Nominal and verbal stems enter into morphological constructions to form words. These stems and their inflected forms enter into syntactic constructions and concords. Out of these, concords are discussed in 4.3.

4.1 Nominal System: Nominal stems are inflected for number and gender. Case is not recognised as an inflectional category. What may be supposed to be the case endings are treated as postpositions (see chapter 5). Pronouns but not other nominals have bound allomorphs before taking postpositions. They correspond to the oblique case which is found for the nominal stems in other related Indo-Aryan languages.

4.1.1 Nouns: Nouns partake of a system of two genders and two numbers.

Gender: Animate nouns are either masculine or non-masculine. Inanimate nouns are non-masculine. The classification of nouns into masculine and non-masculine genders may be carried out by testing the agreement they show with the third person singular number forms of the verbs in the perfactive tense—made. Thus the inanimate nouns show the agreement with the verbs in the same way as the female animate nouns. Therefore, it is clear that the gender system of Balbi is based on natural gender.

Gender marking:

(a) Some animate non-human as well as human nouns are only
masculine or only non-masculine. They occur without their correlatives.

Examples:

Masculine: bhāṅgaram, bhima, paṅdev  '(names of Gods)'
    son kūver
    naṅ                          'cobra'

Non-masculine: māvli, maṅin, danteserī  '(names of Goddesses)'
    kāvra                          'crow'
    hāsa                          'goose'
    cīgai                         'bird'
    mēsri                          'fish'
    jāru                           'leech'

(b) Some non-human animate nouns have both the genders, i.e. they are sometimes referred to as males and sometimes as females.

Examples:

    sap                          'snake'
    menjur                      'peacock'
    ḍurka                        'leopard'

(c) All the other non-human as well as human animate nouns show one of two types of gender markers. These may be divided into two categories - inflectional and derivational.

Inflectional: These nouns have a common base for both the genders. The masculine and non-masculine genders are then
signalled by markers -a and -i respectively. These nouns may be called gender-marked nouns.

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Non-masculine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bendr-a</td>
<td>'male monkey'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lek-a</td>
<td>'boy'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dulh-a</td>
<td>'bride-groom'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>đokr-a</td>
<td>'old man'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mengk-a</td>
<td>'male frog'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bendr-i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>'female monkey'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>lek-i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>'girl'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dulh-i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>'bride'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>đokr-i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>'old woman'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>mengk-i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>'female frog'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The masculine non-human nouns in this category are sometimes treated as non-masculine when the speaker does not necessarily want to refer to the sex distinction. For example, if in a story there appears bendra, a speaker may say - bendra ili 'the monkey came' with the verb having the ending for the non-masculine gender, instead of, bendra ilo with the verb having the ending for the masculine gender. Whereas, if a story is about both bendra and bendri he will say bendra ilo and bendri ili with the verbs showing the gender differences consistently.

Derivational: The animate non-masculine nouns derived from masculine nouns are discussed in 3.2.1.3.

Number: Halbi nouns have two numbers — singular and plural. There is no overt marker to show the singularity of nouns. The plural is represented by the marker -men.
Following are the rules of taking -men:

When the nouns are preceded by quantifying adjectives and numerals:

(a) The non-human and human animate nouns and the countable inanimate nouns do not require -men. However, a native speaker may sometimes add -men to these nouns without transgressing the rules of grammar (or loss of sense).

(b) The non-countable nouns like mend 'liquor', chañ 'rice', dhujka 'dust' do not take -men.

When the nouns are not preceded by quantifying adjectives and numerals the following rules apply:

Inanimate nouns:

(a) The non-countable nouns do not take -men.

(b) The countable nouns take -men especially when the speaker wants to emphasize their plurality. Otherwise, taking of -men is optional.

Animate nouns:

(a) The common rule for both non-human and human nouns is -


(b) Non-human Nouns:

(1) When more than one non-human nouns are addressed the use of -men is compulsory.
(2) The collective nouns like gohđi 'cattle',
gohđa 'group' do not take the marker.
(3) For the rest of the non-human nouns, taking of
-men to show plurality is optional.

