CHAPTER 3

3.1 TENSE

Tense can broadly be defined as a grammaticalisation of location in time.\(^1\) In order to further comprehend the notion of tense, we would have to deal with the notion of time itself. "The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary" defines the word "time" as "a limited stretch of space of continued existence as the interval between successive events, or the period through which an action, condition or state continues..." it further says "indefinite continuous duration is regarded as that in which the sequence of events takes place." \(^2\) (1959: 2193).

Distinguishing Time and Tense, Otto Jesperson says "the former is common to all mankind and is independent of language; the latter varies from language to language and is linguistic expression of time relations, so far as these are indicated in verb forms." \(^2\)

John Lyons defines Tense as "a diectic category", "which is simultaneously a property of the sentence and

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utterance." He says that "the tense relates the time of action, event or state of affairs referred to in the sentence to the time of utterance (the time of utterance being now)."³ Leech and Svartvik define tense as "the correspondence between the form of verb and our concept of time".⁴

Time has been conceptualised differently in different cultures. It is generally considered as a flow and it is for this reason that it is often metaphorically seen as the flow of water or compared with a flowing river. Newtonian Physics views time as that which flows uniformly onwards. In some cultures it is believed that time is repetitive and hence cyclic, this kind of notion comes from the observation of movements of sun and moon, or from the notion of rebirths. However, the time is universally conceptualised as a flow and the events are located in this flow. Hence, time can be represented by a straight line where past is conveniently represented to the left and future to the right of the present moment represented by a point labelled 0 on that line.

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It allows us to describe a range of ordinary language statements about time. Hence, an event of past can be situated to the left of the present moment 0, whereas another event situated in future would be located at the right of the said moment.

In order to provide an account of tense valid for any language or set of languages, one must not base it on a culture specific concept of time. Instead, one should look for a general theory which could be extended to all cultures and thus to all languages. However, in some instances one finds that certain cultures which are claimed to have no concept of time, have languages that do not have any grammatical device for expressing location in time. In other words, they do not have tense. Hopi is one of such languages which Whorf describes as not having straightforward past, present and future categories and it emphasises the grammatical importance of aspect and mood and thus projecting a radically different conceptualisation of time.

The present thesis studies the category of tense in French and Hindi as types without negating the
The idea of locating situation in time is a purely conceptual notion and is as such potentially independent of the range of distinctions made in any particular language. It does, however, seem to be the case that all human languages have ways of locating in time.

The locations of time are expressed in languages by three different methods, i.e., lexically composite expression, lexical items and grammatical categories. The 'lexically composite expression' is a potentially infinite set in a language that has linguistic means for measuring time intervals. The expressions like /sëk mInyt apRe də depaR də maRi/ (Five minutes after the departure of Mary) or / 10-45 secō apRe/ (10-45 seconds after………), in French and / mohan ke ane se tin minət pəhə le/ (three minutes before Mohan's arrival) or / Suraj Ugəne ke bad/ (after sunrise) in Hindi are the examples of lexically composite expression. Lexical items such as 'aujourd'hui', 'hier', and 'demain' in French and 'aaj', 'kal' and 'parson' in Hindi also express location in time. It is difficult to draw a precise line between lexical items and lexically composite expression as they are language specific. In

French, the lexically composite expressions /avɔtie:R/ "avant hier" (day before yesterday) or /apRe dɔmɛ/ "après demain" (day after tomorrow) are used to express a location in time, where the meaning of the expressions are derived from the meanings of 'avant' and 'après' as well as the meanings of 'hier' and 'demain'. In contrast the same situations in time for past and future are expressed in Hindi by a single lexical item /Pɔrsō/ a day before yesterday or a day after tomorrow.

Grammatical categories also express the situation in time. Every language has its own set of grammatical categories that express the situation in time. These categories are called tenses. French has tenses where as Hindi has tenses. Many traditional grammars do not differentiate between tense and aspect and consider them as a single grammatical category. However, one has to state that the difference between: / Sita gati hɛ/ (Sita sings); /Sita gati thi/ (Sita used to sing) is that of a tense while that between /Sita gati hɛ/ and /Sita ga rahi hɛ/ (Sita is singing) is not of tense but that of aspect.

In most languages that have tenses, they are indicated on the verb, either by the verb morphology as in French in which the present tense of verb "aimer" is /ɛm/ "aime" for first person singular whereas the future is
"aimerai" for first person singular or by grammatical expression adjacent to the verb as /hona/ with auxiliaries as in Hindi where the present tense is marked by the element /hæ/ 'hai' in /Usne ṣarab pi hæ/ (he has drunk alcohol) and the past represented by the element /tʰa/ 'tha' in /Usne ṣarab pi tʰi/ (he had drunk alcohol). In some languages tense marking or at least some tense markings take place in the position reserved for sentence particles. Thus, the tense is indicated as part of the auxiliary complex that stands in sentence II position. Traditional grammar regards tense as a category of verb on the basis of its morphological attachment to the verb, but more recently it has been argued that tense should be regarded as a category of the whole sentence or in logical terms of the whole proposition. Under the analysis, where tense is considered as a sentential category, the tendency for tense indicators to adhere to the verb has to be explained in terms of the verb being placed at the head of the sentence, where as under the analysis which considers tense as a category of the verb this adherence of the tense to the verb falls out.

Tense can probably be divided into two sub categories: absolute and relative. The term absolute tense is a traditional though somewhat misleading term. It is
used for referring to tenses which take the present moment as their deictic center. In principle the present moment is that which could be chosen as a reference point, although it does not play in the languages of the world a major role in the definition of the tense system. Given the present moment as deictic centre, the three basic tenses namely present, past and future can be located around it. Present tense is the coincidence of the situation in time and the present moment. Past tense means that the location of situation is prior to the present moment. Future tense means that the allocation of the situation is position to the present moment. Relative tense does not necessarily locate situations with reference to the present moment, but refers it in its contextual frame to some point of accepted time scale. What is required for relative tense is the identification of the reference point, the range of potential reference points being in principle all those compatible with the given context. Thus the present moment is always available as a reference point unless barred by the context.
3.1. PRESENT TENSE

Present tense is the location of a situation on the point in the time line which includes the present moment. It is rare for a situation to coincide exactly with the present moment.

1. There are sentences where the act described by the sentence is completed with the of uttering the sentence itself. This type of sentence is called a performative sentence (Austin, 1962):

1. /ajse ye kItab tUmhari hi hçı/ [today from this book yours only is] From today this book is yours only.

2. /3 tâôncet watyR/ [I you give this car] I give you this car.

2. The simultaneous reports of ongoing series of events are also a location of situations, concentrating on the present moment:

3. /gavâskar ne ek dÎwâsiy kriket meâpna sòtak pura ker liya hçı/ [Gavasker(c.m.) one day cricket in his century complete(pt.part.)is] Gavasker has completed his century in one day cricket.

4. /la parti sosîalist va gáne lamajoRîte dâ la sufrâge yniuRsel/ [The party socialist go win the majority in the election general] The socialist party is going to win the majority in general elections.
3. Present tense is characteristically used to refer to a situation which occupies a much longer period of time than the present moment and which includes the present moment within it. Here it is used to speak of states and processes which began before the present moment and any continued beyond it:

5. /lek hok kitab lik h raha he / [writer book write(prog.m.)is] Writer is writing a book.

6. /dilli des ke Uttar me basi he / [delhi country of north in situated is] Delhi is situated in the north of the country.

7. /ilecritis letR/ [he write (pr.) a letter] He writes a letter.

8. /pari saty punR dy fras/ [Paris itself situate at north of France] Paris is situated at north of France.

In these cases, the activity is situated in present moment but it is not restricted only to the present moment.

4. Present tense form is also used when the event is of a regular repetitive character conveying a habitual aspectual meaning. Here it does not conform clearly with the definition of present tense. There can be the
possibility of the activity not taking place at the present prescribed moment. But it does recur habitually:

9. /skul subəh dəs bəje kʰul te hə/ [schools morning ten o'clock open is] Schools open at ten o'clock in the morning.

10. /numazō a ŋz rɑː:R/ [we eat at eleven o'clock] We eat at eleven o'clock.

5. Present moment is just one moment among many at which the larger situation holds, hence the present tense has the implication of a progressive recurrence in time:

11. /mə əpəna sədʰɡənθ hɪkʰ rəha hɯ/ [I my thesis write (prog.m.) is] I am writing my thesis.

12. /ɛc̪ɾi Romɑ/ [I write a novel] I am writing a novel.

The above examples (11 and 12) do not specify grammatically whether the situation is punctual or extended but our knowledge of the world, in which writing of a thesis or a novel requires a considerable span of time, leads to the interpretation that the present moment is located within the larger situation of working on thesis or a novel.

The use of present tense for expressing progressive and habitual aspects lands the definition of
present tense into problems. However, Comrie says that habituality should in fact be expressed by means of a tense as it involves location of situation across a large slice of time rather than just at some single point. Comrie says:

"a more characteristic use of the present is in referring to situations which occupy a much longer period of time than the present moment, but which gone the less includes the present moment, within them".

He further says that the present tense is used to refer to the states and processes which "hold" at the present moment, but which began before and may well continue beyond the present moment. He does not find any use of modifying the definition of present tense of the above facts. The definition, however, remains "The present tense invariably locates a situation at the present moment".  

