Major allophonic variations

**Vowels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phonemes</th>
<th>Allophones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/i/</td>
<td>[i] [ɪ] [ɪ'] [ʏ] [ɪ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/e/</td>
<td>[ɛ] [ɛ] [ɛ] and [ɛ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/o/</td>
<td>[ɔ] [ɔ] and [o]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/u/</td>
<td>[u] [ʊ] [v] and [ɪ]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Consonants**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phonemes</th>
<th>Allophones</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/n/</td>
<td>[n] and [m']</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/h/</td>
<td>[h] and [x]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Phonemic distribution**

**Vowels**

/i, e, a, o, u and their lengthened counter parts occur in all the three positions initial, medial and final.

**Consonants**

/p, b, t, d, T, D, k, c, j, s / all these occur initially and medially and /b, d and g / occur in all three positions (finally as checked consonant).

/m, n, N and M / occur in all the three positions except [M] which never occurs in initial position and [N] always occurring v - v that is, intervocalic

/h/ occurs only initially

/?/ occurs only finally

**Vowel Clusters**

When two vowels occur together vowel clusters are formed. Depending upon the position of the occurrence vowel clusters may be classified as — initial, medial and depending upon their nature as identical and non-identical. The vowel clusters are listed below:

**Initial non-identical two vowels — V₁ V₂**

- ia - iam  'cry'
- ai - aidari  'officer'
- au - aub  'evening'

**Medial non-identical Vowel Clusters — V₁ V₂**

- ia - kamiako  'member'
- iu - ka:TTiul  'fox'
- iu: - siu:d  'essence'
- ea - reaLa  'cold'
- eu - neula  'mongoose'
- ai - sail  'baison'
- au - maura  'poison'

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- oi -     moisi     'she buffalo'
- ui -     kuili     'cuckoo'
- ua -     Tuar     'orphan'
- ua: -     sua:n mosla:     'mace'

**Final Vowel Clusters**

V₁ V₂

- ia     barduDia     'bat'
- ia:     gia:     'continue (an action)'
- io     joto     'even though'
- iu     giu     'shy'
- ei     peNei     'weaker'
- ea     Dorea     'bay'
- eo     keo     'brushing'
- ai     dai     'sister'
- au     gau     'blister'
- oi     toroi     'ashes'
- oe     goe     'death'
- oa     joa     'cheek'
- ui     hasui     'ache/pain'
- ua     Da:Mgua     'bachelor'

**Three vowel Clusters**

V₁ V₂ V₃

The three vowel clusters occur medially and finally Example.

Medially occurring

- aie -     baier     'rope'
- auo -     porkauomni     'examine'

Finally occurring

- ieu     sieu     'cultivate'
- aiu     taiu     'dwell'
- aea     utti haea     'passion'
- aua     naua     'now'
- uei     guei     'kill'

**Consonant clusters**

Consonant clusters are available in the medial and final positions. Below are the cluster formations.

Medial identical two consonant clusters - c₁ c₁

pp -   oppel     'story'
bb -    babbu     'penis'
- u -    otte     'ground'
- dd-    odda:     'ginger'
- TT -    moTTo     'fat'
- DD-    beDDoM     'giant'
- cc -    hiccir    'lightening'

- mm-     kamma:ri     'injure a person'
- nn-     banna:     'bear'
- MM-     a:MMu:r     'grape'
- ss-     hassagaDa:     'grave'
- ll-     lollo     'heat'
- LL-     pilLei     'bladder'
- rr-     orrakab     'raise'
Medial non-identical three consonant clusters - c₁ c₂ c₃

- mpl-  pamLa:d  ‘butterfly’
- mbL-  ra:mbLa:  ‘black gram’
- ndr-  da: ndri  ‘cave’
- nsk-  hinska  ‘habit’
- NTk-  hoNTkir  ‘snore’
- NDr-  JoNDra  ‘maize’
- Mkc-  kuMkca:u  ‘shrink’
- MgL-  da:MgLaukoLa:  ‘male servant’
- Mgr-  Ta:Mgra:  ‘baldness’

