



# Nominal Phrases in Angika, Maithili, Awadhi, and Bhojpuri: A Comparative Study

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## Abstract

The present paper tries to make a comparative study of the nominal phrases in the Indo-Aryan languages such as Angika, Maithili, Bhojpuri, and Awadhi which has not been attempted together so far. This study attempts to exhibit irregularities, if any, that are found in NPs (nominal phrase) at the structural level in these languages. Apart from these, it explores questions like the types of relative clauses and the different forms or relativizing strategies in Indo-Aryan languages, the function of relative clause and different noun positions (functional) which are taken in the manifestation of relativization. This paper tries to validate the hypothesis given by Srivastava (1991) which discussed pronominal relative/ left adjoined relative clause as the quantificational clause and not as the modifier.

Bhojpuri, Awadhi, Maithili and Angika, belong to the Indo-Aryan family of languages. All these languages cover the northern part of India. While Maithili is a scheduled language spoken in the north-eastern part of Bihar state of India and in the tarai region of Nepal, Angika has been classified as an endangered Indo-Aryan language spoken in Bihar, West Bengal and Jharkhand state of India. Similarly, Bhojpuri is spoken in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Western Bihar and Jharkhand while Awadhi mostly covers the Awadh region of modern day Uttar Pradesh and in some parts of Nepal. Though most of the typological characteristics of these languages are similar yet the study of RCs makes this study highly fascinating.

**Keywords:** Relative Clause Constructions, typological characteristics, relativisation strategies, etc.

## **Introduction**

The present paper is an empirical study based on data and tries to discuss several issues. This paper particularly focuses on the fact as how Angika, Maithili, Awadhi and Bhojpuri form the noun phrases in general. It also discusses the different kinds of relativizing strategies that the languages under discussion manifest upon their NP constructions. Besides, it includes the discussion of noun phrases and some of their simple modifiers because of their functional role in understanding the constructions of NPs. In course of presenting and discussing the data, the similarities as well as the differences with that of Hindi-Urdu have also been dealt. However, the subject matter in this study is restricted to the empirical as well as descriptive

study of the nominal phrases in Angika, Maithili, Awadhi and Bhojpuri, therefore, no detailed explanation is given about the nominal modifiers other than the NP, though, it has been tried to discuss some of the properties of the nominal modifiers, which have important roles to play in the study of NPs required for relative clause constructions in languages under discussion.

## Research Methodology

Though the authors are themselves the native speakers of Maithili and Bhojpuri respectively but, for the sake of the authenticity of data, a questionnaire comprising of 50 sentences from each of the four languages was prepared and discussed with the native speakers of all the languages under discussion. Most of the informants were non-mobile old rural males with qualification below matriculation ageing 40-60 years. The study is quite empirical in nature. The messaging apps were also taken into consideration in order to collect the free flow of authentic data.

## 1. Structure of Phrases

### 1.1. Noun Phrase

A noun phrase is defined as a nominal head preceded by one or more modifiers. It also serves as a nucleus of a postpositional phrase. It may function as a subject or object (IO or DO) predicative complement or as a direct object of a postposition. According to Matthew S. Dryer (2004), it is convenient for the purpose of discussion to distinguish three types of noun phrases:

- (i) Simple noun phrases which contain only pronouns or nouns plus simple modifiers like articles, adjectives, demonstratives, or numerals;
- (ii) Complex noun phrases which contain more complex sorts of modifiers like genitive or possessive modifiers and relative clauses.
- (iii) Various sorts of noun phrases which lack a head noun. A noun or a pronoun can be the minimum constituent of a noun phrase. A nominal may be modified by a variety of modifiers such as adjectives, quantifiers, numerals, emphatic markers, limiters and comparative, equative, and superlative markers.

In languages such as Angika, Awadhi, Bhojpuri and Maithili, attributive adjectives immediately precede a nominal head as a modifier, e.g., *nayaka: kot* or *nəbka: kot* 'new coat' and *sundər ləṛiki:* 'beautiful girl'. Possessive adjectives precede the head noun as modifiers in noun phrases. These may or may not be preceded by an appropriate form of the genitive postpositions like /ka:/ /ke/ /ki:/ agreeing in gender and number with the object noun.

### 1.2. Genitive

Let us observe the following examples from the languages under discussion to understand the nature of genitive markers in these languages:

1. *suji:to: ke: bəṛka: beta: ələ* (Angika)

sujit -GEN-M elder son came

‘Sujit’s elder son came.’