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7. Ibid. p. 38.
3.1.1. PRESENT TENSE IN HINDI

Dimshits in his Hindi Vyakarana published in 1983, classifies the present tense in Hindi into four sub-categories namely, simple present, present continuous, present probable and probable progressive present, of which only the simple and present progressive forms are absolute tenses. Kamta Prasad Guru in his Hindi Vyakarana classifies present tense into four sub-categories, namely simple present, probable present, doubtful present and present perfect of which doubtful present is classified by Dimshits as future tense. Kishori Das Vajpeyi on the other hand, says that inspite of its being closer to indicative it is the activity alone which remains doubtful. Hence, it is not the tense which is doubtful. So far as the possible present is concerned it seems to be the inflected verb form for the present in the subjunctive mood as it signifies doubt, possibility and hope. The other two tenses could be considered while discussing the present tense.

Kellogg, however, classifies present into present imperfect and present perfect alone and does not discuss the continuous form at all. This leads to contradictory viewpoints among the modern grammarians. Surajbhan Singh in
his *Hindi Ka Vakyatmak Vakarana* rounds up the discussion on tense and aspect in mere five pages and posits three combined forms of tense and aspects. Classifying present tense he points simple present (nitya vartaman) present continuous (satatya vartaman) and present perfect (purna vartaman). Similarly, Yammuna Kachru in *Hindi Ka Samsamayik Vyakarana* has hardly a paragraph to devote to the discussion on mood, tense and aspect. These linguists are basically involved in writing a transformational generative kind of grammar of Hindi which does not consider tense and aspect as having any serious implications on syntax. Even the grammarians writing grammars for pedagogical purposes have nothing much to offer (Cf. McGregor, 1972). However, there are linguists who have tried to work extensively on tense and aspect. Vaishna Narang in her *Communication of situation time in Hindi*, Vincenc Porizka in her articles *On the perfective verbal aspect in Hindi* (1967, 1968, 1969) have dealt with the tense and aspect in Hindi in great details. Vaishna Narang divides time into eighteen categories out of which nine are primary categories and another nine are secondary categories. As the emphasis of her work is on communicative grammar, these categories are called communicative categories. While the categories of tense and aspect were made on the basis of the tense and aspects available in the particular language, in earlier
phase of grammar writing the stress for their categorisation is on semantic distinction. As a result, one finds that modern grammarians posit categories that are universal in nature whereas the categorisation of earlier grammar was specifically based on the language that was being studied. The present research treats tenses as well as aspects from both the point of views. The present chapter, studies and classifies the verbal forms primarily on the basis of the traditional grammar.

3.1.1.1. SIMPLE PRESENT

Present tense in Hindi is expressed with the help of an auxiliary except in the case of verb /hona/ (to be) in its simple conjugation where it is inflected for tense, number and person (ex.13). The present tense in other verbs is formed with the help of the combination of present participle and the form of the auxiliary verb /hona/ (to be) marked for present tense (ex.14) or the root, the past particle of auxiliary verbs indicating aspects and the verb form of 'to be' inflected for the present tense (ex.15):

13. /Sri rajiv gadhē diṣ ke pradhaṇ mātri hē /  
[Mr. rajiv gandhi country of prime minister is]  
Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is the Prime Minister of the country.

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14. /mē gērmIō mē pəhar jata hū/
   [I summers in hills go (pr.part) is]
   I go to hills in summer.

15. /əb vohōmeša ke liye dIlli a gəya hē/
   [now he always for delhi come (asp. m.) is]
   Now He has come to Delhi forever.

Formation of present Tense in case of verb /hona/ (to be). The simple conjunction of Present Tense of the verb 'hona' (to be) is given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Person</td>
<td>mē hū</td>
<td>hēm hē</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second person</td>
<td>tu hē</td>
<td>ap hē</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third person</td>
<td>vo hē</td>
<td>ve hē</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The simple forms of present tense of the verb 'hona' signify (a) somebody's existence (ex.16), (b) to be present, at some place or with some people (ex.17) apart from being used as copula verb which relates two arguments and as a copula verb it signifies either an eternal truth or a quality of some body or something (ex.18-20):

16. /Is jēgəl mē bəhut se jānəvar hē/
   [this forest in many like animal is]
   There are many animals in this forest.
17. /\sah\r m\n b\hut se hot\l h\sInemag\r h\sor k\uc ^e se m\uh\l le h\s joh\a voh\a ki sari dol\t h\c /
[city in many like hotels are, cinemas are, and some such colonies are, where there of all wealth is]
There are many hotels, cinemas in the city and there are some such colonies where there is all the wealth of the city.

18. /\d\r\r\t\i gol h\c /
[earth round is]
The earth is round.

19. /\ro\n\r\t\i kali h\c /
[ink black is]
The ink is black.

20. /mohan m\Ur\n\r h\c /
[mohgan fool is]
Mohan is a fool.

Before we discuss other forms of present tense it would be worthwhile to state the complex form of verb 'hona' (to be) in the present tense. This form is used for expressing the probability or continuity of existence of a thing or a person or the iterativity of an activity.

21. /\dud\r m\e taq\t denewali s\b ci\r\e hoti h\c /
[milk in energy giving all things to be (pr. part.) are]
There are all elements that give energy in milk.

22. /\hr\r vs\r yoh\a mela hota h\c
Isme nac hote h\c gane hote h\c /
[every year here fare to be (pr. part.) is which in dance to be (pr. part.) are, songs to be (pr. part.) are]
Every year the fare takes place here in which there are songs and dances.
The complex form of 'hona' is also used to refer to the general nature of a person, thing or activity along with the regularity of an activity as the particular property of a person or a thing:

23. /वर्ती में लड़ा लिया होता है/  
[women in more enzy to be (pr. part.) is]  
Women are more envious.

24. /लोहा का रा होता है/  
[Iron strong to be (pr. part.) is]  
Iron is strong.

25. /हरे का काम करने का रोंगारणा  
तरीका होता है/  
[every one of work do of his his way to be (pr.part) is]  
Every one has his own way of doing things.

26. /ये बेबाक्सर बिमार होता है/  
[This child often ill to be (pr.part) is]  
This child often falls sick.

In the case of other verbs:

The simple present in Hindi is represented by a verb phrase that contains a main verb and an auxiliary verb /hona/ except in case of the verb /hona/ in the sense of 'to be'. The main verb is inflected for aspect, number, person and gender whereas the auxiliary verb for tense, number and person. The structure could be represented as:
Main Verb + Auxiliary

(A,N,P,G) (T,N,P)

The simple present is used to communicate an activity which is either continuing at or is related to the moment of utterance.

27. /əb mẽ Ilahabad mẽ kUC^h dIn or rUk sãkãta hũ/ [now I allahabad in some days more stay able is]
   Now I can stay for some more days in Allahabad.

It also refers to an activity which may not be directly related to the moment of utterance:

28. /yã hã ãksœr nilami hoti hę/ [here often auction happen is]
    Here auction takes place quite often.

Apart from these uses, it indicates an activity which is a permanent property of a thing or of a person, in a sense the action is iterative:

29. /pœnjab mel rat nœ bœje jati hę/ [Punjab mail night nine o'clock go (pr.part.) is]
    Punjab mail passes at nine o'clock at night.

Such kind of use is often found in descriptions. Apart from these other meanings expressed by this form are those of iterativity i.e. repetition of an action at
regular intervals and of its continuity:

30. /हर में लोग बसे में ही देखते हैं /
   [city in people buses in alone offices go (pr.part.) are]
   The people in city go to offices in buses only.

It also expresses those activities which are going to be completed in near future:

31. /अभी बताता हूँ कि मुझे क्या कहिये/ 
   [Wait now tell (pr.part.) is that to me what want] 
   Wait I tell you now what I want.

In order to rejuvenate the description of any past event, the use of such present is found frequently in literary texts and in story telling. It is for this reason that it is also termed as historical present:

32. /राम को देखते ही शुर्पनाक्हा उनपर मोहत हो जाती है / 
   [Ram (c.m.) seeing only ShurpnaKha on him attract (asp.m.) is] 
   Shurpnakha gets attracted towards Ram just after seeing him.

3.1.1.2 RECENT PAST OR PRESENT PERFECT

Another form of present tense is represented by the main verb in perfective aspect and auxiliary in present. Dimshits calls it recent past, others call it present
perfect. The verb phrase expressing this tense can be formally written in the following manner:

Main verb + Auxiliary verb

A; N, G: accord with the object of the verb i.e. NP₂
T; N, G 1 accord with the object of the verb i.e. NP₂

33. /mεne s'yam ko pestr likha hε/  
[I Shyam to letter write (pt. part.) is]
I have written a letter to Shyam.

34. /Usne mUhē kItabē di hε/  
[He to me books give (pt. part.) are]
He has given me the books.

This form expresses an activity which has been accomplished in the past but whose effect continues at the moment of utterance which means that the result of the activity is so much emphasised that the moment of its completion does not have much importance.

35. /sita ne 动工 bhai ko rakhi bheji hε/  
[Sita (c.m.) her brother to Rakhi send (pt. part.) is]
Sita has sent Rakhi to her brother.

