

Tense and Aspect in Chittagonian Bangla

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Abstract: The morphological structure of the tense and aspect system in Chittagonian dialect is discussed in the paper. The regularities as well as the irregularities in the inflectional system have been presented here. It can be seen that, both of the past and present tense share the same progressive aspect marker but to express the tense a time adverbial is needed as the trigger. Though having different markers present perfect and past perfect both demand the doubling of the last consonant or prolongation of the last vowel of the verb root.

Introduction

Tense is the grammatical representative of the conceptual notion of time in relevance with a certain state, event or process. According to Payne (1997) tense expresses the relation between the time of an event and the reference point of time. This reference point is usually the time of the utterance of the clause. On the other hand, according to Comrie (1976) aspect is a way of viewing the internal temporal condition of a situation. The goal of this article is to give a primary idea of tense and aspect in Chittagonian Bangla. Chittagonian Bangla is a regional dialect of Bangla language spoken in the southeastern part (Chattogram, Rangamati, Bandarban, Khagrachari, Cox's Bazar) of Bangladesh. It is spoken by about 13 million people (SIL, 2006). The geographical position and history of Chattogram is very rich. It is surrounded by Khagrachari, Rangamati and Tripura in the north, Cox's Bazar in the south, Khagrachari, Bandarban and Rangamati in the east and Noakhali and Bay of Bengal in the west. Chattogram is an ancient port which had trade relation with the Arabian, Portuguese, English and other business communities. It had political engagement with the Arakanis of present day Myanmar and the Mughals. Such a rich political, geographical and cultural history has given the language of

this place a great diversity that gives the Chittagonian dialect the status of being one of the two most difficult and almost unintelligible dialects of Bangla to the people. I will give a very preliminary and brief description of tense and aspect of this dialect. The data used in this paper are affirmative, declarative, non-embedded and active types of constructions. The aim of this article is to discuss about mainly the morphological constructions of tense and aspect of this dialect. There are morphological and phonological differences between the dialects of the northern and the southern part of Chattogram. Here, the presented data were collected from the speakers of the northern dialect.

Tense-Aspect System

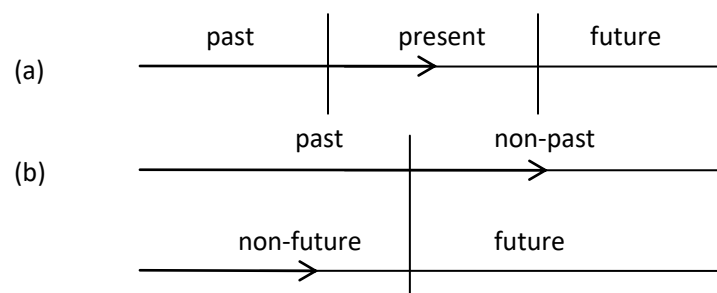
Tense locates situation in real time whereas aspect specifies the state of that situation in the continuum of time. According to Payne (1997) Tense, Aspect and Mode anchor or ground the information in a clause based on its sequential, temporal or epistemological orientation. He also says tense relates to the sequence of events in real time while aspect is associated with the internal temporal structure of a situation.

Tense

Tense is a linguistic operator that denotes a point in the actual stretch of time that is relevant to certain events. Tense is related to the concept of time. Jespersen (1924) says that time is common to all mankind and independent of language and tense varies from language to language. It is the linguistic expression of time relations that is indicated in verb forms. Lyons (1968) marks tense as a deictic category that is a property of sentence and utterance simultaneously. All languages have their own way of locating situations in time. Comrie (1985:7) defines this "locating situation in time" as a conceptual notion and it is potentially independent of the range of distinctions in any particular language.

Tense system varies from language to language. The most common one is the three way system that is found in a big number of languages. It comprises three tenses or representation of three different 'time'-past, present and future. Another system is the two-way distinctions-past/non-past or future/ non-future. (Payne, 1997:236) shows them in the following diagram:

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Languages may have many tense distinctions. Yagua language has two tense distinctions in the future and five distinctions in the past (Payne, 1997 : 236). Some languages have five tense distinctions in future. Some languages may not have any particular grammatical tool to express tense. For example, Hopi language doesn't describe any specific past, present or future tense rather it concentrates on aspect and mode of the language.

