Do we really need to Say 'Newari'?

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"His Mejesty's government has decided to name 'Nepal Bhasha' instead of 'Newari' language which has been broadcasted in the government media. This decision was taken in the meeting of council of minsters held yesterday … The Newar community had been since long demanding that 'Newari' be called 'Nepal Bhasha'.-The Rising Nepal 9/8/96

Even though the above statement was published about a decade ago, knowingly or unknowingly the Newah people have been adding an 'i' to the word "Newar" to indicate its adjective form. By virtue of being non Indo-Aryan language adding an "i" in Newar is grammatically incorrect (Malla 1999).

In this short essay, an attempt has been made to present some linguistic arguments on why the word 'Newari' is ungrammatical. The name of language itself is wrongfully called NEWARI. Historically the name of the Newah language is NEPAL BHASHA or colloquially it is known as the NEWAH BHAAYE. No historical proof is available to indicate the language of Newah people by the term NEWARI. It is the word that is used by non-Newah people by influence of own language. It has been discovered that the first use of this term is found in the writings of Prof.Brain Hudson in essays on Nepal and Tibet with influence of his consultants appointed by the then Ranas. For further explanation in this topic please refer to the article 'In naming the language' by this writer in Newah Vijnaana-2, 1998. According to the feature of Tibeto-Burman language a word by itself is not enough to indicate the name of a language as listed below.

(1)

Sherpe lhapsye	Sherpa language
Phoe ke	Tibetan Language
Yakthum paan	Limbu language
Tamang Tam	Tamang Language
Magar dhut	Magar Language
Newah Bhaaye	Newar Language

Here the words /lhapsye/, /ke/, /paan/, /tam/, /dhut/ mean 'language' in their native term. Therefore the language of Newah people also needs to be addressed by the phrase 'Newah Bhaaye', a colloquial form of 'Nepal Bhasha'. That is a compound form of ethnic name and the native word for language. Hence the term NEWARI is uncommon and not acceptable to the native Newah people.

By examining the phonological features of Newah Bhaaye it is noteworthy tht the structures of many Newah words are mono or bi-syllabic as shown in the following examples:

(2)

Mono Syllabic	Meaning	Bi Syllabic	Meaning
maN	mother	kijaa	younger brother
khaN	matter	duru	milk
nhaaye	nose	mhutu	mouth
hyaauN	red	tuyu	white

If the words are other than mono or bi-syllabic they must fit into phonological justification. Many of multi-syllabic words used in Newah language are borrowed from other languages and if the native words are multi-syllabic they must be written or pronounced with phonological change as shown in following words:

(3)

Borrowed word	Meaning	Native word	Phonological Change	Meaning
Tarakari	vegetable	Tapuli	tapli	hat
Sarakar	Government	Dabula	dabuu	stage
Jaagira	service	Kapala	kapaah	forehead
Gundruk	fermented veggie	Kirtipur	kipuu	Kirtipur(city)
Gudhiyaa	dolls	Jhyaala	hyaah	window
Jahaana	family	Kalaata	kalaah	wife

In addition to above native words there is a whole set of words in Nepal Bhasa that show a phonological difference between underlying and written forms. Some examples of these forms are given below:

(4)

Underlying Old form (1)	Written Current form (2)	Deleted sound(3)	Meaning(4)
Nhaasa	nhaae:	sa	nose
Mesha	myeh	sa	baffalo
Bhaasa	Bhaaye	sa	language
Phasa	phaye	sa	air
Khansa	khayen	sa	Khasa people
Hansa	hayen	sa	duck
Newaara	Newaah	ra	Newar People
Magara	Magah	ra	Magar people
Nepala	Nepaah	la	Nepal country
Puchala	puchah	la	Group
Jhyaala	jhyaah	la	window
Makala	makah	la	fire pot
Maakala	maakah	la	monkey
Pasala	pasah	la	store
Degala	degah	la	Temple
Kaenla	kayen	la	Bronze
Jhangala	jhangah	la	bird
Daala	daah	la	fat
Nyakula	nyekuu	la	horn
Nugala	nugah	la	heart
Papula	papuu	la	wing
Sala	sah	la	sound
Maala	maah	la	garland
Puchala	puchah	la	group
Saphuta	saphuu	ta	Book
Kalaata	kalaah	ta	wife
Pwatha	pwaah	tha	stomach
Twaatha	twaah	tha	mouth/bick