Final non-identical two consonant clusters - c₁ c₄

- nt  ja:nt  ‘crusher’
- nd  bokeond  ‘wonder’
- nc  ca:nc  ‘metal cast’
- ns  ha:ns  ‘goose’
- nT  u:nT  ‘camel’
- nD  sonD  ‘trunk of elephant’

Syllables

In Mundari there are mono to hexa-syllabic words. The structure of non-syllabic words are:

Monosyllabic - open    Monosyllabic - close

V    i  :  ‘human excrement’    VC    am  ‘you’
CV   ko  :  ‘crane’    VC    u:b  ‘hair’
CV   ti  :  ‘hand’    VCC    u:nT  ‘camel’
CVV  hua  :  ‘bite’    CVVC    b:a:n  ‘flood’
CVV  Tu:i  :  ‘parrot’    CVVC    sail  ‘bison’
CVV  gua  :  ‘arecanut’    CVCC    sond  ‘trunk of elephant’
CVV

The canonical structure of di- to hexa- syllabic words can be presented as given below

#  { V [ V(C) ]  CV  { V(C) } }  #

This structure will not give the combination ‘vvcc’ and it is not available in Mundari speech of Orissa. This structure accounts for various canonical patterns available in di- to hexa- syllabic words in Mundari.
Morphology

Nouns

Nouns are a class of words whose stems are distinguished or inflected for gender, number and case. Of the nouns the substantives are categorised into animate and inanimate and the pronouns into personal and non-personal. Besides, nouns contain derived nouns and numerals.

The substantives – animate or inanimate take genitive suffixes and post positions. Further, the animate nouns also take suffixes for dual and plural numbers. Below are exemplified the animate and inanimate categories:

Animate:
- seta 'dog'
- cokke 'frogs'
- uri 'cattle'

Inanimate:
- da? 'water'
- boro 'fear'

Number

Mundari has three number distinction – singular, dual and plural of which singular is unmarked the markers for dual is -ki and for plural is -ko.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Dual</th>
<th>plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>seta</td>
<td>'dog'</td>
<td>seta-φ</td>
<td>seta-kiM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ipil</td>
<td>'star'</td>
<td>ipil-φ</td>
<td>ipil-kiM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hai</td>
<td>'fish'</td>
<td>hai-φ</td>
<td>hai-kiM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>daru</td>
<td>'tree'</td>
<td>daru-φ</td>
<td>daru-kiM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nia</td>
<td>'it/this'</td>
<td>nia-φ</td>
<td>nia-kiM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

When used in sentences the formations are:
- ni? moeon seta 'this is a dog'
- nikin gai-kiM 'two cows'
- nikin gai-ko 'these are cows'

Gender

Mundari has four genders- masculine, feminine, neuter and common.

I. The masculine and feminine difference is made by the use of -a and -i markers respectively.

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>koLa</td>
<td>'man'</td>
<td>kuLi</td>
<td>'woman'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beDa</td>
<td>'sheep'</td>
<td>beDi</td>
<td>'sheep'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coTa</td>
<td>'lame'</td>
<td>coTi</td>
<td>'lame'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kuja</td>
<td>'hunchback'</td>
<td>kuji</td>
<td>'hunchback'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kala</td>
<td>'deaf'</td>
<td>kali</td>
<td>'deaf'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pisa</td>
<td>'uncle'</td>
<td>mosi</td>
<td>'aunt'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dula</td>
<td>'young'</td>
<td>duli</td>
<td>'young'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. The forms sa:Ndi ~ a:Ndia for masculine and eMga ~ for feminine.

Example

sa:Ndi si:m 'cock' eMga si:m 'hen' a:Ndia kula eMga kula:
III. By having different lexical forms for both masculine and feminine.

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ndi para:</th>
<th>eMga para:</th>
<th>'tiger'</th>
<th>eMga merom</th>
<th>'tigress'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'pigeon'</td>
<td>'pigeon'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a:Ndia merom</td>
<td>'goat'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eMga merom</td>
<td>'she goat'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Neuter gender

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>keDa</th>
<th>'buffalo'</th>
<th>moisi</th>
<th>'she buffalo'</th>
<th>haga</th>
<th>'brother'</th>
<th>da:a:a</th>
<th>'brother'</th>
<th>bu:</th>
<th>'brother’s wife'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>'dog'</td>
<td>bulli</td>
<td>'bitch'</td>
<td>ma:mu</td>
<td>'maternal uncle'</td>
<td>hatam</td>
<td>'maternal aunt'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oLa</td>
<td>'house'</td>
<td>caTu</td>
<td>'mud pot'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sakam</td>
<td>'leaf'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Common gender

These are animate forms applied for sexes.