Tense can be expressed lexically, morphologically or analytically (or periphrastically) (Payne, 1997). In English, tense can be expressed in all these three ways (Payne, 1997 : 237).

is > was past: lexical (suppletion)

walk > walked past: morphological

see > will see future: analytic

In Spanish, tense can be expressed lexically and morphologically (Payne, 2017 : 237).

ir > fue "go" > "went" past: lexical

hablar > hablo "speak" > "spoke" past:
morphological

In Bangla, tense works morphologically. For example,

কৱ (to do) > কৱলম (did) (past, simple, 1st person)

কৱ (to do) > কৱে (does) (present, simple, 1st person)

However, there are a couple of verbs that show lexical difference in the root in different tenses but contain the same tense marker. Suniti Kumar Chatterji (Chatterji, 1988) names them 'incomplete roots'

(Asampurna Dhatu). For example:

'ach' (to have, root verb)

ache (have) > chilo (had) > তঁহাকবে (will have)

Here, the verb root "তঁহাক" in the future tense is different from that of the present and past tense.

Another example is, "Ja" (to go, root verb)

Jai (present, simple, 1st person) > gelam (past, simple, 1st person) > Jabo (future, simple, 1st person)

The root "গৱ" of the past form is derived from the Sanskrit "gṛm" root. Whereas the root of present and future is "ja" which was also derived from Sanskrit.

Aspect

Aspect deals with the internal temporal shape of processes, events or states. Comrie (1976) says that the main concern of aspect is not to relate the time of the event or situation to other time point rather it concentrates on the internal temporal constituency of the situation. According to him the main difference between time and aspect is that, the latter one is concerned with the situation-external time and the former one is concerned with the situation-internal time.

Kellog (1875) proposes tense distinctions based on aspectual differences. His proposed tense types are (i) not yet begun (ii) begun but not completed (iii) completed. These distinctions focus on the terms "perfective" and "imperfective". Palmer (1974) considers the distinction between progressive and non-progressive and he doesn't consider the perfective- imperfective distinction. In relevance with the terminologies perfective and imperfective another term is coined – "perfect". According to Comrie (1976) the term perfective contrasts with imperfective and a perfective situation is viewed in regard with no internal temporal constituency. Whereas the term "perfect" deals with a past situation which has a relevance with present.

Many languages contain aspectual distinctions. However, aspects are not necessarily grammaticalized in languages. Payne (1997) mentions some of the aspects.

- a) Perfective: A situation is observed in its entirety, independent of time in this aspect. Perfective aspect denotes completed situation without the expression of internal process. The aspect “aorist” is relevant to perfective that contains past tense and perfective aspect. For example, in English

He sang a song.

- b) Imperfective: Imperfective aspect views the ongoing process of a situation. Subtypes of imperfective are progressive and habitual. For example, in Bangla:

ami kaʃ korc^hi

I work do.PRG.PRS.1

I am working

- c) Perfect: Perfect denotes a situation that is currently relevant. For example, in Bangla:

ʃe aʃ ʃokale eʃec^he

she/he today morning come.PRF.PRS.3

She /he has come this morning

The meaning of this sentence is “she/he is still here” which means it is still relevant.

- d) Pluperfect: Pluperfect combines a tense and an aspect. Generally it refers to the combination of past tense and perfect aspect that we call past perfect tense. For example, in English:

I had written a letter.

- e) Completive: Completive aspect denotes the completion of an event. In English:

He finished drawing.

- f) Inceptive: Inceptive aspect refers to the starting or beginning of an event. For example, In English :

She began working.

Since Inceptive and completive aspects express different phases of an event sometimes they are called phasal aspects.

- g) Progressive/ Continuative: This aspect refers to an actual event and its dynamic and ongoing process. This aspect is distinguished from the habitual aspect since habitual aspect refers to a general statement about an event occurring from time to time. For example:

I am working.

- h) Punctual: It is viewed as instantaneous since it occurs in an instant of time. It does not express any internal temporal structure. For example:

He laughed.

- i) Iterative: When a punctual event takes place several times in succession it is called iterative aspect. For example,

He was sneezing.

- j) Habitual: When an event takes place regularly from time to time then it is referred to habitual aspect. It is distinguished from the progressive aspect in that an event is not taking place right now rather it takes place in an interval of time. For example: He drinks.