36. /marks ne ek nāvin rajnitIk ēastr dIya hε/  
[marx (c.m.) one new political theory give (pt. part.) is]
Marx has given a new political theory.

The reference to time in this case is made with the help of time adverbs, or certain other lexical means as
in the above example the reference of Marx itself situates the activity. However, the form can be easily considered as present tense form as the activity as a concept continues at the moment of utterance at times. It could also express an activity which has yet not completed but which the speaker considers as already accomplished.

37. /Unse koh dena ki me Unaka Kam Kar cuka hnu or kai Unhe de jauga/
[them (pp) tell give that I their work do (ph. m.) am and tomorrow to them give will go]
Tell them that I have finished their work and would give it to them tomorrow.

However it is difficult to consider it as a tense form as it does not situate the activity in time. An activity that has taken place today or ten years ago, could be expressed by this form as it has an effect on the present. The activities are situated in time in the case of such construction with the help of other lexical items expressing time.

There are other forms also that are related to the present tense though all of them refer to different aspects of the situation. The forms are as follows:

M.V. + Auxiliary Verb + Auxiliary Verb
(Root) (A. N.G.) (T. N.P.)
The forms are of many kind:

1. Ḭẖ ṭḥ + ṭḥa + ḳẖ
2. Ḭẖ ṭḥ + Ḹy + ḳẖ
3. Ḭẖ ṭḥ + ṭẖa + ḳẖ
4. Ḭẖ ṭḥ + ṭẖ + ḳẖ

This form is considered to be a present progressive though it is not a tense form. It basically emphasises the progressive aspect. The only element which qualifies it to be a form of the present tense is the second auxiliary which is marked for present tense. It is also considered as present tense because of its contrast with the past progressive and progressive future constructions. It expresses an activity which is being continued at the moment of utterance or is not directly related to it but has certain implications or expresses an activity which continues to happen at the time of utterance. It also refers to an activity recently completed.

This train is coming from London.
40. /ajkəl təmətar nahi mIL rəhe hɛ/
[These days tomatoes not find (prog. m.) are]
These days tomatoes are not available.

41. /meri beţi skul mẽ pər hərhi hɛ/
[my daughter school in study (prog.m.) is]
My daughter is studying in the school.

It can also express near future:

42. /tUm cəlo, mẽ a rəha hũ/
[Your walk, I come (prog.m.) is]
You go, I am coming (in a minute).

It expresses the past continuous when a text is narrated in historical present:

43. /Itəne mẽ ləkrhare ne dekʰa KI raja ki səvari a rəhi hɛ/
[In the mean time wood cutter saw that king of procession come (prog.m.) is]
In the mean while woodcutter saw that king's procession is coming.

The other forms that express present tense are also aspectual though they are related with present tense due to the existence of present tense in second auxiliary verb. The patterns are given below. However, they will be discussed in the next chapter where we shall take up aspectual distinctions in details.

\[ \text{M.V.} + \text{Aux 1} + \text{Aux 2} \]
\[ (A,G,N) \quad (A,G,N) \quad (T,N,P) \]

a) /1Ikʰəta jata hɛ/
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<th>Aux 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>b)</td>
<td>/1Ikʰta</td>
<td>gəya</td>
<td>hə/</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c)</td>
<td>/1Ikʰa</td>
<td>kərta</td>
<td>hə/</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>d)</td>
<td>/1Ikʰ</td>
<td>1Iya</td>
<td>hə/</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M.V.</th>
<th>Root/</th>
<th>Aux 1</th>
<th>Aux 2</th>
<th>Aux 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/1Ikʰta</td>
<td>(A,G,N)</td>
<td>ja</td>
<td>rəha</td>
<td>hə/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/1Ikʰa</td>
<td>(A,G,N)</td>
<td>ja</td>
<td>cũka</td>
<td>hə/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/likʰ</td>
<td>(A,G,N)</td>
<td>1Iya</td>
<td>gəya</td>
<td>hə/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.1.2. PRESENT TENSE IN FRENCH

French has only one tense form which is called according to traditional grammars, 'le temps présent'. Though the "passe composé" can also be considered as an overlapping form which may express the situation that has its influence on the present at the moment of utterance.

Vendryes describes many other uses of the present tense itself. Describing the use of present tense form for expressing the future he looks back to the past and finds that:

"Plautus used the present to express an action which manifestly referred to the future when he said (captivis, 749): Peristis nisi Iam hunc abducitis. The hearer is not for a moment in doubt as to the time referred to in this sentence. Similarly, in French, we commonly say: "j'y vais" for "je vais y aller", "je m'apprete à y aller, "j'irai"8.

He then gives the example from Bérénice where Racin writes:

Peut-être avant la nuit l'heureuse Bérénice
Change le nom de reine au nom d'impératrice.

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Vendryes also attributes to the present tense form the characters of expressing the past. He writes:

"The past can also be expressed by the present. In narrative this frequently happens, and hence we have what is known as the historic present, in which literary people find a special charm....."

Present according to him is an elastic tense in French as well as in English. It lends itself to the expression of past and future and is applied vaguely to an action narrowly limited to the actual present, a habitual actor or an act which does not relate to any precise time:

44. /vwala lətRamwe ki pas/  
[There the tram that pass]  
The tram is passing. (Actual present)

45. /zi pas tu le dImä]/  
[I there pass all the sundays]  
I pass from there every sunday.  
(Habitual)

46. /lətRamwe pas dɔ sɛt Ry/  
[The tram pass in that street]  
The tram there every sunday. (Habitual)

Guillaume Gustave, a noted French linguist has done a remarkable work in the field of tense, aspect and moods. His theory has been dealt with in detail later. Guillaume while explaining the verb morphology for the temps in esse he describes two forms for the present tense of which

one is in "Aspect Tensif" and the other is in "Aspect Extensif". The forms that he posits in present tense are:

**Aspect Extensif**

47. /ila maR[e/  
[He has walked]  
He has walked.

**Present Extensif**

48. /ila dezapaRle/  
[He has already spoken]  
He has already spoken.

**Aspect Tensif**

49. /ʒɔ̃ maRʃ /  
[I walk]  
I walk.

**Present Tensif**

50. /il ʃɛtɔ əmɔmɔ/:  
[He sings at this moment]  
He is singing at this moment.

We shall discuss only these two forms and their use in French. Though there exists yet another form constructed with the help of lexical expressions /ɛtR ɛtRed/ "être entrain de" which is mainly used to express progressivity and not the tense.

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Besides these two forms in the indicative mood the present tense also exists in other moods such as imperative, subjunctive and conditional apart from having different verbal forms for infinitive and participle marked for present tense.

Apart from traditional grammars and the work of Guillaume, tenses have also been discussed by those working in the field of structural and transformational models. However, such works do not help contrastive studies such as this. The works of Dubois and Gross\textsuperscript{11} are based on structural and transformational models respectively.

We shall, however, restrict ourselves to the categorisation of tenses as given by traditional grammars.

3.1.2.1 SIMPLE PRESENT

The present tense in French is expressed by a verb conjugated for person and number. It can be structurally represented as:

\[
\text{MV} + \text{INF} + \text{T:pr. n.p.}
\]

In the strict sense, it indicates that the action, process or state takes place at the moment of utterance.

The moment of utterance can be moved to any point in the time representing the flow of time. At the same time it can be stretched in such a way that it could include a bit of past or future time. It is this flexibility of human perception of a moment which lends a few more uses to this tense form.

It can express, a habitual, permanent or iterative activity which is regarded as incomplete at the time of utterance:

53. / la teR tu:Rn / (La terre tourne) The earth rotates

54. / 3e mœ leva sizœ:R / (je me lève à six heures) I get up at six o'clock

55. /il ekRi de Romœ/ (Il écrit des romans) He writes novels
It also expresses situations that are just finished or are going to take place in near future.

56. /tonami ʧə ki:t alestã/  
(ton ami? je le quite à l'instant)  
Your friend, I just saw him off

57. /a momã, ʧaRiv/  
(un moment! j'arrive)  
A moment! I am coming.

3.1.2.2 PASSE COMPOSE

The tense form called "passé composé" is described by Grevisse as that which "expresses an activity accomplished at the moment of utterance and that which we consider related to the present".

This tense form structurally comprises of a main verb in its perfective aspect and an auxiliary verb in its present tense form. It is important to note that in this tense form, the auxiliary verb is generally "avoir" (to have) except for the verbs of motion and pronominal verbs where the auxiliary verb remains "être" (to be). Besides, the main verb is inflected for aspect, number and gender and the auxiliary verb is inflected for tense, number and person. The inflection for gender and number in main verb

depends upon the agentive noun phrase when the main verb is
a motion or pronominal verb elsewhere it depends upon the
noun phrase behaving as object only if it precedes the main
verb. The structure can formally be expressed in the
following manner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Auxiliary Verb</th>
<th>Main Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INF:T,n,p.</td>
<td>pt.part (A,n,g.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

["être": verb of motion
or pronominal verbs,
"avoir": elsewhere]

58. / ʒã-te ʒ̃-R/
    [J'ai chanté hier]
    I sang yesterday.

