressive and future progressive tenses of chara language is the property of the context or utterance.

4.2 Mood

Lyons (1968) defined mood in relation of unmarked class of sentences which expresses simple statement of fact. Here under this section, I treat the imperative, jussive, interrogative and subjunctive moods of Chara language.

4.2.1 Imperative mood

This mood expresses command or instruction. The central class of imperative sentences is associated with the second person. Let us consider the following data:

Example-8



a) [wɔn:a] '(You 2nd sg.) Come here!'

| wɔnn-a|

come-imp

b) [hama] '(You 2nd sg.) Go!'

| ham-a|

go-imp

c) [k'ɔ:fə] '(You 2nd sg.) Buy!'

| k'ɔof-a|

buy -imp

Based on the above data we can say that the suffix segment vowel /-a/ marks the imperative mood in chara language; and we can say that mood is one of the grammatical categories in which the verbs of the chara language are inflected for. Hence the imperative mood in chara language is marked inflectionally by the vowel segment /-a/.

4.2.2 Subjunctive mood

The principal function of the Subjunctive mood is to express wishes. Now let us consider the following data:

Example-9'

a) [tanɪastamarawɔftsbe] 'I wish I a teacher.'

| tanɪ astamara wɔft-sbe|

I teacher wish-subjm

b)[*tanakomɔwɔftsbe*] 'I wish a physician.'

| *tani akumo woft-sbe* |

I physician wish-subjm

As it is revealed in the above data, the subjunctive mood with second person singular is marked by the suffix morpheme /-sbe/.

4.2.3 Jussive mood

This kind of mood expresses the permission of the speaker to someone to do something. Now let us consider the following data:

Example-10

a) [*izihame*] 'Let him go'

| *izi ham-e* |

him go-jusm

b)[*izahama*] 'Let her go'

| *iza ham-a* |

her go-jusm

c)[*tanuhamuse*] 'Let me go'

| *tani ham-ise* |

me go-jusm

Based on the above data we can say Chara verbs are marked for jussive mood.

4.1.4 Interrogative

Interrogatives call for questions. Under this sub section I tried to show the way how the questions are marked in the Chara verb. Now consider the following data:

Example -11

a) [*nənumusamaɪt*] 'Have you (2nd persn. Sg.) eaten lunch?'
| *neri* *misa ma-ɪt* |

you (2nd persn.sg.) lunch eat-intro.

b) [*ɦitsntɪmusamaɪt*] 'Have you (2ndpersn . Sg.) eaten lunch?'
| *ɦisnti* *misa ma- ɪt* |

you (2ndpn.pl) lunch eat-intro

From the above data we can have two different things: the suffix and the stem or root of the verb. In the above data the stem or the infinitive form of the verb is inflected or changed its original form due to the presence of the suffix | -ɪt |. Here this suffix arrives due to change in the form of the sentence. That is the sentence is changed from its statement form to the interrogative one. Therefore in the chara language, the suffix morpheme | -ɪt | marks the interrogative sentence. Now based on the above data we can say that the interrogative sentences of the Chara language can be formed by adding the suffix | -ɪt | to the root of verb.

3.3 Negation

Negations are words which contrasts the affirmative form of a word. In many languages negations can be shown by the morphemes which are attached to the other morphemes are called bound morphemes. In some languages negations are affixed to the word (verb or adjective) and inflect

the word class that they are affixed to. Likewise in Chara language negations inflect the verb that they affixed to.

Let us consider the following data:

Example-12

a)[*mak'ax*] 'He has not eaten.'

| *ma-k'aj* |

eat-neg

b)[*hamkar*] 'He has not gone.'

| *ham-kaj* |

go-neg

c)[*mak'ara*] 'She hasn't eaten.'

| *ma -k'aja* |

eat-neg

d)[*hamkara*] 'She has't gone.'

| *ham-kaja* |

go-neg

e)[*mak'əɾə*] 'They haven't eaten.'

| *ma-k'ero* |

eat-neg

f)[*hamkəɔ*]

'They haven't gone.'

| *ham-kero* |

go-neg

As it is revealed in the above data the negative markers of the chara language are suffixed to the root of the verb. In the above data there are two different segments (k and k') which are used as the negative marker. Here the velar voiceless stop |k| is used as the negative marker both for third person singular and plural pronouns when it is preceded by the voiced bilabial nasal |m| and the voiceless velar ejective |k'| is used as the negative marker when it is preceded by the vowel segment |a|. In general chara verbs are inflected for negation. Or negations are formed through suffixation process.

