CHAPTER 5

SYNTAX

5.1. WORD ORDER:

Word order refers to the linear sequence in which words occur in a sentence. The normal word order in Nefamese is SOV. In other words, it can be said that in Nefamese, the normal order of words, in a sentence, is as S (Subject), O (object) and V (Verb). So in Nefamese we can say that,

S (Subject) occurs in the initial position of a sentence.

O (object) follows the subject and precedes the verb.

V (Verb) occurs in the final position of a sentence.

The following sentences show the order of words in Nefamese.

1. /moi istudent hoi/
   S   O   V
   I student be pre.
   I am (a) student.

2. /moi bat kai/
   S   O   V
   I rice eat pre.
   I eat rice.

3. /i mastôr nôhoi/
   S   O   Neg.-V
   He teacher Neg. be pre.
   He is not (a) teacher.

4. /ram bat kaisile/
A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF NEFAMESE

S   O   V-Past.
Ram rice eat past
Ram ate rice.

However some sentences can occur without the subject in Nefamese. For example, the subject is optional in Imperative sentences. This can be shown by the following examples.

1. /kitaptu poribi/
   (S) O V
   Book Def. read fut.
   You will read the book

2. /bat dibi/
   (S) O V
   Rice give Fut.
   You will give Rice

Even a verb can make an Imperative sentence in Nefamese when the use of subject and object are not necessary.

/bohibi/ sit down
V

/utibi/ get up
V

/kabi/ Eat
V

/poribi/ Read
V
It is to be noted that in case of Imperative sentences in Nefamese the /-bi/ which is the future tense marker is always present and it is suffixed to the verb.

In Nefamese, the Interrogative Pronouns precede the subject, if the subject is present because the use of subject is optional in some of the sentences. So it can be said that in Nefamese Interrogative sentences are formed by placing Interrogative pronoun before the subject.

1. /kêt take/
   Int. Pro. V
   Where live
   Where do you live?

2. /ki lage/
   Int. Pro. V
   What want
   What do you want.

Few exceptions are found in case of the above mentioned sentences. Some Interrogative sentences are available in Nefamese where the subject precedes the Interrogative pronouns.

1. /amibilak ketia kabo/
   S Int. Pro. V
   I Plu. when eat Fut.
   When shall we eat?

2. /toi jubosor kêt goisile/
   S Int. Pro. V
   You last year where go past
Where did you go last year?

3. /toi kele tak marisile/
   S  Int.Pro. O  V
   You  Why he  Acc. beat  past
   Why did you beat him?

5.2. CONSTITUENTS:
A simple sentence in Nefamese consists of a Noun Phrase (N.P.) and a Verb Phrase (V.P.).

1. /lora goisile/
   NP  VP
   Boy  go  past
   (The) boy went.

2. /mas girisile/
   NP  VP
   Fish  fall  past
   (The) fish fell.

5.2.1. NOUN PHRASE:
The Noun Phrase (N.P.) consists of a noun which is obligatory and called as the head noun. This head noun may be followed or preceded by one or more modifiers. The modifiers, which are basically optional elements, may be an adjective, a case marker, a numeral etc. These optional elements modify the head noun in Nefamese.

/bal manu/
   Adj.  N
A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF NEFAMESE

Good Man
A good man.
/daŋor gor/
Adj. N
Big House
A big house.
/bal manuk/
Adj. N Case
Good men
To the good man
/daŋor gor?t/
Adj. N Case
Big House
In the big house.

When the head noun is modified by an adjective and a case marker, the order is that the adjective always precedes the noun and the case marker follows the noun as explained above. In the case of numeral, it precedes the head noun as shown below:

/pasta gor/
Numeral N
Five House
Five Houses
/ekta manu/
Numeral N
One man
In Nefamese when the head noun is modified by demonstrative and an adjective, the order is that the noun follows these two as follows:

1. /eitu darjor gor/
   
   Dem.Pro. Adj. N
   
   This big house
   
   This is a big house.

2. /heitu bal lora/

   Dem.Pro. Adj. N
   
   That good boy
   
   That is a good boy.