(c) Human Nouns:
(1) The collective nouns like phęd 'people' log
'people', rəyət 'subject(of the king)' sometimes
take -men even though these nouns themselves show
plurality.
(2) The rest of the human nouns require -men, but a
native speaker may sometimes omit it without the loss
of sense.

4.2 Pronouns:

Gender: Pronouns have no overt gender-marking.
Number: The system of pronouns has a contrast of two numbers -
singular and plural. There is no overt marker for singular number.
The plural marker is -men. It is overtly marked only in personal,
demonstrative and reflexive pronouns. In the case of first and
second person plural pronouns the plural marker -men is sometimes
repeated, e.g.

ha-men 'we' tu-men 'you pl.'
ha-men-men 'we' tu-men-men 'you pl.'

Interrogative, indefinite and relative pronouns can be
used in both genders and numbers without any overt markers.
1.3.3 Adjectives: The adjectival system of Balbi is not strictly a system of two genders and two numbers.

Gender: Among the adjectives which occur with animate nouns only, there are only a few which show gender differences. They may be called gender-marked adjectives since they have a common base followed by masculine and non-masculine markers. The masculine and non-masculine markers are the same here as for the nouns, namely, -a and -i respectively.

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M.</th>
<th>Non-M.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pheln-a</td>
<td>phelni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pəndr-a</td>
<td>pəndri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ðhubr-a</td>
<td>ðhubri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ðeŋ-a</td>
<td>ðeŋi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kərey-a</td>
<td>kəri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>behy-a</td>
<td>behi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>khoqy-a</td>
<td>khoqi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unmarked adjectives exhibit no variation for different genders. (This class of adjectives of course includes objectives that typically occur with inanimate nouns).

Examples:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ðəgray</td>
<td>'bad'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nani</td>
<td>'small, younger'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bəge</td>
<td>'big, elder'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
kašu  'bitter'
seygo  'whole, full'
paka  'ripe'
ṭeqqa  'crooked'
khol  'deep'
amat  'sour'
gagh  'tight'
ujur  'clean; white'
thak  'low (opp. ma high)'
mīf  'sweet'

**Number:** Adjectives do not take the plural marker even when they occur with pluralized nouns.
4.2 Verbal System

4.2.1 Halbi verbal forms can be classified into finite and non-finite on the basis of suffix distribution and syntactic position. (The syntactic positions as well as the negative constructions will be dealt with in Ch. 6 and 7).

A finite verb consists of a root followed by tense-mode markers and gender-number-person (GNP) markers. A non-finite verb consists of a root followed by a suffix but without any GNP markers.

There are no marked conjugational differences except for the defective verbs \{as₁\} and \{as₂\}. In illustrating different forms we will normally use the root \{kər-\} 'do'.

In addition to the inflectional paradigm, there are phrasal constructions with auxiliaries conveying aspect.

4.2.2 Non-finite Verbs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Root</th>
<th>Suffix</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gerunds</td>
<td>kər</td>
<td>te</td>
<td>'while doing'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperfective</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purposive</td>
<td>kər</td>
<td>uk(lay)</td>
<td>'in order to do'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compleative</td>
<td>kər</td>
<td>u(n)</td>
<td>'having done'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditional</td>
<td>kər</td>
<td>le(k)</td>
<td>'if done'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comitative</td>
<td>kər</td>
<td>u</td>
<td>'by the time of doing'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terminative</td>
<td>kər</td>
<td>ət + le</td>
<td>'up to the time of doing'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participle</td>
<td>kər</td>
<td>lo</td>
<td>'done; deed'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perfective</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Infinitive \( \text{k}e\text{r} + \text{to(r)} \) 'doing'

For the shortened form of the Gerund Comitative, see 4.2.5 (2)(c) below.

