Chamling and English Noun System: A Comparative Study

Krishna Bahadur Rai
Associate Professor
Diktel Multiple Campus
pakharibas3@gmail.com

Abstract

This article aims to explore the Chamling noun system and its various applications. The noun structure in Chamling exhibits considerable differences from that of English across multiple dimensions. These two languages originate from distinct language families, so their grammatical structures are incomparable. Consequently, children who speak Chamling often encounter challenges when learning the English noun system due to the influence of their native language. This article aims to address the challenges faced by Chamling-speaking students in learning the noun system of the English language as a result of their mother tongue. Moreover, it serves as a resource for linguists, educators, and others who are interested in learning the noun system of the Chamling language. Data were collected through field visits to two distinct dialect regions of the Chamling language: Diktel and Halesi. In this study, nouns are classified according to several criteria, which includes semantics, countability, and morphology. This classification leads to the identification of various categories, including proper nouns, common nouns, abstract nouns, material nouns, collective nouns, countable nouns, uncountable nouns, concrete nouns, verbal nouns, and compound nouns. The entire noun system of Chamling is systematically analyzed and compared with the noun system of English.

Keyword

Compound nouns, derivational noun, homonymy nouns, onomatopoeia nouns, Verbal noun reduplicative nouns, verbal noun

Introduction

Nepal is characterized as a multilingual and multi-ethnic nation, where 124 languages are spoken as the mother tongue (National Statistics Office [NSO], 2021). Furthermore, Regmi (n. d.) asserts that these languages are genealogically affiliated with the four major language families: Indo-European, Sino-Tibetan, Austro-Asiatic, and Dravidian including one language isolate (p. 2). This study concerns the study of the pronoun systems of the Chamling and English languages. They belong to two distinct language families: Sino-Tibetan and Indo-European, respectively. Chamling is spoken as a first language by 89037 speakers and serves as a second language for 29253 speakers (NSO, 2021). Correspondingly, English belongs to Indo-European language family. In Nepal, it is spoken as a first, as well as a second language. English is the first language for 1323 Nepali speakers, while 102561 people use it as a second language (NSO, 2021).

In community schools, Chamling-speaking children are mandated to study English as a compulsory subject, whereas private schools in Nepal employ English as both a subject and the primary medium of instruction. In the region where the Chamling language is spoken, both Chamling and English are taught in primary education at community schools. However, the learning of English as a subject presents difficulties because of the influence of their first language. This study aims to address this linguistic barrier faced by Chamling-speaking students in their learning of the English language.

Noun

The concept of the "noun" is universal and exists in all languages. The word "noun" comes from the Latin term "nomen," which means "name" (Suyundikov et al., 2021). Consequently, the term "name" serves as a substitute for the noun. However, each language may have its own unique system for categorizing and using nouns. For instance, both Chamling and English have distinctive noun systems. It would be beneficial to explore and discuss various aspects of nouns in more detail.

A noun is a linguistic term referring to a word that identifies a person, place, thing, or abstract concept (Crystal, 2011). Examples include Gopal, Sarita, Diktel, box, tiger, happiness, and love. Similarly, in Chamling, '*minā'* (man), '*comlongmā'* (Mount Everest), and '*bulmā'* (anger) are nouns. In accordance with Leech (2006), nouns designate entities such as individuals, objects, substances, locations, and various abstract concepts (p. 72). Nouns effectively encompass both concrete (Brown & Miller, 2013) and abstract notions, thus encompassing distinct persons, objects, or locations as well as intangible concepts. Likewise, Chamling nouns are referred to both concrete and abstract notions, such as '*khipā*' (dog), '*sentumā'* (love), and '*ampāyumā'* (silver).

Furthermore, Thomson & Martinet (2015) state that a noun can function as: the subject of a verb, the complement of the verbs, and the object of a preposition (p. 16). In both, English and Chamling languages function as the subject of the verbs such as Ram ate rice (English) and rāmwā rõ cyo (Chamling). In addition, nouns can be modified by adjectives, which are words that describe or give more information about the nouns in English. For instance, in the phrases "a good man", and "a beautiful girl", the adjectives "good" and "beautiful" precede the nouns "boy" and "girl" respectively. Similarly, nouns can be modified by adjectives in Chamling. The term "khainyoko" functions as an adjective and acts as a pre-modifier in the phrases "**khainyoko** *chhaikumā*" and "**khainyoko** *minā*." The examples of English and Chamling languages reveal how adjectives modify nouns to convey particular details or characteristics. Finally, the concept of Ur (2009) leads to the definition of a noun. He states, "Nouns usually function as do pronouns, as the subject, object, or complement of a verb."

The number of nouns differ among different languages. They are categorized according to countability, semantic criterion (similarity in meaning), and morphology (grouping with similar nouns). In term of number, English nouns can be classified into singular and plural nouns. Similarly, on the basis of countability, it can divided into countable and uncountable nouns. Moreover, on the basis of gender, English nouns are divided into masculine, feminine, common, and neuter. Additionally, Gleason states that "English nouns fall into two major classes with regard to the semantic value of number: count nouns and mass nouns (p. 157).

Similarly, English nouns are classified into proper nouns (Nepal), common nouns (dog), abstract nouns (courage), and collective nouns (team) (Boltwood, 1869; Thomson & Martinet, 2015; Nelson & Greenbaum, 2018) according to their meaning. On the other hand, Bussmann et

al. (2006) have mentioned that semantically, nouns are either concrete or abstract. Furthermore, they stated that concrete nouns include proper nouns, common nouns, collective nouns and other mass nouns (wine, gold, blood) and abstract nouns indicate properties (loyalty), events (dreams), relationships (animosity, and measurements (hour, mile).

Literature Review

Nouns are a universal category in all languages of the world. Every language possesses its own noun system. The categories of nouns varies across languages and is classified based on different criteria in different languages. A literature review examines the findings presented by various scholars regarding these different parameters.

Category in Noun System

Different scholars have studied the noun systems across various languages, classifying distinct categories of nouns. Consequently, they have involved in comparative analyses of the noun systems between different languages. Their finding of studies indicates a diversity in the classification of nouns across various languages. The results indicate an inconsistency in the classification of nouns.

Allanova (2024) conducted a comprehensive comparative study of noun types in the English and Karakalpak languages. He identified six categories of nouns common to both languages: common nouns, proper nouns, collective nouns, abstract nouns, countable nouns, and uncountable nouns. In the English language, proper nouns are always capitalized, regardless of their position in a sentence. Conversely, in Karakalpak, the days of the week and the months of the year are written in lowercase if they appear in the middle of a sentence.

Odiljonovna and Bahtiyorovna (2024) discovered similarities and differences in the noun systems of Uzbek and English. Both languages inflect their nouns for number, but Uzbek inflects for case, while English inflects for case and gender. Semantically, both languages classify nouns into animate and inanimate categories.