Example

| merom | 'goat' | hoLo | 'human being' |
| uri   | 'cattle' | bi : M | 'snake' |
| cokke | 'frog' | hai | 'fish' |
| ceNe | 'bird' | seta | 'dog' |

Derived nouns

The derived nouns undergo morphological processes as - suffixation, infixation and compounding.

I. Suffixation

-a? suffixed adjective: puNDi -a? > puNDia?

'white' 'a white thing'

-ea? suffixed to verb roots to nominalization: jom 'to eat' -ea?

>jomea? 'eatable'

-tea? suffixed to verb root ol - tea? > oltea? 'with what something is written'

to give meaning of instrumentality

(Herein -te is instrumental suffix and -a is genitive suffix)

II Infixation

-nV / -pV is infixed to the verb root to derive a noun

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>to bind</th>
<th>to nol a</th>
<th>bind</th>
<th>om-pv</th>
<th>opom</th>
<th>gift</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>jo? 'to sweep'</td>
<td>jono? 'broomstick'</td>
<td>eraM-pv</td>
<td>operaM 'fight'</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-nV- suffixed also to adjectives to form nouns.

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>mara:M</th>
<th>'great'</th>
<th>manara:M</th>
<th>'greatness'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

[ V can be any vowel ]
III Compounding: Sometimes two nouns – one action and one non-action combine together to form compound noun:

- med 'eye' – muLa 'front' > medmuLa 'face'
- mu 'nose' – uNDu 'hole' > mu uNDu 'nostril'
- siMgi 'sun' – tur 'rise' > siMgitur 'east'
- simko 'cocks' – ra? 'cry' > simkora? 'dawn'
- susun 'to dance' – haria 'expert' susunharia 'dancer'

Some words are formed by adding ni? Example


/t-1/ is prefixed to the personal nouns to denote the possessive:

hon hopon tai 'my children'

Pronouns

Personal pronouns

The personal pronouns are realised in three persons: first, second and third and three numbers: singular, dual and plural. The various personal pronouns are mentioned below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Singular</th>
<th>Dual</th>
<th>Plural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>aiM</td>
<td>alaM (inclusive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>am</td>
<td>aliM (exclusive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>ae/a:</td>
<td>aben</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-personal pronouns

The non-personal pronouns include the demonstratives, interrogatives, etc.

Demonstratives

Demonstratives are definite and indefinite. The definite demonstratives take the personal pronouns in the third person as their suffix for the three numbers. The indefinite demonstrative and interrogative pronouns do not inflect for dual and plural numbers.

The three definite demonstrative roots are -ne, en and han.

Example

- ne? – ? > ni?  
- ne – imen > nimin

The three indefinite demonstrative roots are –oko, –ja, jeta. of these –oko qualifies both for the animate and inanimate ja and jeta

suffix / -n / for qualifying the inanimate.

Interrogative

-oko is also used as interrogative. The exclusive root for this is / ci /. It is also used as a question marker as well as connective. The common suffix used for deriving these forms are -kan, lekan, imin and imina.

Cases

In Mundari there are six cases. They are discussed below with examples.
**Nominative**

It is unmarked.

**Example**

- *ma: tiki isin keda* ‘mother cooked the rice’
- *setakimjmj keda* ‘the(two) dogs ate’
- *sadamko goi jana* ‘horses died’

Similarly, dative and accusative cases are also unmarked.

**Locative**

It is marked by -re, -tare, -late and -te

**Example**

- *sadom -re* ‘on/in the horse’
- *sakom -tare* ‘near the horse’
- *sakom -late* ‘from the horse’

( *Locative of motion*)

**Genitive**

It is represented by a number of suffixes. They are used in different contexts.

