

Vortrag Prof. Hans Henrich Hock (Urbana-Champaign)  
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**"A morphosyntactic chain shift in Hindi and neighboring languages: Aspect and morphological renewal in the verbal system"**

In Modern Hindi and neighboring languages the simple present is typologically unusual by being morphologically more complex than the subjunctive. The latter is formed directly on the root; the simple consists of present participle plus 'be'. In addition, even more complex structures with a form of *rahnā* 'remain' function as progressive present. This situation differs from Sanskrit and early Middle Indo-Aryan which have an undifferentiated simple present, built on the root, and optional structures with participles plus 'be' indicating continuous action; it also differs from late Middle Indo-Aryan (Apabhraṁśa) in which an innovated, marked progressive (present participle plus 'be') contrasts with the old simple present.

I present evidence and arguments in favor of a drag-chain explanation, first adumbrated by Bloch (1920). I demonstrate that the old simple present changed to modal (or future) in almost all of Modern Indo-Aryan, as the result of a marking reversal by which the late Middle-Indo-Aryan progressive becomes unmarked (as in English) and the old simple present becomes marked perfective and hence incompatible with present tense. I show that different languages fill the resulting gap in different ways. The fact that, by contrast with other languages, Hindi and related languages choose the earlier progressive structure for this purpose in turn motivates the use of an older, marked, continuative construction with *rahnā* to fill the resulting gap.

Chain shifts, thus, are not limited to phonology but can also occur in morphology.