



## Himalaya, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies

Volume 13  
Number 1 *Himalayan Research Bulletin*

Article 22

1993

# Dissertation Abstracts

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### Recommended Citation

(1993) "Dissertation Abstracts," *Himalaya, the Journal of the Association for Nepal and Himalayan Studies*: Vol. 13: No. 1, Article 22.  
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## DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS

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**Improved fodder tree management in the agroforestry systems- of central and western Nepal. Karki, Madhav Bahadur, Ph.D. Michigan State University, 1992. 262pp. Order Number DA9233899**

Ten, three-year-old, fodder tree species were evaluated at four on-station and three on-farm sites in Nepal. *Ficus semicordata* (Buchattam ex Sm ) growth was found to be significantly higher ( $p = .01$ ) than the rest in diameter and dry foliage weight values. Species were significantly ( $p = .01$ ) different in height, diameter, and foliage and wood growth.

Sites were significantly ( $p = .01$ ) different in total height growth only. On-farm species evaluation indicated that *A. lakoocha* and *F. semicordata* had significantly higher growth.

Allometric regression equations were developed to predict foliage, total wood, and total biomass yield of *F. semicordata*, and *B. variegata*. Individual-tree models were developed based on the data collected from experimental plots and farmers' fields. Logarithmic transformations gave better fitted models. For *B. variegata*, diameter at 60 cm and for *F. semicordata*, crown diameter and height gave the best fitted equations. Regression equations for three sites did not differ significantly ( $p = 0.05$ ) in their slope and intercepts. Therefore, data were pooled and a common model was estimated for each species. In on-farm regression models, height and crown diameter were the best predictors for *F. semicordata* and dbh gave the best fit for *B. variegata*. The models for the two species were used to construct regional fodder and fuelwood biomass tables.

An improved crop-livestock-fodder agroforestry system was designed for a village in Nepal, based on the research and survey data. Linear programming was used to demonstrate the use of a tool to optimize land allocation maximizing net returns while satisfying the supply of minimum needs of food, fodder, and fuelwood. The optimal solution indicated that, by improving the returns to labor and by applying more compost, the village should be able to increase the annual net farm returns from the current NRs. 2.94 million to an estimated NRs 3.85 million. The food, fodder, and fuelwood production levels were shown to increase by 17%, 130%, and 537% respectively. The labor and compost requirements were up by 138% and 59% respectively, over the five year period. The soil loss through run-off was estimated to decrease by about 15% over the same period.

*vol. 53 no. 7 January 1995 32.1-B*

**The Concept of the Ultimate (*don dam pa, paramartha*) in the "Samdhinirmocana-sutra": Analysis, translation, and notes. (Volumes I and II). Powers, Chester John, Ph.D. University of Virginia, 1991. 802pp. Order Number DA9221104**

The Samdhinirmocana-sutra is the primary scriptural basis for the Yogacara school, one of the two main philosophical schools of Indian Mahayana Buddhism (the other being Madhyamaka). This dissertation is a detailed examination of the concept of the ultimate as set forth in this text and contains materials from a wide range of commentarial literature from India, Tibet, and China. This topic is central to the sutra's presentation of hermeneutics, which is based on the understanding of the ultimate as outlined in the text and figures prominently in the sutra's explication of the ideal worldview of someone who understands its thoughts.

The first part of the dissertation is an introduction to scholarly study of the text, then discusses the various Tibetan and Chinese recensions of the sutra, its position in the literature of Indian Buddhism and particularly the Yogacara school, and the two largest commentaries on the sutra, by Wonch'uk and Jang-chup-dzu-trül.

The next section discusses the meaning of the title of the sutra and defends my rendering of this title as "Sutra Explaining the Thought".

This is followed by a discussion of the sutra's presentation of the ultimate, which is said to be "ineffable and of a non-dual character", "a character that transcends all argumentation", "a character that transcends sameness and difference", and "a character that is everywhere of one taste". The dissertation examines the ramifications of these characterizations and how the commentaries explain them.

Chapter three discusses theories about hermeneutics in the sutra and examines the relation between reasoning, tradition, and implicit notions of authority in the text.

The preface to the translation discusses the various Tibetan versions of the sutra, the opinions of contemporary scholars concerning their relations, and my own observations based on my study of the Samdhinirmocana. This is followed by a translation of the sutra, which consists of ten chapters of uneven length. (Abstract shortened with permission of author.)

*vol. 53 no. 9 March 1993 3257-A*

**The economic analysis of production and productivity growth in the Nepalese crop sector. Hamal, Krishna Bahadur, Ph.D. University of Alberta (Canada), 1991. 246pp. ISBN: 0-315-70125-0. Order Number DANN70125**

In this study, production trends, production structure, and productivity growth in the Nepalese crop sector over the past three decades are estimated and analyzed. The total factor productivity growth is

observed to be negative in the 1960s and 1970s and positive in the 1980s. The positive growth in the 1980s resulted primarily from a faster growth in crop output. A decomposition analysis of output growth indicates that area is the major contributing factor to the growth of crop output quality, whereas real crop output price is the major contributing factor to the growth of real crop output value.

The terms of trade for the Nepalese crop sector declined for the last three decades. However, the decline in terms of trade was relatively small in the 1980s compared to the 1960s and 1970s. Similarly, the growth rate of returns to cost is observed to be negative in the 1960s and 1970s and positive, but very small, in the 1980s.

The production structure in the Nepalese crop sector is found to be non-homothetic, whereas the technical change is land-saving, labor-using and fertilizer-using. A substitutability relationship is found between all input pairs. Fertilizer and land are observed to have respectively the highest and lowest degree of price elasticity of factor demand. The study also observed a significant relationship between rainfall and crop output.