**Example**

- *ola -rea -duar* ‘the door of the house’
- *mon -rea -suku* ‘peace of the mind,
- *Munda - ren - kuDi* ‘the wife of the headman’
- *puku - a - hon* ‘Puku’s son’

The possessive and the partitive genitives are marked by -a-

**Example**

- *paku-a-ola* ‘the house of Paku’

**Vocative**

It is denoted by the use of -o, -a and -hem

**Example**

- *puku - a puka* ‘oh! Puku’
- *simi - hem semihem* ‘oh! Simi’
- *sadom - o sadomo* ‘oh! horse’

**Numerals**

The numerals carry number—gender category and are inflected for case. They have both nominal and adjectival function. In Mundari, they are cardinal, ordinal and fractionals. The basic numerals are from one to ten. The higher numbers are obtained by additions upto twenty. Still higher numbers are obtained as multiples of twenty. The basic numerals in Mundari are:

- *mid/miad* ‘one’
- *meon* ‘two’
- *baria* ‘three’
- *upunia* ‘four’
- *moNea* ‘five’
- *turia* ‘six’
- *erea* ‘seven’
- *iralia* ‘eight’
- *area* ‘nine’
- *gelea* ‘ten’
- *hisi* ‘twenty’
- *bar hisi* ‘two twenty = forty’
- *moNehis* ‘five twenty = hundred’

This is usually replaced by *soi; tuNDu* ‘last’

Proportional numerals are obtained by suffixing *sa?* to the shortened forms of the numerals: *mid - sa?* ‘once’ *bar-sa?* ‘twice’, etc.

The first syllable of the numeral is prefixed to make the distributive numerals:

- *ba-baria* ‘in twos’
- *api-apia* ‘in threes’
- *tur-turia* ‘in sixes’, etc.

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Adjectives
Adjectives are of three types—simple, derived, and numeral.

Simple adjectives
These are monomorphemic forms and always qualify the following noun.

Example
\[
\begin{align*}
mara:M & \quad \text{'big'} \\
punDia & \quad \text{'white'} \\
\end{align*}
\]

Derived adjectives
These are obtained by suffixing -an (denoting inanimate and certain qualities), -akan (to the verb roots to form adjectives) and -p- (for superlatives). Example
\[
\begin{align*}
bilka & \quad \text{'kindness'} \\
bilkan & \quad \text{'kind'} \\
boro & \quad \text{'fear'} \\
boroan & \quad \text{'fearful'} \\
bul & \quad \text{'to drink heavily'} \\
akan bulakan & \quad \text{'drunk'} \\
mara:M - p- & \quad \text{mapa ra:M} \quad \text{'very great'}
\end{align*}
\]

Numeral adjectives
The cardinal forms drop the final vowel to give the adjectival meaning. Details given in the discussion of numerals.

Verbs
Finite verbs
Marker for the finite verb
Finite verbs in Mundari can be formed by suffixing the finite verb marker \{ a \} throughout all the aspects and tenses. A verb without \{ a \} can function as a noun or adjective.

Tense markers
In Mundari tense marker and aspect marker are one and the same. Below are discussed the various tense forms.

- Present definite - tana
  - ain senotana 'I am going'
  - alaM/aliM senotana 'We(two) are going'

- Present perfect - kana
  - ain senakana 'I have gone'
  - aliMsenakana 'we have gone'(incl)

- Past tense - jana
  - ain senojana 'I went'
  - aliMsenojana 'we (two)went'

- Present perfect continuous - utana
  - ain senautana 'I have been going'
  - aliMsenautana 'we have been going'
am senautana 'you have been going'  
akin senautana 'they have been going'  (two)  
ako senautana 'they have been going'  
ale senojana 'we (pl) went'  
am senojana 'you went'  
apo senojana 'you (pl) went'  

Past imperfect - tantaikena  
Past perfect - lena  
ain senotantaikena 'I was going'  
alin senotantaikena 'we were going'  
abon senotantaikena 'you were going'  
ako senotantaikena 'they (pl) were going'  

Future perfect - a  
ain senautantaikena 'I had been going'  
alin senautantaikena 'we had been going(incl)'  
ale senautantaikena 'we(excl)had been going'  
ako senautantaikena 'they had been going'  

Future imperfect - ta?  
Future perfect - ka noa  
ain senta? 'I will be going'  
alin senta? 'we will be going(incl)'  
ale senta? 'we will be going(excl)'  
ako senta? 'they will be going'  

Future perfect continuous - auakanaua  
ain senauakanaua 'I shall have been going'  
apo senau kanaua 'we shall have been going'  
ako senau kanaua 'they(pl) shall have been going'  

The markers used in different tenses may be summarised as follows.