Chhyana	chhyaN	na	head
Chalana	chalaN	na	tradition
Chhochuna	chhochuN	na	flour
Gaama	gaaN	ma	village
Manukha	manuu	kha	human
Lakha	lah	kha	water
Naakha(Bhaktapur)	naah	kha	water
Ailaakha	ailaah	kha	liquor
Kokha	koh	kha	crow

From the above list it can be identified that Nepal Bhasha words end in vowel not as Nepali words that end in consonant such as Jhyaal, suruwaal, degal, mandir etc. It is considered that the Newah word undergoes phonological process of deleting the final syllable when they are used in a sentence. So any words which need to be pronounced with long vowel at the end of word can be assumed that it has extended form as given in column1 and current written form as in column 2. The column 3 illustrates deleted sounds '*agam*'such as, -sa. -la, -ta, -tha, -ma, -kha.

This is a fact that Newah words undergo phonological change and maintain the grammatical requirements. In addition, a message of ' *who is doing what to whom'* is marked in any language by using a linguistic device called *case mark* or *kaarak* in the form of *bibhakti* (in Nepali). The case marks are attached with noun words as suffixes or also called as post-positions where as in English all the case marks are called pre-positions fro instance *ghar-maa* or in a house.

In Newah languge also, all the English pre-positions are known as post-positions because they are suffixed to the noun words. In order to deliver a message from a speaker to a listener, the case marks are very important in a language. Hence, the case marks are unavoidable device of Newah grammar. There is a set of Newah case marks in English, Nepali and Newah as listed below:
(5)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Prepositions	Underlying Meaning	Nepali form	Newah form	
	Example			
By	Agent / doer	-le	-na /-aN	john-
na				
To	Receipient	-laai	-yaata	john-
yaata				
In/on/at	Location	-maa	-sa –e	
	Amerikaae			
From	Ablative	-dekhi/baata	-aN	Nepal-
an				
With	Associative	-sanga	-naapa	paasaa-
naapa				
With	Instrumental	-le	-N	kathi-
N				
Of N	Genetive	-ko	-yaagu/mha	john-
yaa-gu/mha				

The newah case marks given in column (4) above are listed in regular form and they undergo the process of phonological change when they occur with a noun of different forms of final syllable including vowel and consonant endings as shown below:

(6)

'i'–ending / consonant ending	'e'- ending	'a' ending	aa-ending	u-ending	o-ending	
Chameli Telephon	SyeN	Chota	Gamalaa	KuN	Wo	
Tapuli	Pele	Ratna	Kamalaa	Kulu	Ko	Kamal
Chhwaali	KeheN	Chhyana	Simaa	Pulu	Bo	Gopaal
Chheli	YeN	Surdyawa	Jaamaa	Kathmandu	So	Nepal
Gwaali	KheN	Sagana	Timilaa	Paalu	Cho	Makal
Tuti Computer	-	Lagana	Kusaa	Dugu	Chho	
Chhaati	-	Magan	Lwosaa	Mulu	Mo	Degal
Nhi	-	Mangaala	Suruwaa	Swayambhu	No	Mandir
kaapi	-	Dhwopwaala	Dewaa	Swaapu	Paako	Nokar
Dashami Jokar	-	-	Kipaa	Lwaapu	Ho	
Si	-	-	Twaa	Duru	Gwo	Chokar

It is obvious from the above table that many of Newah words consist of variousstructures either with vowel ending or consonant endings. When these words are attached with case marks they assimilate with the form of the final syllable as illustrated in table-7 showing a suffix of agent /-aN/ or instrumental/ -aN/ and ablative /-aN/ case marks equivalent to Nepali case marks /-le/,/dekhi/ and /-baata/. Here 'N' represents the preceding vowel is nasalized) for the meaning of these words please refer to appendix at the end.