When demonstrative, numeral and adjective along with a noun, all occur together in a simple sentence in Nefamese, the order is that the head noun is preceded by the demonstrative followed by the numeral and adjective as shown in the following examples:

1. /eitu ekta bura manu/

   
   This one old man
   
   This is an old man.

2. /heitu ekta dunia suali/

   
   That one beautiful girl
   
   That is a beautiful girl.

When the numeral higher than one is present in the noun phrase then the plural marker can not be used in Nefamese. It means Nefamese does not allow double plural markers. For example:

/bal manubilak/
A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF NEFAMESE

Adj. N Pl.
good men
Good men.
/tinita bal manu/
Nu. Adj. N
three good man
Three good men.
*/tinita bal manabilak/
three good men
Three good men.

It is to be noted here that the order of Numeral + Adjective + Noun is not a rigid one in Nefamese. Different order where the adjective is followed by the noun and the noun precedes the numeral is also found in Nefamese as in the following constructions:

/bal manu tinita/
Adj. N Nu.
Good man three
Three good men.
/dunia suali tinita/
Adj. N Nu.
Beautiful girl three
Three beautiful girls.

On the basis of the above mentioned examples we can state that the structure of a noun phrase of Nefamese as:
5.2.2. VERB PHRASE:

The Verb Phrase (V.P.) in Nefamese may consist of a lexical verb or a “Be” verb which is obligatory in the verb Phrase. Besides this obligatory verb in the verb phrase some other optional elements like Noun, Adverb etc. are also found in the verb phrase. It is to be noted that in Nefamese these optional elements may follow or precede the main verb. However there are some instances of simple sentences in Nefamese in which the verb phrase consist of only the verb. For example:

/bohibi/  sit down
V

/utibi/  get up
V

/poribi/  read
V

/kabi/  eat
V

In Nefamese, the noun generally precedes the verb in a simple sentence as in the following examples:

1. /i kaisile/
   NP VP
   He eat past
   He ate

2. /glas banisile/
When the verb phrase has two noun phrases i.e. NP1 and NP2, the two noun phrases can interchange their place of occurrence. But in both cases the noun phrases must be followed by the main verb.

1. /ram muke kitap disile/
   NP1       NP2
   Ram  I Dat. Book Acc. give past
   Ram gave me (a) book.

2. /ram kitap muke disile/
   NP2       NP1
   Ram  book Acc. I Dat. Give past
   Ram gave me (a) book.

3. /i amak dobai disile/
   NP1       NP2
   He I Pl. Dat. Medicine Acc. Give past
   He gave us medicine.

4. /i dobai amak disile/
   NP2       NP1
   He  medicine Acc. I Pl. Dat. Give past
   He gave us medicine.

When an adverb occurs in a sentence, the adverb precedes the verb in Nefamese as shown in the following sentences.
A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF NEFAMESE

1. /i lahe lahe bat kaisile/
   NP Adv. N V
   VP
   He slowly rice eat past
   He ate rice slowly.

2. /pitar hodai iskul jai/
   NP Adv. N V
   VP
   Peter everyday school go pre.
   Peter goes to school every day.

2. /tumi kali ahibo/
   NP Adv. V
   You tomorrow come Fut.
   You will come tomorrow.

On the basis of the above mentioned examples, the structure of Verb Phrase in Nefamese can be stated as follows-

VP$\rightarrow$ $^{\pm}$Adv. $^{\pm}$NP1 $^{\pm}$NP2 + V

5.2.3. ADJECTIVE PHRASE:

The adjective is the nucleus in an adjectival phrase. The adjective phrase consists of at least one adjective and it may or may not be accompanied by an intensifier. The adjective of the adjectival phrase either precedes or follows the noun in Nefamese.

/pagla manu/

Adj. N
A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF NEFAMESE

Mad man

/ekdom dañor gor/

Intcn. Adj. N

Too big house

(A) very big house.

1. /gostu dañor ase/

N Adj. V

Tree Def. big be pre.

The tree is big.

2. /olop manu mitiŋt ahisile/

Adj. N N V

Few man meeting Loc. come past

Few men came to the meeting.