3.4 Number

The most common manifestation of the category of number is the distinction between singular and plural which is found in many languages all over the world (John Lyon 1968.) Number is considered as the category of noun which combines in a special way with the category of person to form personal pronoun. However under this section I tried to reveal how the verbs of the chara language are inflected for number. So to respond to the above question let us consider the following data:

Example-13

Singular	Phon.tr	Phom.tr
	a)[<i>maən</i>]	<i>ma-en</i> Eat-3 rd sg
	b)[<i>ma:n</i>]	<i>ma-an</i> Eat-1 st sg-
Plural	c)[<i>maɔs</i>]	<i>ma-os</i> Eat-3 rd pl-
	d)[<i>maʃbe</i>]	<i>ma-iʃbe</i> Eat-1 st pl

Though specific marker for each person is not revealed, based on the above data or information we can say that the verbs of Chara language are inflected for number. For instance if we reconsider (example-13a and 13c as well as 13band 13d), the verbs are inflected based on the subject of the sentences. Therefore number is one of the grammatical category in which the verbs of the Chara language are inflected for.

3.5 Gender

The term gender derives from an extremely general word meaning class or kind (Latin *genus*.) it is defined as a classification of nouns for pronominal reference or concord. For example if we take Amharic

language, verbs of Amharic language are inflected for gender. For instance as in |belattf| the suffix |-tʃ| is the third person singular feminine gender marker and in |bela| the suffix |-a| is the third person singular masculine gender marker. Like Amharic language verbs of Chara language are inflected for gender. Let us consider the following data.

Example 15

Masculine	Phon.tr	Phom.tr
	[wətʰn]	wot'-en Kill-Masc.
Feminine	[wətʰna]	wot'-na kill-Fem

Based on the above information we can say gender is another grammatical category that the verbs of the Chara language are inflected to.

3.6 Person

According to Lyons (1968) person is regarded as a category of the verb and it is certainly marked in the inflectional form of the verb or verb phrase in many languages. It is one of the grammatical category in which verbs of the different languages are inflected to. Chara verbs exhibit this property. That is verbs of the chara language are inflected to the person. The verbs are inflected for the person if there is no pronominal specification is involved in expressing events or actions. For clear understanding let us consider the following data

Example: 16

First person	Phon.tr	Phom.tr
	[maʉ/bɛ]	ma-ɨ/be eat-1 st pl.
Second person	[ma:]	maa eat-2 nd sg.
Third person	[maʊs]	ma-os eat-3 rd pl.

In the above example regardless of tense, number and gender case the verbs are inflected based on the type of the personal pronouns used in the sentences. Therefore based on the above data it is possible to say that verbs of the Chara language are inflected for the person or person is one of the grammatical category in which verbs of the Chara language are inflected to.

Chapter- four

4. Verb derivations of Chara Language

Brown Keith (1991) defined derivational or lexical morphology as the part of the morphology which deals with the way in which lexical stems are formed. The formation of the new words in the sense of new lexeme is the field of lexical or derivational morphology (Brown Keith, 1991: 225)

It is obvious that verbs of the many languages are derived from different word classes. That is verbs can be derived from: nouns, adjectives, verbs etc. through different morphological processes. Here under this section some limited verb derivations of Chara language and the morphological processes involved in the formation process were discussed.

4.1 verbs from verbal nouns

As I tried to cite some examples of verb derivations of many languages, it is usual and common that verbal nouns of many languages are derived from verbs. Like other languages verbal nouns of Chara language are derived from verbs of the Chara language. Let us consider the following example:

	Verbal nouns		Gloss	Verb		Gloss
1	Phon.tr.	Phom.tr.		Phon.tr.	Phom.tr.	
	[ma:a]	ma-a	Eating	[ma]	ma	Eat
2	[wɔts'a]	wɔts'-a	Running	[wɔts']	wɔts'	Run
3	[tɔŋka]	tunka	Cutting	[tɔŋk]	tunk	Cut
5	[wɔt'a]	wɔt'-a	Killing	[wɔt']	wɔt'	Kill
6	[t'ɔla]	t'ol-a	Jumping	[t'ɔl]	t'ol	Jump
7	[kɔjta]	Kejt-a	Calling	[kɔt]	Kejt	Call