Parajuli (2023) stated that in Nepali, there are three types of nouns: simple or common nouns, specific or proper nouns, and abstract nouns. Furthermore, Nepali abstract nouns are formed/ derived from three ways: (a) derived from simple nouns, (b) derived from verbs, and (c) derived from adjectives.

Betti (2022) explores the dual categorization of nouns as count or non-count, with some being able to fit into either category. He further categorizes nouns into five different pairs, thereby offering a thorough framework for comprehending their various forms. These forms consist of Proper and common nouns, Countable and mass nouns, Collective nouns, Concrete and abstract nouns, and Alienable and Inalienable nouns.

Santhalunai and Vijaya (2020) discussed five categories of nouns in Thai and English, including proper nouns, common nouns, collective nouns, abstract nouns, and countable and uncountable nouns. English proper nouns and Thai proper nouns have similar meanings and functions, even though the capital letter does not appear in the Thai language. Thai common nouns can also be used as English common nouns, although some common nouns in Thai do not have gender, are not inflected, and do not have plural forms. The concept of collective nouns in Thai is the same as in English. In English and Thai, there are differences in the use and meaning of abstract nouns. In Thai, abstract nouns are derived from nouns, verbs, and adjectives. Unlike

English, in Thai, every noun is non-countable, so the plural and singular forms are the same. Instead of using plural forms, Thai employs numeral classifiers to indicate quantity.

According to Nelson and Greenbaum (2018), nouns can be categorized as common or proper. Proper nouns are specific names of people, places, or events, such as Shakespeare, Chicago, January, Christmas, and Ramadan. Common nouns are further classified based on the type of referent (concrete or abstract) and their grammatical form (count or non-count) (p. 33)

The literary works mentioned above indicate variations in the number of noun categories. Allanova (2024) has identified six types of nouns: common, proper, collective, abstract, countable, and uncountable nouns. In contrast, Odiljonovna and Bahtiyorovna (2024) focus exclusively on two categories: animate and inanimate nouns. Moreover, Parajuli (2023) has found only three types of nouns: simple (or common) nouns, specific (or proper) nouns, and abstract nouns. Moreover, Betti (2022) introduces a dual classification of nouns into count and non-count categories, later he elaborates on five categories of nouns. Additionally, Santhalunai and Vijaya (2020) explore five noun categories in both Thai and English. Lastly, Nelson and Greenbaum (2018) have grouped these noun categories into two main types: common and proper.

Classification of Nouns Based on the different Criteria

Nouns can be classified according to various criteria, including gender, number, meaning, and form.

Rizarni and Sari (2022) undertook a comprehensive classification of nouns based on six distinct criteria: meaning, form, the relationship to other parts of speech, gender, specification, and number. According to meaning, nouns were delineated into seven categories: proper, common, concrete, abstract, countable, uncountable, and collective nouns. Additionally, they established ten form-based groupings, with particular attention given to compound nouns. Moreover, they identified two types of nouns based on their derivation from other parts of speech, specifically adjectives and verbs. Furthermore, gender-based distinctions yielded two categories: nouns relating to males and females. In terms of specification, they expounded upon two types of nouns. Finally, the criteria of number led to the identification of three types of nouns: the first indicated one, the second indicated two, and the third comprised three subtypes: male, female, and neuter nouns that do not distinguish between male and female.

Kouneli (2021) discussed the noun classification in Kipsigis languages, which belongs to the Nilo-Saharan language family. In this language, nouns are classified based on their number. Moreover, he mentioned a tripartite system of number marking: (a) some nouns are considered singular in their basic form and form their plural by adding a plural suffix. (b) Some nouns are considered plural in their basic form and form their singular by adding a singulative suffix. (c) A third class of nouns never appear in their basic form: they have a singulative suffix in the singular and a plural suffix in the plural.

Lastly, nouns are divided into two or more groups according to their gender in Kipsigis. For at least some animate nouns, the categorization of nouns can be based on biological sex, animacy, and/or humanness. Moreover, there is no proof that "collective" nouns exist, and every diagnostic suggests that mass and count nouns are separate from one another. Maillart and Parisse (2019) asserted that nouns are defined by their form and meaning. They categorically state that there are two fundamental types of nouns: proper and common.

Proper nouns are specific names of people, places, days, months, and so on, whereas common nouns have a generic meaning. Additionally, they emphasize that count nouns and mass nouns have distinct forms.

Crystal (2011) has provided a comprehensive definition of nouns, stating that they are items displaying specific types of inflection, having a distinct distribution, and performing particular syntactic functions. His definition of nouns incorporates three main criteria: inflection, distribution, and function. Additionally, Crystal mentioned two classes of nouns: common and proper types. Furthermore, Crystal asserts that nouns can be analyzed in terms of number, gender, case, and countability.

Twala (1992) clearly outlines three criteria for the classification of nouns in the Isizulu language: morphological, syntactic, and semantic. The morphological criterion involves the form of the class prefix, the syntactic criterion is based on the concords and pronouns associated with the various prefixes, and the semantic criterion involves the meaning of the nouns concerned. In the realm of linguistic classification, nouns are subjected to varying criteria across different languages.

Classification of Nouns Based on the function

Berry (2018) has stated that "nouns are an open word class, and new nouns are being devised almost every day, it seems". Additionally, he has accepted that the traditional definition of nouns is not entirely accurate. He categorically identifies two formal features of nouns: a) they change form for singular and plural (e.g., dog, dogs, dog's, and dogs') and b) they can serve as the head of a noun phrase and be preceded by a determiner (e.g., some people).

In the study by Aarts et al. (2014), they have explained that a noun is part of a word class whose members have the ability to function as the head of a noun phrase, can inflect for plural, and can be preceded by determiners and adjectives. They emphasize that nouns can serve as the head word of a noun phrase (e.g., the cat, an apple), can be preceded by determiners (e.g., the cat), or be accompanied by adjectives (e.g., a good boy), and can also have a plural form (e.g., cat= cats). It's important to note, however, that their concept of nouns does not encompass abstract nouns.

Different scholars from different perspectives define nouns differently; there is no consistency in their definitions, despite the fact that all scholars agree that a noun is a naming word. They can be categorized as countable or uncountable (Santhalunai & Vijaya, 2020, Rizarni & Sari, 2022; Allanova, 2024), and they also fall into the categories of animate or inanimate (Odiljonovna & Bahtiyorovna, 2024; Kouneli, 2021).The noun phrases can begin with nouns as the head word (Aarts et al., 2014). They can function as the subject of the sentence, the object of the verb or complement, or the object of a preposition (Thomson & Martinet, 2015). Specifically, nouns are divided into common and proper nouns (Brown, 1851; Crystal, 2011; Nelson & Greenbaum, 2018; Millart & Parisse, 2019). They are further divided into proper nouns, common nouns, collective nouns, abstract nouns, concrete nouns, countable nouns, and uncountable nouns (Green & Weiner, 2009; Betti, 2022; Rizarni & Sari, 2024; Allanova, 2024).The classification of nouns is influenced by a range of factors such as meaning, countability, gender, number, and the method of derivation. None of the scholars have fully covered all types of nouns or perspectives on their classification, despite their varied approaches in examining the noun system.