4.2.3 Finite Verbs: As stated above, a finite verb may be inflected for the four categories of tense-mode, gender, number and person.


(b) Gender difference of masculine and non-masculine is recognised only in the third person singular form in the perfective and contingent tense-modes. Elsewhere only number and person are marked.

(c) There are two numbers: Singular and Plural.

(d) There are three persons: First, Second and Third.

Note that the imperative-optative tense-mode does not have a full set of (G)NP markers.

The way the tense-mode and (G)NP markers are combined with the verbal roots for each tense-mode is illustrated in the following formulas and tables.

(1) Present: The Present marker has two allomorphs.

\[
\begin{align*}
/\text{as}/ & \text{ in second person plural} \\
/\text{s}/ & \text{ elsewhere.}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
V + \text{NP}_1 + \text{Pres} \{/s/\} + \text{NP}_2
\]
A form like kər-ē-se can be interpreted either as 'I do' or as 'I am doing'.

(2) Future: The future marker has three allomorphs.
   /θ/ in second person singular and plural.
   /d-th/ in third person plural
   /d/ elsewhere

Besides, there is a fused marker -vā for first person plural of the future which is added to the verb root when it is to be used in the inclusive sense.

\[
V + NP_3 + Fut \{ d \} + NP_4
\]

\[
\begin{array}{llll}
\text{Sg.} & \text{Pl.} & \text{Sg.} & \text{Pl.} \\
\text{First} & \text{e} & \text{u} & \text{e} & \text{e} \\
\text{Second} & \theta & \theta & \text{it} & \text{it} \\
\text{Third} & \text{e} & \theta & \text{e} & \text{et} \\
\end{array}
\]
Example:

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{Sg.} & \text{Pl.} \\
\text{First} & \text{kar-en-d-e} & \text{kar-un-d-e} \\
\text{Second} & \text{kar-s-0-e} & \text{(incl.) kar-vā} \\
\text{Third} & \text{kar-e-d-e} & \text{kar-o-0-ase} \\
\end{array}
\]

A form like kar-en-d-e means 'I will do'.
(The second person singular and plural forms are also used as polite imperatives).

(3) Aorist: There is no overt marker for the aorist.

\[ V + \text{NP}_5 \]

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{Sg.} & \text{Pl.} \\
\text{First} & \text{ē} & \text{ū} \\
\text{Second} & \text{is} & \text{as} \\
\text{Third} & \text{e} & \text{st} \\
\end{array}
\]

Example:

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{Sg.} & \text{Pl.} \\
\text{First} & \text{kar-ē} & \text{kar-ū} \\
\text{Second} & \text{kar-is} & \text{kar-as} \\
\text{Third} & \text{kar-e} & \text{kar-st} \\
\end{array}
\]

A form like kar-e means either 'usually does' (habitual action in the Present) or 'did, used to do' (the past).

The first person plural form is also used to denote future prediction or proposal in the inclusive sense, e.g. karū 'we(incl.) will do', 'let us(incl.) do'.

(4) & (5) : Perfective and Contingent : The perfective marker is \{ l \}, while the contingent marker is \{ t \}. Both of them have common (G)NP markers.

Perfective : \( V + l + (G)NP_6 \)
Contingent : \( V + t + (G)NP_6 \)

\((G)NP_6\)

\[\begin{array}{ll}
\text{Sg.} & \text{Pl.} \\
\text{First} & \ddot{e} & \ddot{u} \\
\text{Second} & \text{is} & \text{as} \\
\text{Third M.} & o & \{ a \\
\text{Non-M.} & i \\
\end{array}\]

Examples :

Perfective :

\[\begin{array}{ll}
\text{Sg.} & \text{Pl.} \\
\text{First} & k\ddot{a}r-l-\ddot{e} & k\ddot{a}r-l-\ddot{u} \\
\text{Second} & k\ddot{a}r-l-is & k\ddot{a}r-l-as \\
\text{Third M.} & k\ddot{a}r-l-o & \{ k\ddot{a}r-l-a \\
\text{Non-M.} & k\ddot{a}r-l-i \\
\end{array}\]