Table one verbs from verbal nouns

It is undeniable that the present participle or the gerund form of the verb is used as a noun. For instance as in: Reading is one of the four basic language skills. Here the present participle form of the verb reading is used as the noun because it acts as the subject of the sentence. Again this verb reading can be used as a helping verb if it serves as the complement of the verb to be. As in he is reading a book. Therefore based on this idea let us treat the above words i.e. words which are considered as the gerund. In the above table the vowel segment | -a | is used as the suffix with verbal nouns. This vowel segment | -a | is suffixed to the verbal noun. But this suffix is subtracted when the verbal nouns take the root form of the verb. Hence we can say that verbal nouns of Chara language are derived from verbs through suffixation process. Therefore subtraction is one of the morphological processes which is used in deriving verbs of Chara language from verbal nouns of the language.

4.1.1 Verbs from adjectives

Verbs of many languages are derived from adjectives. For example in Kafnoono languages verbs of this language are derived from adjectives of the language itself. The same is true for Amharic language. Like verbs of the above languages, verbs of the chara language are derived from adjectives of the language. To reinforce this idea let us consider the following example:



	Adjectives		Gloss	Verbs		Gloss
	Phon.tr	Phom.tr.		Phon.tr.	Phom.tr.	
1	[zova]	zowa	Red(a dj.)	[zombɛ](v)	zombe	Being red
2	[dala]	dala	white(adj.)	[daltɛmbɛ](v)	daltembe	Being white
3	[karta]	karta	black(adj.)	[kartɛmbɛ](v)	kartembe	Being black
4	[gɔdɔb]	godeb	fat(adj .)	[gɔdɔmbɛ](v)	godembe	Being fat

As it is revealed in the above table, in the chara language the verbs are derived from the adjectives through Stem-modification process. Here stem-modification is one of the morphological processes which is used in the verb derivation of the chara language. Therefore, we can say that chara verbs are derived from the adjectives through Stem-modification process.

4.1.2. Passives from main verbs

In contrast to active verbs Passive form of the verbs are those verbs which show or refer the receiver of the action. Passive verbs of the Chara language are formed or derived from the main or infinitive forms of the

same verb through suffixation. For more understanding let us consider the following data:

	Main(infinitive) verbs		Gloss	Passives		Gloss
	Phon.tr.	Phom.tr.		Phon.tr.	Phom.tr.	
1	[ma]	ma	Eat	[maəmbɛ]	ma-embe	eaten
2	[ts'af]	ts'af	Write	[ts'afəmbɛ]	ts'afe-mbe	Written
3	[wɔt]	wot'	Kill	[wɔtəmbɛ]	wot'em-be	Killed

As it is revealed in the above table the passive form of the Chara verb is derived from the infinitive or main verbs (|ma|, |ts'af| and |wot'|) of the language by adding the suffix |-embe|. Hence we can say in Chara language the suffix morpheme |-embe| is the derivational or deriving morpheme which derives the passive form of the verb from the infinitive form of the verb.

Sample data on Chara verb morphology

This section contains the primary linguistic data collected through elicitation and audio and video recording from native speakers under natural setting. These data were transcribed, glossed and translated using the praat and elan software packages and presented below.

2. Basic words

The word lists are transcribed both phonetically and phonemically. The first transcription represents the phonetic transcription and the second transcription represents the phonemic one.

2.1 Infinitive forms of the selected verbs

ref chara 01	[kʰɔl]	‘ beg’
	kol	
refchara 02	[tʰɔl]	‘ jump’
	tol	
refchara 03	[wɔtʰ]	‘ kill’
	wotʰ	
refchara 04	[kʰɔt]	‘ call’
	kejt	
ref chara 05	[ma]	‘ eat’
	ma	

refchara 06	[<i>tonk</i>]	'cut'
	<i>tunk</i>	
refchara 07	[<i>rəpə</i>]	'cry'
	<i>jepo</i>	
refchara 08	[<i>ham</i>]	'go'
	<i>ham</i>	
refchara 09	[<i>k'ɔʃ</i>]	'buy'
	<i>K'oʃ</i>	
refchara 010	[<i>wɔn</i>]	'com'
	<i>won</i>	
refchara 011	[<i>bas</i>]	'break'
	<i>bas</i>	
refchara 012	[<i>gats'</i>]	'hit'
	<i>gats'</i>	
refchara 013	[<i>kit</i>]	'fetch'
	<i>kit</i>	
refchara 014	[<i>wɔts'</i>]	'run'
	<i>wots'</i>	
refchara 015	[<i>hɪʃ</i>]	'dig'
	<i>hiʃ</i>	
refchara 016	[<i>hɪt'</i>]	'hear'