Methods of Study

This research employs a qualitative descriptive methodology. Data were collected from fifteen native Chamling speakers of two distinct dialects: Diktel and Halesi through unstructured interviews and field visits. Furthermore, to clarify, the confusion in the data the researcher visited two times in the research fields and discussed with the respondents. Additionally, data regarding the English language was obtained from reliable secondary materials, such as research papers, thesis, dictionary entries, grammars, and journal articles.

After collecting the data, the interview responses were categorized, structured, refined, grouped, and examined based on the relevant language categories. Each set of data was examined independently. Furthermore, a contrastive methodology was employed to compare the data in the two languages, which served to illuminate both the similarities and differences present.

Discussion and Finding

Noun systems in Chamling

Nouns from various languages can be classified and defined using a range of criteria. According to Rai (2011), three primary criteria for noun classification are form, meaning, and function. However, this study employs five criteria: meaning, countability, gender, morphological aspects, and form.

Based on the meaning

Proper Noun

The proper nouns in Chamling refer to specific names of persons, locations, or objects, such as *sitā, rām, yalkhim, diktel*.

The proper nouns related person

The proper nouns of Chamling can be used to represent either an individuals or their surname, such as *sitā, yalmbr, hechākuppā*, *kārki*, and *sumnimā*. Furthermore, the proper nouns of the Chamling language is shown in Table 1.

Table 1
The Chamling-Proper Nouns Related to Person

Chamling proper nouns	English equivalent
yalmbr	Yalmber
sitā	Sita
rāi	Rai

As shown in Table 1, the first letter of a proper noun must be capitalized in English, while there is no need for capitalization in Chamling.

The use of proper nouns related to person is illustrated in the following:

(a) ***ramitā** khim pusā.*
    Ramita went home.
(b) ***sitā**wā rõ mu.*
    Sita cooked rice.

In the above example, "*ramitā*" and "*sitā*" are proper nouns and they are used as the subject of the verbs.

The proper nouns related to place/ mountains

Table 2 shows some proper nouns related to place, mountain, and hill in Chamling.

Table 2

The Chamling- Proper Nouns Related to place/ mountain/ hill

Chamling proper nouns	English equivalent
Diktel	Diktel
comolungmā	Mount Everest
terpācung	Temke
yalekhim	Kathmandu

The use of proper nouns related to place, mountain, and hill is illustrated in the following:

    (a) yalkhim pusā.
        Go Kathmandu.
    (b) terpācung khyācung hinge.
        Temke is tall.
    (c) comolungmā haikhāmāḍāko sunglow cung hinge.
        Mount Everest is the tallest peak in the world.

The proper nouns related to river/ festival/things

Table 3 shows some proper nouns related to river, festival and thing in Chamling.

Table 3

The Chamling- Proper Nouns Related to River/ Festival/ Thing

Chamling proper nouns	English equivalent
karnālī	Karnali
ḍowām	Tihar (the festival of lights)
nāma	sun

The use of proper nouns related to river, festival, and thing is illustrated in the following:

    (a) *karnālī nepālḍā kokengā yongā.*
    The Karnali is the longest river of Nepal.
    (b) *ḍowām*ḍā khim bānāni.
        Come home in Tihar.
    (c) *sikhip nānāwā baidi.*
        Sister brought the comb.

These examples reveal that proper nouns in Chamling can denote both animate and inanimate entities, exemplified by "*sitā*" (animate) and "*diktel*" (inanimate). The proper nouns serve to identify persons, places, rivers, mountains, and hills, and they remain unmodified by determiners or adjectives. Moreover, it is important that capital letters are not employed at the beginning of these nouns. Additionally, proper nouns can operate as either the subject of a sentence or the object of a verb.

Common noun

Common nouns encompass a wide range of categories such as jobs, plants, animals, geographical features, ideas, and objects. These nouns can be concrete or abstract. Table 4 represents the common nouns of the Chamling language.

Table 4
Common nouns with their English equivalent

Related to human beings	Related to animals/ birds	related to nature/ geographical features	related to ideas/ abstractness	Related to objects
māmā (mother)	khipā (dog)	wāḍippā (snow)	rungrimā (culture)	chāblā (book)
minā (man)	wāwāsā (duck)	sungpā (wood)	syāmi (dream)	philuthā (shoe)

The use of common nouns is illustrated in the following:

(a) ***khipā**wā rõ cyo*.

　　The dog ate rice.

(b) ***berāmā**wā icuppā lhāpu*.

　　The cat caught a rat.

(c) *tyoko **minā** moumchhuḍā chāblā hinge*.

　　That man has a book in his hand.

(d) ***wāsā** nināmāḍā perā*.

　　The bird flew in the sky.

(e) ***bāusā**wāwāci/powāmā setyu*.

　　The jackal killed a cock/ hen.

(f) ***piumā** cisā/sethromā cyoyo*.

　　The cow eats the grass.

(g) *khānā **wātāmmā** khāte*.

　　I went to the field.

(h) bopluwā/melekwākhimḍā hinge.

　　The pigeon lives at home.

The analysis shows that common nouns function as both subjects and objects within a sentence and are normally not capitalized. In general, they do not require determiners. However, it is important to note that these nouns can indeed be modified by determiners and adjectives, as illustrated by examples such as "*oko berāmā*" (this cat), "*tyoko minā*" (that man), "*ik wāpā*" (one cock), and "*hākā maisici*" (two buffaloes). Additionally, common nouns can be classified into two categories: concrete nouns, exemplified by "*piumā*" (cow), and abstract nouns, represented by "*rungrimā*" (culture).

Collective noun

The collective noun of Chamling refers to a group or collective of people, animals, or things and that group perform as a single unit. Some collective nouns in Chamling are illustrated in Table 5.

Table 5

Chamling collective nouns and their English equivalent

Chamling collective noun	English equivalent
cirbimbim mināci	crowd of men
sini cailipāci	a crowd of students
umkhām pirā	flock of deer
bungmo bungwāci	bouquet of flowers
siciyā-rulāwā/ pelemaā	wedding procession
sirāwā bungwāci	garden of flowers
caikhāmcailipāci	class class of students
sututu maisici	herd of buffaloes
pol bungām	bouquet of flowers
phām cāhwā	bundle of paddy
rãyãyã sungsya	bunch of litchi

The use of collective nouns is illustrated in the following:

    (a*) yi **cirbimbim** mināci khim milāmthā.*

        A crowd of men went home.