So the structure of the Adjectival Phrase in Nefamese can be shown as follows:


5.2.4. ADVERB PHRASE:

In Nefamese, the adverb in an adverb phrase modifies the verb. An adverb always occurs before the verb in Nefamese. This can be shown with the help of the following examples:

/hodai jai/

Adv. V

Everyday go

Goes everyday
A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF NEFAMESE

/lahe lahe goisile/

Adv. V
Slowly go-past
Went slowly

/etia ahibo/

Adv. V
Now come-Fut
Will come now.

The adverb of place always carries a particle (-ct) along with it. In fact, the particle is suffixed to the adverb of place.

/bitcrôt ase/

Adv. Partl. V
Inside is
Is inside

/upÊrôt ase/

Adv. Partl. V
Above is
Is above

On the basis of the above examples, we can establish the structure of an adverb phrase in Nefamese as follows:

\[
\text{Adv. Phrase} \rightarrow + \text{Adverb} \pm \text{Particle} + V
\]
5.3. **CLAUSE:**

In Nefamese there are two types of clauses. They are the main clause and the subordinate clause. The main or principal clause is independent and can occur on its own in a sentence. However the subordinate clause can never occur on its own and always dependant on the main clause.

5.3.1. **MAIN CLAUSE:**

In Nefamese the main clauses are basically simple sentences. Some of the examples of the main clauses are given below:

1. /moi kabo/
   
   I eat Fut.
   I will eat.

2. /i kabo/
   
   He eat Fut.
   He eats.

3. /i kaisile/
   
   He eat Past.
   He ate.

5.3.2. **SUB-ORDINATE CLAUSE:**

The subordinate clause in Nefamese is marked by /jɔ̃di/ “if” and always precedes the main clause as shown below;

1. /jɔ̃di i kai moi bonabo/

   Sub clause    Main clause.
If she eat pre. I cook-Fut.
If she eats, I will cook.

2. /jɔdi i ahe moi jabo/
Sub clause  Main clause
If he come pre. I go Fut.
If he comes I will go.

5.3.3. CO-ORDINATE CLAUSE.

Co ordinate clause in Nefamese is marked by conjunctive particles. The primary function of conjunction is to connect words, phrases, clauses and sentences. This is shown by the following examples:

(i) /aru/ and

1. /ram aru sita bahirɔt goisile/
Ram and Sita out Loc. go past
Ram and Sita went outside.

2. /baba aru ma ahisile/
Father and mother come past
Father and Mother came.

If there are more than two objects, then the conjunctive particle is placed just before the last object as shown below:

1. /baba ma aru daŋor kokai goisile/
Father mother and elder brother go past
Father, Mother and elder brother went.
(ii) /kintu/ but

1. /i dɔni ase kintu dimak nai ase/
   He rich be pre. but brain Neg. be pre.
   He is rich but fool

2. /i ša kai kintu kopi nakai/
   She tea drink but coffee Neg. drink
   She drinks tea but not coffee.

(iii) /ba/ or

Disjunctive construction is formed by placing /ba/ between the two propositions so that they are in an “either …..or” relationship.

1. /baba ba ma ahibo/
   Father or mother come Fut.
   Either father or mother will come.

2. /i maš ba maŋso kabo/
   He fish or meat eat Fut.
   He will eat either fish or meat.

5.3.4. CONDITIONAL CLAUSES:

In Nefamese conditional clause is constructed by placing particle /jɔdi/ “if” in the initial position of the subordinate clause and the noun in the main clause takes the particle /bi/ “also”. This is shown by the following examples:

1. /jɔdi moi koribo pare apunibi paribo/
   If I do Fut. Aux. you also Aux. Fut.
   If I can do you can also do.
2. /jõdi apuni ahe moi bi ahibo/
   If you come I partl. come Fut.
   If you come I will also come.

5.3.5. COMPLEMENT CLAUSE:

   In Nefamese the complement clause is constructed by using the particle /je/ “that”
   and the complement clause always follows the main clause. It is shown with the help of
   the following examples:

1. /i koisile je i juakali ahisile/
   He say past. partl. he yesterday come past
   He said that he came yesterday.