refchara 017	[<i>bɔtʃ</i>]	‘sing’
	<i>botʃ</i>	
refchra 018	[<i>bəʔ</i>]	‘See’
	<i>bei</i>	
refchara 019	[<i>zɪf</i>]	‘sweep’
	<i>zif</i>	
refchsrs 020	[<i>t’am</i>]	‘feed’ breast
	<i>t’am</i>	
refchara 021	[<i>gɔf</i>]	‘farm’
	<i>gɔf</i>	
refchara 022	[<i>kɔrt</i>]	‘search’
	<i>kojt</i>	
refchara 023	[<i>wɔtʃ</i>]	‘fail’
	<i>wotʃ</i>	
refchara 0 24	[<i>dɛn</i>]	‘obtain’
	<i>den</i>	
refchara025	[<i>sɔkə</i>]	‘slough’
	<i>suka</i>	
refchara026	[<i>gə</i>]	‘put’
	<i>ga</i>	

Refchare 027	[tukə]	‘find’
	tuke	
Refchar028	[ak'ats'a]	‘sleep’
Refchar029	[kə]	‘hold ‘
	ko	
refchara030	[afn]	‘say’
	afn	

2.1.2 Adjectives

refchara 031	[zova]	‘red’
	zowa	
refchara 032	[dala]	‘white’
	dala	
refchara 033	[karat]	‘black’
	karta	
refchara 034	[gəɖəb]	‘fat’
	godeb	
refchara 035	[k'ɔɪt]	‘short’
	k'oɪt	
Refchar 036	[məɸbi]	‘big’
	meɸbi	
Refchara037	[ɖɖɖ]	‘little’
	dodo	

2.1.3 Present participle (gerund)

ref chara 03 [<i>ma:</i>]	‘eating ’ (gerund)
<i>ma-a</i>	
eat-a	
ref chara 039 [<i>toŋka</i>]	‘cutting ’ (gerund)
<i>tunk-a</i>	
Cut-a	
ref chara 040 [<i>wot'a</i>]	‘ killing’(gerund)
<i>wot'-a</i>	
Kill-a	
ref chara 041 [<i>t'ola</i>]	‘jumping’(gerund)
<i>tol-a</i>	
Jump-a	
ref chara 042 [<i>kəɾta</i>]	‘calling ’ (gerund)
<i>kejt-a</i>	
call-a	

2.1.4 Nouns

refchara 043 [<i>kəta</i>]	‘house’
<i>keta</i>	
refchara 044 [<i>tara</i>]	‘leg’
<i>taja</i>	
refchara 045 [<i>kotfa</i>]	‘hand’
<i>kutfa</i>	
refchara 046 [<i>wəra</i>]	‘ear’
<i>woja</i>	

refchara 047	[sm̩t'a]	'nose'
	sint'a	
refchara 048	[atʃ'a]	'teeth'
	ats'a	
refchara 047	[maɪsa]	'ox'
	mansa	
refchara 050	[mɪra]	'cow'
	mija	
refchara 051	[dɔrsa]	'sheep'
	dorsa	
refchara 052	[nɔna]	'mouth'
	nona	
refchara 053	[baltʃa]	'bread'
	baltʃa	
refchara 054	[bɔrka]	'neck'
	borka	
refchara 055	[kɔra]	'forest'
	kuja	
refchara 056	[sɔta]	'blood'
	suta	

refchara 05	[<i>məɾta</i>]	'bone'
	<i>merta</i>	
refchara 058	[<i>bɔda</i>]	'heart'
	<i>boda</i>	
refchara 059	[<i>kətʃ'a</i>]	'kidney'
	<i>kets'a</i>	
refchara 060	[<i>imsila</i>]	'tongue'
	<i>imsila</i>	
Refchar 061	[<i>məɾta</i>]	'sword'
	<i>mejta</i>	
Refchara062	[<i>atʃa</i>]	'meat'
	<i>atʃa</i>	

2.1.5 sentences

Refchara 063	[<i>tanɪsamaɔʃrbe</i>]	'I eat lunch.'
	<i>tani misa ma-ɔʃrbe</i>	
	I lunch eat-pre	
refchara064	[<i>ɪzɑmsamaɔʃrbe</i>]	'She cheats lunch.'
	<i>iza misa ma-osrbe</i>	
	she lunch eat-pre	

ref chara 071[*fɪsntɪ mɪsamaɔmbɛ*] ‘you sec.pn.pl ate lunch.’

