Chapter-2

Typological Characteristics of Ho

The Ho language is classified as a member of the North-Munda group of language that belongs to the Austro-Asiatic language family. Like other languages of the sub-continent this has also verb final word order.

According to Greenberg (1966), Universal 7, if a language with dominant Subject, Object and Verb (SOV) word order, there is no alternative basic order other than OSV, and then all adverbial modifiers of the verb likewise precede the verb.

Let us consider examples of Ho.

2.1. Basic Word order

Ho has Subject Object Verb word order in unmarked sentences.

1. (am) puti-m paRāw -ta -n -a
   you(sub) book(obj)-2sg read prog -tr fm
   ‘You are reading a book.’

2.2. Order of indirect object and direct object

The indirect object precedes the direct object in unmarked sentence.

2. aň amā lāgid puti -ñ kiriñ -ke -D a
   I(sub) you(IO) for book(DO) 1sg buy pst +tr fm
   ‘I bought a book for you.’


2. George Abraham Grierson in his Linguistic Survey of India (reprintd by Moti Lal Banarasi Das in 1967) has traced some back history of this language group.
2.3. Postposition

Ho has postpositions that follow the noun like all South Asian languages which are verb final languages. Thus, Ho is also a Head final language in terms of the position of the ad-position and the verb.

3.a. ama -lāgid b. tebal -re
    you for table on
    ‘for you.’ ‘on the table.’

2.4. The Genitive markers

The Genitive precedes the governing head noun in Ho like most of verb-final languages as Greenberg (1966) stated in his universal 5. There are two genitive markers, that is -te- for 3rd person animate and –ren for inanimate.

4.a. hatu -ren ho b. era -te
    village gen man wife his
    ‘A man of the village.’ ‘his wife’

2.5. The marker of comparison

The marker of comparison –te/-ete follows the standard of comparison in Ho. This language does not have any comparative and superlative markers comparable to the –er and –est of English. Consider the following examples:

5. mohan rām -ete pebe -gie -e
   Mohan Ram com strong emp fm
   ‘Mohan is stronger than Ram.’
2.6. Time and place adverbial

Time adverbials (T) precede place adverbials (P) as well as P precedes T in unmarked sentence.

6. aŋ gapā āgrā -n seno -a
   I tomorrow Agra 1sg go fm
   ‘Tomorrow, I shall go to Agra.’

2.7. Order of time and place adverbials

Time and place adverbials occur in descending order. By descending order we mean the bigger chunk of place or time occurs first, then it is followed by a smaller chunk and then a much smaller chunk. Adverbials of time and place in Ho are posited after the subject in unmarked sentences, but when the subject and object are pronouns and they get dropped then the adverbial can be posited at preverbal position.

7. aŋ gapā gel-guri-re skul -te -n seno -a
   I tomorrow ten-time-at school pp 1sg go fm
   ‘Tomorrow, I shall go to school at ten.’

2.7a. Place Adverbial

A bigger place precedes the smaller place.

8. aŋ am -lo’o dilli -rea tājhotel -re -n beta -me -a
   I you pp Delhi pp Tajhotel pp 1sg meet 2sg fm
   ‘I will meet you in Delhi at Taj hotel.’
2.7b. Time adverbial

Similarly, bigger time precedes the smaller time.

9. pro i gapa bar guri emit -e -ŋi
   tomorrow two time go fm 1sg
   ‘I will go at 2 o’clock tomorrow?’

2.8. The complimentizer

The complementizer follows the embedded sentence as post-sentential. There is only a pre-sentential (left peripheral) complementizer in Ho.

10. ini kāji ke -D -a ci aŋ holā bajār -e-ŋ sen -len -a
    he say pst +tr fm that I yesterday market Acc-1sg go pst fm
    ‘He said that I went to market, yesterday.’

2.9. A modifier

Modifier (adjectives, numerals and relative clauses) precedes the head noun in Ho.

2.9a. Adjectives

The adjective precedes the head noun and it does not exhibit agreement in number, person and gender.

11.a. bugin puti
   good  book
   ‘good book’
2.9b. Numerals

The numerals precede the noun in Ho.

11.b baro koa

\(2\) two \(\text{boys}\)

‘two boys.’

2.9c. Determiner

In Ho language the determiner only precede the head noun.

12. aň nendor-rea puti -ko-ň sukuti -a

\( I \text{ those-pp book pl-1sg like fm}\)

‘I like those books.’

2.9d. Relative Clauses

In Ho there is a full-fledged strategy as well as a gap strategy for relative clauses, namely they use either relative pronouns or participle so as in Hindi. And it is, of course, a Head External Relative Clause.

Let us consider the following examples:

13a. kuwa -hon [okoni kae paRāw -e tan] ini murku gi -a

\(\text{boy human who not read 3sg prog he stupid emp fm}\)

‘The boy [who is not reading a book] is stupid.’
13b. okon bile aɲ haku ema -i -e ini esu bugi tai -len -a

    which cat I fish give 3sg fm that very good prog pst fm

    ‘The cat [to which I gave fish] was very good.’