59. /ei se blese/
    [elle s'est blessé]
    She is hurt

60. /nu som zaRive a dizɑ:R/
    [Nous Sommes arrivés à 10 heures]
    We arrived at 10 o'clock

61. / ʒo lezɛdɔ ne/
    [Je les ai donnés]
    I have given them

62. / ʒekRI ɔ matɛ/
    (j'ai écrit ce matin)
    I have written this morning

63. /ʒasɥi van y puR vu diRkil nɔtRavaʃ pas/
    (je suis venu pour vous dire qu'il ne travaille pas)
    I have come to tell you that he is not working
3.2 PAST TENSE

Past tense locates a situation to the left of the time point in the scale referring to the present moment, which we have discussed during the discussion on present tense. Comrie defines past tense as "location in time prior to the present moment". The present tense does not specify whether the past situation occupies just a single point prior to the present moment or an extended time prior to it.

64. /Us somay jivan skul me parhata tha/ [that time jeevan school in study(pr.part)was] At that time, Jeevan used to study in school.

65. /suraj dha1 raha tha/ [sun set (prog.m.) was] The sun was setting.

66. /ilaqte a pari/ [He was at Paris] He was at Paris.

67. /napazysunUvel jyskame moma/ [We (neg.m.) have (neg.m.) had his news till this moment] We have not had his news till now.

It also locates the situation in the past without saying anything about whether that situation continues in the present or future, although there is often a conversational implicature that it does not continue beyond present.

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3.2.1. **PAST TENSE IN HINDI GRAMMARS**

Kamta Prasad Guru describes past tense as an activity that has taken place before the moment of speech or writing, he classifies past tense into six grammatical categories of which three are those of indicative: simple past, past perfect and recent past (or present perfect). The other three are the categories for other moods and of relative past tense.  

Kishori Dass Vajpeyi talks of three tense forms of past tense which correspond to the three forms for indicative mood in Guru. Kellogg, also has a similar classification: past imperfect, past perfect and indefinite perfect as categories in past tense apart from the recent past which he calls as 'present perfect'. Dymshits has a totally different categorisation in which he names seven past tenses of which two are relative tenses. Modern grammarians of Hindi have not made any new categorisations and they more or less depend on the earlier grammarians while they discuss tenses.


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On the basis of the definition of Past Tense as provided by Comrie and others we would first discuss all verb forms and verb phrases which indicate that they refer to those situations which are located in the past, i.e. to the left of the point of time on the timeline referring to the present moment. We would for the matter of convenience take the categorisation of past tense as shown by Dymshits and the verb phrases not discussed by him and others would be dealt with later.

3.2.1.1 PAST IMPERFECT

Construction of Past Imperfect in Hindi: The structure expressing past imperfect is made of the present participle of the main verb and the auxiliary verb /hona/ in its simple past tense. The main verb is inflected for gender, number and aspect whereas the auxiliary is inflected for gender, number and tense. Hence the structure could be represented as:

\[
\text{Main Verb} + \text{Auxiliary Verb} \\
(A,n,g) + (T,n,p) \\
\text{Where } A: \text{ Imperfect} \\
\text{T: Past}
\]

This tense is generally considered as imperfect even in the case of simple forms of the verb 'hona' in its existential meaning. The reason is that with the cessation of the existence, the verb "to be" also ceases to have a
functional basis and loses its sine que non as the active principal of existence:

68. /rāmeś subāh kāsārat kāra tā tʰa/  
   [Ramesh morning exercise do (pr.part) was]  
   Ramesh used to do exercise in the morning.

The past imperfect forms are used for referring to the situations in the past irrespective of their distance from the moment of utterance. They refer to those situations that occur at regular intervals in the past and are habitual, or the permanent property of a thing or a person, besides the iterative situations or those in the process of being accomplished:

69. / mahendra agra mē  [+haur se bahār rāhēta tʰa/  
   [mahendra agra in city from outside stay (pr.part) was]  
   Mahendra was staying outside the city in Agra.

70. / pūnīt motā kāṇhone pēr ciTʰ jata tʰa /  
   [Puneet fat saying on irritate go (pr.part) was]  
   Puneet used to get irritated on telling him fat.

71. / bāba nāga rāhēta thaṛ kēcca mās khata tʰa/  
   [old man naked live (pr.p) was and raw meat eat (pr.p) was ]
   The old man lived naked and eat raw meat.

72. / bōdāṛ kōbʰi uski gārdān pēr se ə var ho jata tʰa, kōbʰi nice Utēr kār nācāne lōgēta tʰa/  
   [monkey sometimes his neck on climb (root) (asp.m.) was, sometimes down descend do (root) dance (asp.m.) was]  
   The monkey used to climb on his neck sometimes and sometimes used to dance after getting down.

This tense is also used as the relative tense.
3.2.1.2. Past Continuous

The verb phrases expressing past continuous are constituted of the main verb in its root form followed by auxiliary /rēhōna/ (to remain) in its past participle form and the second auxiliary 'hona' inflected for past tense. The structure could be formally represented as:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{MV} & \quad \text{Aux 1} & \quad \text{Aux 2} \\
\text{Root} & \quad \text{prog.m.} & \quad \text{tense} \\
& \quad \text{pt.part}
\end{align*}
\]

The auxiliary verbs are inflected for the categories of number and gender also apart from getting inflected for aspect and tense respectively.

73. /parUmIta Un dInō nac si:k rēhi thi/ [Parumita those days dance learn(prog.m.)was] Those days Parumita was learning to dance.

74. /prānōy roj karyalōy a rēha tā/ [Pranoy everyday office come (prog. m.) was] Pranoy was coming to office everyday.

75. /pani bōrās rēha tā, bijēli kārēk rēhi thi ājib sa sēma tā/ [Water rain(prog.m.)was, light spark(prog.m.) was strange like atmosphere was] It was raining, there were lightening and it was quite strange atmosphere.

This form, considered as past progressive, is actually a form referring to the category of progressive aspect. It is discussed in this chapter for reasons of contrast between the tenses in Hindi and French. Moreover, it cannot be declared as a form of aspectual category alone.
because it also contains the category of tense marked by the second auxiliary verb. Further discussion on this tense form will be taken up later, when the contrast between Hindi and French is dealt with. It is also used for situations seen as progressing at any moment in the past. It is also used as a relative tense. An example is given here below:

76. /bɔzɑːɾ me kʰuko log saman kʰeɾid rɑhe tʰe di kʰuko log cizɛ bec rɑhe tʰe/ [market in some people things buy (prog. m.) were and some people things sell (prog. m.) were] Some were buying and others were selling things in the market.

3.2.1.3. PROBABLE PAST PROGRESSIVE

This tense is structurally constituted with the main verb in its root form along with first auxiliary /ɾə ho na/ in its perfect aspectual form, second auxiliary /hona/ in its imperfect aspectual form and the third auxiliary /hona/ marked for the category of past tense. It could be formally represented as:

\[
\text{MV} + \text{Aux 1} + \text{Aux 2} + \text{Aux 3} \\
\text{Root} \quad \text{prog.m.} \quad \text{impf.m.} \quad \text{tense} \\
\text{pt.part} \quad \text{pr.part}
\]

The first two auxiliary are marked for aspects and the third for tense. All three auxiliaries are also inflected for the categories of number and gender.
This tense form works as absolute past; it refers to such habitual activities as are iterative or are considered permanent feature of a thing or a person at definite points in past:

77. /Uska h\textsuperscript{h}ai S\textsuperscript{u}b\textsuperscript{h}eh ut\textsuperscript{h}k\textsuperscript{a}r s\textsuperscript{g}r k\textsuperscript{a}rne ja r\textsuperscript{e}h\textsuperscript{a} hota t"a/
[His brother morning get up walk (cont.m.) (prog. m.) (hab. m.) was]
His brother used to be going to walk after getting up.

78. /k\textsuperscript{h}\textsuperscript{e}b\textsuperscript{h}i n\textsuperscript{i}l\textsuperscript{h} d\textsuperscript{h}\textsuperscript{ot}i me U\textsuperscript{h}e\textsuperscript{h}ra b\textsuperscript{e}d\textsuperscript{h}\textsuperscript{e}n h\textsuperscript{h}\textsuperscript{i}p\textsuperscript{e}t\textsuperscript{h}i, p\textsuperscript{e}\textsuperscript{h}\textsuperscript{p}\textsuperscript{e}n\textsuperscript{i} k\textsuperscript{e}t\textsuperscript{h}\textsuperscript{\textsuperscript{e}r}i ki or a r\textsuperscript{\textsuperscript{e}h}i h\textsuperscript{\textsuperscript{t}}\textsuperscript{\textsuperscript{\textsuperscript{i}}}\textsuperscript{t}i/
[Sometimes blue dhoti in naked body hide (pr.part) her chamber towards come (prog. m.) (hab. m.) was]
Sometimes she used to be coming towards her chamber hiding her naked parts of her body with blue dhoti.

3.2.1.4 SIMPLE PAST

This tense form is constituted of the perfect aspectual form of the main verb alone. The only major characteristic of this tense form is that it appears in a sentence in which the first noun phrase (the one performing the agentive function) is in its oblique form, except in case where the main verb is an intransitive verb in its perfect form, and inflected for number and gender in concordance with the subject of the sentence, where as the transitive verbs in their perfect forms are inflected for the number and gender of the object of the sentence.
This tense form is used for referring those situations in the past which are shown having been accomplished in the past but not referring to any specific point in time. In this sense it is a form having pure perfective aspect and does not have any tense marker. But it has to be discussed here for reasons of contrast as its equivalent in French is a marker for both i.e. the tense and the aspect.