2. /eitu hosa je i morisile/
   This true partl. he die Past.
   This is true that he died.

5.3.6. RELATIVE CLAUSE:

   In Nefamese Relative clause is constructed by the particles like /diya/, /powa/. The
   participles in the Relative clause always precedes the noun of the noun clause.

1. /apuni muk kali diya kitaptu besi dam ase/
   You l Dai. yesterday partl. book Def. more price be pre.
   The book you gave me yesterday is expensive.

2. /apuni kali lok powa manutu mur mama hoi/
   You yesterday meet partl. Man Def. I Gen. uncle be pre.
   The man you met yesterday is my uncle.
5.4. **SENTENCES:**

The sentences in Nefamese can be classified into three types-

(i) Simple sentence,

(ii) Complex sentence and

(iii) Compound sentence.

5.4.1. **SIMPLE SENTENCE:**

A sentence is simple when there is only one subject. It means that it is a construction which has only one clause i.e. the main clause and it has at least a subject and a predicate. This can be shown with the help of the following examples:

1. /i bat kai/
   
   He rice eat Pre.
   
   He eats rice.

2. /amibilak istudent hoi/
   
   I pl. Student be pre.
   
   We are students.

3. /ram ekta sitti likisile/
   
   Ram one letter write past
   
   Ram wrote a letter.

4. /i dori ase/
   
   He run be pre.cont.
   
   He is running.
5.4.2. COMPLEX SENTENCE:

In Nefames a complex sentence consist of one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses. In the complex sentences, the subordinate clause is introduced by conditional particle /jɔdi/ "if", which usually precedes the main clause.

1. /jɔdi i ahe moi ahibo/
   If he come pre. I come Fut.
   If he comes I will come.

2. /jɔdi moi koribo pare apuni bi paribo/
   If I do Fut. Aux. you also Aux.Fut.
   If I can do you can also do.

3. /jɔdi bɛrkun ahe ram nai ahibo/
   If rain come Ram Neg. Come Fut.
   If it rains Ram will not come.

5.4.3. COMPOUND SENTENCE:

In Nefamese compound sentence consists of two or main clauses or simple sentences and these are joined either by the conjunctive particle /aru/ “and” or by the disjunctive particle /ba/ “or”. This can be shown with the help of the following examples:

1. /meri aru mala bahirɔt goisile/
   Mary and Mala out Loc. Go past
   Mary and Mala went out.

This sentence is made up of two simple sentences.

/meri bahirɔt goisile/
Mary went out.
Mala went out.
Both the simple sentences are joined by the conjunctive particle /aru/ “and”.
Some of the compound sentences in Nefamese are given below:

1. /meri itan\d\d\d\d\d\d aru mala pasigat goisile/
Mary Itanagar go past and Mala Pasighat go past
Mary went to Itanagar and Mala went to Pasighat.

2. /meri, mala aru lila ahibo/
Mary Mala and Lila come Fut.
Mary, Mala and Lila will com a.

3. /lila dilli ba itan\d\d\d\d\d\d poribo/
Lila Delhi or Itanagar Loc. study Fut.
Lila will study in Delhi or Itanagar.

5.5. **NEGATION:**

In Nefamese /na/, /nai/ and /n\d/ are the three negative markers which are used to express negation.

/na/
When the sentence is in simple present tense, /na/ is used and prefixed to the main verb to express the negation. It is shown with the help of the following examples:

1. /moi bat nakai/
   I rice Neg. eat
   I don’t eat rice.

2. /i iskul n\jai/
   He school Neg. go
He does not go to school.

/nô/

This negative marker is used to negate a positive verb of a statement. That means when a sentence in Nefamese has “be” as the main verb, it becomes /nôoi/-Neg.+V in the negation. Like /na/, /nô/ is also used as a prefix.

1. /rita dunia nôoi/
   Rita beautiful Neg.be
   Rita is not beautiful.

2. /moi kepten nôoi/
   I captain Neg. be
   I am not (a) captain.

