

CHAPTER 3

VERB PHRASE

3.0 Introduction

There are quite a few types of phrases such as noun phrase, verb phrase, adjective phrase, post-position phrase, numeral phrase, adverbial phrase etc., identified in Chodri. However, only verb phrases are the focus of this thesis. This chapter describes the structure and functions of Chodri verb phrases.

A verb phrase is defined by Lehmann as, “a construction with a verb as the head word and with various auxiliaries, negatives and adverbs in the string” (1972:111). The Chodri verb phrase, is a string of words such as, negative, modal and auxiliary with a head. Adverbs are not part of the verb phrase but manifest manner, a clause level tagmeme, in Chodri. Two types of verb phrases have been identified on the basis of their structure: simple verb phrase and complex verb phrase.

3.1 Simple verb phrase

A simple verb phrase consists of an optional negative and a head element. The head is the main tagmeme which may be a copula, a simple verb, a compound verb, a conjunct verb or an inverse verb. The simple, compound, conjunct or inverse verb is in its finite form in the head slot of a simple verb phrase and it is marked for at least two of the following categories: tense, gender-number and person.

The structure of the simple verb phrase is shown in this formula:

Simple VP =	± Negative	+ Head	± Neg. (Emphatic)
	negative	Copula Simple verb Compound verb Conjunct verb Inverse verb	negative

That is, a simple verb phrase consists of an optional negative slot filled by a negative and a head slot filled by a copula, simple, compound, conjunct or an inverse verb. Since the negative element is optional, simple verb phrases often consist of only the head, the verb itself.

A simple verb phrase cannot have both negatives at the same time. Negative can be an optional element in the simple verb phrase when a copula, simple or inverse verb occurs as the head. So far, no evidence exists in the data for the occurrence of negative preceding or following a compound or conjunct verb in the simple verb phrase. The occurrence of a negative with a compound or conjunct verb is anticipated with additional data.

3.1.1 Simple verb phrase with copula

The occurrence of a copula in a verb phrase as the head indicates that the clause is a type of state. The term 'copula' is used here to refer to 'be' and 'have' verbs in equative, stative and stative possessive clauses. Primarily, a copula in Chodri fills the head slot of a simple verb phrase in a clause other than an action or event. (See section 2.1 for more discussion on copula.) Some examples are given below to illustrate this. The verb phrases in these examples are boldfaced.

- (65) “Story of a snake god’s daughter” (S 095)

hāj ho tore dzevo has-am
I also your like **be (pre) -1**

‘I am also like you.’

- (66) “Story of a sister’s long hair” (S 035)

adze te mare ahaj ne ato has-at
today pt1 my mother and father **be (pre) -non1, p**

‘Today you are my mother and father.’

- (67) “Story of a Myna” (S 016)

tū mare huhuro has-e
you my father-in-law **be (pre) -non1, s**

‘You are my father-in-law.’

- (68) “Story of five brothers” (S 091)

ek tʃəŋa-j kʰet ho-t-nə
one lentil-of field **be (pt) -prog-sn**

‘There was a lentil field.’

- (69) “Story of a king’s daughter” (S 002)

tiŋe ek dʒikʰri ho-t-ni
their one daughter **be (pt) -prog-sf**

‘They had a daughter.’

- (70) “Story of a single sister” (S 024)

tijē koi maŋuhũ kajni ho-t-nə
there any man not **be (pt) -prog-sn**

‘Nobody was there.’

In examples 65- 67, the copula in the present tense fills the head slot and in examples 68 and 69 the copula in the past tense fills the head slot of the simple verb phrase. In example 70, the occurrence of negative in a simple verb phrase is shown. The negative

occurs preceding the head of the simple verb phrase. All the examples but the last one also show verb phrases that are only one-word phrases.

When the emphatic marker *-dʒ* is used with the copula, the negative occurs following the head of the simple verb phrase as shown in example 71 below.

(71) “Elicited Data” (S 009)

vajre mā bokɾə ho-t-nə-dʒ kajni
 garden in goat **be (pt) -prog-sn-Emp** not

‘The goat was definitely not in the garden.’

This example shows the occurrence of an optional negative emphatic construction.

3.1.2 Simple verb phrase with simple verb

When the head of a simple verb phrase is a simple, compound, conjunct or an inverse verb that head will occur in its finite form, agreeing in gender-number with either the subject or object and is marked for tense. The simple verb phrase with a simple verb as the head is illustrated in examples 72-75.

(72) “Story of a rabbit and a fox” (S 033)

həve dʒərə dʒərə dihi nikil-j-o
 now little little sun **come out-pt-sm**

‘Now the sun dawned little by little.’