*Ho* has externally headed relative clauses like English and it has also relative-correlative construction like Hindi as in example (13a &b).

2.10. Deixis

In *Ho*, there are four-way distinctions for place, time and direction.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>en</th>
<th>that</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>endur</td>
<td>a bit far</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ene endur</td>
<td>a bit farther</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>neen endur</td>
<td>farthest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.11. Numerals

According to Lionel Burrows, the numbers from 1 to 10, and 20, have separate forms. Between 10 and 20, the numbers are formed by adding the first nine numbers to the shortened form for pattern 10+1, 10+2 etc. The numbers above 20 are calculated in stages of twenties.
Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>number</th>
<th>long form</th>
<th>short form</th>
<th>number</th>
<th>long form</th>
<th>short form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>mi\textsuperscript{y}ed’</td>
<td>mid’</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>turui\textsuperscript{y}a</td>
<td>turui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>bari\textsuperscript{y}a</td>
<td>bar</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>a\textsuperscript{y}a</td>
<td>ai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>api\textsuperscript{y}a</td>
<td>ape</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>irle\textsuperscript{y}a</td>
<td>iril</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>upuni\textsuperscript{y}a</td>
<td>upun</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>are\textsuperscript{y}a</td>
<td>are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>mo\textsuperscript{y}a</td>
<td>moe</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>gele\textsuperscript{y}a</td>
<td>gel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>gel mi\textsuperscript{y}ed’</td>
<td></td>
<td>20</td>
<td>hisi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>hisi gele\textsuperscript{y}a</td>
<td></td>
<td>40</td>
<td>bar hisi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ho has no proper terms for ordinal numbers. Thus ordinal numbers have to be expressed by some roundabout way except first: *sida* or *ayera* and second: *eta’*

To make an adjective of a cardinal number, the vowel occurring finally with these numbers is generally, that occurring medially is sometimes dropped.

2.12. Interrogatives

Question words occur in situ and there is no obligatory *wh*-movement.

14. am okon -re -m dube -kan -a

*you where pp 2sg sit pst fm*

‘Where are you sitting?’

There is a distinction between animate *and inanimate* interrogatives in *Ho* but there seems to be no real distinction in conversation.
2.13. Position of yes/no and tag question markers

In Ho there is also yes/no question marker ci / cina and they come to the beginning as well as in the end of the sentence as in kya do so in Hindi.

15a. cina proi bajar -re -m1 seno -tan -a

yes/no ques mkr market in 2sg go prog fm

‘Are you going to the market?’

15b. (am) hāsu -ta -n -a-m ci

you fever prog -tr fm-2sg Q

‘Do you have fever?’

In (15b) ci functions as like a tag question marker. Thus it is not a yes/no question marker. Examples (15a) and (15b) are not same and ci is also used for ‘or’ as well as complementizer ‘that’.

2.14. Ho is Pro-drop language

Ho is very rich in terms of agreement. Any pronoun can be dropped if there is a trace of that pronominal. In (16) we can drop subject pronoun. Similarly, if the verb is carrying the load of IO and DO it can be dropped.

16. ( añ) skule -ñ seno -ta -n -a

I school 1sg go prog -tr fm

‘I am going to school.’
2.15. Anaphors

*Ho* does not have nominal device for anaphors. It has verbal reflexive which is subject oriented.

17. aň (aň-te-ge) arsi -re-ň nel -en -a

*I* I-Acc-emp mirror pp-1sg see vr fm

‘I saw myself in the mirror.’

I, here, claim that *aň-te-ge* is not a nominal reflexive form. Because, as we can see in (17), *aň* ‘I’ – recall that in *Ho* there is no different form between subject and object, and there is no accusative marker. It has only a reduplicate form for emphasis and –*te* ‘with’ as well as –*ge* ‘emphatic clitics’ are optional.

If so, now we need to analyze the form of verbal reflexive in *Ho*. Is there a specific verbal reflexive marker? As we can see there seems to be no distinctive form of the VR in *Ho*. Furthermore, if we know that an intransitive marker is –*n*, and then we may find that –*n* can be a VR as well as an intransitive marker and a passive marker due to the function of a de-transitivizer.

2.16. Negation

In *Ho*, there seems to be no morphological negation. But as for the preverbal negation, it is represented by the morpheme ‘*ka-*’ which must come before the verb. The subject agreement marker must be suffixed to the negative. The negative *ka-* cannot occur alone without the subject agreement marker.

18. aň puti ka -ň paRāw -ta -n -a

*I* book not 1sg read prog -tr fm

‘I am not reading a book.’
2.17. Reduplication

Reduplication gives quantificational value or in another word plural form of the noun.