3. /i mur tičar nôoi/
   He I Gen. teacher Neg. be
   He is not a teacher.

/nai/

It is used to negate a sentence in the past tense as well as future tense form. Like /na/ and /nô/, /nai/ is used before the main verb.

1. /eitu lomba sitti nai asile/
   This long letter Neg. be Past.
   This was not a long letter.

2. /mur ma bat nai bonaisile/
   I Gen. Mother rice Neg. make Past.
   My mother did not prepare rice.

3. /i mestu nai jitibo/
A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS OF NEFAMESE

He match Def. Neg. win Fut.

He will not win the match.

4. /tumar babak nai matibi/


Donot call your father.

/nai/ is also used to express negation in Imperative or Prohibitive sentence.

1. /nai bohibi/

Neg. sit Fut.

Do not sit down.

2. /kòta nai patibi/

Talk Neg. do Fut.

Do not talk.

3. /tat nai jabi/

There Neg. go Fut.

Do not go there.

/nai/ is also used as a negative copula to express negative sense in existential construction, possessive construction etc.

1. /akasòt sorai nai/

Sky Loc. bird Neg.Cop.

There is no bird in the sky.

2. /tar poisa nai/

He Gen. Money Neg.Cop.

He has no money.
3. /i tat nai/

He there Neg.Cop.

He is not there.

So with the help of the above mentioned examples it can be said that Nefamese has three negative markers- /na/, /nɔ/ and /nai/ which occur in mutually exclusive environment. One of the features of this negative marker /nai/ is that it can also be used as a negative copula. So there are two ways of expressing negation in Nefamese:

(i) By using negative markers

(ii) By using negative copula.

5.6. INTERROGATIVE:

In Nefamese the interrogative sentences are formed by employing one of the interrogative pronouns or particle. The interrogative sentences in Nefamese can be classified into three types. They are yes/no questions, wh-question and Alternative question.

5.6.1. Yes/no question: the particle /neki/ is used in Nefamese to form yes/no type of question.

1. /eitu hosa ase neki/

This true be pre partl.

Is this true?

2. /apuni kali ahibo neki/

You tomorrow come Fut. Partl.

Will you come tomorrow?
5.6.2. **Wh-question:**

Wh-questions are formed by placing the interrogative pronoun after the subject. For the very purpose the interrogative pronouns, which are used in Nefamese start with /ku/, /ke/ and /ki/.

1. /tumar baba kun hoi/
   
   You Gen. Father who be pre.
   
   Who is your father?

2. /apuni kele misa kōta koisile/
   
   You why lie tell Past
   
   Why did you tell a lie?

3. /amibilak ketia kabo/
   
   I PI. When eat Fut.
   
   *** hall we eat?
   
   ki kinibo/

   What will you buy?

5.6.3. **Alternative Question:**

It consists of two alternatives and the question particle /ne/ is placed after the first alternative. A peculiar characteristic of this type of sentence in Nefamese is that it does not have “be” verb form.

1. /eitu hosa ne misa/
   
   This true Q.Partl. lie
   
   Is it a true or false?

2. /i rita ne sita/
She Rita Q.Partl. Sita
Is she Rita or Sita?

3. /eitu murga nc murgi/
This cock Q.Partl. hen
Is this a cock or hen?

5.7. PASSIVIZATION:
In Nefamese passive sentences are not found. When we gave the active and passive versions of sentences in English to the Informants, they came up with only one response in Nefamese for both the active and passive constructions. It can be shown with the help of the following examples:

1. /ram kukurôk marisile/
   Ram dog Acc. Kill Past.
   Ram killed the dog.

   This sentence stands for both active and passive versions:
   (i) Ram killed the dog
   (ii) The dog was killed by Ram.

   So it can be said that passivization in Nefamese is not a grammatical process.

   However some kind of semi-passive sentences are available in Nefamese.

1. /kamtu kora hobo/
   Work Def. do finish Fut.
   The work will be finished.

2. /ganatu gua hobo/
   Song Def. sing do Fut.
   The song will be sung.