(73) “Story of a Myna” (S 003)

ek p^haha dɔbə tʃar-e
 one brother cattle **tend-non1, s, pre**

‘One brother tends cattle.’

The head of the simple verb phrase is an intransitive verb in example 72 and a transitive verb in example 73. The simple verb phrases in both examples are again

examples of one-word phrases. The simple verbs are in their finite forms, showing typical verbal inflections.

When a simple verb phrase is negated, the negative occurs preceding the head.

Example 74 shows a simple verb phrase with a negative.

(74) “Story of a crocodile” (S 024)

mare pag-aŋe kajni tʰər-in-o
my leg-OBJ not grab-pt,pft-sm

‘You had not grabbed my leg.’

When an emphatic marker occurs with the head, the negative occurs following the head as shown in example 75 below.

(75) “Story of Bilawanti queen” (S 070)

təhũ tije man-j-ə-dʒ kajni
even then he (ERG) agree-pt-sn-Emp not

‘Even then he didn’t agree at all.’

As discussed above, a simple verb phrase with a copula or simple verb functioning as the head may take an optional negative which normally occurs preceding the head. When the head verb is marked for emphasis by the emphatic marker *-dʒ* the negative occurs following the head of the simple verb phrase.

3.1.3 Simple verb phrase with compound verb

The head of a simple verb phrase may also be filled by a compound verb. When the head of a simple verb phrase is a compound verb, that head will occur in its finite form, agreeing in gender-number with either the subject or object and is marked for tense. This is illustrated in examples 76-78.

(76) “Story of a rabbit and a fox” (S 007)

hãhale dek^hi ne-d-ə
 rabbit see-cp take-pt-sn

‘The rabbit saw (the cart).’

(77) “Story of a pumpkin” (S 027)

baldza-ŋe tšaro nak^h-i de-d-o
 ox-to fodder drop-cp give-pt-sm

‘He gave fodder to the ox.’

In examples 76 and 77, the simple verb phrase consists of a compound verb. The compound verb in these examples is a combination of a simple verb and a vector. The vector in its finite form is marked for the gender-number of the object and tense.

(78) “Story of a king’s daughter” (S 057)

t^hoři var mã to nitšak əlop ho-i go
 little time in that boy vanish become-cp go(pt) sm

‘In a little while that boy disappeared.’

The simple verb phrase in example 78 is a compound verb. This compound verb is a combination of a conjunct verb and a vector. The gender-number marked on the verb agree with that of the subject.

3.1.4 Simple verb phrase with conjunct verb

The head of a simple verb phrase may also be filled by a conjunct verb. When the head of a simple verb phrase is a conjunct verb, that head will occur in its finite form, agreeing in gender-number with either the subject or object and is marked for tense. This is illustrated in examples 79-80 below.

(79) “Story of a rabbit and a fox” (S 056)

te behū dzəŋa vat kər-t-a-t
they both persons word do-prog-pm-non1,pre

‘They both are talking.’

The simple verb phrase in example 79 consists of a conjunct verb, a combination of the noun *vat* ‘word’ and a verb *kər* ‘do’ which acts as the verbalizer. The conjunct verb in its finite form is marked for the gender-number of the subject and tense.

(80) “Story of a king’s son” (S 028)

pəlo dik^hro mofo ho-v-o
that son big become-pt-sm

‘That son became big.’

The simple verb phrase in example 80 consists of a conjunct verb, a combination of the adjective *mofo* ‘big’ and the verb *ho* ‘become’. The conjunct verb in its finite form is marked for the gender-number of the subject and tense.

3.1.5 Simple verb phrase with an inverse verb

The head of a simple verb phrase may also be filled by an inverse verb. As the feature of an inverse verb the subject will be dative. The head will occur in its finite form, agreeing in gender-number with the object and is marked for tense. The simple verb phrase with an inverse verb as the head is illustrated in example 81 below.

(81) “Story of a pumpkin” (S 078)

pəljeŋe te bəhū nəvai nag-i
to her pt1 much surprise feel-pt, sf

‘She got much surprised.’

The simple verb phrase in example 81 has the inverse verb *nag* ‘feel’ as the head which is in its finite form. It agrees with the singular number and feminine gender of

the object *nəvai* ‘surprise’ which is marked by suffix *-i*. The subject *pəljeṇe* ‘to her’ is dative.

Like a simple verb, an inverse verb can also be optionally preceded by a negative in a simple verb phrase as shown in example 82 below.