It can also refer to situations which are going to be accomplished in the near future:

81. /ṭōhrō mābhi aya /
[Wait I now come (pt. part)]
Wait I am coming in a moment.

Past perfect is also used, apart from these uses, to describe two or more than two simultaneous or ordered events, which at times may have universal and eternal
meaning as in the case of idioms:

82. /asman se gira, kʰəjur mेँतूँka/  
[Sky from fall (pt.part), pine in entangle (pt.part)]  
Fallen from sky to get entangled in pine.

83. /jo soya so kोया/  
[who sleep (pt.part) he lose (pt.part)]  
He who sleeps would lose.

It is also used in conditional sentences where it behaves like a relative tense.

3.2.1.5. RECENT PAST OR PRESENT PERFECT

This tense form has been discussed under present tense also. It is now discussed again for the purpose of contrast as certain forms in French equivalent to this form in Hindi refer to the category of past tense instead of present. It is structurally made up of a main verb in its perfect aspect and the auxiliary verb in its present tense. Formally one could represent it in the following manner:

Main Verb + Auxiliary Verb  
(A,n,ε) + (T,n,p)

84. /mεँne cay pi hε/  
[ i (c.m.) tea drink (pt. part) is]  
I have drunk tea.

85. /brajेठ ka saman lɵd cUKa hε/  
[Brajesh of things load (comp. m.) is]  
The things of Brajesh are loaded.

This form shall be discussed while the contrast between French and Hindi shall be taken later.
3.2.1.6. PAST PERFECT

Past Perfect tense forms are made up of the main verb in its perfective aspect and the auxiliary verb /hona/ in its past tense form. It could be formally stated as:

Main verb + Auxiliary verb
(A,n,g) + (T,n,p)

86. /Is bat se jivan ko bahut dukh hu a t a /
   [this thing from jeevan to very pain happen (pt.part) was]
   Jeevan was very much hurt by this thing.

87. /Subahe Dinesh duk kan par pehuch gaya t a/
   [morning Dinesh shop on reach (comp. m.) was]
   Dinesh had reached the shop in the morning.

It locates a situation at a distance further to the left of the moment of speech. But it can generally be considered as a relative tense:

88. /Mujhe bad mene malum hua ki use kailij se nikala gaya t a/
   [i later in know (pt.part) that he college from throw (pt.part) (asp. m.) was]
   I came to know later that he was thrown away from college.

89. /Sen 1917 mene rus mene semajvadi kratin hui thi/
   [year 1917 in russia in socialist revolution happen (pt.part) was]
   The Socialist Revolution took place in Russia in the year 1917.
Almost all major grammarians divided the category of past tense into five categories in the indicative mood. However, the categories of "passe simple" and "passe anterieur" are more or less the same as 'passe compose' and 'plus-que-parfait'. The only difference between them is that the earlier two forms are generally used in written texts whereas the later two are part of the spoken language, though the later ones are used these days in written French also. The "passe simple" and "passe anterieur" signify historic past. The fifth form is called "imparfait" which can be roughly equated with the past progressive of English. In this "imparfait" is more or less a form which lays emphasis on the imperfective aspect of a situation that is in past.

3.2.2.1 PAST SIMPLE (PASSÉ SIMPLE)

'Passé simple' in French verb phrase is marked by the conjugation of main verb itself. It is to say that the main verb is in inflected for the tense, number and person.

The formal structure is as follows:

\[ \text{MV} + \text{INF} + \text{INF} \]
\[ T:ps \, n.p. \]
90. /il ʃta aloR yn Romæs/
   [He sang then a romance]
   He then sang a romance.

91. /la bɔwatʃø aʃta de ʃosaR nev e jøta
   nikola e tina də la bɔwat oRdyR/
   [La boîteuse achète des chaussures neufs et
    jète Nicolas et tina dans la boîte à ordures]—Gripari Pierre.

The Passé simple is the tense which situates an activity in past in relation to the present moment. This tense form is generally used for historical description and in literature eg. Novel, Short Stories etc. These days "passé composé" is used in oral expression for locating a situation in past in the place of passe simple. Passé simple is used specifically in the written expression that too vary rarely. This tense form can be used for any activity which is situated in past whether it is punctual, iterative or habitual.

3.2.2.2. PASSÉ COMPOSÉ

This tense form structurally comprises of a main verb in its perfective aspect and an auxiliary verb in its present tense form. It is important to note that in this tense form, the auxiliary verb is "avoir" (to have) in general except for the verb of motion and pronominal verbs
where the auxiliary verbs remains "être" (to be). Besides, the main verb is inflected for aspect, number and gender and the auxiliary verb is inflected for tense, number and person. The inflection for gender and number in the main verb depends upon the agentive noun phrase when the main verb is a motion or pronominal verb. Elsewhere it depends upon the noun phrase behaving as object only if it precedes the main verb. The struture can formally be expressed in the following manner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Auxiliary Verb</th>
<th>Main Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INF:T,n,p.</td>
<td>pt.part (A,n,g.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

["être": verb of motion or pronominal verbs, "avoir": elsewhere]

[agrees with NP1, for verbs taking "être" as auxiliary and agrees with NP2 when it precedes verb and for the verbs taken "avoir" as auxiliary]

92. /3e sa:te fe:R/  
[J'ai chanti hier]  
I sang yesterday.

93. /el se blese/  
[elle s'est blessé]  
She is hurt

94. /nu sma:Rive a diz:R/  
[Nous Sommes arrivés à 10 heures]  
We arrived at 10 o'clock

95. /3e lez:nd ne/  
[Je les ai donné]  
I have given them

Passé composé is used to refer to an activity that has been accomplished in past with reference to the present
moment. It is also used to refer to situations located in present time, if the present is seen as a duration stretched over a given period as a day, a month or a year which is continuing at the moment of speech. Many times this form also refers to the perfectual aspect of a situation where the tense, though marked, is not significant from the point of view of meaning.

3.2.2.3. IMPARFAIT

This tense form is structurally constituted as the main verb inflected for the tense aspect, number and person. Though this verb form is considered as a category of past tense, it actually refers to the aspektual categories of iterativity, continuity and habituality in the past. The major difference between present and past tense of French is
that the present tense has only one form that expresses all aspectual differences, the past tense has at least three major forms to do so. Besides, there is a verbal expression which also expresses progressive meaning. This will be discussed in detail in the chapter concerning aspect. Here, this form is dealt with in its use as principally referring to the location of the situation in the past.

100. /le swaR tšbe/  
[le soir tombait]  
The evening fell

101. /il ñtškaʒøsyi AtRe dala mjəzø/  
[Il chantait quand je suis entré dans la maison]  
He was singing when I entered the house.

The verb forms for 'imparfait' are used for permanent or habitual activity in the past: an immediate future or a recent past in relation to a definite moment in past; an activity which is an immediate consequence of another activity in the past; an activity which is situated at a given moment in the past; an activity situated in the present which one wishes to reject as an activity of past:

102. /le sitwaI Rom dzde dzkə meRsv/  
[Les citoyens romains dédaignaient le commerce]  
The Romans hated commerce.

103. /l eRø mənʒəsezəR/  
[Le héron mangeait à ses heures]  
The Heron ate at their time.
104. /ɔpRikuRaz dãdɔzɔ:RdyrãfɔR aRive/
   [Je pris courage, dans deux heures du renfort arrivait]
I gathered courage and the help arrived in two hours.

105. /nu sɔRtIO apɔn kɔnɔRaz ɛklata/
   [Nous sortions a peine qu'un orage éclata]
We had just left that the thunder brusted.

106. /œ pa deply ɔtɔmbɔdã ɔpRezipis/
   [Un pas de plus, je tombais dans le précipice]
One step more and I had fallen in the ditch.

107. /avɛsɔk ɔ rasin ñntRç dãla glwaR/
   [À vingt-cinq an, Racine entrait dans la gloire]
At 25 years Racine became famous.

108. /ɔpRezate ma not/
   [Je venais présenter ma note]
I have just submitted my notes.

### 3.2.2.4. PASSÉ ANTÉRIEUR

The tense form called Passé Antérieur is similar to that of passé composé in its structure though its use is similar to that of plus-que-parfait. This tense form is structurally made up of the main verb in its perfectual aspect form and the auxiliary in its passé simple conjugation. The main verb agrees for number and gender with agentive noun phrase if it is a verb of motion or a pronominal verb and agrees with the object noun phrase in other cases.
It is used as relative tense which locates a situation in the past in relation to another situation in the past. It is also used, at times to describe an action that has taken place suddenly or rapidly. In such cases it occurs in the principal clause itself.

109. — /kātil ḳtekrī il sōrtī/
[Quand il eût écrit, il sortit]
When he had written he left.

110. /lūtā apṛe kīlytekrī il sōrtī/
[Longtemps après qu'il eût écrit il sortit]
Long time after he had written, he left.

This tense form is now-a-days used only in written expressions, as the situation described by this tense form is described by plus-que-parfait in oral expressions as well as written expressions. In this sense it is used solely in literary works or for describing a historical situation.