2. *suji:tə kɛ bəṛaka: betəua: a:yə* (Awadhi)

sujit -GEN-M elder son came

‘Sujit’s elder son came.’

3. *suji:t kə bəṛaka: betəua: a:yələ* (Bhojpuri)

sujit-GEN-M elder son came

‘Sujit’s elder son came.’

4. *suji:tə-k bəṛaka: beta: a:yələnhi* (Maithili)

sujit-GEN-M-H elder son came

‘Sujit’s elder son came.’

In examples 1-4, we can clearly observe the variations found in the genive markers in these languages. It is important to mention that in Maithili, the genitive marker may either remain conjoined with the subject (as shown above) or it may exist independently as in case of examples cited above from the other languages.

Now, let us have a look on another example:

5. *suji:to: ke: du:go dost ələ* (Angika)

sujit -GEN-M two-PL friends came

‘Two friends of Sujit came.’

6. *suji:t kɛ du:i: dostə a:yinə* (Awadhi)

sujit -GEN-M two-PL friends came

‘Sujit’s two friends came.’

7. *suji:t kə du:tho dostə a:yələ* (Bhojpuri)

sujit -GEN-M two-PL friend came

‘Sujit’s two friends came.’

8. *suji:t kɛ du:ta: dostə a:yələnhi* (Maithili)

sujit -GEN-M two-PL friend came

‘Sujit’s two friends came.’

In examples (5) to (8), we find that the number almost remains the same in all these languages but the number markers like *go*, *i:*, *tho*, and *ta:* vary from one language to another language in a phrasal situation.

9. *sohāno: ke: chotki: beti: sundār che* (Angika)

sohan-IMPH GEN-F younger daughter beautiful is

‘Sohan’s younger daughter is also beautiful.’

10. *sohāno: ke: chotki: beti: sundār che* (Maithili)

sohan-IMPH GEN-F younger daughter beautiful is

‘Sohan’s younger daughter is also beautiful.’

11. *sohān kē chotki: bitiyāwa: sundār ba:* (Awadhi)

sohan GEN-F younger daughter beautiful is

‘Sohan’s younger daughter is beautiful.’

12. *sohān kə chotki: bitiyāwa sugghār hə* (Bhojpuri)

sohan GEN-F younger daughter beautiful is

‘Sohan’s younger daughter is beautiful.’

In examples (9) & (10), we find that the subject takes an emphatic marker *-o* while in examples (11) & (12), this kind of emphatic marker is not required. Also, there is no distinct category of articles used in Angika.

The concept of definiteness and indefiniteness is expressed indirectly by means of pronouns and the numerals, eg. *ego* ‘one’. Let us consider the following examples:

13. *kojo: ego larka:* (Angika)

any a/one boy

14. *kūno ek larka:* (Awadhi)

any one boy

15. *kūno ekṭhe larka:* (Bhojpuri)

any one boy

16. *kono ekta: chaura:* (Maithili)

any one boy

17. *he / ho butaru:* (Angika)

this / that child

18. *i:/u: chaura:* (Maithili)

this/that boy



## 1.3.2. Definite+ Ordinal+ Noun

25. *pəhəlo bacca: hərdəmme səma:ha: hoyə chə* (Angika)  
 first child always shy be-PTC is  
 ‘The first child is always shy.’

26. *pəhil bəcca: hərdəm ləjkotər hoit chəik* (Maithili)  
 first child always shy be-PTC is  
 ‘The first child is always shy.’

27. *pəhila: bəcca: hamefa: ləja:t hē* (Awadhi)  
 first child always shy be-PTC  
 ‘The first child is always shy.’

28. *pəhilka: bacca: hərdəm ləja:t hō* (Bhojpuri)  
 first child always shy be-PTC  
 ‘The first child is always shy.’

## 1.5. Definite + Ordinal + Cardinal + Noun

29. *həy pəhəlo du:go lekhə chəpə la:yək chə* (Angika)  
 these first two article publish-INF-OBL worth are  
 ‘These first two articles are worth publishing.’ (Literally)

30. *i pəhil du:ta: lekh chəpeba:k la:yək əchi* (Maithili)  
 these first two article publish-INF-OBL worth is  
 ‘These first two articles are worth publishing.’ (Literally)

31. *i: pəhila: dui lekhə cha:pe la:yək ba:* (Awadhi)  
 these first two article publish-INF-OBL worth are  
 ‘These first two articles are worth publishing.’ (Literally)

32. *həi pəhilka: duṭhe lekhə cha:pe la:yək hō*  
 these first two-PRT article publish-INF-OBL worth are (Bhojpuri)  
 ‘These first two essays are worth publishing.’