    (b) yi **umkhām** *maisīci bonyonyānī mionhā.*

        A flock of buffaloes ran towards the shed.

    (c) *khu yi **bungākhā**ḍā wāngā.*

        She went to the garden.

    (d) ***siciyā rulāwā** milāmtā.*

        A wedding procession moved forward.

    (e) *kuwāyi **pham** cāhwā khunyu.*

        He carried a bundle of paddy.

    The analysis reveals that in Chamling, collective nouns may be employed with or without the use of determiners. In the Chamling language, collective noun always uses as singular.

Material Noun

    The Chamling material noun specifically identifies a tangible object that can be perceived by the senses. Generally material nouns are obtained from different sources. According to the sources, they are categories into four: (a) obtained from nature, (b) man-made, (c) from plants, and (d) from animals. Table 6 shows some material nouns in Chamling.

Table 6

Chamling material nouns

Obtained from nature	Man-made	Obtained from plants	Obtained from animals
hippāni (copper)	ārākhā (homemade whisky	sungwā (tea)	bokhim (leather)
ampāyumā (silver)	phililimā (butter/ ghee)	okhati (medicine)	mukhyā (wool)

The use of material nouns is illustrated in the following:

(a) ***sungwā*** *hulāpā/ hanlā hinge*.
The tea is hot.

(b) *hippāti yadeseko hinge*.
Copper is cheap.

(c) ***lowā/ hipātimmā*** *ḍyāngo chyuseko hinge*.
Gold became very expensive

(d) ***chyolyomā/ ampāyumā*** *kebhāngo yadeseko hinge*.
Silver is very cheap.

(e) ***sungpā*** *tārkubdhum na sung tāmum*.
Make firewood by cutting the wood.

(h) *rāmwā ārākhā dyungu*.
Ram drank raksi. (homemade whisky).

(i) *summnimawā* ***hipātimmā*** *huudi*.
summnimawā bought gold.

The analysis indicates that material nouns in Chamling can function as either the subject of a sentence or the object of verbs; however, they generally do not take a determiner. These nouns are not commonly countable. Certain material nouns may be treated as countable depending on the context, exemplified by the term "*ārākhā*", which denotes **homemade whisky**. For instance, in the sentence "*kālāi itoārākhā idāni*," it specifies a particular bottle or cup of homemade whisky. Moreover, material nouns are classified as common nouns since they refer to substances rather than individuals or places.

Abstract Noun

Abstract nouns represent intangible concepts or ideas that cannot be experienced with the five senses. Table 7 illustrates various abstract nouns in the Chamling language.

Table 7

Chamling abstract nouns and their English equivalent

Chamling abstract noun	English equivalent
cāli/ yampāt/chimāwi	greed
ḍyukhā	grief
cālāpu	happiness
rabusung/romusowā	quarrel
csyāncin / ḍātelng	decoration

kungcaimā	pain
semtu/ semri	love
semtikamā	pity

The use of collective nouns is illustrated in the following:
  (a) ***semtu/ semri*** *khuinyoko tire*.
      Love is sweet.
  (b) *khaimo* ***semtikamā*** *kālai cāhibāpālung*.
      I don't need your pity.
  (c) ***nināmkhriḍā/ ḍyukhāḍā*** *soipānī sāth pāiduncui*.
      No one supports you in grief.
  (d) ***cāliwāsai/ yampāt/ chirmā*** *buiḍyo*.
      Greed undoubtedly leads to death.
  (e) ***rbusung****wā/ **romusowā*** *khim robhoso muyo*.
      Quarrel destroys the home.
  (h) ***csyāncin / ḍātelng/ ramikhmā-pamikhmā*** *khunnyāko hinge*.
      Decoration is very good.
  (i) ***kungcaimā*** *yanmima iḍāni.* (Do not tell your pain.)
      The analysis indicates that the abstract nouns of Chamling cannot be directly observed.
They may refer to characteristics of people, ideas, or units of time. Moreover, they contrast with
concrete nouns.

Classes of noun based on countability
All Chamling nouns are grouped into two categories based on the countability:
Countable and uncountable nouns.
Countable nouns
In Chamling, countable nouns include proper nouns, and common nouns, whereas the
countability of collective nouns depends on the meaning of the sentence. Table 8 provides an
illustration of countable nouns in Chamling.

Table 8
Countable in Chamling

Noun	Example
wāpā (cock)	ikrā wāpā, hākārāwāpāci, simrāwāpāci, ngārāwāpāci
berāmā (cat)	ikrāberāmā, hākārā berāmāci, simrā berāmāci, ngārā berāmāci berāmāci
minā (man)	ikrā minā, hākārāmināci, simrāmināci, ngārāmināci

In Chamling, countable nouns are typically accompanied by determiners. Additionally,
both proper nouns and common nouns are included in this category.

Uncountable nouns

In general, Chamling uncountable nouns cannot be counted. Table 9 illustrates the uncountable nouns.

Table 9

Uncountable nouns in Chamling

Uncountable nouns	English Equivalent
phililimā	butter/ ghee
mukhyā	wool
khudo	honey
cāli/ yampāt/chismā	greed
ḍyukhā/nināmkhri	grief
rabusung	quarrel
ngipā	flattery

Generally, uncountable nouns in Chamling do not take determiners. This category encompasses both abstract and material nouns.

Classes of noun based on gender

Chamling nouns are categorized into four distinct classes based on gender: masculine, feminine, common, and neuter nouns. Some collective nouns in Chamling are illustrated in Table 10.

Table 10

Gender based nouns

Masculine nouns	Feminine nouns	Common nouns	Neuter nouns
wāpā (cock)	wāmā (hen)	waci(fowl)	dhui (iron)
bāhyaryāppā (male buffalo)	bāhyaryāpmā (female buffalo)	maisi (buffalo)	cārung (rice)
chāgārāpā (male goat)	chāgārāmā (female goat)	lāmkāṭhimā (goat)	hipātimā (gold)

The analysis reveals that in the Chamling language, the suffixes "*pā*" and "*mā*" serve to denote masculine and feminine genders, respectively. These suffixes are affixed to root words to form masculine and feminine nouns, exemplified by the combinations "*wā + pā = wāpā*" (referring to a male chicken) and "*wā + mā = wāmā*" (referring to a female chicken).

Derivational Nouns

In the Chamling language, some nouns are derived from verb, adjective and another noun which are mentioned below.