(82) “Elicited Data” (S 010)

kane mane hihĩ kajni nag-dʒ-ə
yesterday to me cold not feel-pt-sf

‘Yesterday I didn’t feel cold.’

In example 82, the negative word *kajni* ‘not’, an optional element in a simple verb phrase, occurs preceding the inverse verb *nag* ‘feel’ functioning as the head.

Simple verb phrases consist of a head filled by a copula, a simple verb, a compound verb a conjunct verb or an inverse verb in its finite form. The predicate of stative, equative and stative possessive clauses is filled always by a copula. When the head of a simple verb phrase is not a copula, the head is always marked for gender-number of the subject or object and tense.

3.2 Complex verb phrase

A complex verb phrase has a multiplex structure. It consists of a head and another obligatory element, which is either a modal or an auxiliary or both.

The structure of the complex verb phrase in Chodri is:

Complex VP =	+Head	+ (± Modal	± Auxiliary)
	Simple verb	obligative	‘be’verb
	Compound verb	Permissive	
	Conjunct verb	Mandatory	
	Inverse verb	Inceptive	
		Desiderative	
		Frequentative	

That is, a complex verb phrase consists of a head slot filled by a simple verb, compound verb, a conjunct verb or an inverse verb, and an optional modal slot filled by a modal verb, and an optional auxiliary slot filled by the inflected form of the ‘be’ verb. At least one of the optional elements must occur.

3.2.1 Complex verb phrase with simple verb and modal

When a complex verb phrase consists of a head filled by a simple verb and a modal, the modal always follows the head. The head verb is in one of the following infinitive forms (*-ne* or *-va*) when it is followed by a modal and the modal in its finite form. The gender-number of subject or object and tense are marked on the modal in accordance with the split ergative system.

(83) “Story of an orphan boy” (S 005)

hāj adze tore hari av-ne heŋd-t-o-m
I today your with come-Inf want-prog-sm-1,pre

‘I want to come with you today.’

(84) “Story of five brothers” (S 073)

tsar dzəŋa tʃʰəgur-ne məjŋ-d-a
four persons quarrel-Inf begin-pt-pm

‘Four persons began to quarrel.’

The complex verb phrases in examples 83 and 84 consist of a head and a modal (desiderative in example 83 and inceptive in example 84). Simple verbs in their infinitive forms (marked with *-ne*) are the heads. The gender-number of subject and the tense are indicated by the suffixes on the modal.

3.2.2 Complex verb phrase with simple verb and auxiliary

An auxiliary functions as one of the optional elements in the complex verb phrase of an action or event clause. The term 'auxiliary' is used here to refer to the inflected form of the copula in present tense occurring in an action or event clause. As Masica (1991:285) states about the complexity of describing the auxiliary and of the connected existential verb and copula in Indo-Aryan languages, it is also difficult in Chodri to describe the function of the auxiliary. The very presence of an auxiliary in a complex verb phrase means that the clause is either present or present perfect tense.

(85) "Story of a king's daughter" (S 022)

e te bāhū p^hain dek^ha-t-i has-e
 she pt1 much fine look-prog-sf be(pre)-non1, s

'She, in fact, looks very beautiful.'

(86) "Story of a pretender" (S 038)

ĩ p^hunə nav-e has-am
 this flower bring-pt, pn be(pre)-1

'We have brought this flower.'

In examples 85 and 86, the complex verb phrase consists of a head slot filled by a simple verb and an auxiliary slot filled by the inflected form of the copula. In these constructions the simple verb in 85 is in the present participial form marked only for gender-number. The simple verb in 86 is in the past tense and it is marked for gender-number and tense and the present tense auxiliary following the simple verb in past tense indicates that the clause is in present perfect tense.

3.2.3 Complex verb phrase with simple verb, modal and auxiliary

When a complex verb phrase consists of a head filled by a simple verb, a modal and an auxiliary, the head verb is in its infinitive form, the modal verb is in participial form and

the auxiliary is the inflected form of the copula. The tense and the person and number of the subject are indicated on the auxiliary whereas the gender-number of the subject is marked on the modal. Examples 87 and 88 show the occurrence of a simple verb, modal and an auxiliary in a complex verb phrase.

(87) “Story of a crocodile” (S 015)

tū mane-dʒ k^ha-ŋe heŋd-t-o a
 you me-Emp eat-Inf want-prog-sm be (pre, non1, s)

‘You want to eat me.’

(88) “Story of five brothers” (S 007)

e huv-ŋe məjŋ-d-a has-at
 they sleep-Inf begin-pt-pm be (pre) -non1, p

‘They have begun to sleep.’