## 1.6. Definite + cardinal + collective

33. *he ti:n dərjən ənda: ta:ja: che* (Angika)  
 these three dozen egg fresh are  
 ‘These three dozen eggs are fresh.’

34. *i: ti:nə dərjən ənda: ta:ja: ba:* (Awadhi)  
 these three dozen egg fresh are  
 ‘These three dozen eggs are fresh.’

35. *həi: ti:nə dərjən ənda: ta:ja: hə* (Bhojpuri)  
 these three dozen egg fresh are  
 ‘These three dozen eggs are fresh.’

36. *i: ti:n dərjən ənda: ni:k əchi* (Maithili)  
 these three dozen egg fresh are  
 ‘These three dozen eggs are fresh.’

## 1.7. Definite + Cardinal + Measure

37. *he pã:cə boriya: cərə pərə-ko cheke* (Angika)  
 those five sacks rice last year-GEN-FP are  
 ‘Those five sacks of rice are of the last year.’

38. *u: pã:cə boriya: ca:wəl pər sa:l ka: ba:* (Awadhi)  
 those five sacks rice last year of are  
 ‘Those five sacks of rice are of the last year.’

39. *o pã:cə bora: ca:ur pichəla: sa:lək thi:k* (Maithili)  
 those five sacks rice last year-GEN are  
 ‘Those five sacks of rice are of the last year.’

40. *i pã:cə boriya: ca:u:rəpər sa:l ka: hə* (Bhojpuri)  
 these five sacks rice last year-GEN-FP are  
 ‘Those five sacks of rice are of the last year.’

## 1.8. Definite + Ordinal + Fraction + Measure

41. *he dosərko bəla: a:dho ser cərə thi:kə ne che* (Angika)  
 this second-part half kilogram rice good not is

‘This second one half kilogram rice is not good.’

42. *i: dosərko bəla: a:dho ser cərə ʃi:kə nɛ che* (Maithili)  
 this second- part half kilogram rice good not is  
 ‘This second one half kilogram rice is not good.’

43. *i: du:sra:wa:la: a:dha: kilo ca:wəl ʃi:kə na:yə ba:* (Awadhi)  
 this second part half kilogram rice good not is  
 ‘This second one half kilogram rice is not good.’

44. *i: dusərka: wa:la: a:dha: kilo ca:u:rə ʃi:kə nɛkhe hə* (Bhojpuri)  
 this second part half kilogram rice good not is  
 ‘This second half kilogram of rice is not good.’

Limiters such as *kha:li:*, *kewəl*, *ma:tr* ‘only’ precede the head noun, whereas emphatic particle *-bhi:* ‘also’ follow the head noun in Angika. However in Maithili, Awadhi and Bhojpuri particle ‘o’ & ‘wo’ get attached to head noun to show the sense of ‘bhi:’ (also) respectively.

45. *kha:li hɛ pəhəlo dono bacca parikcha: mə: bɛʃhətɛ* (Angika)  
 only these first two children exam in sit  
 ‘Only these first two children appeared at the examination.’ (Literally)

46. *kewəl i: dui pəhila: lərika: pərikcha: mɛ bəiʃhe* (Awadhi)  
 only these two first children exam in sat  
 ‘Only these first two children appeared at the examination.’ (Literally)

47. *kha:li i: pəhila: duʃhe bəcca: imtiha:n mə bəi:ʃhələ* (Bhojpuri)  
 only these first two children exam in sat  
 ‘Only these first two children appeared at the examination.’ (Literally)

48. *kha:li: i: pəhil du:ta: bəcca: pərikcha: meN bəi:səl* (Maithili)  
 only these first two children exam in sat  
 ‘Only these first two children appeared at the examination.’ (Literally)

49. *məiyo ɛɛ a:ro bacco bhi:* (Angika)  
 mother came and child too  
 ‘The mother came and so did the child.’

50. *məi:ə a:yə cərə lərikəwo a:yə* (Awadhi)  
 mother came and child too came  
 ‘The mother came and so did the child.’

51. *m̄ai:yo a:i:l̄ai a: b̄acca: seho* (Maithili)  
 mother came and child too

‘The mother came and so did the child.’

52. *m̄ai:yo a:i:l̄ā ou:r̄ā b̄ac̄awo a:i:l̄ā* (Bhojpuri)  
 mother came and child too came

‘The mother came and so did the child.’