Table 11

Derivational nouns

Source	Root/ base	suffix	Derivated Noun
Created from verb	pilmā (to speak)	<se>	pilmā +se = pilmāse (speech)
	rungmā (to tell)	<se>	rungmā + se = rungmāse (statement)

	immā (to sleep)	<khā>	im+ khā= imkhā (a room for sleeping)
	yungmā (to sit)	<khā>	yung+ khā = (a place for sitting)
	sipmā (to sew)	<kā>	kā+ sip = kāsip (tailor)
Created from noun	wā (fowl)	<pā>	wā + pā = wāpā (cock/ rooster)
	wā (fowl)	<mā>	wā + mā = wāmā (hen)
	wā (fowl)	<ci>	wā + ci = wāci (chicken)
	cā (crop)	<khā>	cā +khā = cākhā (kitchen)
	cā (crop)	<uhā>	cā +uhā = cāuhā (paddy)
Created from adjective	philili (smooth) (adj)	<mā>	phililimā (butter)

Moreover, the creation of a noun takes place through the elimination of the suffix from the corresponding verb.

cāmā (to eat): cā (crop)

Furthermore, certain countable nouns are created by appending the suffixes <imi> or <mi> to uncountable nouns.

khāmbā (advice) : khāmbā + imi =khāmbāimi (advisor)

khāmbā (advice) : : khāmbā + mi = khāmbāmi (member)

The analysis shows that in the Chamling language, various nouns originate from distinct roots. Certain nouns are formed from other nouns, while others are derived from verbs or adjectives. Additionally, the majority of nouns are created through the addition of suffixes, whereas some result from the removal of suffixes. Following this process of derivation, these nouns perform as singular and simple nouns.

Reduplicative Nouns

In Chamling, certain nouns are formed by repeating the same noun. Sometime the complete form of the noun is repeated, and sometimes only part of the word is repeated.

khim (house): khimkhim (house to house)

lām (road) : lāmlām (road to road)

In Chamling, the formation of nouns through reduplication is quite limited, with only a small number existing.

Homonymy Nouns

Some nouns in Chamling are homonymies (they have the identical spelling and pronunciation, but have diverse meanings). Some homonymy nouns in Chamling are shown in Table 12.

Table 12

Some Chamling nouns with their dual meanings

Nouns	First meaning (noun)	Second meaning (noun)
sāngwā	Great barbet bird	Blue throated barbet bird
sām	flame	steam
sāhuri	swing	twisted strap for connecting the yoke to the

		plough-pole
siriyā	surprise	wonder
syāphuilā	whispering	a secret teller
hiya	crow	sin
hibdimā	heart	hiccup
hui	wind	hole
hungmāri	discipline	desire
hurthyāmāwā	eagle	a kind of bitter fern
hulyāpā	maize leaf	bark
heblo	armpit	boat
kata	quarrel	plough's bolt
kasung	deposit	rupee
kācup	metal maker	shoe-maker
khāmbu	roof	a big pot
khikramā	bitter gourd	greedy woman

The analysis reveals that in Chamling, a single noun can possess dual meanings, with both interpretations referring to nouns. This phenomenon can lead to confusion, making it crucial to consider the context in order to clarify the meaning of homonyms.

Onomatopoeic Nouns

Onomatopoeia refers to the process of naming an object or action through a vocal imitation of the sound that is related to it. Chamling comprises a limited set of mimic nouns that are associated with the sounds produced by animals or birds, as well as various processes.

cyācyāryā (francolin bird)

cemācemā (illumination produced by lighting)

gunggungmā (a black bumble bee) (Rai, 2011)

In Chamling, the names assigned to these animals, birds, or processes correspond directly to the sounds they produce.

Classes of Nouns based on Form

These above mentioned all nouns of Chamling are divided into two categories based on the forms: simple nouns and compound nouns.

Simple Nouns

Simple nouns are also called basic nouns. They are root form of the words. These root words can be divided into in word level. Table 13 illustrates the simple nouns.

Table 13
Simple Nouns in Chamling

Simple Nouns					
khipā (dog)	bungwā (flower)	wā (fowl)	yākhamā (moon)	cārung (rice)	wā (water)
berāmā (cat)	bechu (ginger)	wāpā (cock)	nām (sun)	cāuhā (paddy)	ampāyu (milk)
pipā (ox)	sāmbā (bamboo)	wāmā (hen)	puitipā (star)	chachalicā (maize)	hiyākhori (grief/ sorrow)

maisi (buffalo)	rihimmā (trousers)	wāci (chicken)	bokhāmā (earth)	bokhā (soil)	mārichā (woman)

Compound nouns

The process of compounding different nouns is used to make some nouns in Chamling.

khipā (dog) + mari (disease) = khipāmari (rabies)

khipā (dog) + king (tooth)= khipāking (canine tooth)

khāmbā (advice) + tim (meeting) = khāmbātim (council)

tyokumā (supporting wood) +sung (wood) = tyokumāsung = a wooden pillar

ruthiyā (rope)+ bung (flower) = ruthiyābung (a kind of creeper orchid)

The examples provided earlier demonstrate the process by which two separate nouns can be combined to form a new noun.

In Chamling, nouns can be classified according to their structural characteristics. Simple nouns are represented by a single word that denotes a noun. In contrast, compound nouns consist of multiple words. These nouns are created by combining two separate nouns, and once formed, they function as a single noun.

The analysis concludes that nouns in the Chamling language can be categorized into several distinct groups. These classifications are determined by several criteria, including semantic, morphological structure, countability, and the process of formation. In terms of meaning, Chamling nouns can be divided into proper nouns, common nouns, abstract nouns, material nouns, and collective nouns.Chamling nouns can be categorized based on number into singular and plural forms. Furthermore, the above-mentioned nouns are categorized into animate and inanimate nouns, with certain animate nouns classified as human nouns and others as non-human nouns. Additionally, they are classified by gender into masculine, feminine, common, and neuter nouns. Moreover, Chamling nouns encompass various types, including derived nouns, homonymous nouns, reduplicated nouns, onomatopoeia nouns, and compound nouns. Overall, these classifications can be broadly summarized into countable and uncountable nouns, as well as abstract and concrete nouns.

Nouns Systems in English

A noun or a name is a term used to clearly distinguish an object or idea that may be considered separately or alone, such as earth, water, truth, and so on (Peirce, 1839, p. 20).In English, nouns are used to represent either concrete entities or abstract notions. Nouns in English can be classified according to different parameters such as number, countability, meaning, gender, and usage. According to Bussmann et al. (2006), nouns can be singular or plural, countable or uncountable, concrete or abstract. They can be masculine, feminine, common, or neuter. Nouns may be categorized as either subjective or objective. In particular, this discussion will focus on proper nouns, common nouns (Jukes, 2019), as well as collective, abstract, material, and various other types of nouns.

Based on the meaning

Proper noun

Proper nouns are the names of specific objects or places that distinguish them from all others of their class. For example: William, Sita, and Dhankuta (Boltwood, 1869, p. 94). Proper

nouns have unique references and begin with a capital letter when written, for instance: Bill Clinton, Jerusalem, Christmas, December (Weiner, 1985). Moreover, the syntactic proper nouns are a subclass of the countable nouns of English (Sloat, 1969). Moreover, Malika (2021) categorizes proper nouns into various groups, including personal names, surnames, nicknames, names of animals, geographical locations, titles of offices and workplaces, as well as names of books, magazines, newspapers, films, performances, bodies of water, buildings, historical events, holidays, and astronomical terms. Consequently, a proper noun serves to identify a distinct person, object, or place. Table 14 illustrates further examples of proper nouns in the English language.