3.2.2.5. PLUS-QUE-PARFAIT

Plus-que-parfait is constituted with the help of the main verb in its perfective aspectual form and the auxiliary verb in its imperfect aspectual form (i.e. tense form for imparfait). It can be structurally formalised as given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Auxiliary</th>
<th>Main Verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INF:T,A,n,p.</td>
<td>A,n.g.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The gender agreement of plus-que-parfait is similar to that of passé compose.

It describes a situation in the past in relation to another situation in the past, in the sense that the situation described by plus-que-parfait is further left to the moment of speech and has no repercussion on the moment of utterance or the period considered as present time. It does not state the commencement of the activity though the termination point is clearly stated.

111. /ʒave paʁle avɛk 1Ui avɑ̃tiε:ʁ/
[J'avais parlé avec lui avant hier]
I had talked with him a day before yesterday.

112. /mɔsio ʁesã etɛtaʁ aʁɛs uil avɛtaʃte bɔfysɪ/
[M. Vincent était allé à Reims où il avait acheté un bon fusil]
Mister Vencent had gone to Reims where he had purchased a good gun.

113. /ʒɛtɛvɔ̃νvυ prɛzɛ̃te ma nɔtɛ/
[J'étais venu vous présenter ma note]
I had come to give you my notes.

114. /kaʁti avɛ dezɛ̃e il sɔʁte̯/
[Quand il avait déjeuné, il sortait]
When he used to have taken his lunch, he used to leave.
3.3 FUTURE TENSE

Future tense locates a situation in time that is subsequent to the present moment i.e. it represents a point in time to the right of the present moment on the diagram of the time line (see Comrie 1985). However there exists a controversy about the concept of future tense in general linguistic theory as well as in the analysis of individual languages. Some linguists and grammarians felt that the future tense as proposed in time line diagram is presented as essentially the same as the past tense. Comrie states that future is clearly different from past as the past subsumes what may already have taken place whereas the future is necessarily more speculative. It means that "past is more definite than future". He asserts that the so called future tense in English is clearly distinct from the modal constructions. According to Comrie it will rain tomorrow is a very definite statement about the state of affairs holding good at a certain time subsequent to the present. The truth about the statement can be only tested at a future time, where in contrast it may rain tomorrow is simply a claim about a possible world in which there is rain tomorrow.

Another observation regarding the controversy is that many languages have a clear grammatical distinction

between past and non-past. The non-past subsumes the present and the future time reference. However they do not have a clear distinction between future and non-future i.e. future and present. German and Finnish, for example, use the present tense verb form to refer to future time reference though they have a specific construction exclusively for it.

Hindi and French, also behave a bit similarly as they also have a clearly distinct grammatical construction to refer to future time references. The only difference is that Hindi has more verb forms for expressing future time in the indicative mood but has four verb forms to refer to future.

Views similar to those of Comrie in relation to the notion of future tense, have also been expressed by the French linguist who has extensively worked in the field of tense and aspect. Guillaume says:

"The first thing to consider in the theory of future is that it is about a period made up of a time that has not yet really existed and that we think, we suppose with such a particularity, that all the efforts of thought are geared to think it as least possible, or in other words to realise it to the maximum in such a way that it is symmetrically equivalent to the past."

19. "La première chose à considérer dans la théorie du futur, c'est qu'il s'agit d'une époque faite de temps qui n'a pas encore existé réellement et que, par suite, on imagine, on suppose, avec cette particularité que tout l'effort de la pensée s'emploie à le supposer le moins possible, autrement dit à le réaliser au maximum, de manière à en faire l'équivalent symétrique du passé". Guillaume (1968). p.54.
3.3.1 FUTURE TENSE IN HINDI

Hindi has more than one form of future tense because the verb forms in Hindi do not exclusively express time but they also combine the aspectual meaning with time. Different Grammarians classify future tense in different ways. Dymshits points four verb forms for future time reference in the indicative mood. Kamta Prasad Guru only describes two forms of future tenses. Pt Kishoridas Vajpeyi discusses all forms related to future time in future tense and does not distinguish between moods. He says all moods express a certain situation that is pointing towards future time and hence the forms that essentially express future. However, it is a unique fact that Hindi has a symmetrical extension of the aspect based tenses from past to non-past.

3.3.1.1. First Future

The tense form here is constructed by adding a tense suffix to the root of the verb. The tense marker in this verbal form is also marked for number, gender and person.

115. /mohan sita ko pət'r lIkʰega/
[mohan sita to letter write (fut.)]
Mohan will write a letter to Sita.

------------------------
116. /krIpaškær ke döst banaras jažge/  
[kripashanker of friends banaras go(fut.)]  
Kripashanker's friends will go to Banaras.

117. /më köl am kʰaʊga/  
[I tomorrow mango eat (fut.)]  
Tomorrow I will eat a mango.

The structure could be formally expressed as follows:

\[
\text{Root} + \tilde{u}g + a
\]
\[
\begin{aligned}
\tilde{e}g & \quad e \\
\tilde{e}g & \quad e \\
gg & \\
\end{aligned}
\]
\[
(T,p,n) \quad (g,p \text{ markers}) \quad \text{marker}
\]

It is used to indicate a perfect or imperfect activity, a possible or universal activity. The examples of such uses are:

118. /köl sUbæh më tUmhari prətikša karũga/  
[Tomorrow morning I your wait do (fut.)]  
I will wait for you tomorrow morning.

119. /hæm log yɔha se do car dIn bad cəležge/  
[We people here from two-four days after start (fut.)]  
We will start from here after two or four days.

120. /japani kar ko hi tUm əccʰi kar kəhoge/  
[japanese car to (emp. m.) you good car say (fut.)]  
You will only call Japanese car as a good car.
121. /jo jagega so pavega/
   [Who remain awake (fut.), get (fut.)]
   One who will remain awake; will get get things.

   This tense form of verb/hona/(to be) is used to indicate a situation in future from the moment of utterance, in order to show approximation, possibility, uncertainty etc.:

122. /kəl həm baitʰək məhəге/
   [tomorrow we meeting in be (fut.)]
   Tomorrow we will be in the meeting.

123. /Uski Umər bis sal ki hogī/
   [his age twenty years of be (fut.)]
   His age would be twenty years.

3.3.1.2. SECOND FUTURE TENSE

The second future tense forms in Hindi are constructed with the present participle of the main verb and an auxiliary verb conjugated for Future. The tense could be structurally represented as:

   Main verb (pr. part.) + Auxiliary Verb (INF:T,n,g,p.)

   It refers to the real imperfect and future activities on one hand and the real but anticipated activities on the other:

124. /mətdata vəhi hoga jo dILLI mə rəhəta hoga/
   [voter he (emp.m.) would be who Delhi in living be (fut.)]
   He alone would be a voter who would be living in Delhi

115
3.3.1.3 THIRD FUTURE TENSE

The Third Future Tense in Hindi structurally contains the main verb in its perfect participle form and an auxiliary verb in future tense conjugation. It is formally expressed in the following manner:

Main Verb (perf. m.) Auxiliary
INF:T,n,g,p

126. /relgaṇi ṃha dās bāje prabhūci hōgi/
[Train there ten o'clock reached be (fut.)]
The train would have reached there at ten o'clock

127. /mera dōst mēre ḍār aya hōga/
[My friend my house come be (fut.)]
My friend would have come to my house

In this tense as in its equivalent tense in the past, the number, gender and person agreement depends upon the nature of the verb. If the verb is intransitive, then the number, gender and person agreement is with the subject of the verb. If the verb is transitive, then the agreement is with the object of the verb. The fact can be formally described as:

\[ NP_1 + NP_2 + VP \]
\[ VP \rightarrow V \rightarrow A, \ngp NP_1 \rightarrow T, \ngp NP_1 \]
The examples of this tense involving transitive verbs are:

128. /gyan ne pətr likʰ a hoga/
    [Gyan (c.m.) letter written be (fut.)]
    Gyan would have written the letter

129. /Usne seb kʰ aya hoga/
    [He apple eaten be (fut.)]
    He would have eaten the apple

This tense form is used for expressing the real and perfect situations of future or when such situations take place before any other situation in future.

130. /neyi ṭvsvrṣiy yojona samapt hone tōk sat hāzār ekṛ se ṭdʰIk b'umi mē peṛ ṭlog cUke hōge/
    [New five year plan ends up till seven thousand acre than more land in trees planted be (fut.)]
    By the time the new five year plans is over, in more than Seven thousand acres of land, the trees would have been planted

131. /pərsō tōk ek kərōr ke ṭlogbʰēg deśvasi snan kōr cUke hōge/
    [Day after tomorrow upto one crore of around countrymen bath take (ph. m.) be (fut.)]
    By day after tomorrow around a crore of countrymen would have taken bath in the river.

132. /jēb ve varpas lotēge to jāṛa bʰi adʰa bi:t cUka hoga/
    [When they back return be (fut.) then here winter also half elapse (ph. m.) be (fut.)]
    When they would return the winter would have almost elapsed
3.3.1.4. PROGRESSIVE FUTURE

The structure of this tense form involves a main verb in its root and two auxiliary verbs. It can be formally described as:

Main Verb + Aux1 + Aux2
root               prog.m.          tense

133. /mohan घर जा रहा होगा/
     [mohan house go (prog. m.)be (fut.)]
     Mohan will be going to his home.