Present  
definite - tana  
indefinite - no?  
perfect - kana  
perfect continuous - utana  

Past  
indefinite - jana  
imperfect - tantaikena  
perfect - lena  
perfect continuous - autantaikena  

Future  
indefinite - a  
imperfect - ta?  
perfect - kana  
perfect continuous - auakanaua  

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Formation of imperatives

Imperatives are formed by suffixing -m, -ben or -me to the root or the stem or to the tense marker for singular, dual or plural.

Example

The intransitive verb stems take -me.

-seno? -me 'go'
-dub-me 'sit down'

If there is an inanimate object it takes -e before it

-aveme 'bring it'
doeme 'keep it'

In intentional or static future -m is used

daltam 'beat it'
do -akam 'continue to keep it'

For the intransitive, the full tense form of -akan is used to differentiate it from transitive, but then the suffix is -me

Example
dub-akan-me 'keep sitting'

Others

Emphatic marker -ge is used with the marker -akad to denote present continuous differentiating them from pure perfects.

Example

-senakangeae 'he keeps on going'
sena kanae 'he has gone'

The prohibitive -alo is used with the optative -k occurring before it and after the root, to denote a request not to do anything.

-sena lo kom 'please do not go'

Conditional

-do along with -re forms conditional mood.

Example

menai? redo 'but if he be'

Negation

Negation is expressed by the marker -ka and -alo

Example

ka - sena? aiM 'I will not go'
ain alokaseno, 'if he does not go to market'

Causal

-te

-te is used with all aspects to denote a cause of action on account of something.

Example

om ke? ate 'on account of having been given'
seno? akante 'on account of going'

Absolutive

-ci

Absolutive -ci denotes the completion of one act before which something is or is going to be undertaken.

Example

jomkedoi 'after taking the meals'
omki? ci 'after having given'
Possibility
Possibility is expressed by -hona/-tora/-dana

Example
alin senojanahonaM 'I would be going'
aliM senojanahonaM 'we would be going'
alin sinakanitoraM 'he would be going'
akin senakanadaratM 'perhaps he had gone'

Syntax
An overall classification of sentences in Mundari is given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-verbal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appositional</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compound</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complex</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mundari sentences are phrase-based. Structure and function of a word are somewhat fluid. Most of the grammatical functions are performed by post positions and particles.

Phrases
According to their syntactic functions, phrases may be divided into four main groups – noun phrase, adjective phrase, adverb phrase and verb phrase.

Noun phrase
It is generally an endocentric construction with a noun as the head and performing the function of a noun in the sentence. Noun phrases are of four types – attributive, additive, appositional and vocative.

Example

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phrase</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ne holo</td>
<td>'this man'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>han daru</td>
<td>'far off tree'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mid hoLo</td>
<td>'one man'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aina? oLa</td>
<td>'my house' (possessive)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pukaren kuLi</td>
<td>'Puka's wife'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>koLa ci kuLi</td>
<td>'boy or girl'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>am, bugin koLa</td>
<td>'you, the good boy'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>en aisum</td>
<td>'that countryside'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>isu pura? cauli</td>
<td>'sufficient rice'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moNema hula</td>
<td>'five days'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kulage</td>
<td>'only the tiger (emphatic)'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dombari buru</td>
<td>'hill Dombari!'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dolapuka</td>
<td>'let us (go) Puka'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adjective phrases
Mundari has three main types of adjective phrases: 1) with genitival bound-morphemes 2) with participial form and 3) with intensifiers or emphatic particles.