Contingent :

\[\begin{array}{ll}
\text{Sg.} & \text{Pl.} \\
\text{First} & k\ddot{a}r-t-\ddot{e} & k\ddot{a}r-t-\ddot{u} \\
\text{Second} & k\ddot{a}r-t-is & k\ddot{a}r-t-as \\
\text{Third M.} & k\ddot{a}r-t-o & \{ k\ddot{a}r-t-a \\
\text{Non-M.} & k\ddot{a}r-t-i \\
\end{array}\]
A form like kər-ə means 'I did' and
a form like kər-t-ə means 'I would have done'.

(6) Imperative-optative: There is no overt marker for
this tense-mode. The NP-set is defective. (The second person
singular & plural markers have the allomorphs /s/ and /as/
respectively after the verb root de-).

\[ V + NP \]

\[ NP \]

\[ \text{Sg.} \]
\[ \text{Pl.} \]

Second 0 -ə
Third o -ət

Examples:

\[ \text{Sg.} \]
\[ \text{Pl.} \]

Second kər-0 kər-a
Third kər-ə kər-ət -ət

While the second person forms can be interpreted as
'do (imperative)', the third person forms are to be interpreted
as '(he, she, they) may do it' or 'let (him, her, them) do it'.

4.2.4 The defective verbs \{as₁\} and \{as₂\} 'be':

\{as₁\} functions as a main verb while \{as₂\} functions both
as a main verb and as an auxiliary verb. Both are conjugated
only in the present. (There are also non-defective verbs like
\{\text{ho}\} and \{\text{rah}\} meaning 'be'

\{\text{as}_1\}\ has\ two\ allomorphs.

/əhas - ahas/ in second person plural.
/as/ elsewhere.

\text{as}_1 + \text{NP}_3

\text{NP}_3

\begin{array}{ll}
\text{Sg.} & \text{Pl.} \\
\text{First} & ê \\
\text{Second} & it \\
\text{Third} & e \\
\end{array}

Example:

\begin{array}{ll}
\text{Sg.} & \text{Pl} \\
\text{First} & as-ê \\
\text{Second} & as-it \\
\text{Third} & as-e \\
\end{array}

\{\text{as}_2\}\ has\ two\ allomorphs.

/əhas - ahas/ in second person plural
/a/ elsewhere.

\{\text{as}_2\} + \text{NP}_9

\text{NP}_9

\begin{array}{ll}
\text{Sg.} & \text{Pl.} \\
\text{First} & -y \\
\text{Second} & s \\
\text{Third} & y \\
\end{array}
Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sg.</th>
<th>Pl.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
<td>ā - y</td>
<td>ā - u</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second</td>
<td>a - s</td>
<td>ṣhas-s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>a - y</td>
<td>a - t</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A form like asē would mean 'I continue to be'
A form like āy would mean 'I am now actually'
(The resemblance between present \[[s] + NP_2, \{as_1\} + NP_3,\
and \[[as_2]\] + NP_3 is noteworthy.)

2.5 Aspect: There are two aspects in Halbi. 1) Durative

2) Competitive. These two aspects are combined only with present, future, aorist and perfective.

Aspect and tense-mode combination is a verbal phrase consisting of a main verb and the auxiliaries reh- 'be, live'; and ho- 'be, become, happen'; followed by (S)NP markers. These auxiliaries also function as main verbs independently.

1) Durative

(a) Present durative: There is no present durative as such. As noted above the present is also used in cases where one might expect a present durative.

(b) Future durative:

V + imperfective gerund marker \{te\} + \{reh\} + future tense-mode endings.
Sg.          Pl.

First korte rehende  korte rehunde
Second korte rehse  korte rehase
Third korte rehede  korte rethe - rede

A form like korte rehende means 'I will be doing'.