Aspect is expressed lexically, morphologically or analytically. Dahl (1985) says in some languages verb lexemes can be different based on their ‘aspectual potential’. He gives an example that, in English, ‘die’ and ‘sleep’ are different regarding the situations they occur in. Durational adverbials can be used together with the ‘sleep’ like ‘She slept for three hours’. The use of these adverbials with ‘die’ is not semantically acceptable since sleep refers to a prolonged state while ‘die’ refers to a punctual event.

Aspect is expressed in Bangla morphologically. For example,

ʃe gan gâjic^he (progressive)

she/he song sing.PRG.PRS.3

She/he is singing a song

ʃe gan gejec^he (perfect)

she/he song sing.PRF.PRS.3

She/he has sung a song

In English, aspect is expressed analytically. It is not a morphological operator in this language. For example, He is eating. (progressive) She has gone. (perfect)

In Spanish, perfective and imperfective are expressed morphologically while perfect is used morphologically/analytically. For example, (Payne, 1997)

hablo> hablaba “spoke”> “was speaking” perfective> imperfective

haber hablado “have spoken” perfect: morphological/ analytic

Tense and Aspect in Chittagonian Bangla

Chatterji (1985) was not sure about the number of Bangla tenses and could identify eight tenses with special suffixes :

(i) Simple Tenses: 1. Present; 2. Past; 3. Conditional or Habitual Past and 4. Future

(ii) Compound Tenses: (a) Progressive: 5. Present Progressive; 6. Past Progressive

(b) Perfect: Present Perfect; 8. Past Perfect

Here, tense and aspect markers of some simple, affirmative, declarative and active sentences and some verbs have been tried to find out. In Chittagonian Bangla also eight tenses with identifiable suffixes can be seen. They are shown here in the following way:

(a) Present: 1. Present Simple Tense; 2. Present Progressive Tense; 3. Present Perfect Tense

(b) Past: 1. Past Simple Tense; 2. Past Progressive Tense; 3. Past Perfect Tense

(c) Future: Future Simple Tense

Here, for the analysis presented below, verbs have been chosen based on the ‘Gana’ or the category of the verb roots. Chatterji (1988) discussed these categories in Bangla language. These categories are distinguished based on the type of the first vowel and existence of the last vowel in the verb root. Here five categories have been analyzed. Generally each verb of the same category is conjugated the same way in all tenses (except the irregular ones). That is why a single verb from each group has been analyzed. The Ganas or categories are :

(a.1) Vowel of the verb root is ‘ɔ’, consonant ending; e.g. ‘ɔr’ (to catch), ‘gɔr’ (to do), ‘fɔr’ (to read)

(a.2) Vowel of the verb root is ‘ɔ’, vowel ending; e.g. ‘ɔ’ (to become)

(b) Vowel of the verb root is ‘u’, consonant ending; e.g. ‘ut’ (to get up), ‘un’ (to listen), ‘buʃ’ (to understand)

(c.1) Vowel of the verb root is ‘e’, consonant ending; e.g. ‘x^hel’ (to play), ‘fel’ (to throw away)

(c.2) Vowel of the verb root is ‘e’, vowel ending; e.g. ‘ɖe’ (to give), ‘ne’ (to get)

(d) Vowel of the verb root is ‘i’, consonant ending; e.g. ‘lik^h’ (to write), ‘jik^h’ (to learn)

(e.1) Vowel of the verb root is ‘a’, consonant ending; e.g. ‘nac’ (to dance), ‘t^hak’ (to stay), ‘aʃ’ (to come)

(e.2) Vowel of the verb root is ‘a’, vowel ending; e.g. ‘za’ (to go), ‘x^ha’ (to eat), ‘ga’ (to sing)

Conjugation of verbs from each of the categories is given below. Conjugation of the first verb is shown in simple sentences whereas that of the other verbs is shown in charts based on the grammatical person.

(a.1) Verb: ‘ɔr’ (to catch)

Present Simple Tense

1. âi mas ɔri
 i fish catch.SIM.PRS.1
 I catch fish
2. tûi mas ɔros
 you (intimate) fish catch.SIM.PRS.2INT
 You catch fish
3. tûi mas ɔro
 you (informal) fish catch.SIM.PRS.2INF
 You catch fish

4. one mas d̥oron
you (formal) fish catch.SIM.PRS.2FRM
You catch fish
5. iṭe/iba mas d̥ore
he/she fish catch.SIM.PRS.3
He/She catches fish

