

Study on Mood Used in Tiwa Language

Dr. Laheram Muchahary

Assistant Professor

Girls' College, Rashmivan, Narabari, B.T.A.D, Kokrajhar

Assam-783370

lmuchahary.7@gmail.com

1. Introduction

Assam is known for its diversity as different tribes live in this region for centuries together. Tiwas are one of the major tribes of Assam and they constitute an important ethnic group of north-east India. Ethnically, the Tiwas are of Mongoloid origin. The Tiwas are mainly the inhabitants of Assam. But they also inhabited some part of neighbouring state of Meghalaya. In old linguistic literatures, they were known as Lalung. However, they preferred to call themselves as Tiwa. Majority of the Tiwa people living in the plains of Assam, particularly the younger, can't speak their language. For education and for day-to-day exchange of thoughts, they use Assamese language. However, the Tiwas living in the hills are still maintaining their language and use their language for their day-to-day life. The total population of Tiwa tribes is said to be 371000 approx. according to the 2011 census. However, the total number of Tiwa speakers amounts only 34,800 approx. (2011 census).

2. Tiwa Language

Tiwa is the name of language as well as of a community. Linguistically this language is belonged to Tibeto-Burman sub-group of Sino-Tibetan language family. According to G. A. Grierson, in his book Linguistics Survey of India (Vol-III, Part-ii), this language belongs to the Bodo group under the Bodo-Naga section of Tibeto-Burman language family. Tiwa language is spoken mainly in the Nagaon, Morigaon, Karbi Anglong and Kamrup district of Assam and some parts of the neighbouring state of Meghalaya. The Tiwa language is found only in spoken form. Some of them have lost their language because of the influence of Assamese.

3. Review of Literature

A few linguistic works have been done on Tiwa language as far as our knowledge is concerned. G.A. Grierson's 'Linguistic Survey of India' (Vol-III, Part- ii, 1903-28) gives us the first hand information about the Tiwa (Lalung) language for the first time. Rev. M. Balawan's 'Outlines of Lalung Grammar' which was published in 1975 was the first grammar of Tiwa language. In this grammar, he tried to bring out some grammatical features of Tiwa language in brief. UV Joseph and Robbins Burling's 'The Comparative Phonology of Boro-Garo language (2006)' is the most important book from the linguistic point of view. In

this book, they described the inventory of phonemes and phonological feature of Tiwa language.

4. What is Mood?

Mood is an important category of grammar. It is a term used in the theoretical and descriptive study of the sentence/clause and especially of the verbs they contain (David Crystal, 1997). It expresses the attitudes on the part of the speaker towards the factual content of the utterances such as uncertainty, possibility etc.

5. Different Types of Moods Used in Tiwa

Tiwa has a few numbers of moods. These are Imperative, Capability, Necessity, Probability, Conditional, Permissive and Optative which are discussed below.

5.1. Imperative

Imperative mood in Tiwa expresses request on the one hand and the command on the other. The imperative command is expressed simply by the bare verb stem that is to say; the stem itself is the imperative while imperative request is expressed by the polite imperative morpheme (Pol. Imp. M) realised as /-t^ha/, /-de/ added to the verb stem. Consider the following examples:

- (i) /li-/ 'go'
/li-t^ha/
go-Pol.Imp.M
'Please go'
- (ii) /čol-/ 'do'
/čol-t^ha/
do-Pol.Imp.M
'Please do'
- (iii) /p^hoi-/ come
/p^hoi-de/
come-Pol.Imp.M
'Please come'

But often /bo/ and /t^ho/ is added to the stem for the sake of stress or emphasis. Eg.

- (iv) /k^hezɔŋ/ 'sit'
/k^hezɔŋ-bo/
sit- Str.Imp.M
'Sit down'
- (v) /k^hona/ 'listen'

/k^hona-t^ho/
listen-Str.Imp.M
'listen'

5.2.Capability

It indicates the ability of the agent in performing the action identified by the verb. The ability or capability is expressed in Tiwa by adding the modal auxiliary /p^hono/ 'can' after the verb which is in the future tense form.

- (i) /pe k^hrom-go čol-a p^hono/
S/he work-Acc. do-Inf. M.
'S/he can do the work'
- (ii) /aŋ li-na p^hono/
I go-Inf. M.
'I can go'
- (iii) /Sita roza-na p^hono/
Sita sing-Inf. M.
'Sita can sing'

5.3.Necessity

The mood of necessity is expressed by the word /naŋo/ meaning 'need' after the verb.
e.g.

- (i) /aŋ li-na naŋo/
I go-Inf. need-M.
'I need to go'
- (ii) /na isuna p^hi-na naŋo/
you here come-Inf. need-M.
'you need to come here'
- (iii) /ne rap-go aŋ-a naŋo/
Your help-Acc. I-Dat. need-M.
'I need your help'

5.4. Probability

The mood of probability is expressed by the modal auxiliary /mano/ 'may' used after the verb which is in the future tense form.

- (i) /tawe ai p^ha p^hiw mano/
Today my father come-Fut. M.

‘My father may come today’

- (ii) /pe k^hrom-go čolo mano/
S/he wok—Acc. do-Fut. M.
‘S/he may do the work’.

- (iii) /aŋ liw mano/
I go-Fut. M.
‘I may go’

5.5. Conditional Mood

The conditional mood expresses the condition for performing the specified verbal action. In Tiwa, it is formed by /-gai / ‘if’ to the verb root. /-gai / does not occur in isolation, it always occurs with the verb.