134. /पिताजी रेडियो सुन रहे होगे/
     [Father radio listen (prog.m.)be(fut.)]
     Father will be listening to the radio

135. /गर्ल्स स्कूल से आ रही होगी/ 
     [girls school from come(prog.m.)be(fut.)]
     girls will be coming from the school.

This tense is used for expressing an activity that would happen in future and would continue to happen for a definite period of time or an activity that is anticipated as progressive in future or immediate present.

136. /होरे दिनो बाद तुम्हें तुम्हारी सहेलीया बताईया दे रही होगी/
     [Some days after you to your friends greetings give (prog. m.) be (fut.)]
     After some days, your friends will be greeting you.
137. /əb vo siri cər kər upər a rəhi hogi/
[Now she stairs climb do up come(prog.m.) be (fut.)]
Now she will be coming up the stairs.

138. /kya kər rəhi hogi Is səməy meri bəhUt pyari lakhi/
[what do (prog. m.) be (fut.) this time my very beloved Lakhi]
What my beloved Lakhi would be doing at this moment.
3.3.2 FUTURE TENSE IN FRENCH

French also has four future tense forms like Hindi. They are called future simple, future antérieur, future du passé and future antérieur du passé. But unlike Hindi, it does not have separate forms to differentiate aspectuality of the action, state or process.

3.3.2.1 FUTURE SIMPLE

The Future simple in French is a conjugated verb form which contains the verb infinitive form and the suffixes. The suffix is marked for number and person. The verb form is not marked for gender. The tense form can be represented in following manner.

Main verb + INF
inf. T, n, p.

ai ----> /ɛ/  
as ----> /a/  
a ----> /a/  
on(s) ----> /ɔ/  
ez ----> /e/  
ont ----> /ɔ/  

The simple future tense expresses a situation in the future as Grevisse puts it, "The simple future serves in general to express an event that has to come"\(^{21}\).
It can also be used to indicate a situation in the present as a situation that would take place later as expressive of politeness.

It also expresses a situation of the present considered as a probability. In such case, it is placed in the future, in thought, at a moment where the opinion about the event could be verified:

21. "Le future simple sert en général à exprimer un fait à venir" Grevisse (1969) p.188.
Our friend is absent, he still would be having migrain.

An event situated in present can be expressed by this tense form when the event is considered to prolong in future. It also expresses an order, a desire, a prayer, in which one wants to reinforce the imperative character:

144. (Vous reviendrez demain)
You will come back tomorrow

145. (Tu ne le fera plus, n'est-ce pas)
You would not do it again, isn't it.

Sometimes a past event is also expressed by this tense form when the narrator situates it posterior to a present situation which he considers as an event of past:

146. (L'ancien maître de chapelle retourna souvent aux assemblées de Madam Recamier, il y verra un soir, le général Morean ...)
The old master of the palace often came to the meetings of madam Recamier, one evening he found there the general Morean.
3.3.2.2 FUTURE ANTERIEUR

This tense form is a composite tense and it contains the main verb in its perfect participle and the auxiliary in the future simple conjugation. Formally it could be represented as:

\[
\text{Auxiliary Verb} + \text{Main Verb} \\
\text{INF:T,n,p.} \quad \text{pt.part}
\]

It is used to express an event situated in the future which is anterior to another event situated in the future.

147. /vu Rəkolt Rə sakəvuzəRə səme/ 
    (vous recolterez ce que vous aurez semé) 
    You would reap whatever you would have sown.

This tense form also expresses an event situated in the past which one imagines to be in the future in relation to another event posterior to it. It indicates, in such cases, a supposition or has other nuances:

148. /ʒəRə lese me ləynet osələ ale məleʃəʃə/ 
    (Jaurai laissée mes lunettes au Salon, 
    allez me les chercher) 
    I would have left my spectacles in the drawing room, go and get them for me.
3.3.2.3. FUTURE DU PASSÉ

This tense form consists of a verb in its root form and a suffix marked for tense. Formally it can be written as:

Main Verb + INF + INF

It expresses an event situated in the future in relation to a moment of the past:

150. /il deklaRa kil vIËdRé/
(Il déclara qu'il viendrait)
He declared that he would come.

3.3.2.4. FUTURE ANTÉRIEUR DU PASSÉ

The Future antérieur du passé is constructed with the main verb and the auxiliary. The main verb is marked for the perfective aspect and the auxiliary for the tense, number and person. The structure could formally expressed as:

Auxiliary + Main Verb
INF:T,n,p. pt. part
It expresses an event situated in past which occurs posterior to an event in the past and anterior to another event situated in the future:

151. /il deklaRa kil vi̍dR̄ǩťo ľR̄ appeľ/ (Il declara qu'il viendrait quand on l'aurait appelé) He declared that he would come when we would have called him.
3.4 CONTRAST OF TENSES IN FRENCH AND HINDI

French is predominantly a tense oriented language and thus verb forms rigidly mark only the grammatical category of tense. Hindi has a wide range of verb phrases constructed with the help of auxiliary verbs which indicate several combinations of aspect and phase. The tense in Hindi is also marked with the help of auxiliary verbs (cf. Rajgopalan; S.G. Singh; Vaishna Narang; etc.). Consequently for phrases indicating present tense in French we have a large number of combination of verb forms existing in Hindi. French verb phrases, therefore, express various aspectual and phasal meanings, not indicated by grammatical markers but based on the context in which the sentence appears. While this is true even in case of sentences in Hindi, the vast store of verb phrase constructions convey the aspectual and phasal meanings in the sentences as they are marked by the grammatical form. Adverbs in French can at times be taken as equivalent to an element of the Hindi verb phrase.

The contrast in tense system of French and Hindi can be elaborated separately.

CONTRAST OF PRESENT TENSE

Present Tense in French has only two forms namely présent simple and passé composé. Hindi, on the other hand, has many more forms of which many do not have any
classification in grammar. In fact, different grammarians have adopted different categorisation of the present tense. They have been already described in 3.1. However, most of the constructions used in Hindi and contrasted with the French, can be appropriately translated into the present tense forms in French. Certain adverbs of time and manner are grammatical constructions like être entrain de and finir de etc. are used for expressing the aspectual or phasal significances.

The present tense in Hindi is marked by an auxiliary verb 'hona' conjugated or inflected for the person and number and tense. All other verbs appearing as auxiliary are only indicative of the aspectual or phasal significances. The main verb is inflected for aspect, number and gender and does not have any morphological representation that could be related to tense.

The French verb phrase in contrast contains the main verb and the auxiliary verb is basically marked for tense, number and person and in a few cases for gender. The aspectual and phasal meanings, if at all considered to be represented by verbs, could only be explained by the presence of zero inflection or a zero morph. In fact, these significances are drawn in French from the context, the
semantics of the verb, the presence of adverbs or the presence of lexical expressions like être en train de or finir/ faire qqch etc.

The above discussion can be aptly explained by a set of examples and their structural composition itself:

/mə sev kʰata hū/  
MV + Aux  
je mange du pomme  
MV + INF

/mə sev kʰa rəha hū/  
MV + AUX + AUX  
je suis entrain de manger  
LE +INF + MV

/məne sev kʰaya hə/  
MV + AUX  
j'ai mangé du pomme  
AUX + MV + INF

/mə sev kʰata rəhəta hū/  
MV + AUX + AUX  
je mange du pomme de temps en temps  
MV + INF + AE (Ad.)

/mə sev rəha hota hū/  
MV + AUX + AUX + AUX  
je mange du pomme quand ....  
MV + INF + sub.cl.

The sentence in the simple present tense form in Hindi itself has multiple meanings depending upon its use in a particular communicative situation. All possible significances, however, have to be translated into one single form in French i.e. the present simple form. The different significances are to be brought out with the help of adverbs of time or manner on the basis of a larger
communicative competence.

A simple present tense form of French, on the other hand, gets translated into many different structures in Hindi depending on the communicative competence of the translator.

CONTRAST IN PAST TENSE

Hindi has six classified past tense forms (cf. Guru; डौमशिट्स; Vajpeyi; etc.), and many more that need to be classified, whereas French has classified past tense in five categories (cf. Grevisse; Guillaume; Galimash; etc.) of which two are used principally in the written language and particularly in literary narrations. These two forms are passé simple and passé antérieur. They are replaced in spoken language, and in modern written language, by passé composé and plus-que-parfait. Hence it may be said that French actually has only three verb forms that express various shades of past tense and different significances of its aspects. (see annexure).

The contrast of tense, aspect and mood is best explained when we examine past tense in French and Hindi in indicative mood i.e. the past tense form of a verb marked as
imparfait alone expresses the meanings signified by the three classified past tenses in Hindi and many other unmarked/unclassified forms (see annexure).

Similarly the passé composé form of a verb is an equivalent of three classified and many unclassified verb forms in Hindi. The consideration is that French expresses the aspeectual significances with the help of verbal expressions or adverbs. Such significances are also dependent upon the lexical semantics of particular verbs. Hindi, being an aspect and phase oriented language, has many verb forms which are marked for past tense in terms of the auxiliary 'hona'. The rest of the verb group indicates aspect or phase.