2.17a. Nouns

19a. owā owā -re

    house  house  pp

    ‘In every house.’

2.17b. Adjectives

19b. bugin bugin puti

    good  good  book

    ‘Good books.’

2.18. Auxiliary verb

According to Greenberg (1966) universal 16, a language with dominant SOV word order and inflected auxiliary always follows the main verb. The auxiliary verb (modal) follows the main verb. In (20) below the modal -dai ‘can’ follow the verb stem dub ‘sit’ and precede second person pronominal which is agreement marker.

20. am nintā -re -m dub -dai -e

    you  here  pp  2sg  sit  can  fm

    ‘You can sit here.’
21. än am mied’ owa -ń ema -m -a

I you one house 1sg give 2sg fm

‘I shall give you a house.’

2.19. Copula Sentences

Copula in Ho is *mina* ‘be’. It can stand like an independent verb as in (22) below.

22. än bugin ho -min -a än

I good man be fm 1sg

‘I am a good man.’

2.20. Causatives

Likewise, the causative markers *irī* or *icī* may be added to the transitive roots as well as the intransitive roots, and are permissive in character. In Ho there seems to be no morphological pattern for causative constructions. Thus after the causative marker is incorporated into the verb we find the transitivizing effect.

23. än dāsī sengel -eń jul -ićī -ka -n -a

I servant wood 1sg burn cau pst -tr fm

‘I am making my servant to burn wood.’

Causative occurs between main verb and aspect as in (23) above.
2.21. Non-nominative subject

With psychological predicates or when the logical subject is a possessor, the subject (possessor or experiencer) carries dative or genitive or locative postposition. The verb in such cases agrees with the possessed noun phrases (theme or patient) (K.V. Subbarao). In Ho there seems to be Non-nominative subject constructions. However, this non-nominative subject construction is not common or could be influenced by Hindi.

24a. aña bōwo hasu -ő -ta -n -a

me head pain 1sg prog -tr fm

‘I have headache.’

24b. aň -re hasu min -a

I to fever be fm

‘I have fever.’

In Ho they might use a locative subject construction for physiological and mental ailments and possession instead of the dative subject construction due to the absence of the dative case marker. Anyway there are cases of non-nominative subjects in Ho.

2.22. Quotative

Quotative marker suffixed to the embedded verb. It is Post Position -te in Ho which functions as quotative but main thing to be noted is the embedded verb form which has pe as an infix in verb nel ‘see’ which is reciprocal marker in Ho.

25. aň [am -lo’o nepel -le ñ] hiju -len -a

I you PP meet pst 1sg come pst fm

‘I came to meet you.’
Literally, above sentence means- I came to see you or we will see one another as in the case of meeting of two persons, if I am seeing you at the same time you are also seeing me that is why reciprocal marker ‘-pe’ has been infixed in the verb ‘nel’ ‘see’.

2.23. Conjunctive participial

Conjunctive participial in Ho is + tense. It occurs as verbal suffix. In this construction the sentence carries a finite verb and all the subordinate clauses carry a participial form of the verb which must be [+ past tense] and the finite marker –a must be dropped.

26. PRO$_1$ hāTō sen -ka -ete PRO$_1$ puti kirij le -D -te
   market go pst cpm  book buy pst +tr cpm

   huju -re -ń$_1$-a
   come pp 1sg-fm

'I shall go to the market, to buy a book and comeback.'

2.24. Adverbial Clauses

An adverbial clause is a clause that functions as an adverb. It tells under what conditions the action in the main clause takes place. In Ho it is conditional rege which has been attached to the embedded verb jul ‘burn’ to show condition of the main action in (27).

27. owāʔ -rea maskal jul -ke -rege kumbu niri -yan -a
    house pp light burn pst cond thief runaway pst fm

‘Thief runs away just after burning the light of the room.’
2.25. Imperatives

Imperatives are formed by suffixing –m, -ben or –pe to the end of the sentence and the finite marker –a must be deleted in the imperatives.

28. proi gel -ho kui -hon em anĩ -me

    me ten man girl child send 1sg imp

    ‘Give me ten girls.’

29. sepeDĩ -ke nenta?te kiya -iĩ -m

    boy Acc here call 3sg imp

    ‘Call the boys here.’

2.26. Participial

The head noun must govern the participial form from right to left in Ho. Forming a participle in Ho is that a finite marker –a must be dropped and then the intransitive marker –n occurs with the past tense marker instead of the transitive marker –D in the perfect participle. And in the imperfect participle the progressive marker –tan occurs to the verb. Hence there is no specific particle form in Ho.

30 seno -yan din ka uju -e

    go pst day not return fm

    ‘Gone day never returns.’
In (31) only verb is used for participle. In Ho bare root form without any affixation is an infinitive, which when placed before a noun performs the function of an adjective. Some transitive and intransitive verb roots are formally identical.