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Shangshak Tangkhul and Pushing Tangkhul Numerals - A Comparative Presentation

Th. Lakhpriya Devi, Ph.D. Candidate

Introduction

The two languages, Shangshak Tangkhul and Pushing Tangkhul, are found in the Ukhrul Central Sub-Division of Manipur. According to G.A. Grierson (1904), these two languages are included in the Naga group of the Tibeto-Burman language family.

Shangshak Tangkhul and Pushing Tangkhul are spoken in two different villages which are 35 km apart. Shangshak village is 20 km away from the Ukhrul headquarter while the distance of Pushing is 40 km. Shangshak has a population of 2,866 with 457 household and Pushing 748 with 123 household (Census of India 2001). As the languages of the 198 Tangkhul villages differ, inter-village communication in Ukhrul is carried out through the standard Tangkhul language (recognized by the Manipur Government). The use of the Tangkhul language is so common that the people unconsciously use it at times. With the people of other districts they communicate with one another through Manipuri. Being devoid of their own scripts, they use the Roman alphabet.

Numeral

Numerals in Shangshak Tangkhul and Pushing Tangkhul can be classified as follows:

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Shangshak Tangkhul and Pushing Tangkhul Numerals - A Comparative Presentation

1. Cardinal
2. Ordinal
3. Multiplicative
4. Aggregative
5. Approximate
6. Fractional
7. Indefinite
8. Distributive
9. Restrictive

1.1 Cardinal numeral

In Shangshak Tangkhul and Pushing Tangkhul, the cardinal numerals can be studied under the following headings.

- A) Basic cardinal and
- B) Compound cardinal

A) Basic cardinal

The basic cardinal numerals in Shangshak Tangkhul and Pushing Tangkhul are exemplified below:

Shangshak	Pushing	Gloss
əvkə	əkə	“one”
k ^h ənnə	k ^h ənnə	“two”
kət ^h uŋ	kət ^h uŋ	“three”
mədzə	mətə	“four”
p ^h əŋe	p ^h əne	“five”
t ^h əru	t ^h əru	“six”
snə	snə	“seven”
cəsa	cise	“eight”
zəkə	cikə	“nine”
t ^h ərekə	t ^h ərekə	“ten”
ʃekə	ʃekə	“hundred”
t ^h eiŋkə	t ^h əŋkə	“thousand”

B) Compound cardinal

The compound cardinal numerals can be grouped as:

1. Additive compound

2. Multiplicative plus additive compound and
3. Multiplicative compound

While forming the compound numerals the suffix **-kə** in the numerals from ten to ninety is replaced by **-nə** in Shangshak Tangkhul and by **-o** in Pushing Tangkhul.

B.1 Additive compound

The numerals from eleven to thirty eight constitute the additive compound. The basic numerals from one to nine are added to the three decade numerals – **t^hərekə** “ten” **məkukə** “twenty” and **t^huŋrekə** “thirty” in the form of two digits as illustrated below:

Shangshak	Pushing	Gloss
t ^h ərenə-əvkə	t ^h əreo-əkə	10 + 1 “eleven”
t ^h ərenə-snə	t ^h əreo-snə	10 + 7 “seventeen”
məkunə-mədzə	məkuo-mətə	20 + 4 “twenty four”
məkunə-cəsa	məkuo-cise	20 + 8 “twenty eight”
t ^h uŋrenə-p ^h əŋe	t ^h uŋreo-p ^h əne	30 + 5 “thirty five”
t ^h uŋrenə-zəkə	t ^h uŋreo-ciko	30 + 9 “thirty nine”

B.2 Multiplicative plus additive compound

The compound cardinal numerals from forty one to ninety nine are multiplicative plus additive compound. They are formed by the multiplication of the decade numeral (ten) by the numeral from four to nine and finally by the addition of the desired numeral (one to nine). Here the prefix **t^həre-** “ten” changes to **daum-** “forty” in Shangshak Tangkhul and to **dau-** “forty” in Pushing Tangkhul. Examples are:

Shangshak	Pushing	Gloss
daum-mədzənə	dau-mətəoəkə	10 x 4 + 1 = 41 “forty one”
daum-p ^h əŋenə t ^h əru	dau-p ^h əneo t ^h əru	10 x 5 + 6 = 56 “fifty six”
daum-t ^h ərunə əvkə	dau-t ^h əruoəkə	10 x 6 + 1 = 61 “sixty one”
daum-t ^h ərunə kət ^h uŋ	dau-t ^h əruokət ^h uŋ	10 x 6 + 3 = 63 “sixty three”
daum-snənəmədzə	dau-snəomətə	10 x 7 + 4 = 74 “seventy four”
daum-cəsanəkət ^h uŋ	dau-ciseokət ^h uŋ	10 x 8 + 3 = 83 “eighty three”
daum-zəkənəzəkə	dau-cikoociko	10 x 9 + 9 = 99 “ninety nine”