(7)

'i' –ending / consonant ending	'e'- ending	'a' ending	aa-ending	u-ending	o-ending	
Chameli-N Telephon-aN	SyeNN	Chota-N	Gamalaa-N	KuN-naN	Wo-naN	
Tapuli-N	Pele-N	Ratna-N	Kamalaa-N	Kulu-N	Ko-NaN	Kamal-aN
Chhwaali-N Gopaal-aN	KeheN	Chhyana-N	Simaa-N	Pulu-N	Bo-naN	
Chheli-N aN	YeN-naN	Surdya-naN	Jaamaa-N	Kathmandu-N	So-naN	Nepal-aN
Gwaali-N aN	KheN-naN	Sagana-N	Timilaa-N	Paalu-N	Cho-N	Makal-
Tuti-N Computer-aN	?	Lagana-e	Kusaa-N	Dugu-N	Chho-N	
Chhaati-N Degal-aN	?	Magan-N	Lwosaa-N	Mulu-N		Mo-N
Nhi-N Mandir-aN	?	Mangaala-N	Suruwaa-Nan	SwayambhuN	No-N	
Kaapi-N aN	?	DhwopwaalaN	Dewaa-N	?	Paako-N	Nokar-

Dashami-N ?   ?   Kipaa-N Lwaapu-N Ho-naN
  Jokar-aN
Si-N   ?   ?   Twaa-naN Dur-N   Gwo-naN
  Chokar-aN

I ddition, the following table(8) illustrates the structure of noun words with case marks of receipient (yaata) or location
(-e) similar to Nepali forms /-laai/ and /-maa/. This suffix is derived from the classical or the old form /-Sa/. Ex.'Raja kula –sa'' in the palace'. The genitive case mark /-yaa-/or /-ko/ in nepali, requires to note whether the noun is animate (living) or inanimate (non-living) either with/-mha/ or /-gu/ siffiexed to the base morpheme /-yaa-/.

(8)

(1) 'i' –ending	(2) 'e'- ending / consonant ending	(3) 'a' ending	(4) aa-ending	5) u-ending	(6) o-ending	(7)
Chameli-yaata	Pele-yaata	Ratna-yaata	Kamalayaata	Kulu-yaata	Ko-yaata	Kamal-yaata
Tapuli-i	SyeN-e	Surdya-yaata	Gamalaa-e	KuN-i	Wo-lae	Jokar-yaata
Chhwaali-i	KeheN-yaata / Gopaal-yaata	Chhyana-e	Simaa-e	Pulu-i	Bo-yaata	
Chheli-i	YeN-e	Chota-e	Jaamaa-e	Kathmandu-i	So-lae	Nokar-yaata
Gwaali-i	KhneN / Telephon-ae	Sagana-e	Timilaa-e	Paalu-i	Cho-lae	
Tuti-i	- / Computer-ae	Lagana-e	Kusaa-e	Dugu-yaata	Chho-e	
Chhaati-i	-	Magan-yaata	Lwosaa-e	Mulu-i	Mo-e	Degal-ae
Nhi-i	- / Mandir-ae	Mangaala-e	Suruwaa-lae	Swayambhu-i	No-lae	
Kaapi-i	- / Nepal-ae	Dhwopwaala	Dewaa-e	Swaapu-ti	Paako-e	
Dashami-i	-	-	Kipaa-e	Lwaapu-i	Ho-lae	Makal-ae
Si-yaata	- / Chokar-ae	-	Twaa-thae	Duru-i	Gwo-lae	

From the table (8) above, it is noticeable that to fulfill the message of 'who is doing what to whom and where' it is obligatory to add the suffixes to noun and maintain the rule of Newah language grammar. The suffix 'yaata' does not change the form of the noun, whereas adding the locational case mark /-e/ is not consistent in most of the words which contain different vowel quality as shown above (8) Thus, according to the structure of the final syllable of a word the locational case marking suffix /-e/ undergoes changes as stated below.

(9) /-e/ changes to 1. /-i/ in I and u ending words as in column 1 and 5
          2. /-ae/ in consonant ending words as in column 7

    /-e/ stays same in /-e/, /-a /,/- aa/ and /-o/ ending words as in column 2, 3, 4 and 6