Table 14

Proper Nouns in English

Proper Nouns Related to Person's names		Related to Day/ month/ festival	Proper Nouns Related to Place/ others	Plural Proper Nouns
Ram	Sita	Sunday	Nepal	the Andes
Shyam	Sharmila	Monday	Kathmandu	the Bahamas
Hari	Barbara	Christmas	Mt. Makalu	the Alps
Robert	Liza	Sakela	Nile river	the Rockies
John	Mary	July	England	the Canaries

As shown in Table 14, proper nouns are either singular or plural, but they are specific and specify particular persons, places, mountains, planets, days, months, festivals, and rivers or oceans. The first letter of the proper nouns is always capitalized in English. "Proper noun does not take the determiners" (Sloat, 1969, p. 26).

Common noun

Common nouns describe a class of entities, such as dog, table, and man. The majority of common nouns possess both singular and plural forms, as exemplified by "boy" transforming into "boys" and "orange" into "oranges", while some, like air and water, do not have plural forms. According to Greenbaum and Nelson (2009, p. 88), common nouns can be classified in two ways: (a) by the type of referent, which can be either concrete or abstract, and (b) by their grammatical form, which can be either count or non-count. Moreover, English common nouns can be divided into count and mass or non-count categories (Krifka, 1995; Greenbaum & Nelson, 2009, Swan & Walter 2011), while Boltwood (1869) has discussed four classes of common nouns: abstract, collective, verbal, and diminutive. Count nouns can usually be counted, however non-count nouns are considered as singular and cannot be assigned a number. Moreover, Luo (2012) states that "Count nouns and mass nouns are both common nouns" (p. 176).There is no numerical distinction for these nouns. Table 15 shows some singular and plural common nouns in English.

Table 15

Singular and plural common nouns in English

Singular common nouns	Plural common nouns
dog	dogs

woman	women
child	children
spy	spies
leaf	leaves
criterion	criteria
cactus	cacti

In English, some nouns have the same singular and plural forms. These nouns are listed in Table 16.

Table 16
The nouns with the same form in both their singular and plural forms

Singular common nouns	Plural common nouns
deer	deer
aircraft	aircraft
sheep	sheep
cattle	cattle

As shown in Table 16, sheep, deer, cattle, aircraft, some more other nouns are used in singular form for both singular and plural forms, such as a sheep, two sheep, three sheep, and so on.

In English, some nouns are plural in form, even though, they take singular verbs. These nouns are listed in Table 17.

Table 17
Plural nouns that take singular verbs

Nouns	Examples
news	The news starts at 7 a.m.
Linguistics	Linguistics is the science of language.
athletics	Athletics is good for both girls and boys.

Common nouns are either countable or uncountable. Countable nouns represent the objects that can be counted, whereas non-countable nouns cannot. Non-countable nouns represent something general, not specific. Moreover, countable nouns are either singular or plural. Countable nouns can be either specific or non-specific, and specific countable nouns represent a unique objective, whereas non-specific nouns represent generality. Similarly, plural countable nouns can be either specific or non-specific, and countable specific plural nouns are preceded by the article "the," whereas non-specific plural nouns are not.

Collective noun

A collective noun has a singular form, but is applied to a number of individuals or a group of something, such as flock, army, host (Boltwood, 1869, p. 95). Furthermore, Leech (2006) states that acollective noun refers to a group, or collection, of beings, for example,

audience, class, committee, crowd, gang, herd, jury, party, team (p. 20). These collective nouns are listed in Table 18.

Table 18

Collective nouns in English

Collective Nouns for people	Examples	Collective nouns for animals	Examples	Collective nouns for things	Examples
team	a team of players	heard	a herd of sheep	fleet	a fleet of ship
troop	a troop of warriors	colony	a colony of ants	range	a range of mountains

English collective nouns are used to describe groups of people, animals, and things or objects. They are regarded as individual entities. In American English, collective nouns are consistently treated as singular, exemplified by the sentence, "The government has made a new decision." In contrast, British English allows for collective nouns to be either singular or plural, contingent upon the context, as illustrated in the following examples: "The staff was absent yesterday" and "The staff were busy in their regular duties."

Generally, an English collective noun is preceded by an indefinite article and followed by a prepositional phrase. "Collective nouns serve as head nouns in this arrangement" (Rodney & Pullum, 2005), such as **a team of players**. In this instance, the 'team' is the collective noun, and it is preceded by an indefinite article and followed by a prepositional phrase.

Material Noun

A material noun refers to a substance that can be measured or weighed but cannot be counted as individual items. It is always used in the singular form, so it requires singular verbs. Indefinite articles are not used before material nouns. When referring to substances with material nouns, they can be converted into different colors, forms, shapes, etc. They unequivocally remain material nouns even after they are changed into other forms. For instance, when a bar of gold is melted, it can be used to make many ornaments, while the gold's inherent quality remains unchanged in these ornaments. Some examples of material nouns are water, rock, gold, silver, rubber, and copper. The use of material nouns is illustrated in the following.

Water is necessary for our life.

Gold is the most expensive in Nepal.

Our water pot is made of **copper**.

He drank **water.**

They can be used as the subject of the sentence, object of the verb, and object of a preposition in a sentence. For instance, "Gold" is used as the subject of the sentence in "Gold is the most expensive in Nepal". "Water" is used as an object of the verb in "He drank water". Similarly, "Copper" is used as the object of the preposition in "Our water pot is made of copper".

Abstract noun

An abstract noun is the substantive name of a quality, derived from a descriptive adjective, such as kindness, truth, ability (Boltwood, 1869, p. 95). Abstract nouns have no plural (p. 98). Furthermore, Brown (1851) states that an abstract noun is the name of some particular quality considered apart from its substance; as, Goodness, hardness, pride. Abstract nouns in English is categorized into countable and uncountable. Table 18 illustrates abstract nouns, both countable and uncountable.

Table 19
Abstract nouns in English

Uncountable abstract nouns		Countable abstract nouns
luck	anger	an amazing **time** / a nice **time**
peace	grief	one **idea**, two **ideas**
wealth	love	an extraordinary **experience**
Beauty	fear	a strange **love**
bravery	hate	an **innate** skill for dancing

The abstract nouns mentioned previously are usually unable to be touched or seen. They are employed to represent abstract ideas. Abstract nouns originate from various root categories. Based on this criterion, abstract nouns can be classified into various categories, which include those derived from adjectives, verbs, common nouns, material nouns, and proper nouns. Table 20 shows the derivational roots associated with these abstract nouns.