| *hsinti misa ma-embe* |
yousec.pn.pl lunch eat-past

ref chara 072[*nənu mɪsamaɔmbɛ*] ‘you sec.pn.sg ate lunch.’

| *neni misa ma-embe* |
you secpn.sg lunch eat -past

ref chara 073[*ɪzi mɪsamaɔmbɛ*] ‘He killed the boy.’

| *izi nanazi wot'-embe* |
he boy kill-past

ref chara 074 [*ɪtsəndɪ mɪsamaɔmbɛ*] ‘They killed the boy.’

| *itsendi nanazi wot'-embe* |
they boy kill-past

ref chara 075[*ɪzi mɪsamaɔmbɛ*] ‘He ate lunch.’

| *izi misa ma-embe* |
he lunch eat-past

ref chara 076[*ɪzɪmɪsamaɔsbɛ*] ‘He is eating lunch.’

| *izi misa ma-osbe* |
he lunch eat- prog

ref chara 077 [*ɪzɪmɪsamaɔsbɛ*] ‘She is eating lunch.’

| *iza misa ma-osbe* |
She lunch eat-prog.

ref chara 078[<i>itsəndmɪsamaɔsbɛ</i>] <i>itsendi misa ma -osbe</i> they lunch eat-prog	'They are eating lunch.'
ref chara 079 [<i>nɔnumɪsamaɔsbɛ</i>] <i>nuni misa ma-osbe</i> we lunch eat -prog	'We are eating lunch.'
ref chara 080 [<i>tanɪmɪsamaɔsbɛ</i>] <i>tani misa ma-osbe</i> I lunch eat-prog.	'I am eating lunch.'
ref chara 081 [<i>nənɪmɪsamaɔsbɛ</i>] lunch'	'You secpn.sg are eating.'
<i>neni misa ma -osbe</i> you secper.sg lunch eat prog	
ref chara 082 [<i>tanɪmɪsamaɔsbɛdoɑ</i>] <i>tani misa ma-osbedoɑ</i> I lunch eat past-prog	'I was eating lunch.'
ref chara 083 [<i>ɪzɑmɪsamaɔsbɛdoɑ</i>] <i>iza misa ma-osbe-doɑ</i> she lunch eat prog-copula	'She was eating lunch.'
ref chara 084 [<i>nɔnumɪsamaɔsbɛdoɑ</i>] <i>nunimisa ma-osb-edoɑ</i> we lunch eat-prog	'We were eating lunch.'
ref chara 085[<i>tanɪmɪsamarhakitɔs</i>] <i>tani misa ma -irhakitɔs</i> I lunch eat -fut	'I will eat lunch.'
ref chara 086[<i>ɪzɪmɪsamarhakitɔs</i>] <i>izi misa ma -irhakitɔs</i> he lunch eat-fut	'He will eat lunch.'

ref chara 087 [*nənumisamarhakıtəs*] ‘ You sec persg will eat lunch.’

| *neni misa ma -irhakitos* |

Yousecpn.sg lunch eat-fut

ref chara 088 [*nənumisamarhakıtəs*] ‘We will eat lunch.’

| *nuni misa ma -irhakitos* |

We lunch eat-fut

ref chara 089 [*itsəndımısamarrhakıtəs*] ‘They will eat lunch.’

| *itsendi misa ma-irhakitos* |

they lunch eat-fut

ref chara 090 [*nəwəntaŋglıza tımirta tamarəsbe*]

| *nuni wonta ingliza timirta tamar-osbe* |

we tomorrow English subject learn-prog.

‘We will be learning English tomorrow.’

ref chara 091 [*itsəndıwəntaŋglızi tımirta tamarəsbe*]

| *itesndi wonta inglizi timirta tamar-osbe* |

they tomorrow English subject learn prog

‘They will be learning English tomorrow.’

ref chara 092 [*ıziwəntaŋglızi tımirta tamarəsbe*]

| *izi wonta inglizi timirta tamar-osbe* |

he twomorrow English subject learn-prg

‘He will be learning English tomorrow.’

ref chara 093 [*ızawəntaŋglızi tımirta tamarəsbe*]

| *iza wonta inglizitimirtatamar-osbe* |

she tomorrow English subject learn-prog

‘She will be learning English tomorrow.’