1) koLa hona (kisi) 'the anger of the child' bir -ra? daru 'tree of the jungle'
daru -rea? jo 'the fruit of the tree'
hatu ta?ra? oLa 'house of the village'
jom ea? 'that which is eaten'

2) da?-pare koLa 'the boy who fills water'
hiju akan holo '(the man) having arrived'

3) isu mara:M 'very big' hudiMge 'very small'
oLo? bugin 'better' bugin utar 'best'
mara: Mfia? 'beg perhaps' hudiM hudiM 'very small'

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Adverb phrases
Mundari has five major types of adverb phrases formed with relators. They are locative phrases, temporal phrases, phrases of manner, with intensifiers and adverb phrases of reduplicative types.
Examples
kami ete rula 'to return from the work' holaete 'since yesterday'
musim 'one day' mosage 'only once'
en leka 'like that' sekeDa ge 'soon enough'
hape hape 'quietly' uku uku 'hiding'

Verb phrases
In Mundari there are three main types of verb phrases, viz., 1) with combination of infinitives 2) with intensifiers and 3) with permissive markers.
Example
jom eTe 'to begin to eat' kamitaDa 'to continue to work'
nira kadge a-e 'he keeps on running' dolaseno? aiM 'let me go'

Clauses
Phrases combine into larger structure of clauses. Mundari clauses are divided as 1) principal, 2) subordinate and 3) co-ordinate.

Principal clause
jom nujadam? 'have you taken meals?'
omapeailM 'I shall give (it) to you'
hasutana ' (it) pains' kammu hobajana 'meal was finished'

Subordinate clauses
In Mundari there are five types of subordinate clauses -- relative, adverbial, conditional, restrictive and adjectival.
Example
sidakena 'he who came first' (relative)
kamitaramre alom taimena 'do not lag behind when you work' (adverbial)
kamitante lagajanae 'owing to work he has been tired' (causal)
ramu te sen re ma?e le lo?ma 'if you go to Ramu he will see you' (conditional)
namkeddo 'as for having found' (restrictive)

Co-ordinate clause
A coordinate clause is not different from a principal clause which is joined to another clause with the help of certain connectives 'free or bound' forming coordinate clauses.
Free oDo, ad, ado?, har, te, ate, re, do, and ci
Bound -re, -te, -do, -ate used with -ge or -o ir both for emphasis.

Sentence formation
The three sentence types -- simple, compound and complex found in this language are discussed below:

Simple sentences
Any sentence with only one independent clause with a single subject and finite verb is a simple sentence. A single sentence may be statement, question, command or exclamation. Each of them may take any of the two voices and they conform to either affirmative or negative.
Compound sentences

Sentences which take more than one principal clause are compound sentences. In Mundari, compound sentences may be either with connector or without connector.

Example

\[
\text{reta? re aiMba:ri\rl\lo\rl do mena? ia} \quad \text{'here I (stay) all alone it is I who is the human being'} \\
\text{rajoakai\rl boroia mente kaji jadae} \quad \text{'I will not be afraid even of the king, he said like this'}
\]

Complex sentences

Sentences which have one independent clause and one or more subordinate clauses are complex sentences. A complex sentence has only one subject and one finite verb.

\[
\text{mero m gupitanae enta dura:\rl Mga?e} \quad \text{'he is grazing the goats, where he is singing} \\
\text{meromgupitanta? dura:M ga} \quad \text{he sings where he is grazing the goats'}
\]

Brief sociolinguistic information

This language is considered as a full-fledged autonomous language by its speakers on two grounds, namely, not only for its intrinsic distance from all other languages of the area but also for its development as a tool of advanced civilisation.

The speakers of Mundari language living in Orissa state use the Oriya script for writing Mundari language whereas those in Bihar use Devanagri script while some others use Roman script also for writing in this language. Hence there is no unified system of orthographic representation for this language.

This language is in the process of being standardised. Text books in Mundari and other subjects are produced in this language as well magazines and books of popular reading are also published. All India Radio broadcasts programmes in this language. Grammars and dictionaries are available in this language.

Some of the native speakers of this language have produced some literary works in Mundari. It is interesting to note that this language is used in rituals and other cultural functions of the Hindus and Christians, apart from using it in their native religious rituals. Christian Missionaries have translated the New Testament of the Bible in this language.