Addition of certain morphological forms after the head noun makes comparative, superlative and equative structures. Addition of ‘s̄a:’ in Angika and ‘se’ in Awadhi and Bhojpuri makes comparative after adding the ablative case markers to the genitive forms of the head noun.

53. *n̄i:r̄aj suni:lo s̄a: h̄osi:ya:r̄ ch̄e* (Angika)  
 Niraj Sunil than intelligent is

‘Niraj is more intelligent than Sunil.’

54. *n̄i:r̄aj suni:lo sN̄ h̄osi:ya:r̄ chaik* (Maithili)  
 Niraj Sunil than intelligent is

‘Niraj is more intelligent than Sunil.’

55. *n̄i:r̄aj suni:l̄ se jya:da: ca:la:k̄ ba:* (Awadhi)  
 Niraj Sunil than more clever is

‘Niraj is more intelligent than Sunil.’ (Literally)

56. *n̄i:r̄aj sunil se d̄her ca:la:k̄ h̄a* (Bhojpuri)  
 Niraj Sunil than more clever is

‘Niraj is more intelligent than Sunil.’ (Literally)

57. *u: h̄amra: s̄a moto ch̄e* (Angika)  
 he me-GEN-ABL than fat is

‘He is fatter than me.’

58. *o h̄amra: sN̄ moNt̄ ch̄āthi* (Maithili)  
 he me-GEN-ABL than fat is

‘He is fatter than me.’

59. *u: h̄amro se mot̄ā ba:* (Awadhi)  
 he me-GEN-ABL than fat is

‘He is fatter than me.’

60. *u: hāmāhu sə motā hə* (Bhojpuri)  
 he me-GEN-ABL than fat is  
 ‘He is fatter than me.’

Addition of ‘*sābbhe*’ in Angika, ‘*sābsN*’ in Maithili, ‘*sābse*’ in Awadhi and Bhojpuri before the head noun forms superlatives respectively.

61. *sābbhe sə lāmba: larka: ke che* (Angika)  
 SUP- (than all) tall boy who is  
 ‘Who is the tallest boy?’

62. *sābsN lāmba: lārika: ke chāik* (Maithili)  
 SUP- (than all) tall boy who is  
 ‘Who is the tallest boy?’

63. *sābse lāmba: lārika: ke ba:* (Awadhi)  
 SUP-(than all) tall boy who is  
 ‘Who is the tallest boy?’

64. *sābse lāmba: lārika: ke hə* (Bhojpuri)  
 SUP-(than all) tall boy who is  
 ‘Who is the tallest boy?’

In Hindi, equative structures are formed by adding a form of *jēsa:/jēse /jēsi:* ‘like’ that agrees with the head noun in gender and number whereas in Angika, Awadhi, Maithili and Bhojpuri *rāngə, kha:n, jāka:N* and *jāisən* ‘like’ respectively does not agree with number and gender.

65. *aji:t amar rāngə hosi:ya:r che* (Angika)  
 Ajit Amar like intelligent is  
 ‘Ajit is as intelligent as Amar.’ (Literally)

66. *aji:t amar jāka:N hosi:ya:r chāik* (Maithili)  
 Ajit Amar like intelligent is  
 ‘Ajit is as intelligent as Amar.’ (Literally)

67. *aji:t amar kha:n ca:la:k ba:* (Awadhi)  
 Ajit Amar like clever is  
 ‘Ajit is as intelligent as Amar.’ (Literally)

68. *aji:twa: amar jāisən ca:la:k hə* (Bhojpuri)  
 ajit amar like clever is  
 ‘Ajit is as clever as Amar.’

69. *həmmə hunkha: rəŋgə ca:la:k nɛ chiye* (Angika)  
 we them-ACC like clever not are  
 ‘We are not clever like them.’

70. *həmərə: lokani hunkha: jəka:N ca:la:k nɛ chi:* (Maithili)  
 we (all) them like clever not are  
 ‘We are not clever like them.’

71. *həm unke kha:n ca:la:k na:yə həi* (Awadhi)  
 we they like clever not are  
 ‘We are not clever like them.’