The numerals from the following that is , 101 - 109, 201 - 209, 301 - 309, 401 - 409, 501 - 509 etc. are formed in accordance with the following formulae:

- a) Century x basic numeral + əpe/lo + numeral
- b) Mega x basic numeral + əpe/lo + numeral

Century and mega numerals are formed by using **əpe** in Shangshak Tangkhul and **lo** in Pushing Tangkhul through addition. In century numerals, the root **ʃe** “hundred” is multiplied by the basic numeral from one to nine and the desired numeral is added. When **ʃe** “hundred” occurs with **əvkə/əkə** “one”, **əv/ə** gets deleted. This is indicated in the following table.

Century x basic numeral + əpe/lo + numeral

Shangshak	Pushing	Gloss
ʃe-kə əpe əvkə	ʃe-kə lo əkə	“one hundred and one”
ʃe-k ^h ənnə əpe zəkə	ʃe-k ^h ənnə lo ciko	“two hundred and nine”
ʃe-kət ^h uŋ əpe əvkə	ʃe-kət ^h uŋ lo əkə	“three hundred and one”
ʃe-p ^h əŋe əpe mədzə	ʃe-p ^h əne lo mətə	“five hundred and four”

In the mega numerals, the root **t^heiŋ/t^həŋ** “thousand” is multiplied by the basic numeral and the desired numeral is added. When **t^heiŋ/t^həŋ** occurs with **əvkə/əkə**, **əv/ə** gets deleted and the **-kə** in Pushing Tangkhul changes to **-gə**. This is shown below:

Mega x basic numeral + əpe/lo + numeral

Shangshak	Pushing	Gloss
t ^h eiŋ-kə əpe əvkə	t ^h əŋ-gə lo əkə	“one thousand and one”
t ^h eiŋ-k ^h ənnə əpe mədzə	t ^h əŋ-k ^h ənnə lo mətə	“two thousand and four”
t ^h eiŋ-kət ^h uŋ əpe p ^h əŋe	t ^h əŋ-kət ^h uŋ lo p ^h əne	“three thousand and five”
t ^h eiŋ-t ^h əru əpe cəsa	t ^h əŋ-t ^h əru lo cise	“six thousand and eight”

B.3 Higher multiplicative compound

Multiples of hundred and thousand form the higher multiplicative compound. The multiples of hundred starting from 200 to 900 are formed by deleting **-kə** from the word **ʃekə** “hundred” and adding cardinal numerals in both Shangshak Tangkhul and Pushing Tangkhul. Likewise, multiples of “thousand” are formed by deleting **-kə/-gə** from the word **t^heiŋkə/t^həŋgə**.

The following table illustrates this:

Shangshak	Pushing	Gloss
ʃe-k ^h ənnə	ʃe-k ^h ənnə	“two hundred”
ʃe-kət ^h uŋ	ʃe-kət ^h uŋ	“three hundred”
ʃe-mədzə	ʃe-mətə	“four hundred”
ʃe-p ^h əŋe	ʃe-p ^h əne	“five hundred”
ʃe-cəsa	ʃe-cise	“eight hundred”
t ^h eiŋ-snə	t ^h əŋ-snə	“seven thousand”
t ^h eiŋ-cəsa	t ^h əŋ-cise	“eight thousand”
t ^h eiŋ-zəko	t ^h əŋ-ciko	“nine thousand”
t ^h eiŋ- t ^h ərekə	t ^h əŋ-t ^h ərekə	“ten thousand”

The cardinal numerals can occur only after the noun as shown below:

	Shangshak	Pushing	Gloss
a)	oza p ^h əŋe teacher five	oza p ^h əne teacher five	“five teachers”
a1	*p ^h əŋe oza	*p ^h əne oza	
b)	lari zəko	lerei ciko	“nine books”
b1	book nine *zəko lari	book nine *ciko lerei	

The sentences (a1) and (b1) are ungrammatical.

2. Ordinal numeral

The ordinal number “first” is denoted by k^hərər in Shangshak Tangkhul and ʃok^hərər cəŋ in Pushing Tangkhul. Second to ninth is expressed by the prefixation of kə- to the cardinal numbers. From tenth onwards the ordinal number is the same as the cardinal number. The following table illustrates this:

Shangshak	Pushing	Gloss
k ^h ərər	ʃok ^h ərər cəŋ	“first”

kə-k ^h ənnə	kə-k ^h ənnə	“second”
kə-kət ^h uŋ	kə-kət ^h uŋ	“third”
kə-cəsa	kə-cise	“eight”
kə-zəkə	kə-ciko	“ninth”
t ^h ərekə	t ^h ərekə	“tenth”
məkukə	məkukə	“twentieth”