(c) Aorist durative:

V + imperfective gerund marker \{ te \} + \{ reh \} + aorist tense-mode endings.

Sg.          Pl.

First korte rehê  korte rehû
Second korte rehis  korte rehas
Third korte rehe  korte rehat

(d) Perfective durative:

V + imperative gerund marker \{ te \} + \{ reh \} + perfective tense-mode endings.

Sg.          Pl.

First korte ralê  korte ralu
Second korte ralis  korte relas
Third M. korte relo  )
Non-M. korte rali  )

Forms like korte rehê and korte ralê both mean 'I was doing'.
(2) Completive.

(a) Present completive:

$V +$ Perfective tense-mode endings $+ $ Present marker $\{s\}$
$+ (3) NP_2$ markers.

The present marker here has the allomorph $\Theta = \text{ih}$
in the second person singular and $\Theta$ in the plural. It is $\{s\}$
elsewhere.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sg.</th>
<th>Pl.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First $\text{kar}l\text{e}-s-e$</td>
<td>$\text{kar}l\text{u}-s-e$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second $\text{kar}l\text{is}-\Theta-(\text{ih})\text{it}$</td>
<td>$\text{kar}l\text{as}-\Theta-\text{it}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. $\text{kar}lo-s-e$</td>
<td>$\text{kar}l\text{a}-s-e$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>$\text{kar}l\text{a}-s-e$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-M. $\text{kar}li-s-e$</td>
<td>$\text{kar}l\text{a}-s-e$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A form like $\text{kar}l\text{e}-s-e$ means 'I have done'.

(b) Future Completive:

$V +$ Perfective tense-mode endings $+ \{\text{ho}\}$ $+ $ future tense-
mode endings for third person singular.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sg.</th>
<th>Pl.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First $\text{kar}l\text{e}$ $\text{ho}-\text{y}yd\text{e}$</td>
<td>$\text{kar}l\text{u}-\text{ho}-\text{y}yd\text{e}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second $\text{kar}l\text{is}$ $\text{ho}-\text{y}yd\text{e}$</td>
<td>$\text{kar}l\text{as}$ $\text{ho}-\text{y}yd\text{e}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. $\text{kar}lo$ $\text{ho}-\text{y}yd\text{e}$</td>
<td>$\text{kar}l\text{a}$ $\text{ho}-\text{y}yd\text{e}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
<td>$\text{kar}l\text{a}$ $\text{ho}-\text{y}yd\text{e}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-M. $\text{kar}li$ $\text{ho}-\text{y}yd\text{e}$</td>
<td>$\text{kar}l\text{a}$ $\text{ho}-\text{y}yd\text{e}$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A form like $\text{kar}l\text{e}$ $\text{ho}-\text{y}yd\text{e}$ means 'I will have done'.

(c) Aorist Completive:

$V +$ completive gerund marker $\{\text{un}\} + \{\text{reh}\} + $ aorist
tense-mode endings.
Sg.                         Pl.
First  kərun  rəhə           kərun  rəhə
Second kərun  rəhəs          kərun  rəhəs
Third  kərun  rəhə            kərun  rəhət

'ın' of the completive gerund is dropped in a fast speech.

(d) Perfective Completive:
V + completive gerund marker \{un\} + \{rəh\} +

Perfective tense-mode endings.

Sg.                         Pl.
First  kərun  rələ           kərun  rələ
Second kərun  rəlis          kərun  rəlas
    M. kərun  rəlo )
Third  ) Non–M. kərun  rəli )

The forms like kərun  rəhə and kərun  rələ both mean 'I had done'.

2.6 Verb-stem alternations.

The verb stem \{e – ye\} 'come' has the following allomorphs:
/ay/ before the present and future tense-mode markers combined with first and third person singular markers.
/əv/ before the imperative tense-mode marker in the second person singular.
/1/ before the perfective tense-mode marker /l/, /e-ye/ elsewhere.