The auxiliary is the final element of the complex verb phrase in examples 87 and 88. The desiderative and inceptive modals follow the simple verb in examples 87 and 88 respectively. The simple verbs in these examples are in their infinitive forms. Past tense and the gender-number of the subject are marked on the inceptive modal while present tense is indicated by the auxiliary.

3.2.4 Complex verb phrase with compound or conjunct verb and modal

When a complex verb phrase consisting of a head filled by a compound or conjunct verb and a modal filled by a modal verb occurs, the main verb in the compound verb is marked by *-i* (conjunctive participle), and the vector is in one of the infinitive forms (*-ŋe* or *va*). The modal is marked for gender-number of the subject or object and for tense. This is illustrated by the following example.

(89) “Story of five brothers” (S 140)

eṭle ijē tʰo gam vət-i dʒa-ŋe məjŋ-d-o
 so here from village **pass-cp go-Inf begin-pt-sm**

‘So he began to pass over the village from here.’

In example 89, the complex verb phrase consists of a head filled by the compound verb *vət-i dʒa-ŋe* and a modal filled by the inceptive modal *məjŋ-d-o*. Since the modal that follows the head requires the head verb to be infinitive, the vector *dʒa* is in its infinitive form (marked with *-ŋe*). The gender-number of the subject and the tense are marked on the inceptive modal.

A conjunct verb can also be the head of a complex verb phrase and be followed by a modal. In such cases, the verb which acts as the verbalizer is either in one of the infinitive forms or in participial form and the modal is marked for gender-number of the subject or object, and tense. The following examples illustrate this.

(90) “Elicited Data” (S 011)

hāj tʰoṛi var aram kər-ne heŋd-t-o-m
 I little time **rest do-to want-prog-sm-1,pre**

‘I want to rest for a while.’

(91) “Story of a king’s son” (S 069)

pəlo rak^ha paso av-i-n nuksan kər-t-o
 that giant again come-cp-cnj **destruction do-prog-sm**
məjŋ-d-o
begin-pt-sm

‘Having come again that giant began to destroy.’

The complex verb phrases in examples 90 and 91 consist of a head and a modal (desiderative in example 90 and inceptive in example 91). The conjunct verb in example 90 is in its infinitive form (marked with *-ne*) and in present participial form

(marked with *-to*) in example 91. The non-verbal element in conjunct verb in example 90 is the noun *aram* ‘rest’ and the verb that acts as the verbalizer is *kər* ‘do’ in infinitive form. The person, gender-number of the subject and the tense are marked on the modal. The non-verbal element in the conjunct verb in example 91 is the noun *nuksan* ‘destruction’ and the verb that acts as the verbalizer is *kər* ‘do’ in infinitive form. The person, gender-number of the subject and the tense are marked on the modal.

3.2.5 Complex verb phrase with compound or conjunct verb and auxiliary

A complex verb phrase may be composed of a head filled by a compound or conjunct verb and an auxiliary filled by the inflected form of the present tense copula. The head verb is either in past or present participial form and the tense is indicated on the auxiliary. The following examples show this.

(92) “Story of five brothers” (S 027)

radzapuri pak-i gə-ji has-e
 Rajapuri ripe-cp go (pt) -sf be (pre) -non1, s

‘Rajapuri mango has gotten ripe.’

In example 92, the complex verb phrase consists of a head slot filled by a compound verb and an auxiliary slot filled by the inflected form of the copula. The clause is in present perfect tense which is indicated by the tense auxiliary following the finite form of the compound verb in past tense. The gender-number of the subject are marked on the vector of the compound verb.

(93) “Story of a rabbit and a fox” (S 048)

ne tijane mar paṭ-t-o a
and him beating drop-prog-sm be (pre, non-1, s)

‘And he beats him.’

In example 93, the complex verb phrase is in present perfect tense. It consists of a head slot filled by a conjunct verb and an auxiliary slot filled by the inflected form of the copula. The head verb is in present participial form (-*to*). Present tense and the number of the subject are indicated by the auxiliary.

3.2.6 Complex verb phrase with compound verb, modal and auxiliary

When a complex verb phrase consists of a compound verb, modal and an auxiliary, the main verb in the compound verb is marked with conjunctive participle (-*i*) and the vector verb is in its infinitive form. The modal is in present participial or past form and the inflected form of the auxiliary ‘be’ verb is at the final position. The following example shows this.

(94) “Elicited Data” (S 012)

e pejha tune ap-i de-ṇe heṇḍ-t-o
this money to you give-cp give-Inf want-prog-sm

has-e
be (pre) -non1, s

‘He wants to give away this money to you.’