This comes to the point that due to inconsistent occurrence of the locational suffix any Newa noun word with this suffix mislead to native speakers and confusion arises with lack of proper analysis and understanding. Now a question arises how the consonants appear when the locational suffix is added as in /swaapu-ti/,' 'In relationship', /so-lae/ 'in a nest , /no-lae/' 'balancing rod', /suruwaa-lae/ 'in a trouser' etc. In order to identify such a hidden consonant the speakers are being advised to understand that any noun generally listed in a dictionary is simply a surface form of current use. To identify the actual form of noun word first of all it has to be sue in a sentence and add case marks. If the form of noun changes an automatic consonant appear with case marking suffixed. As for example, when the locational case mark /-e/ is added with the word Nepaah or Newaah, dabuu, puchah, they become Nepaa(l)-ae, Newaa-(l)-ae, Dabu-(l)-i, and puch-(l)-ae. The appearance of (l) with these words is due to the phonological justification within morphological boundary and it is called '*Agam*' in Nepal Bhasha grammar (Joshi 1990). When these words are written in Devnagari a colon(:) is used however in Roman alphabet an (h) is used as conventionalized way to indicate a log vowel. In linguistic terms, it is called 'conmmpensatory lengthening of vowel'. For this reason an 'h' has been acvised to add with the word 'Newaa' to represent exact pronounciation discriminating against the pronounciation of the sounds in /mewaa/' papaya' and /sevaa/' service'. This is important feature of Newah language and it is very rare in other langues spoken in Nepa. Due to this hidden feature, many Newah speakers are not aware of correct and adjective form of Newah words. Therefore, they simply and randomly use "NEWARI" with influence of rules of the dominating Nepali language.

    Now going back to adding 'i' in Newar. I claimed in the very beginning of this article that adding 'i' in Newar is grammatically incorrect. From the table (8) the word 'Newar' can be categorized under the consonant ending words and it is a proper noun that indicates to people. It is used as an agent who does something or to some body. According to the rule of Newah grammar the adjective form of 'Newar' can not be 'Newari'. It is simply indicates by the word Newar by itself such as Newah chalan, Newah Bhoe, Newah sanskriti, Newah Bhaaye, Newah sanstha etc not as Newari chalan, Newari Bhoe, Newari sanskriti, Newari Bhaaye, Newari sanstha. These are all unacceptable phrases in Newah language.

    If we add locative suffix to consonants ending word simply we can add 'ae' as shown in the rules mentioned in (9). Therefore the Nepali phrase of NEWAR MAA is simply written "Newar-ae". But the word Newar is not native or underlying old form. Therefore the actual word used in Newah language is "Newaal-ae". This word has very close link with the country Nepal and the language spoken in Nepal is known as Nepal Bhasha.. Newar people are very much concerned when their language is called by 'Newari'. Due to lack of awareness even the native Newars use the word 'Newari'. The writer of this paper believes that after reading this paper the Newah people would understand the rule of Newah grammar and give up using the word NEWARI.

Appendix: 1

'i'–ending	Meaning	'e'- ending	Meaning	'a' ending	Meaning	aa-ending	Meaning
Chameli	name	SyeN	heart	Chota	third floor	Gamalaa	Vase
Tapuli	hat	Pele	Name	Ratna	gemes	Kamalaa	name
Chhwaali	wheat straw	KeheN	younger Sister	Chhyana	head	Simaa	Tree
Chheli	ground floor dress	YeN	Kathmandu	Surdyawa	Sun	Jaamaa	
Gwaali	heel	KheN	egg	Sagana	ritual	Timilaa	moon

Tuti	leg	Lagana	auspicious time	-	Kusaa	umbrella
Chhaati	chest	Magan	name	-	Lwosaa	side dish
Nhi	mucus	Mangaala	sewerage	-	Suruwaa	trouser
kaapi	copy	Dhwopwaala	drain hole	-	kipaa	picture
Si	louse	-		-	Twaa	mouth

u-ending	Meaning	o-ending	Meaning	consonant ending	Meaning
KuN	smoke	Wo	beans cake	Telephon	phone
Kulu	drummer	Ko	crow	Kamal	name
Pulu	bamboo mat	Bo	arrow	Gopaal	name
Kathmandu	city	So	nest	Nepal	country
Paalu	ginger	Cho	urine	Makal	portable fire pot
Dugu	goat	Chho	wheat	Computer	equipment
Mulu	needle	Mo	husk	Degal	temple
Swayambhu	place name	No	balancing rod	Mandir	temple
Swaapu	relationship	Paako	place name	Nokar	Servant
Lwaapu	dispute	Ho	hole	Jokar	clown
Duru	milk	Gwo	joint	Chokar	left over husk

Appendix -2
Usage of Locative case /-e/ with place and country name.

Germany -i
New Jersey-i
Tamilnadu-i

India -e
Mexico-e
North Carolina -e
Florida-e
America –e

Japan-ae
Bhutan-ae
France ae
Bharat-ae
Ohio -ae
Portland-ae