This speech community is a scheduled tribe closely related to other well known tribes such as Santal, Ho, Bhumij and others. Information on the dialect situation of Mundari language is scarce, although Sten Konow (Grierson, 1906) had noted that in general the Mundari dialect situation was like Santali, that is, there were influences of Aryan language on it, otherwise the most idiomatic Mundari was noted to be spoken in a tract of land in Bihar. John J. Gumperz (in Zide, 1969) is of the view that Mundari and neighbouring Hindi dialects could be said to have much of their grammar common.
## Word list follows:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Sl. No</th>
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<th>Mundari</th>
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| 88  | spine      | duyapanjara | 136 | white     | punDi     |
| 89  | tongue     | ale         | 137 | yellow    | sasaM     |
| 90  | tooth      | DaTTa       | 138 | hungry    | range     |
| 91  | waist      | tighoNTi    | 139 | love      | pya:r     |
| 92  | fruit      | jo?         | 140 | pain      | hasu      |
| 93  | liquor     | arki        | 141 | true      | Ti:ki     |
| 94  | milk       | tu?a        | 142 | wish      | sanaM     |
| 95  | salt       | buluM       | 143 | ink        | siyai     |
| 96  | smoke      | sukkul      | 144 | school    | isku:1     |
| 97  | uncooked rice | cauli  | 145 | student   | isku:lon   |
| 98  | bed        | tarkom      | 146 | teacher   | ma:sTor   |
| 99  | door       | stiping     | 147 | bullet    | guli      |
| 100 | house      | u?a         | 148 | first      | maRaM     |
| 101 | roof       | kecco       | 149 | second    | tayom     |
| 102 | rope       | bayer       | 150 | third     | mayam     |
| 103 | wall       | ka:nTo      | 151 | one       | mi?aD     |
| 104 | well       | kuë         | 152 | two       | bariya    |
| 105 | window     | jorka       | 153 | three     | apiye     |
| 106 | flower     | ba          | 154 | four      | upuniye   |
| 107 | fruit      | jo?         | 155 | five      | moneya    |
| 108 | garden     | ba?bagan    | 156 | ten       | geleya    |
| 109 | grass      | tasa:D      | 157 | sixteen   | gelturu    |
| 110 | guava      | towa jo     | 158 | twenty    | hisi      |
| 111 | jack fruit | kaTaR       | 159 | forty     | bar:rhisi  |
| 112 | leaf       | sakam       | 160 | do        | patTi     |
| 113 | lily       | salukba     | 161 | pull      | ore       |
| 114 | mango      | uLLi        | 162 | push      | udur      |
| 115 | paddy      | babba       | 163 | put       | em        |
| 116 | plough     | hail        | 164 | rub        | baba:ta   |
| 117 | potato     | aLLu        | 165 | sell      | akariM    |
| 118 | root       | sanga       | 166 | wash      | sapha     |
| 119 | sweet      | nagoD       | 167 | work      | paity     |
| 120 | tree       | daru        | 168 | sing      | dureM     |
| 121 | vegetable  | utu         | 169 | bring     | agui      |
| 122 | wheel      | chakka      | 170 | climb     | rakka     |
| 123 | bitter     | me:r        | 171 | come      | huju      |
| 124 | black      | hende       | 172 | give      | ome       |
| 125 | blind      | ka:Na       | 173 | go        | seno?     |
| 126 | blue       | ni:la       | 174 | jump      | upi       |
| 127 | bright     | maskal      | 175 | vomit     | uLLe      |
| 128 | brown      | ara?        | 176 | say       | kaji      |
| 129 | coldness   | rabaM       | 177 | write     | oLLe      |
| 130 | green      | seka:mraM   | 178 | touch     | juTiD     |
| 131 | hot        | rag         | 179 | bathe     | uDa       |
| 132 | light      | ma:skal     | 180 | all       | saben     |
| 133 | red        | ara?        | 181 | bad       | kara:b    |
| 134 | sour       | moro?e      | 182 | big       | maraM     |
| 135 | sweet      | nagoD       | 183 | dirty     | moiRa     |