The ordinal can occur before or after the noun as shown below:

Shangshak	Pushing	Gloss
a) k ^h ərər ləsijəu	ʃok ^h ərər cəŋ neusere	“the first child”
first child	first child	
ləsijəu k ^h ərər	neusere ʃok ^h ərər cəŋ	
child first	child first	
b) kə-t ^h əru seiŋ	kə-t ^h əru ʃəŋ	“the sixth house”
sixth house	sixth house	
seiŋ kə-t ^h əru	ʃəŋ kə-t ^h əru	
house sixth	house sixth	

3. Multiplicative numeral

The numerals here are derived from the cardinal number by the suffixation of -sə in Shangshak Tangkhul and -və in Pushing Tangkhul.

Instances are:

Shangshak	Pushing	Gloss
əvkə-sə	əkə-və	“once”
k ^h ənnə-sə	k ^h ənnə-və	“twice”
kət ^h uŋ-sə	kət ^h uŋ-və	“thrice”

4. Aggregative numeral

In both the languages, aggregative numerals are formed by suffixing *-nə* to the cardinal numeral as in the following:

Shangshak	Pushing	Gloss
k ^h ənnə-nə	k ^h ənnə-nə	“all the two”
kət ^h uŋ-nə	kət ^h uŋ-nə	“all the three”
p ^h əŋe-nə	p ^h əne-nə	“all the five”
cəsa-nə	cise-nə	“all the eight”

5. Approximative numeral

For approximative numerals *--səkə* and *-cukə* are suffixed to the cardinal numeral for Shangshak Tangkhul and Pushing Tangkhul respectively as indicated below:

Shangshak	Pushing	Gloss
əvkə-səkə	kə-cukə	“about one”
k ^h ənnə-səkə	k ^h ənnə-cukə	“about two”
kət ^h uŋ-səkə	kət ^h uŋ-cukə	“about three”
mədzə-səkə	mətə-cukə	“about four”

6. Fractional numeral

kəsulə/re “segment” is inserted between the two cardinal numbers while forming the fractional numeral, the smaller number being the numerator and the larger one the denominator.

Illustration is given below:

Shangshak	Pushing	Gloss
Monomorphic	Monomorphic	
əkijəu	əciəkə	“piece”
təŋk ^h i	təŋk ^h ai	“half”
Dimorphic	Dimorphic	
kət ^h uŋ kəsulə əvkə	kət ^h uŋ re əkə	“one - third”
p ^h əŋe kəsulə mədzə	p ^h əne re mətə	“four - fifth”

7. Indefinite quantity and measure word

The following are used in the languages:

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Shangshak	Pushing	Gloss
əka	kədokə	“some”
səpekə	k ^h okət ^h ekə	“anyone”
dəurekə	kəcujkə	“many”
kətujkə	kətuajjikə	“group”
biaŋməsuŋkə	huanjkə	“handful”
kətikəfui	məcujp ^h o	“heap”
ədaŋ	ədaŋ	“bundle”

Some examples are:

Shangshak	Pushing
a) səpekə mi-lo anyone give - C.M. “Give to anyone.”	k ^h okət ^h ekə mə-lo anyone give - C.M.
b) dəurekə lari many book “many books”	əcujkələrei many book
c) lari kətikəfui book heap “a heap of books”	lərei məcujp ^h o book heap

8. Distributive numeral

—**riŋi** and **-ŋisəŋ** are suffixed to the cardinal numeral of Shangshak Tangkhul and Pushing Tangkhul respectively as in the following:

Shangshak	Pushing	Gloss
əvə-riŋi	əkə-ŋisəŋ	“one each”
k ^h ənnə-riŋi	k ^h ənnə-ŋisəŋ	“two each”
kət ^h uj-riŋi	kət ^h uj-ŋisəŋ	“three each”
mədzə-riŋi	mətə-ŋisəŋ	“four each”

9. Restrictive numeral

The restrictive numeral is formed by suffixing **-mə** to the cardinal numeral in Shangshak Tangkhul and **-rəsi** in Pushing Tangkhul. For instance:

Shangshak	Pushing	Gloss
əvə-mə	əkə-rəsi	“only one”
k ^h ənnə-mə	k ^h ənnə-rəsi	“only two”
kət ^h uŋ-mə	kət ^h uŋ-rəsi	“only three”
mədzə-mə	mətə-rəsi	“only four”

Conclusion

Shangshak Tangkhul and Pushing Tangkhul are languages which have close affinity as seen from the above comparison of their numerals.

Abbreviation

C.M. command marker.

Symbol

* Ungrammatical

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Th. Lakhpriya Devi, Ph.D. Candidate
 Department of Linguistics
 Manipur University
 Imphal
 Manipur, India
lakhpriyath@gmail.com

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