72. *həm unke jəisən ca:la:k na:hi həi* (Bhojpuri)  
 we they like clever not are  
 ‘We are not as clever as they are.’ (Literally)

73. *si:ta: uma: rəŋgə goro nɛ chɛ* (Angika)  
 Sita Uma like fair NEG is  
 ‘Sita is not as fair as Uma.’ (Literally)

74. *si:ta: uma: jəka:N goro nɛ chɛk* (Maithili)  
 Sita Uma like fair NEG is  
 ‘Sita is not as fair as Uma.’ (Literally)

75. *si:ta: uma: kha:n gorəhər na:yə ba:* (Awadhi)  
 Sita Uma like fair NEG is  
 ‘Sita is not as fair as Uma.’ (Literally)

76. *sita uma jəisən gore na:hi hə* (Bhojpuri)  
 Sita Uma like fair NEG is  
 ‘Sita is not as fair as Uma.’ (Literally)

77. *hɛ dono bha:yə ekke-rəŋgə chɛ* (Angika)  
 these two brothers alike (almost) are  
 ‘These two brothers are almost alike.’

78. *i: dunu bha:i ek-rəŋga:he chɛk* (Maithili)  
 these two brothers alike (almost) are  
 ‘These two brothers are almost alike.’

79. *ye du:no bha:i: ek-jēisā ba: (Awadhi)*  
 these two brothers alike (almost) are  
 ‘These two brothers are almost alike.’

80. *hāi du:no bhāiwān eke-jāisān hāuān (Bhojpuri)*  
 these two brothers alike (almost) are  
 ‘These two brothers are alike.’

There are certain co- occurrence restrictions. Indefinite determiners do not take place with ordinals. Similarly, the multiplicative do not come up with collective or measure quantifiers. There are some other modifiers usage constraints. For example, the combination of indefinite determiners and cardinal quantifiers is possible; the combination of an indefinite determiner and a demonstrative pronoun is not allowed.

81. *kono butaru: hē ka:m nē kārā: pa:rāte (Angika)*  
 some/any child this work NEG do can-PTE  
 ‘No child can do this work.’

82. *konoN bācca: i: ka:j nāhi kāy sākāich (Maithili) some/any*  
 child this work NEG do can-PTE  
 ‘No child can do this work.’

83. *kaono lārīka: i: ka:m nā:yā kāi: sākā (Awadhi)*  
 some/any child this work NEG do can-PTE  
 ‘No child can do this work.’

84. *kūno bācca: i: ka:m nā:hi: kār sākēla: (Bhojpuri)*  
 some/any child this work NEG do can-PTE  
 ‘No child can do this work.’

85. \* *kono hō butaru:hē ka:mā nē kārā sakta: (Angika)*  
 some/ any(one) that child this work NEG do can-PTC  
 ‘No child can do this work.’

In the same way, the multiplicative and collective quantifiers when placed together, these do not yield well-formed sentences. Consider the following examples:

86. \* *dugāna: joda: dāsta:na: (Angika)*  
 twice pair(of) gloves

We have seen above that the head nouns are followed by limiters and emphatic particles. All other constituents precede the head noun they modify. In the word order of the preceding modifiers, flexibility takes place as illustrated below.

## 2. Other Noun Phrases

In this section, the nominal phrases have been tested after the inclusion of demonstrative, possessive, quantifiers, adjectives, etc. These grammatical elements play a vital role in differentiating various kinds of noun phrases in the languages under discussion. Consider the following:

## 2.1. Demonstrative- possessive- quantifier- adjective- head noun:

87. *he hāmāro sabbhe accha: dostā:* (Angika)  
 these my all good friends  
 ‘All these are good friends of mine.’

88. *i: hāmā:r s̄ab ni:k dost* (Maithili)  
 these my all good friends  
 ‘All these are good friends of mine.’

89. *i: hāmā:r s̄ab āccha: dost* (Awadhi)  
 these my all good friends  
 ‘All these are good friends of mine.’

90. *i: hāmā:r ku:l bādhiya: sāngi:* (Bhojpuri)  
 these my all good friends  
 ‘All these are good friends of mine.’

## 2.2. Possessive- demonstrative- quantifier- adverbial- adjective- noun

88. *hāmāro he s̄abbhe bāhutā accha: dostā:* (Angika)  
 my these all very good friends  
 ‘All these are very good friends of mine.’

89. *hāmā:r i: s̄ab bāhut āccha: dost* (Awadhi)  
 my these all very good friends  
 ‘All these are very good friends of mine.’

90. *hāmār i: s̄ab bāhut ni:k sāngi:* (Maithili)  
 my these all very good friends  
 ‘All these are very good friends of mine.’

91. *hāmā:r i: s̄ab bāhut bādhiya: sāngi:* (Bhojpuri)  
 my these all very good friends

‘All these are very good friends of mine.’