The verb-stems {ja} 'go', {kha} 'eat', {ne} 'take', and {de} 'give' have the allomorphs /ge-, /khad-, /ni-, /di-/, respectively, before the perfective tense-mode marker /l/.

The third person forms of the verb {as₂}, namely ay and at have the allomorphs /hay/ and /hat/ after the negative particles ni and no.

The more regular alternations that the verb-stems undergo have been dealt with in chapter 2 on Morphophonology.
3 Concord System

3.1 Concord between nouns and adjectives.

There is a gender concord between nouns and gender-marked adjectives. The gender of the nouns governs the occurrence of the gender-marked adjectives. The adjectives that are marked for masculine gender would occur with masculine nouns and the adjectives that are marked for non-masculine gender would occur with non-masculine nouns.

Examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adj.</th>
<th>Nouns</th>
<th>Subst.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pəndr-a</td>
<td>lek-a</td>
<td>'pale complexioned boy'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or, pəndr-a</td>
<td>mənuχh</td>
<td>'pale complexioned man'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>But, pəndr-ι</td>
<td>lek-ι</td>
<td>'pale complexioned girl'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or, pəndr-ι</td>
<td>lugga</td>
<td>'white saree'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is no number concord between nouns and adjectives.
When the nouns are pluralized the adjectives occurring with them remain the same, i.e. do not show the number difference. Adjectives, however, do take the plural marker-ι as a result of the deletion of the nouns with which they occur. e.g.

ɗẹng-ι lek-ι-men-κe 'to the tall boys'
could be shortened to 'ɗẹng-ι-men-κe' when the context is clear.
3.2 Concord between the subject and finite verbs.

There is a gender concord between the subject and finite verbs only when the verbs are in the perfective and contingent tense-mode and in the third person singular forms. No gender differences are seen elsewhere in the verbal paradigm.

Following are the examples of the gender concord between masculine and non-masculine subjects and finite verbs.

**M.Sub.**

**Perfetive:** raja / hun | ge-1-o | 'The king / He went'
**Contingent:** raja / hun | ja-t-o | 'If the king / he had gone'

**Non-M.Sub.**

**Perfetive:** rani / hun | ge-1-i | 'The queen / She went'
**Or, moṣer / hun** | nes-1-i | 'The bus / It broke down'
**Contingent:** rani / hun | ja-t-i | 'If the queen / she had gone'
**or moṣer / hun** | nes-t-i | 'If the bus / it had broken down'

There is a number concord between animate nouns as subjects and finite verbs but there is no such concord between inanimate nouns as subjects and verbs, i.e., with animate masculine and non-masculine pluralized nouns, the verbs occur with the third person plural forms in all the tense-modes but with inanimate pluralized substantives the verbs always occur with the third person singular forms in all the tense-modes.
Examples.

Animate Subjects:

leka-men e-s-at 'the boys are coming' as against
leka oy-s-e 'the boy is coming'
leki-mon kha-de - the 'the girls will eat' as against
leki kha-y-d-e 'the girl will eat'.
pheud(-men) i-l-a 'people came (plural verb)'

but,

Inanimate Subjects:

ama gir-l-i would mean either 'the mango fell' or
'the mangoes fell' depending on the context.

kaget seer-l-i 'the sheet of paper is exhausted' or
'sheets of paper are exhausted' (according to the context).

kaget-men seer-l-i 'sheets of paper are exhausted'

In the same way, there is a number concord between pronouns
as subjects when they stand for animate nouns and verbs but there is
no such concord between them and verbs when they stand for inanimate
nouns.

Examples.

Personal Pronouns:

hun reng-e-s-e ) He, she, is walking
te reng-e-s-e
hun-men reh-Θ-s-at ) They are walking
te-men reh-Θ-s-at
Demonstrative Pronouns:

- **e**  ay-s-e  'this one is coming'
- **hun** ay-s-e  'that one is coming'
- **e-man, e-man-man** e-s-at  'these are coming'
- **hun-man** e-s-at  'those are coming'