- (i) /na li-gai/
you go-Cond.
‘If you go’
- (ii) /pe isuna p^hi-gai/
s/he here come-Cond.
‘If s/he comes here’
- (iii) /na ča-gai/
you eat-Cond.
‘If you eat’

5.6. Permissive

When the other person is given permission to do the action it is called permissive mood. The permissive mood in Tiwa is expressed by using /os/ meaning ‘give’ and tense aspect markers are added to it.

- (i) /pe-go li-na os/
s/he-Acc. go-Inf give-M.
‘Allow him/her to go’
- (ii) /aŋ-go čol-a os/
I-Acc. do-Inf. give-M.
‘Allow me to do’
- (iii) /pe-go k^hrom čol-a os-dom/
s/he-Acc work do-Inf. give-M-Past

‘S/he was allowed to do the work’

5.7. Optative Mood

The mood of optative is expressed by an inflectional suffix /-t^hoŋ/ to the verb, which expresses a wish. For example-

(i) /mindai na-go por os-t^hoŋ/ ‘God bless you’
God you-Acc. bless give-M.

(ii) /pe k^honana p^hi-t^hoŋ/ ‘Let him/her come tomorrow’
s/he tomorrow come-M.

6. Conclusion

From the above discussion it becomes clear that Tiwa manifests a neat system of realisation of Mood. All the seven moods used in Tiwa are postpositional. Most of the moods used in this language are expressed by adding the modal auxiliary. Imperative, Conditional and Optative moods are expressed by inflectional suffixes to the verb. Like other TB language the sentence pattern of this language is SOV (Subject +Object + Verb).

Select Bibliography

- Amsi, R. & Bardoloi, S. (2000). *Chinge Khurang*. Jairoad: Tiwa Mathonlai Tokhra
- Aronoff, Mark. (1994). *Morphology by Itself Stems and Inflectional Classes*. London: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Baishya, A. K. (2004). *The Structure of Nagamese: The Contact Language of Nagaland*. Unpublished Ph. D. Dissertation. Silchar. Assam University.
- Balawan, M. (1975). *Outlines of Lalung Grammar*. Shillong: Don Bosco Technical School ---
----- (1987). *Tiwa-English Translation*. Umswai: Catholic Church.
- Baruah, P.N. (ed. 1997). *Language of the North-East*. Mysore: CIIL.
- Basumatary, P. (2005). *An Introduction to the Boro Language*. New Delhi: Mittal Publications.
- Benidict, Paul. (1972). *Sino-Tibetan: a Conspectus*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Bhattacharya, P.C. (1977). *A Descriptive Analysis of Boro language*. Guwahati-14: G.U. Press.
- Bloomfield, L. (Reprinted 1996). *Language*. New Delhi: Motilal Banarsidas Publishers.
- Bordoloi, B.N. Sharma, G.C. & Saikia, M.C. (1987). *Tribes of Assam. Part-I*. Guwahati, Tribal Research Institute.
- Brahma, Aleendra. (2012). *Modern Bodo Grammar*. Guwahati: N.L. Publication
- Chainary, S.P. (2006). *Boro and Garo: A Linguistic Comparative Study*. Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis. GU.

- Chetterjee, S. K. (Reprinted 1998). *KirataJanakriti*. Calcutta: Asiatic Society.
- Crystal, David. (1992). *A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*. Blackwell Publishers.
- Gait, E. (Reprint 1992). *A History of Assam*. Guwahati: Lawyer's Book Stall.
- Gleason, H.A. (Reprint 1995). *An Introduction to Descriptive Linguistics*. New Delhi: Oxford and IBH Publishing.
- Goswami, S.N. (1998). *Studies in Sino-Tibetan language*. Guwahati: Gauhati University.
- Greenberg, J.H. (ed. 1978). *Universal of Human Languages*. Vol. 4. California: Stanford University Press.
- Grierson, G.A. (1903-28). *Linguistic Survey of India*, Vol. III Pt. (Reprinted 1967-68) Delhi- Varanasi: Motilal Banarasidas.
- Hockett, Charles F. (2006). *A Course in Modern Linguistics*. Delhi. Surjeet Publication.
- Hyslop, Gwendolyn, Morey, Stephen, & Post, Mark. (ed. 2013). *NorthEast Indian Linguistics*. Vol. No. 5. New Delhi:
----- (ed. 2012). *North East Indian Linguistics*. Vol. 4. New Delhi:Cambridge University Press.
- Joseph, U.V & Burling, Robbins. (2006). *The Comparative Phonology of Boro Garo Language*. Mysore: CIIL.
- Katamba, F. (1993). *Morphology*. New York: Palgrave Mcmilan.
- Kholar, V. Len. (2004). *Tiwa Matpadi*. Guwahati: Tiwa MathonlaiTokhra.
- Lieber, Rochelle (2009). *Introducing Morphology*. www.Cambridge.org.
- Mathew, P. (1975). *Morphology*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Morey, Stephen, & Post, Mark. (ed. 2008.) *North East Indian Linguistics*. New Delhi: Foundation.
- Sarma Thakur, G.C. (1985). *The Lalungs (Tiwas)*. Guwahati: Tribal Research Institute.
- Senapati, Bagadhar. (ed. 2006). *Thurang*.Dimoria: Tiwa MathonlaiTokhra.
- Thakur, D. (Reprint 2008). *Linguistic Simplified Morphology*. New Delhi: Bharati Bhawan.
----- (Reprint 2008). *Morphology*. New Delhi: Bharati Bhawan.
- Thurgood, G. & LaPolla, Randy J. (ed. 2007). *The Sino-Tibetan Languages*. London: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group.
- Tim, R. (2007). *Dictionary of Applied Linguistics*. New Delhi: Sarup & Sons.
- Verma, S.K. (1989). *Modern Linguistics: An Introduction Oxford*: Oxford University.
-