Present Progressive Tense

6. âi (ea) mas d̥orir
i (now) fish catch.PRG.PRS.1
I am catching fish (now)
7. t̥ûi mas d̥oror
you (intimate) fish catch.PRG.PRS.2INT
You are catching fish
8. t̥ûi mas d̥oror
you (informal) fish catch.PRG.PRS.2INF
You are catching fish
9. one mas d̥oron
you (formal) fish catch.PRG.PRS.2FRM
You are catching fish
10. iṭe/iba mas d̥orer
he/she fish catch.PRG.PRS.3
He/She is catching fish

Present Perfect Tense

11. âi mas d̥oj̥i
i fish catch.PRF.PRS.1
I have caught fish
12. t̥ûi mas d̥ôj̥jon
you (intimate) fish catch.PRF.PRS.2INT
You have caught fish

13. t̥ûi mas d̥ôj̥jo
you (informal) fish catch.PRF.PRS.2INF
You have caught fish
14. one mas d̥ôj̥jon
you (formal) fish catch.PRF.PRS.2FRM
You have caught fish
15. iṭe/iba mas d̥oiṭe
he/she fish catch.PRF.PRS.3
He/She has caught fish

Past Simple Tense

16. âi mas d̥ôillam
i fish catch.SIM.PST.1
I caught fish
17. t̥ûi mas d̥olli
you (intimate) fish catch.SIM.PST.2INT
You caught fish
18. t̥ûi mas d̥oilla
you (informal) fish catch.SIM.PST.2INF
You caught fish
19. one mas d̥oillen
you (formal) fish catch.SIM.PST.2FRM
You caught fish
20. iṭe/iba mas d̥oillo
he/she fish catch.SIM.PST.3
He/She caught fish

Past Progressive Tense

21. âi (æṭṭe) mas d̥orir
i (then) fish catch.PRG.PST.1
I was catching fish then

22. t̥ûi mas d̥oror
you (intimate) fish catch.PRG.PST.2INT
You were catching fish
23. t̥ûi mas d̥oror
you (informal) fish catch.PRG.PST.2INF
You were catching fish
24. ɔne mas d̥oron
you (formal) fish catch.PRG.PST.2FRM
You were catching fish
25. iṭe/iba mas d̥orer
he/she fish catch.PRG.PST.3
He/She was catching fish

Past Perfect Tense

26. âi mas d̥oʃilam
i fish catch.PRF.PST.1
I had caught fish
27. t̥ûi mas d̥oʃili
you (intimate) fish catch.PRF.PST.2INT
You had caught fish
28. t̥ûi mas d̥oʃila
you (informal) fish catch.PRF.PST.2INF
You had caught fish
29. ɔne mas d̥oʃilen
you (formal) fish catch.PRF.PST.2FRM
You had caught fish
30. iṭe/iba mas d̥oʃiel
he/she fish catch.PRF.PST.3
He/She had caught fish

Past Habitual Tense

31. âi mas d̥oiṭtam
i fish catch.HAB.PST.1
I used to catch fish

32. t̥ûi mas d̥oṭti
you (intimate) fish catch.HAB.PST.2INT
You used to catch fish
33. t̥ûi mas d̥oiṭta
you (informal) fish catch.HAB.PST.2INF
You used to catch fish
34. ɔne mas d̥oiṭten
you (formal) fish catch.HAB.PST.2FRM
You used to catch fish
35. iṭe/iba mas d̥oiṭto
he/she fish catch.HAB.PST.3
He/she used to catch fish

Future Simple Tense

36. âi mas d̥oiʃom
i fish catch.SIM.FUT.1
I shall catch fish
37. t̥ûi mas d̥oribi
you (intimate) fish catch.SIM.FUT.2INT
You will catch fish
38. t̥ûi mas d̥oriba
you (informal) fish catch.SIM.FUT.2INF
You will catch fish
39. ɔne mas d̥oriban
you (formal) fish catch.SIM.FUT.2FRM
You used to catch fish
40. iṭe/iba mas d̥oribo
he/she fish catch.SIM.FUT.3
He/she will catch fish

(a.2) Verb: 'ও' (to become)**Present Tense**

	Simple	Progressive	Perfect
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	ôĭ	oir	ô:ĭ
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	os	or	ôĭos
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	o:	or	ôĭo
2 nd person (formal) one (singular) onora (plural)	on	on	ôĭon
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	oy	or	ôĭe