2.1.6 Imperatives

ref chara 094	[wɔn:a]	'Come!'
	won-a	
	Come-imp	
ref chara 095	[k'ɔfa]	'Buy!'
	k'ɔfa	
	buy-imp	
ref chara 096	[hama]	'Go!'
	hama	
	go-imp	

2.1.7 Subjunctive mood

ref chara 097	[tanastamarɔwɔftɔsbɛ]	
	tani astamaro wɔft -osbe	'I wish I will be teacher.'
	I teacher wish copula	
ref chara 098	[tanakomɔwɔftɔsbɛ]	
	tani akumo wɔft -osbe	'I wish I will be a physician.'
	I physician wish-copula	

2.1.8 Jussive mood

ref chara 099	[izihamɛ]	'Let him go'
	izi ham-e	
	he go-jusm.	
ref chara 0100	[iza hama]	'Let her go'
	iza ham-a	
	she go-jusm	
ref chara 0101	[tanhamisɛ]	'Let ego'
	tan iham-ise	
	I go-jusm	



2.1.9. Interrogatives

ref chara 0102 [nənumusamaɪt̪] ‘Have you .pern.sg eaten lunch?’

| neni misa ma-ɪt̪|

yousec.pn.sg lunch eat-intro

ref chara 0103 [ɪzɪmusamaɪt̪] ‘Has he eaten lunch.’

| ɪzi misa ma-išt̪|

he lunch eat-intro

ref chara 0104 [itsəndimusamaɪt̪] ‘Have you sec.per pl eaten lunch?’

| itsendi misa ma-išt̪|

yousec.pn.pl lunch eat-intro

2.2 negations

ref chara 0105 [mak'ar] ‘He doesn't eat.’

| ma-k'aj |

eat-neg

ref chara 106 [hamkar] ‘He doesn't go.’

| ham-k'aj|

go-neg

ref chara 0107 [mak'ara] ‘She doesn't eat.’

| ma-k'aja|

eat-neg

ref chara 0108 [hamkəɾ] ‘They do not go.’

| ham- kero|

go-neg

2.2.1 Number

ref chara 0109 [mɑs] ‘They have eaten.’

| ma-os|

Eat-3rdpl.

ref chara 0110	[maəna]	‘She has eaten.’
	ma-ena	
	eat-3 rd sg.	
ref chara 0111	[maɪ/bɛ]	‘We have eaten.’
	ma-ɪ/be	
	eat-1 st pl.	
ref chara 0112	[ma:n]	‘I have eaten.’
	ma-an	
	eat-1 st sg.	

2.2.2 Gender

ref chara 0113	[wɔtʻən]	
	wotʻ-en	‘He killed.’
	Kill-Msc.	
ref chara 0114	[wɔtʻna]	‘She killed.’
	wotʻ-na	
	kill-Fem.	

2.2.3. Person

ref chara 0115	[maəna]	‘She has eaten.’
	ma-ena	
	eat-3 rd sg	

ref chara0116 [*maɔs*]

‘They have eaten.’

| *ma-os* |

eat-3rdpl.

ref chara0117 [*ma:n*]

‘ I have eaten.’

| *ma-an* |

eat-1st sg.

ref chara0118 [*maɪbɛ*]

‘ We have eaten.’

| *ma-ɪbe* |

eat-1stpl.

Personal pronouns of chara

First person	singular	gloss	plural	Gloss
	tani	I	nuni	We
Second person	neni	you	hisnti	You
Third person	izi	He	itsendi	They
	iza	she		

Chapter –five

5. Conclusion and recommendation

5.1 Conclusion

This paper presents the sketch of the Chara verb morphology and sample of the primary data collected through elicitation. In Chara language verbs are inflected for tense, mood aspect and other grammatical categories like: gender, number and person. In the language there are two types of tenses the past and non past. In Chara language the past tense is marked inflectionally by the suffix morpheme /-embe. And the progressive aspect is marked by the suffix morpheme /-osbe/.

Regarding the morphological processes, stem-modification and suffixation are the common morphological processes used in the verb inflections and derivations of the language.

5.2 Recommendations

Since this study is the beginning to the end, an extensive investigation of the language is mandatory so as to describe the structure of the language and to document the basic linguistic elements of the language. Basically the phonology and the grammar of the language need to be investigated and documented so that the linguistic elements of the language would be archived and preserved for the future generation.

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