In example 94, the complex verb phrase consists of a head filled by a compound verb, a modal filled by desiderative modal and an auxiliary filled by the inflected form of the copula. The main verb in the compound verb is marked with conjunctive participle -*i* and compounded with the vector verb *de* ‘give’ which is in its infinitive form, the gender-number of the subject is marked on the modal verb *heṇḍ* ‘want’ and present tense is indicated on the auxiliary *hase*.

3.2.7 Complex verb phrase with conjunct verb, modal and auxiliary

When a complex verb phrase consists of a conjunct verb, modal and an auxiliary, the verb which acts as the verbalizer in the conjunct verb is in past participial (-*ja*) or infinitive form (-*ŋe*, -*va*), the modal is in present participial or past form and the inflected form of the auxiliary 'be' verb is at the final position. The following example shows this.

(95) "Elicited Data" (S 013)

<i>nitʃki</i>	<i>k^havaŋə</i>	<i>kajni</i>	<i>k^ha-j</i>	<i>eʃle</i>	<i>mandi</i>
girl	food	not	eat-nonl, s, pre	so	sick
<i>pəj-ɾa</i>	<i>kər-t-i</i>	<i>has-e</i>			
fall-pt	do-prog-sf	be(pre)-nonl, s			

'Since the girl does not eat food she keeps falling sick.'

The complex verb phrase in 95 consists of a head filled by a conjunct verb, a modal filled by the frequentative modal *kər* and an auxiliary filled by the 'be' verb. The head verb is in past participial form (-*ja*), the modal is in present participial form (-*ti*) and the auxiliary is marked for the person and number of the subject. The presence of the auxiliary indicates that the clause is in present tense.

3.2.8 Complex verb phrase with inverse verb and modal

When a complex verb phrase consists of a head filled by an inverse verb and a modal, the head verb is in an infinitive form (-*ŋe* or -*va*) when it is followed by a modal and the modal in its finite form. The gender-number of the object and tense are marked on the modal. The subject is always dative. This is illustrated by the following example.

(96) “Elicited Data” (S 014)

mane tav av-ŋe məjŋ-d-o
to me fever get-Inf begin-pt-sm

‘I began to get fever.’

The complex verb phrase in example 96 consists of a head and a modal. Inverse verb *av* ‘get’ in its infinitive form (marked with *-ŋe*) is the head. The inceptive modal *məjŋ* ‘begin’ in its finite form follows the head. The singular number and the masculine gender of the object *tav* ‘fever’ and the tense are indicated by the suffixes on the modal.

3.2.9 Complex verb phrase with inverse verb, modal and auxiliary

When a complex verb phrase consists of an inverse verb, modal and an auxiliary, the inverse verb is marked with infinitive form (*-va* or *-ŋe*) or past participial form (*-ja*) depending on the following modal. The modal is in present or past participial form depending on the tense and the inflected form of the auxiliary ‘be’ verb is at the final position. The following example shows this.

(97) “Elicited Data” (S 015)

mane p^huk^h nag-dʒa kər-t-i has-e
to me hungry feel-pt do-prog-sf be(pre)-non1,s

‘I keep on feeling hungry.’

The complex verb phrase in example 97 consists of an inverse verb followed by the frequentative modal and the auxiliary. The inverse verb is in its past participial form *-dʒa* (Verb roots ending with a voiced stop take *-dʒ* suffix in past tense. see section 5.1.2). The gender-number of the object is marked on the frequentative modal while present tense is indicated on the auxiliary.

3.3 Summary

A description of Chodri verb phrases was presented in this chapter. Simple and complex verb phrases are the two types of verb phrases identified. The structure of the simple verb phrase is very simple. The simple verb phrase consists of an optional negative followed by a head. Emphatic negative is indicated by the occurrence of the emphatic marker *-dʒ* added to the head and the negative following the head. A copula, a simple, compound, conjunct or an inverse verb may fill the head slot of a simple verb phrase. There is no evidence in the data for the occurrence of a negative with a compound or conjunct verb. The structure of a complex verb phrase is quite complicated. The head of a complex verb phrase may be filled by a simple verb, compound verb, conjunct verb or an inverse verb. A modal or an auxiliary or both may follow the head verb in the complex verb phrase. The modal slot in complex verb phrases is filled by one of six modals. The auxiliary slot is filled by the auxiliary by which the tense is identified. The presence of an auxiliary in a complex verb phrase indicates that the clause is either present or present perfect tense. Further research on the study of compound and conjunct verbs will be interesting and rewarding. The non-finite forms of the verbs also needs further study.