Past Tense

	Simple	Progressive	Perfect	Habitual
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	ôĭlam	ôĭr	ôĭlam	ôĭtam
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	oli	or	oli	oṭi
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	ôĭla	or	ôĭla	ôĭta
2 nd person (formal) one (singular) onora (plural)	ôĭlen	on	ôĭlen	ôĭten
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	ôĭel	or	ôĭel	ôĭto

Future Tense

	Simple
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	ôĭom
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	obi
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	ôĭba
2 nd person (formal) one (singular) onora (plural)	ôĭben
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	ôĭbo

(b) Verb: 'উত' (to get up)**Present Tense**

	Simple	Progressive	Perfect
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	udi	udir	utti
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	udos	udor	ûṭtos
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	udo	udor	ûṭto
2 nd person (formal) one (singular) onora (plural)	udon	udon	ûṭton
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	ude	uder	ûṭte

Past Tense

	Simple	Progressive	Perfect	Habitual
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	udilam	udir	ûjttilam	ûjttam
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	udili	udor	uttili	ûjtti
2 nd person (informal) ṭui (singular) ṭõara (plural)	udila	udor	uttila	ûjttā
2 nd person (formal) one (singular) onora (plural)	udilen	udon	uttilen	ûjttēn
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	udilo	uder	ûjttel	ûjtto

Future Tense

	Simple
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	ûjttom
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	udibi
2 nd person (informal) ṭui (singular) ṭõara (plural)	udiba
2 nd person (formal) one (singular) onora (plural)	udiben
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	udibo

(c.1) Verb: 'x^hel' (to play)**Present Tense**

	Simple	Progressive	Perfect
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	x ^h eli	x ^h elir	x ^h ēilli
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	x ^h ælos	x ^h ælor	x ^h ēillos
2 nd person (informal) ṭui (singular) ṭõara (plural)	x ^h ælo	x ^h ælor	x ^h ēillo
2 nd person (formal) one (singular) onora (plural)	x ^h ælon	x ^h ælon	x ^h ēillon
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	x ^h æle	x ^h æler	x ^h ēille

Past Tense

	Simple	Progressive	Perfect	Habitual
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	x ^h ellilam	x ^h elir	x ^h ellilam	x ^h ēilṭam
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	x ^h ellili	x ^h ælor	x ^h ellili	x ^h ēilṭi
2 nd person (informal) ṭui (singular) ṭõara (plural)	x ^h ēillila	x ^h ælor	x ^h ēillila	x ^h ēilṭā
2 nd person (formal) one (singular) onora (plural)	x ^h ēillilen	x ^h ælon	x ^h ēillilen	x ^h ēilṭēn
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	x ^h ēillel	x ^h æler	x ^h ēillel	x ^h ēilṭo

Future Tense

	Simple
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	x ^h ēḷlom
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	x ^h elbi
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	x ^h eliba
2 nd person (formal) one (singular) onora (plural)	x ^h eliban
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	x ^h elibo

(c.2) Verb: 'ḡe' (to give)**Present Tense**

	Simple	Progressive	Perfect
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	ḡi	ḡir	ḡi:
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	ḡiḡos	ḡor	ḡi:ḡos
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	ḡiḡo	ḡor	ḡi:ḡo
2 nd person (formal) one (singular) onora (plural)	ḡiḡon	ḡon	ḡi:ḡon
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	ḡiḡe	ḡer	ḡi:ḡe

Past Tense

	Simple	Progressive	Perfect	Habitual
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	ḡilam	ḡir	ḡi:lam	ḡiṭam
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	ḡili	ḡor	ḡi:li	ḡiṭi
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	ḡila	ḡor	ḡi:la	ḡiṭa
2 nd person (formal) one (singular) onora (plural)	ḡilen	ḡon	ḡi:len	ḡiṭen
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	ḡiel	ḡer	ḡi:el	ḡiṭo

Future Tense

	Simple
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	ḡiom
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	ḡibi
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	ḡiba
2 nd person (formal) one (singular) onora (plural)	ḡiben
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	ḡibo

(d) Verb: 'lik^h' (to write)**Present Tense**

	Simple	Progressive	Perfect
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	lix ^h i	lix ^h ir	lixk ^h i
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	lix ^h os	lix ^h or	lixk ^h os
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	lix ^h o	lix ^h or	lixk ^h o
2 nd person (formal) ṭone (singular) ṭonora (plural)	lix ^h ṭon	lix ^h ṭon	lixk ^h on
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	lix ^h e	lix ^h er	lixk ^h e