### 2.3. Demonstrative- quantifier- possessive- adverbial- adjective- noun

92. *he sabbhe hamaro bahuta accha: dost:* (Angika)  
 these all my very good friends  
 ‘They are all my very good friends.’

93. *i: sab hama:r bahut accha: dost* (Awadhi)  
 these all my very good friends  
 ‘They are all my very good friends.’

94. *i: sab hama:r bahut badhiya: sangi:* (Bhojpuri)  
 these all my very good friends  
 ‘They are all my very good friends.’

95. *i: lokani hamar bahut ni:k sangi:* (Maithili)  
 these all my very good friends  
 ‘They are all my very good friends.’

### 2.4. Possessive- quantifier- demonstrative- adverbial- adjective- noun

96. *hamaro sabbhe he bahuta accha: dost* (Angika)  
 my all these very good friends  
 ‘All these are my very good friends.’

97. *hama:r sab i: bahut accha: dost* (Awadhi)  
 my all these very good friends  
 ‘All these are my very good friends.’

98. *hama:r sab i: bahut badhiya sangi:* (Bhojpuri)  
 my all these very good friends  
 ‘All these are my very good friends.’

99. *hama:r sab i: badd ni:k sangi:* (Maithili)  
 my all these very good friends  
 ‘All these are my very good friends.’

## 2.5. Quantifier- demonstrative- possessive- adverbial- adjective- noun

100. *səbbhe he hāmāro bəhutā accha: dostā:* (Angika)  
all these my very good friends
101. *\*səb i: hāmā:r bəhut əccha: dost* (Awadhi)  
all these my very good friends
102. *\*səb i: hāmā:r bəhut bəḍhiya: sāngi:* (Bhojpuri)  
all these my very good friends
103. *\*səb i: hāmār bədd ni::k sāngi:* (Maithili)  
all these my very good friends

For adverbs and adjective the word order constraint is quite strict. There is flexibility in the word order of the constituents of demonstrative, possessive and quantifier.

**List of Abbreviations**

ABL	Ablative
ACC	Accusative
DF	
GEN	Genitive
INF	Infinite
N	Numeral
NEG	Negative
OBL	Oblique
PL	Plural

**Major Findings & Conclusion**

Angika Maithili, and Awadhi relativizes all the NP positions as compared to Hindi but in all RCs, Bhojpuri has four ways of relativizing head nouns e.g. in post nominal two kinds of relativizing strategies have been seen on the basis of linear position of head with respect to RC i.e. NP-adjoined and VP-adjoined.

The difference between the two forms of the numeral quantifier is very clear in the above example. The first one ('du:go) indicates that there are more than two girls, however, the second one shows that only two girls are there, therefore giving the universal reading of the sentence. In Bhojpuri and Awadhi, to make the distinction between the definite and general reading use the '-wa:' form i.e. a special definite particle which has very intricate semantics in the language. When this particle attached to the noun, it gives a definite meaning and for general interpretation of the sentence, the noun should be bare without this discourse particle. The '-wa:' marker does not occur in the sentence having present indefinite aspect.

In Bhojpuri, indefinite clause generally starts with 'e-go' or 'ektho', where '-go' and '-tho' are numeral classifiers. In Angika and Maithili, indefinite clause starts with 'e-go' and 'ek-ta:'. In Awadhi, 'e-go' and 'ek-tho' are numeral classifiers and 'e-'/'ek-' (one) is not an article but the numeral in the language.

Yadav (1996) says that the deletion of the common noun from the clause when preceded by the determiner is not permissible. But it seems, in case of Bhojpuri, such sentences are allowed in different moods and are very much acceptable and grammatical. Bhojpuri data doesn't validate the observation made by Yadav (1996) in the case of Maithili. However, not only the grammatical category but also the form and case associated with the demonstrative and relative pronoun for the acceptability of the sentence in this case should be noticed. The sentence shifts between the scale of acceptability and unacceptability, when demonstrative gets genitive case and relative pronoun gets different form.

Bhojpuri has not agentive participial constructions. However, in Indo-Aryan languages, agentive construction is very productive; it is a derivational morphological process found in many Indo-Aryan languages. Bhojpuri like Hindi relativizes the major NPs positions except the instrumental case in participial construction. This shows that Indo-Aryan languages break the hierarchy as proposed by Keenan & Comrie (1977). This Noun Phrase Accessibility Hierarchy stated as:

Subject > Object > IO > Oblique > Object of comparison

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