Nouns can be marked for case (4.2) and number (4.1) by suffixes. In addition, there are a few other suffixes that occur with nouns (4.3).

### 4.1 Number marking suffixes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>morpheme</th>
<th>gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(-niʃi)</td>
<td>DU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(-paki ~ -puki ~ -piki)</td>
<td>PL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nouns, including pronouns, can take a dual marker (-niʃi) (DU) and a plural marker (-paki ~ -puki ~ -piki) (PL). Nouns without dual or plural marker are not marked as singular by means of a zero morpheme. The absence of a dual or plural marker only means that a noun is un-marked for number.

The dual marker (-niʃi) and the plural marker (-paki) are suffixed to the unaltered nominal stem and precede any case markers. The dual suffix (-niʃi) is formally identical with the word for the cardinal number ‘two’. The plural suffix occurs in the local variations (-puki), (-paki) and (-piki). Case markers of a noun follow the unaltered number marker.

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1 Van Driem (1993: 83) has pointed out the connection between the Dumi dual suffix for nouns (ni) and Tibeto-Burmese *g-nis ‘two’ (Benedict 1972: 16). The Sunwar dual suffix (-niʃi) (DU) is a cognate.
2 In the district of Rāmechāp in the villages Kūbhū, Bhujī and Pirtī.
3 In the district of Rāmechāp in the village of Saipū.
4 In the district of Okhaldhūngā in the village of Klūjī Cانجیوار. 
Table 20: Number markers of nouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>morpheme</th>
<th>gloss</th>
<th>function</th>
<th>dialect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-niʃi</td>
<td>DU</td>
<td>dual marker</td>
<td>all dialects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-puki</td>
<td>PL</td>
<td>plural marker</td>
<td>District of Rāmechāp in the villages of Kūbhu Kāsthāli, Bhujī and Pirtī</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-paki</td>
<td>PL</td>
<td>plural marker</td>
<td>District of Rāmechāp in the village of Saipu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-piki</td>
<td>PL</td>
<td>plural marker</td>
<td>District of Okhaldhungā in the village of Khiji Cāndeśvarī</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The dual and plural markers emphasise the duality or plurality of the items denoted by the noun to which the markers are attached. The plural marker can be used to point at a group consisting of items similar to the one mentioned, e.g. in sentences (2) and (5).

2. \( \text{pujā dum pachi rāga po, paki sai.ni.m} \)  
   \( \text{worship happen after buffalo pig.PL kill.NPT-23d/-p.3p/svi} \)  
   After the worship, they kill the buffalo, pig and so on.

3. \( \text{icinā āl.niʃi chan} \)  
   \( \text{now child.DU exist-NPT3p} \)  
   Now I have two children.

4. \( \text{mulāt mere.niʃi.m mārei, vo ma.pa.ms} \)  
   \( \text{today that.DU.INS/LOC what. also NEG.do.3dhon} \)  
   They are doing nothing today.

5. \( \text{sāg.paki acā.paki ho, jā.nāmin jām cai thuwort dum.ba} \)  
   \( \text{sāg.PL pickle.PL keep.PF.then beer SNG much happen.NPT+3s} \)  
   \( \text{thuwort tu.ni.mī} \)  
   \( \text{much drink. NPT-23d/-p.3p/svi} \)  
   Having stored away \( \text{sāg} \) (green leafy vegetable) and so on and pickle and so on, there has to be much beer, they drink a lot.

In the absence of a dual or plural marker, the number of items is not necessarily unclear. Number may be indicated by numerals (e.g. 182), verbal agreement markers (e.g. 6, 7, 194, 195) or both.