Table 20
Derivation of Abstract Nouns

Adjectives	Verb	Common noun	Material nouns	Proper noun
sadness,	decision	friendship	goldness	Buddhism
bravery	entertainment	brotherhood	silverness	Marxism

Classes of English nouns based on the countability

English Nouns can be categorized into two types based on their countability: countable and uncountable (Mashkhura & Mukhammadiev, 2024; Foley & Hall, 2003).

Countable nouns

Countable nouns are typically concrete nouns that can be 'counted', like "a computer" or "three computers" (Foley & Hall, 2003). They represent individual entities that can be counted, such as "a book," "a child," or "a car" (Miller & Brown, 2013).Here are some examples of countable nouns in English.

Table 21
Countable nouns in English

Countable nouns			
book	egg	pen	pencil
cat	cow	man	chair
Jackal	finger	book	bag

Count nouns have both a singular and a plural, and they can be introduced by determiners that accompany distinctions in number. They can be used with quantifiers and numerical quantities, e.g. one table, two tables, or three tables.

Uncountable nouns

Uncountable nouns, also known as non-count nouns (Greenbaum & Nelson, 2009), refer to entities viewed as indivisible masses that cannot be counted, such as information, furniture, and software. Table 22 shows uncountable nouns in English.

Table 22
Uncountable nouns in English

Uncountable nouns		
information	sugar	oil
beauty	ink	milk

Material nouns and abstract nouns are commonly classified as uncountable nouns.
Uncountable nouns are always singular and are not used with indefinite article (e.g. a, an).
> I do not want advice.
> Happiness is essential for maintaining good health in life.
But these nouns are often preceded by some, any, no, a little, etc., or by nouns such as bit, piece, slice, etc. of:
> some information
> any advice
> *no time*
> *a little time*
> a bit of news
> a piece of advice
Uncountable nouns can only be accompanied by determiners that do not refer to distinctions in number.

Classes of English nouns based on the gender

In the English language, nouns are not assigned grammatical gender (Salimovna, 2024), although distinct forms of nouns exist to denote male and female entities. Consequently, nouns can be classified into four categories according to their gender.
  a. Masculine nouns
  b. Feminine nouns
  c. Common nouns

d. Neuter nouns

Masculine nouns are used to refer to males, male animals, or objects considered to be masculine or associated with men. Conversely, feminine nouns are used to refer to females, female animals, or objects considered to be feminine or associated with women. This concept is illustrated in Table 23.

Table 23

Nouns based on the gender

Masculine	Feminine	Common	Neuter
man	woman	driver	iron
father	mother	pilot	rice
uncle	aunt	friend	river

In the English language, the morphological structure of nouns varies according to gender.

Some English nouns of feminine gender are generated by adding the suffix "ess" to the corresponding masculine form. This concept is illustrated in Table 24.

Table 24

Formation of feminine nouns adding "ess" to the masculine nouns

Masculine	Feminine
actor	actress
duke	duchess
god	goddess
heir	heiress
host	hostess

Based on the form

The nouns of English can be classified into simple and compound nouns based on the form.

Simple nouns

Regarding structure, simple nouns are composed solely of a single root form and are also referred to as basic nouns. This concept is illustrated in Table 25.

Table 25

Simple nouns in English

Proper nouns	Common nouns	Abstract nouns	Material nouns	Collective nouns
Govinda	tiger	advice	rice	school
Sarita	cat	sorrow	sugar	flock

Compound nouns

A compound noun is a type of noun created by combining two or more separate words, which together function as a single entity (Bell, 2012). Furthermore, Hu (2019) states that compound nouns can be understood from two distinct perspectives: the first perspective regards any lexicalized nominal unit formed from two or more elements as a compound noun, while the second perspective differentiates between morphological compounds and syntactical compounds. These nouns can arise from various combinations as presented in Table 26.

Table 26

Compound nouns in English

Noun+ Noun	Noun + verb	Noun + adjective	Gerund + noun	Adjective + noun	Adverb+ noun	Verb+ preposition	Preposition + noun	Preposition + verb	dephrasal compounds
firefly	haircut	sugar-free	washing machine	short-term	now-generation	breakdown	in-crowd	input	father-in-law
classroom	sunrise	lime-green	visiting-card	blueberry	bystander	makeup	by-product	output	Son-in-law

(Mignot, 2018).

Derivational nouns

Verbal Noun

Verbal nouns are created by appending the suffix (-ing) to a verb; however, it is important to note that verbal nouns and gerunds are distinct entities. To clarify this distinction, Quirk et al. (1985:1291) define a verbal noun as "an abstract non-count noun that can be formed from verbs through the addition of -ing, with the insertion of 'of' preceding the noun phrase that corresponds to the subject, in cases where the object is not explicitly mentioned," as illustrated by the following sentence. "The *dancing* of Susmita is perfect." In terms of their lexical classification, these words are categorized as nouns due to their morphological and distributional features that align with those of standard nouns. For example:

The writing of Sarita is attractive.

The singing of her daughter is wonderful.

The answering of Gopal is impressive.

A gerund is formed from a verb and functions as a noun; however, it is not classified as a verbal noun. For instance, the term "smoking" serves as a gerund in the sentence, "Smoking is harmful to health."

Reduplicative Nouns

Reduplication is a quite common process of word formation in English. According to Inkelas and Downing (2015), "Reduplication involves the doubling of some component of a morphological base for some morphological purpose."

Jesperson et al. (2013) categorize the process of word formation through reduplication into three distinct types: (a) the kernel is repeated without alteration, occasionally accompanied by an extension of one of the kernels; (b) the kernel is repeated with a modification of the vowel; and (c) the kernel is repeated with a modification of the consonant. Furthermore, Table 27 presents examples of reduplicative nouns.

Table 27

Reduplicative Nouns

First category	Meaning	Second category	Meaning	Third category	Meaning

drip-drip	a continued dripping	clip-clop	the sound of a horse's hoofs beating on a hard surface	bow wow	a child's word for a dog
quack-quack	a sound produced by a duck	jig-jog	a jolting motion	hodge-podge	a confused mixture of different things
goody-goody	a well behaved person	chit-chat	informal conversation about matters that are not important	hotch-potch	a kind of mutton broth with green peas instead of rice

(Okamura, 1991, pp. 18-19)

Onomatopoeic Nouns

In the English language, certain nouns are created through the mechanism of onomatopoeia. Furthermore, Bussmann et al. (2006) assert that onomatopoeia refers to the formation of words through the imitation of sounds from nature", such as "doodle-doo (cock)," "meow (cat)," and "splash" (The noise produced when an object makes contact with the surface of water). For instance, moo (the sound of a cow makes), woof (the sound of a dog makes), and chirp (the sound of a bird makes.

A Comparative Study of the Chamling and English noun systems

A comparative analysis of the Chamling and English noun systems is conducted based on the following criteria.