In conclusion, continuation of a positive growth rate in Nepalese crop productivity likely depends on an increase in investment on basic infrastructure (especially irrigation and transportation), on strengthening of agricultural research capacity, and on changes in existing agricultural policies and macroeconomic policies.

*vol. 53 no. 10 April 1993 3619-A*

**The power to heal: Medicine and society in the Pakistani Himalayas. Sweetser, Anne Thompson, Ph.D. Harvard University, 1992. 881pp. Order Number DA9307609**

This study focuses on religiously-conceived moral power in terms of which residents of Kaghan Valley construct and experience both healing and social life. Human society, a superhuman domain, types of medical knowledge and practice, and specific remedies are all understood to be hierarchized in accord with differentially refracted power. The landowning Sayyid family, descended from both the Prophet Muhammad and a prominent saint in Swat, collapsed the distinct roles of landlord and saintly mediator into a unified, apically-focused pattern of authority when they conquered Kaghan. Enfeoffed and legalized by the British during the 19th Century, they claim to have been the only healer in the valley. Now challenged by poor farmers who desire to keep the profit from a new potato crop, and by religious conservatives who condemn all forms of saintliness as against Islam, they defend their position in the courts and by narration of the story of their conquest. In a highly evocative performance the family historian recounts miraculous events that demonstrate divine blessing on their rulership.

Kaghanis employ the humoral idiom of Yunani Tibb (Greco-Islamic medicine) to describe minor health problem, and attribute much sickness to beings and forces of the invisible, superhuman domain. They use herbal medicines, wear amulets, and seek varieties of spiritual and biomedical remedy in rapid succession, yet believe that efficacy of any treatment ultimately depends upon Allah's will. In villages, the boundaries between popular, folk, and professional medicine are highly permeable. The dynamics of purdah and family honor greatly complicate women's access to treatment, and survival to age five is precarious, especially for boys. Outside the community, villagers frequently distrust biomedical practitioners because their moral character is suspect and the clinic structure unfamiliar. However, some report long trips to see doctors, much as they formerly discussed pilgrimage to shrines. Among the first non-landlord representatives elected to local government, was a successful exorcist legitimized by a dramatic story of courage during initiation. Despite recent social change, the unquestioned intertransformability of religious virtuosity and political legitimacy remains grounded in a prior, more fundamental religio-moral power.

*vol. 53 no. 11 May 1993 3970-A*

**Clause chaining in Nepali discourse.** Crain, Laura Diane, Ph.D. University of California, Los Angeles, 1992. 157pp. Co-Chairs: Sandra A. Thompson; Paul Schachter. Order Number DA9317416

The phenomenon of clause chaining has been described and discussed for the last thirty years, but no comprehensive investigation of clause chaining has been undertaken using text data. In this study I have investigated clause chaining in Nepali discourse by examining a large number of syntactic and pragmatic features of clause chains.

The databases for this study consisted of 23 narrative texts, which included 310 clause chains. The method used was to code various features of each clause chain in a database and combine them in different ways to see what patterns and correspondences might emerge.

I found several patterns of interest, involving the features of subject continuity, verb morphology, chain transitivity, text relations, and subject placement. Among these patterns are several with cross linguistic relevance, including the correspondence between the Framing text relation and preceding-nonfinite subject placement, and the correspondence between transitive-transitive chain transitivity and Sequential temporal type.

Finally, I have made two more general proposals. One is the addition of the text relation Framing to those proposed by Mann and Thompson (1987). The relation is defined as relating clauses which represent subparts of a single event.

My other proposal is for a Predicate Connectedness Continuum, whose dimension is tightness of the link between predicates in a string. I have argued that prototypical verb serialization, in which the individual predicates are tightly linked, falls on one end of the continuum, while prototypical clause chaining, in which the individual clauses are more loosely connected, falls on the other end of the continuum. However, both clause chaining and verb serialization represent a spectrum of tightnesses of link as well, so in the middle of the Predicate Connectedness Continuum clause chains and verb serialization constructions overlap.

*vol. 54 no.2 August 1993 500-A*

**Evidentials in Tibetan: A dialogic study of the interplay between form and meaning.** Hongladarom, Krisadawan, Ph.D. Indiana University, 1993. 217 pp. Chair: Charles Bird. Order Number DA9323246

Based on sociolinguistic and ethnographic data obtained through the investigator's ten-month field research among a group of Tibetan refugees in Kathmandu, Nepal, the dissertation examines a multiplicity of meanings associated with uses of evidential verbs in Modern Spoken Tibetan. Evidentials in Tibetan constitute the core of the language's verbal system and exhibit a close relationship between grammar and discourse. Previous studies of evidentiality in Tibetan and elsewhere have put a primary emphasis on normative functions of these forms gathered almost exclusively from data elicitation techniques. To complete the vital social aspect of this study of evidentials, the researcher has investigated, through a number of dialogues and metapragmatic discussions with the native speakers, heterogeneous meanings of evidentials in a wide range of discourses such as conversations, folktales, and personal stories. Another major concern of the dissertation is the study of how children conceptualize evidential contrasts, and to what extent language socialization plays a role on children's acquisition of these linguistic forms.

It is argued from the outcome of the research that evidentials are not only used to indicate the source and reliability of knowledge, but are also used to convey various functions depending on social situations in which speakers find themselves. As demonstrated in the ways children talk and are socialized, evidentials, like other linguistic tools, are pragmatically contested and can be skillfully manipulated.

The study calls for a non-autonomous model of syntactic analysis that treats language as a social form of life and thus gives significance to the interplay between form and meaning. In its extensive discussion of the methodology of data collection and its proposal to redefine crucial concepts related to field research, such as field, data, and informat, the study bridges the gap between linguistics and other social science disciplines.

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