Past Tense

	Simple	Progressive	Perfect	Habitual
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	lex ^h ilam	lix ^h ir	lexk ^h ilam	lêixṭam
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	lex ^h ili	lix ^h or	lexk ^h ili	lêixṭi
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	lex ^h ila	lix ^h or	lexk ^h ila	lêixṭa
2 nd person (formal) ṭone (singular) ṭonora (plural)	lex ^h ilen	lix ^h ṭon	lexk ^h ilen	lêixṭen
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	lex ^h ilo	lix ^h er	lêix ^h el	lêixṭo

Future Tense

	Simple
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	lêixk ^h om
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	lex ^h ibi
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	lex ^h iba
2 nd person (formal) ṭone (singular) ṭonora (plural)	lex ^h iben
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	lex ^h ibo

(e.1) Verb: 'nac' (to dance)**Present Tense**

	Simple	Progressive	Perfect
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	nasi	nasir	nacci
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	nasos	nasor	nâjccos
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	naso	nasor	nâjcco
2 nd person (formal) ṭone (singular) ṭonora (plural)	nason	nason	nâjccon
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	nase	naser	nâjcce

Past Tense

	Simple	Progressive	Perfect	Habitual
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	nasilam	nasir	naccilam	nâiṣṭam
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	nasili	nasor	naccili	nâiṣṭi
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	nasila	nasor	naccila	nâiṣṭa
2 nd person (formal) one (singular) onora (plural)	nasilen	nason	naccilen	nâiṣṭen
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	nasilo	naser	nâiṣṣel	nâiṣṭo

Future Tense

	Simple
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	nâiṣṣom
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	nasbi
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	nasiba
2 nd person (formal) one (singular) onora (plural)	nasiben
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	nasibo

(e.2) Verb: 'za' (to go)**Present Tense**

	Simple	Progressive	Perfect
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	zai	zair	gei
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	zōs	zōr	geios
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	zō	zōr	gio
2 nd person (formal) one (singular) onora (plural)	zōn	zōn	geion
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	zay	zar	geie

Past Tense

	Simple	Progressive	Perfect	Habitual
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	gêṭlam	zair	gêṭlam	zâiṣṭam
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	ge:li	zōr	ge:li	zâṭi
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	gêṭla	zōr	gêṭla	zâṭa
2 nd person (formal) one (singular) onora (plural)	gêṭlen	zōn	gêṭlen	zâṭen
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	gêṭel	zar	gêṭel	zâṭo

Future Tense

	Simple
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	zâjom
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	zabi
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	zâjba
2 nd person (formal) ṭone (singular) ṭonora (plural)	zâjben
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	zâjbo

(f) Verb: 'as' (to be)

	Present Simple Tense	Past Tense		Future Simple Tense
		Simple	Habitual	
1 st person āi (singular) āra (plural)	asi	asilam	ṭ ^h āikṭam	ṭ ^h āikkom
2 nd person (intimate) ṭui (singular) ṭora (plural)	asos	asili	ṭ ^h āikṭi	ṭ ^h a:bi
2 nd person (informal) ṭūi (singular) ṭōara (plural)	aso	asila	ṭ ^h āikṭa	ṭ ^h ājba
2 nd person (formal) ṭone (singular) ṭonora (plural)	ason	asilen	ṭ ^h āikṭen	ṭ ^h ājben
3 rd person, iṭe (masculine) iba (feminine) iṭara (plural)	ase	asil	ṭ ^h āikṭo	ṭ ^h ājbo

From the conjugations shown above, we get a common conjugation system of the verbs from different categories. The tense and aspect markers that we observe here are shown in a chart below.

	Present			Past				Future Simple
	Simple	Progressive	Perfect	Simple	Progressive	Perfect	Habitual	
1 st	i	ir/er	(doubling of the last consonant/ prolongation of the last vowel)+i/ṭi	ilam	ir/er	(doubling of the last consonant/ prolongation of the last vowel)+ilam/ṭilam	ṭam	(doubling of the last consonant/ prolongation of the last vowel)+om/ṭom
2 nd (Intimate)	os/os	or/or/r	(doubling of the last consonant/ prolongation of the last vowel)+os/ṭos	li/ili	or/or/r	(doubling of the last consonant/ prolongation of the last vowel)+ili/ṭili	ṭi	ibi/bi
2 nd (Informal)	o/o	or/or/r	(doubling of the last consonant/pr prolongation of the last vowel)+o/ṭo	ila	or/or/r	(doubling of the last consonant/pr prolongation of the last vowel)+ila/ṭila	ṭa	iba
2 nd (Formal)	on/on	on/on/n	(doubling of the last consonant/pr prolongation of the last vowel)+on/ṭon	ilen	on/on/n	(doubling of the last consonant/pr prolongation of the last vowel)+ilen/ṭilen	ṭen	iben
3 rd	e/y	r/er	(doubling of the last consonant/ prolongation of the last vowel)+e/ṭe	ilo/el	r/er	(doubling of the last consonant/ prolongation of the last vowel)+el/ṭel	ṭo	ibo