(a) In the English language, it is a standard practice for proper nouns to commence with capital letters; however, this rule is not followed in Chamling. For instance, in English, one would write "Ram" and "Temke" (referring to a hill), while in Chamling, the corresponding terms are "rām" and "terpācung." Additionally, proper nouns in both languages can represent both animate and inanimate entities.

(b) Nouns in both Chamling and English can be categorized based on various criteria, including meaning, number, gender, countability, and morphological, or form.

(c) In both Chamling and English, common nouns serve as either the subject or object of a verb, and they are not capitalized. These nouns can represent both abstract and concrete concepts in each language. Furthermore, they are either countable or uncountable.

(d) In both languages, collective nouns refer to a group of persons, animals, or objects as a singular entity. In Chamling, collective nouns are treated as singular, while in American English, they are predominantly singular. Conversely, in British English, the usage can be either singular or plural, depending on the context. In English, collective nouns are typically accompanied by an indefinite article or determiner, whereas in Chamling, this is not the case.

(e) In both languages, material nouns denote substances that can be measured or weighed but cannot be enumerated as distinct units. These nouns can originate from various sources, including nature, animals, plants, and human creations. In English, indefinite

articles are not used before these nouns, while in Chamling, they do not require determiners. In both languages, they are normally employed as singular nouns.

(f) Abstract nouns in both languages represent intangible concepts—ideas that cannot be physically perceived or touched, yet can be experienced emotionally. Typically, these nouns do not possess a plural form.

(g) In both Chamling and English, nouns can be categorized as either countable or uncountable. For instance, the English noun "dog" and the Chamling noun "khipā" are countable, while "advice" in English and "*khāmbā*" in Chamling are examples of uncountable nouns. Furthermore, nouns in both languages can be classified as abstract, such as "happiness" in English and "*semtikamā*" in Chamling, or as concrete, exemplified by "book" in English and "*chāblā*" in Chamling.

(h) In both languages, specific nouns are formed by the addition of affixes to verbs. For example, in English, the suffix "er" is affixed to the verb "teach," resulting in the noun "teacher." In a comparable manner, the Chamling language employs the suffixes "se," "khā," and "sip" to convert the verbs "pilmā" (to speak), "imam" (to sleep), and "sipmā" (to sew) into nouns, resulting in the formations "pilmāse" (speech), "imkhā" (a room for sleeping), and "kāsip" (tailor), respectively.

(i) In both English and Chamling, the formation of certain nouns involves the addition of suffixes to existing nouns. For instance, in English, the suffixes "ry" and "ism" can be added to the nouns "machine" and "human," respectively, resulting in "machinery" and "humanism." Similarly, in Chamling, suffixes such as *pā, mā, khā, imi/mi, ci*, and *uhā* are used to create new nouns, exemplified by terms like (wā+pā) *wāpā, wāmā, wāci, cākhā (cā+khā), cāuhā, cārimā, cārung*, and *khāmbāimi*.

(j) In both languages, nouns fulfill the roles of subjects in sentences as well as objects of verbs. For example, in the sentence "Ram is a student", the noun "Ram"acts as the subject, whereas "student" functions as the object of the verb. Likewise, in the Chamling language, the noun "*sumninimā*" serves as the subject, and "*rõ*" is the object in the sentence "*sumninimāwā rõ cyo*."

(k) In both languages, nouns can serve as complements to verbs. For example, in the English sentence "My sister is a nurse," the noun "nurse" functions as a complement. Similarly, in Chamling, the noun "*nānā*" serves as the complement in the sentence "*khumo nānā tayāmi hinge*." Furthermore, in English, nouns can also function as objects of prepositions, as illustrated in the sentence "I shall go with Sangita," where "Sangita" acts as the object of the preposition. In contrast, this grammatical structure is absent in Chamling.

(l) In the English language, countable nouns can be pluralized by the addition of regular suffixes, such as transforming "cat" into "cats" and "orange" into "oranges." Additionally, some nouns adopt foreign suffixes, exemplified by "cactus" becoming "cacti." Notably, certain nouns maintain identical forms in both singular and plural contexts, as seen with "sheep," which remains "sheep" regardless of number. Conversely, the Chamling language utilizes the suffix "ci" to transform singular nouns into their plural equivalents, exemplified by "*maisici*" (buffaloes).

(m) In both languages, a single noun can encompass multiple meanings. For example, the English noun "bat" denotes both "a flying mammal" and "a cricket bat." Likewise, the Chamling noun "heblo" possesses two distinct meanings: "armpit" and "boat."

(n) In both languages, nouns are derived from verb stems, although they do not function as verbal nouns. Instead, they serve as grounds that perform as nouns. As noted by Quirk et al. (1985:1291), verbal nouns are created by attaching "-ing" to the base form of a verb, with the preposition "of" preceding the resulting nouns, exemplified by the expression "The writing of Goma is attractive." This indicates that Chamling lacks pure verbal nouns.

(o) In both languages, compound nouns are used and follow to various patterns, including noun + noun, adjective + noun, noun + verb, and verb + noun. However, in Chamling, the patterns are limited to just two types: noun + noun and noun + verb + noun.

(p) Onomatopoeic nouns exist in both languages; however, English consists of a significantly larger collection of these nouns, many of which have been derived from various other languages.

(q) Abstract nouns are present in both languages; however, the system of abstract nouns in English is more comprehensive, with these nouns being formed from various categories of language, including adjectives, nouns, and verbs.

(r) The study indicates that the Chamling language has only borrowed a small amount of nouns from neighboring languages, while the English language has borrowed a large number of nouns from various languages globally. As a result, the noun system in English is more comprehensive compared to the Chamling noun system.

Conclusion

Nouns represent a fundamental grammatical category present in all languages. The noun systems of Chamling and English reveal both similarities and distinctions. These systems can be analyzed and categorized based on semantic, syntactic, morphological, and functional criteria. Additionally, both languages encompass various types of nouns, including proper nouns, common nouns, collective nouns, abstract nouns, and material nouns. They also differentiate between countable and uncountable nouns, as well as abstract and concrete nouns. Furthermore, both languages incorporate gender-based and number-based noun systems. Notably, they feature reduplicated and derived nouns, while the Chamling language includes instances of homonymous nouns.

The written tradition of proper nouns in Chamling manifests a distinct system compared to English. In English, proper nouns are capitalized, with the initial letter being uppercase. Conversely, Chamling utilizes a method in which proper nouns are generally presented in lowercase, signifying a lack of differentiation between uppercase and lowercase letters. The study of proper nouns is based on the standard variety of English, while the Chamling language consists of two separate dialects: the Diktel and Halesi. Within Chamling, certain variations exist that result in differences in noun forms across these dialects.

This study initially describes and illustrates the nouns of both languages separately, followed by a systematic and descriptive comparison between them.

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