The form classified in French as plus-que-parfait again has atleast three equivalent forms in Hindi categorised as past perfect, past perfect marked for completive phase and past perfect marked for perfective aspect.

CONTRAST IN FUTURE TENSE

The future tense form in Hindi is classified differently by different grammarians. If Guru posits two
categories then Dymshits enumerates four tenses for future in Hindi. On the other hand, almost all grammarians of French language classify future tense into four categories. The future tense in Hindi can be categorised as first future, second future, third future and progressive future. French has different forms classified as future simple, future antérieur, future du passé and future antérieur du passé.

The future du passé and the future simple of French have their equivalents as First Future in Hindi. The future simple of French and the First Future of Hindi are the exact equivalents of each other, while the future du passé is expressed in Hindi by the presence of the past tense in the principal clause. It is necessary to note that such a meaning occurs only in a complex sentence and cannot possibly be expressed otherwise. Future antérieur expresses a meaning which is closer to conditional though the "if... then" construction is not used in such forms. However, this tense form is marked by the presence of the auxiliary inflected for future tense, number and person. In Hindi, its meaning is arrived at by the semantic qualities of both the verbs i.e. a cause and effect relationship is discovered with the help of semantic features of the verb. The future antérieur du passé is expressed in sentences having three
clauses of which the principal clause is in the past and the other are in future. This tense has a one to one correspondence with a similar construction in Hindi.

To sum up, various verb forms of Hindi converge towards a single verb form of French and a verb form in French diverges into many verb forms in Hindi and a one to one correspondence is rarely encountered. The divergence of forms in Hindi is primarily due to the existence of numerous combinations of verb forms/phrases expressing aspectual and phasal significances.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form in Hindi</th>
<th>Surfaces Structure in Hindi</th>
<th>French Equivalent</th>
<th>Form in French</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) MV + Aux</td>
<td>h k at a h u</td>
<td>j e m a n g e</td>
<td>MV + INF + INF</td>
<td>root T:sp n,p.</td>
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<td>pr. tense</td>
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<td>part n,p.</td>
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<td>(2) MV + Aux</td>
<td>h k a y a h j</td>
<td>j' a i m a n g e</td>
<td>Aux + MV INF:sp pt.part. n,p.</td>
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<td>pt. tense</td>
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<td>part n,p.</td>
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<td>(3) MV + Aux</td>
<td>h k a c U k a h u</td>
<td>j' a i m a n g e</td>
<td>-do-</td>
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<td>root perf.m.</td>
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<td>tense</td>
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<td>pt.part n,p.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4) MV + Aux</td>
<td>h k at a r e h a h u</td>
<td>j' a i m a n g e</td>
<td>-do-</td>
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<td>pr. prog.m.</td>
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<td>part pt.part</td>
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<td>n,p.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(5) MV + Aux</td>
<td>h k h a r e h a h u</td>
<td>j e m a n g e</td>
<td>cf.1.4</td>
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<td>pr. asp.m.</td>
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<td>tense</td>
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<td>part pr.part/</td>
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<td>je manges de temps</td>
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<td>n,p.</td>
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<td>en temps</td>
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<td>pt.part</td>
<td>k a y a k e r a t a h u</td>
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<td>Form in French</td>
<td>Surfaces Structure in French</td>
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<tr>
<td>(6) MV + INF + INF T:sp n.p.</td>
<td>il mange</td>
<td>voh khat $h$</td>
<td>ref.:Hindi forms</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(7) Aux + MV INF:sp pt.part. n.p.</td>
<td>il a mangé</td>
<td>kha gaya $h$</td>
<td>-do-</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>(8) etre + entrain de + MV INF:T:ps;n.p. inf.</td>
<td>il est entrain de manger</td>
<td>k a raha $h$</td>
<td>MV + Aux + Aux. root prog.m. tense</td>
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<tr>
<td>Form in Hindi</td>
<td>Surfaces Structure in Hindi</td>
<td>French Equivalent</td>
<td>Form in French</td>
<td>Remarks</td>
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<tr>
<td>(1) MV + Aux</td>
<td>k'ati t'i</td>
<td>elle mangeait</td>
<td>MV + INF + INF</td>
<td>-do-</td>
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<td>part n,g,p.</td>
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<td>(2) MV + Aux</td>
<td>h k ate rāhe t e</td>
<td>nous mangions</td>
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<td>-do-</td>
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<td>Aux</td>
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<td>pr. prog.m.</td>
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<td>T:pt.</td>
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<td>part pt.part n,g,p. n.g.</td>
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<td>n.g.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(3) MV + Aux</td>
<td>h k a rāha t a</td>
<td>je mangais</td>
<td></td>
<td>-do-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aux</td>
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<tr>
<td>root prog.m.</td>
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<td>T:pt.</td>
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<td>pt.part n,g,p.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4) MV + Aux</td>
<td>h k a rāha hota t a</td>
<td>il mangeait</td>
<td></td>
<td>-do-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aux</td>
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<td>pr. prog.m.</td>
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<td>T:pt.</td>
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<td>part pr.part n,g,p. n.g.</td>
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<td>n.g.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(5) MV + Aux</td>
<td>h k'aya h t a</td>
<td>il a mangé</td>
<td>Aux + MV INF:T(sp/ pt.part imp)n,p.</td>
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<td>pt. tense</td>
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<td>part</td>
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<tr>
<td>(6) -do-</td>
<td>h k'aya t a</td>
<td>il avait mangé</td>
<td></td>
<td>-do-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) MV + Aux</td>
<td>aya karāta t a</td>
<td>il venait</td>
<td>MV + INF + INF</td>
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<td>pr. hab.m.</td>
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<td>tense</td>
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<td>part pr.part</td>
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### TENSE -2

#### PAST (FRENCH)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Form in French</th>
<th>Surfaces Structure in French</th>
<th>Hindi Equivalent</th>
<th>Form in Hindi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| MV + INF + INF | il tomba | v h gIra t a h  
gIra t a | MV + Aux  
pr./ T:pt.  
pt.part |
| T:ps n.p. |                       |                 |               |
| Aux + MV | il a mangé | h  
Usne k'aya (t'a) | MV + (Aux)  
pt. tense  
part n,g,p. |
| INF:T,n,p.  
pt.part |                       |                 |               |
| MV + INF + INF | il mangeait | vo k'a raha t a | MV + Aux + Aux.  
root prog.m. T:pt.  
pr.part n,g,p. |
| T:imp. n.p. |                       |                 |               |
| Aux + MV | il eût mangé | k'aya kIra t a | MV + Aux + Aux.  
pt. hab.m. tense  
part pr.part n,g,p. |
| INF: T:ps  
n.p. |                       |                 |               |
| Aux + MV | il avait mangé | Usne k'aya t a  
vo k'a cIka t a | MV + (Aux) + Aux.  
pt. asp.m. tense  
part pr.part n,g,p.  
/root |
| INF: pt.part  
T:imp. n.p. |                       |                 |               |
### Future

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Form in Hindi</th>
<th>Surfaces Structure in Hindi</th>
<th>French Equivalent</th>
<th>Form in French</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1) MV + INF</td>
<td>k'āuga</td>
<td>je mangerai</td>
<td>MV + INF + INF</td>
<td>inf. T:fut. n.p.</td>
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<td>root T:fut. n.g.p.</td>
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<td>(2) MV + Aux</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>il mangerai</td>
<td>MV + INF + INF</td>
<td>T:sp/ n.p.</td>
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<td>pr. INF:T(fut. part.)</td>
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<td>il mange</td>
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<td>fut.</td>
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<td>(3) MV + Aux</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>il aura mangé</td>
<td>Aux + MV + INF</td>
<td>n.p. part.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(4) MV + Aux + Aux</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>il sera entrain de manger</td>
<td>etre + en train de + MV</td>
<td>n.p. part.</td>
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<tr>
<td>root prog.m. INF:T(fut.)</td>
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<td>INF:T(fut) n.p. pt.</td>
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<td>pt.part n.g.p.</td>
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<th>Form in French</th>
<th>Surfaces Structure in French</th>
<th>Hindi Equivalent</th>
<th>Form in Hindi</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(5) MV + INF + INF</td>
<td>je mangerai</td>
<td>mčka uga</td>
<td>MV + INF</td>
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<tr>
<td>T:fut. n.p.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(6) Aux + MV</td>
<td>il aura mangé</td>
<td>Usne k'aya hoga</td>
<td>MV + Aux</td>
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<tr>
<td>INF:T(fut.) pt.part. n.g.p.</td>
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<td>INF:T(fut)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(7) MV + INF + INF</td>
<td>il mangerait</td>
<td>vo k'ara hoga</td>
<td>MV + Aux + Aux</td>
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<tr>
<td>T:fut. n.p. cond.</td>
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<td>root prog.m. INF:T(fut.) pt.part</td>
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<tr>
<td>(8) Aux + INF + MV</td>
<td>il aurait mangé</td>
<td>vo k'acuka hoga</td>
<td>MV + Aux + Aux</td>
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<td>INF:T(fut.) pt.part cond.)n.p.</td>
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<td>root comp.m. INF:T(fut.) pt.part</td>
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