From the above conjugation of verbs it is clear that tense and aspect is expressed in Chittagonian Bangla mainly morphologically. Apart from these general markers some exceptions can also be noticed.

Simple and Perfect: In verbs 'ut', 'lik^h', 'nac' the markers for simple and perfect are the same. The only difference is the doubling of the last consonant of the root in the perfect aspect. The root of the verb 'ut' in simple aspect is voiced and it becomes unvoiced in the perfect and gets doubled.

In present simple, the root 'lik^h' has the velar, aspirated, fricative /x^h/ as the last consonant that becomes velar, unaspirated, fricative /x/ in the present perfect. However when it gets doubled in the perfect /k^h/ is added to the /x/. The same change with the consonants takes place in the past tense. The difference is, the vowel /i/ in the root becomes /e/.

In the simple, aspect in both the present and past tense of 'nac' verb the last consonant is /s/ that becomes /c/ in the perfect aspect in both the tenses and reduplicated.

In the present perfect tense of the verb 'x^hel' the last vowel /l/ gets doubled and epenthesis takes place and /i/ is inserted before the consonant. In the past tense simple and perfect aspects of the verb carry the same marker. Though the markers are the same it can be assumed from the formation of the marker that it is basically the marker of the perfect aspect. For recent past, present perfect form is used whereas for expressing the distant past, past perfect form is used.

In the Past tense of the verb 'o' (in Bangla the verb is 'ho', /h/ is elided in Chittagonian Bangla) the simple and the perfect form are the same.

In the present perfect, past simple and past perfect the verb root 'za' gets changed into 'ge'. The same thing happens in Bangla. This is called 'incomplete root'. I already mentioned this in the previous section.

In the case of the verb 'dor' present perfect tense and past perfect tense show the doubling of /ɟ/ before the above mentioned markers. There may be two explanations: either /ɟ/ is inherently a part of the markers or the perfect form of the verb derived from the Bengali form of the same tense. For example,

ɟ^horec^hi (in standard Bangla) > ɟoreci > ɟorci > ɟocci > ɟoɟɟi (Present Perfect Tense, 1st person)

The same process may take place in both of the tenses. It happens to all the verbs with the last consonant /r/. 'gor' (to do), 'por' (to read), 'por' (to wear), 'par' (to be able to do).

In the past simple form of the verb 'dor', regressive assimilation occurs and /l/ of the marker changes the /r/ into /l/ and again epenthesis takes place and /i/ occurs before /l/. For example

ɟorlam > ɟollam > ɟoillam (Past Simple Tense, 1st person)

Progressive: From the above mentioned examples I see that progressive aspect markers in both the present and past are the same. Time adverbials function as the tense triggers (sentential examples are given for the verb 'dor').

'as' verb: 'as' ('ac^h' in standard Bangla) is a verb that is used to express 'state' of the subject in the sentence which is often compared to the 'true copula'. Four different tense forms can be seen (present simple, past simple, past habitual, future simple). Conjugation of these forms has been shown above. They take the regular markers of the respective tenses.

Conclusion

In this article I have tried to give a preliminary idea of the tense and aspect system in Chittagonian Bangla. I have tried to find out the tense and aspect markers and their exceptions also. However, this is nothing ultimate. Findings of the article are needed to be re-analyzed which will enrich the study of this certain dialect of Bangla. Studies of this dialect are still inadequate. Further studies are needed on this topic and the other ones also related to this dialect.

Notes

The abbreviations used in the examples in this article are as follows.

1, first person; 2, second person; 3, third person; FRM, Formal; FUT, future; HAB, habitual; INF, informal; INT, intimate; PRF, perfect; PRG, Progressive; PRS, present; PST, past; SIM, simple

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