CHAPTER-3

Morphophonemics:

1) Instances of assimilation:

i) The phoneme /n/ of -nu suffix is changed to /n/ if it is preceded by /r/, /s/, The assimilation is progressive.

- dhas + nu  dhasnu
- mar + nu  marnu

ii) In the following instances there is regressive assimilation. The preceding consonant is assimilated with the following one.

- at chu  acchu  I am here
- kat cha  kaocha  Where is ....
- ot ja:u chu  ojja:u chu  I go there
- mat jo  majjo  do not go

2) Instances of elision of phonemes:

i) jo-ja: + an - ja:n  having gone
- kho-kha + an  kho:n  having eaten
- la + an  le:n  having taken
- da + an  de:n  having given
The a in the suffix - an is dropped when it follows the vowel ending verb stems.

ii) ubo:cu an de:skro:cu standing and looking
    ubo:cun " " "
    be:to:cu an de:skro:cu sitting and looking
    be:to:cun " " "
    ta:ndro an ta:ndri man and woman
    ta:ndron " " "

In the above examples the conjunctive an loses its vowel.

iii) ta:r ya:di - ta:di your mother
    ta:r ba:sp - ta:ra:sp your father
    ma:r ba:sp - ma:ra:sp my father
    ma:r ya:di - ma:di my mother

Here the initial phonemes of the second members are lost.

iv) atra + i atri this much
    katra + i katri how much?
    watra + i watri that much
    ghano + i ghani very
    kaso + i kasi like what - how
Here the final vowels of the adverbs are lost when the emphatic suffix i is added.

3) In some forms phonemes are added.

i) w is added to verb bases ending in a:, u, and o. When the third person present tense markers follow them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Phono</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>jo - go</td>
<td>jawa(ca)</td>
<td>He goes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>baga:throw</td>
<td>baga:wa(ca)</td>
<td>He throws</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lu - wipe</td>
<td>luwa(ca)</td>
<td>He wipes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
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<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fhey go</td>
<td></td>
<td>They go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fhey throw</td>
<td></td>
<td>They throw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fhey wipe</td>
<td></td>
<td>They wipe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ii) y is added to the verb stem ending in a:, u, o to form, the past tense bases.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a: come</td>
<td>a:y a:iyo</td>
<td>came</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>so sleep</td>
<td>so:y so:iyo</td>
<td>slept</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cu leak</td>
<td>cui:y- cui:yo</td>
<td>leaked</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

iii) In the speech of some people we find y and w coming as onglide before demonstrative pronouns i and u,
4) Morphophonemic changes we find in the conjugational and declensional forms, are explained in detail in their respective places. The above ones are the more prominent.

**Automation:** Some observations on Lambani Phonemics

(1) Aspiration is phonemic. The aspirated phonemes occur only in the initial position. Medially and finally they do not occur. Words like haːth and nakh vary with haːt and nak respectively.

(2) Nasalisation is not phonemic. There is free variation between nasalised and non-nasalised vowels.

(3) Length is phonemic. With the exception of phoneme /aː/, no long vowel occurs at the final position. Even the length of phoneme /aː/ in the final position, is shorter.
Of the three fricative sounds, found in Indian languages (s, s, s) only the /s/ phoneme occurs. Lāf varies with /s/ in some instances. It occurs before front vowels and in loan words like sail. The sound $s$ is occasionally found in words like Krishna and daksina. In these words also it varies with /s/.

Sounds $\sigma$ and $\sigma$. The lambani language originally possesses /$\sigma$/ phoneme. But the dialect under study being found in the midst of Kannada speakers, the phoneme /$\sigma$/ has merged into phoneme /a/. But still it occurs as an allophone of /a/.

Of the five nasal phonemes found in many Indian languages; only /m/, /n/ and /n/ occur as separate phonemes. $\tilde{\eta}$ and $\tilde{\eta}$ are allophones of /n/. $\tilde{\eta}$ occurs before palatal sounds and $\tilde{\eta}$ before velar sounds. The phoneme /n/ does not occur in initial position.

The two palatal series: c, ch, j, jh and $\tilde{c}$, $\tilde{ch}$, $\tilde{j}$, $\tilde{jh}$. I have accepted these as two separate series of phonemes. There are clear phonemic contrasts. But sometimes the sounds vary with each other i.e.
c varies with č, ch with čh, j with ʃ and jh with ğh. In spite of this peculiarity, I have decided to treat them as separate phonemes on the basis of overwhelming occurrence of contrast between the respective pairs of sounds. The contrasts are shown with examples in the earlier part of this chapter.