

LANGUAGE IN INDIA

Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow

Volume 12 : 2 February 2012

ISSN 1930-2940

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Assamese Influence on Bodo

Pratima Brahma

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Abstract

In Assam, languages belonging to different language families are found, namely, Indo-Aryan and Tibeto-Burman. Language can get changed by the influence of periphery and lack of words for some specific fields. Assamese and Bodo are the major inhabitants of Assam. Assamese belongs to Indo-Aryan group of language family and Bodo belongs to the Bodo group of Bodo-Naga subsection of Tibeto-Burman language family.

Though Assamese and Bodo belong to different groups of language families and their phonemic characters are different, both these languages have influenced each other because of periphery. In this article, an attempt has been made to present the lexico-statistic data of Assamese and Bodo with phonemic transcription in Assamese alphabetical order to show the Assamese influence on Bodo language.

1.0. Introduction

The statistical figures state that the total Assam Area covers 78, 523 sq km. The state of Assam is situated on the north-eastern front of India. Assam is surrounded by six of the other sister states: Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya. The forest lands occupy a major part of Assam's area Dispur is the capital of Assam. Assam comprises the Brahmaputra and the Barak valleys along with the Karbi Anglong and the Dima Hasao district with an area of 30,285 square miles (78,440 km²). Assam became a part of British India after the British occupied the region following the First Anglo-Burmese War of 1824–1826.

The word *Assam* is derived from Sanskrit word '*Asoma*' meaning 'peerless'. Assam is in fact, peerless, judged by her exquisite natural beauty, cultural richness and human wealth. The ancient name of Assam was "Pragjyotisha" or the place of eastern astronomy in the earliest days and is mentioned frequently in Indian scriptures, mythologies and poetical works as "Kamrupa". In 1228 after the mighty Ahom administration the "Pragjyotisha", is known as Assam.

2.0. People and the language

Assamese

Assamese is the name and language of a community. Assamese belongs to Indi-Aryan group of language family. Assamese and the cognate languages, Maithili, Bengali and Oriya, developed from Magadhi Prakrit. According to linguist Suniti Kumar Chatterji, the Magadhi Prakrit in the east gave rise to four Apabhramsa dialects: Radha, Vanga, Varendra and Kamarupa; and the Kamarupa Apabhramsa. Assamese is used mainly in Assam in North-East India. It is also spoken in parts of Arunachal Pradesh and other northeast Indian states. Nagamese is an Assamese-based contact language which is widely used in Nagaland. Small pockets of Assamese speakers can be found in Bhutan. Assamese is the official language of Assam. The English word "Assamese" is built on the same principle as "Japanese", "Taiwanese", "American" "Chinese," etc. It is based on the name "Assam" by which the tract consisting of the Brahmaputra valley was known. The people call their state *Ôxôm* and their language *Ôxômiya*. Bihu is their main seasonal festival, 'Satra' and 'Namaghar' is the main cultural and religious institution of Assamese. *Chador mekela* is the famous

traditional attire for Assamese woman. “Gamucha” is the recognizable cultural symbol of Assamese people.

Bodo:

Bodo is the name language of a community as well as language (B.H Hudgson 1846). It belongs to Bodo sub-section of the Bodo-Naga section under the Assam-Burmese group of the Tibeto-Burman branch of Sino-Tibetan or Tibeto-Chinese language family (LSI, vol-II, Part-III, Grierson, 1903). The total population of Bodo speakers according to the census of India 2001 is 13,15,771 It is spoken by the Bodo people in north-eastern India and small adjacent areas of Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh. The Bodo speaking areas of Assam at present are stretching from Dhubri in the west to Sadiya in the east. The Bodo language of Assam has at least four clear-cut dialect-areas with a sufficient number of dialectal variations; they may be called North-eastern, south-western, north-central and southern dialect areas with phonological, morphological and glossarial differences. Bodo was included in the 8th scheduled of Indian constitution in 2003. It is also an associate official language of Assam and is used as official language in BTAD area. It is also used as medium of instruction in lower primary and upper primary schools and is used as MIL in higher secondary and under graduate level. It is also taught as elective and major subjects in under graduate level and it is studied as subject in post graduate level.UGC (University Grants Commission) has included Bodo as subject in NET examination.

3.0. Vowel phoneme chart of Bodo and Assamese:

According to Phukan Basumatary (2005) Bodo has the following vowel phonemes:

	<i>Front</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Back</i>
<i>High</i>	<i>i</i>		<i>u u</i>
<i>Mid</i>	<i>e</i>		<i>o</i>
<i>Law</i>		<i>a</i>	

Chart -1 Bodo vowel phoneme

Assamese is said to have the following vowel phonemes:

	<i>Front</i>	<i>Central</i>	<i>Back</i>
<i>High</i>	<i>i</i>		<i>u</i>
<i>High mid</i>			ʊ
<i>Mid</i>	<i>e</i>		<i>o</i>
<i>Law mid</i>	ɛ		ə
<i>Law</i>	a		ɔ

Chart-2 Assamese vowel phoneme

4.0. Consonant phoneme of Bodo and Assamese:

Bodo:

	<i>Place of articulation</i>

<i>Manner of art</i>	<i>Bilabial</i>		<i>Alveolar</i>		<i>Palatal</i>		<i>Velar</i>		<i>Glottal</i>	
	<i>vl</i>	<i>vd</i>	<i>vl</i>	<i>vd</i>	<i>vl</i>	<i>vd</i>	<i>vl</i>	<i>vd</i>	<i>vl</i>	<i>vd</i>
<i>Stop</i>	<i>p^h</i>		<i>t^h</i>				<i>k^h</i>			
		<i>b</i>		<i>d</i>				<i>g</i>		
<i>Nasal</i>		<i>m</i>		<i>n</i>				<i>ŋ</i>		
<i>Fricative</i>			<i>s</i>							<i>h</i>
				<i>z</i>						
<i>Rolled/trill</i>				<i>r</i>						
<i>Lateral</i>				<i>l</i>						
<i>semi-vowel</i>		<i>w</i>						<i>y</i>		

Chart 3

Bodo consonant phoneme

Assamese:

	<i>Place of articulation</i>									
<i>Manner of art</i>	<i>Bilabial</i>		<i>Alveolar</i>		<i>Palatal</i>		<i>Velar</i>		<i>Glottal</i>	
	<i>vl</i>	<i>vd</i>	<i>vl</i>	<i>vd</i>	<i>vl</i>	<i>vd</i>	<i>vl</i>	<i>vd</i>	<i>vl</i>	<i>vd</i>
<i>Stop</i>										
<i>aspirated</i>	<i>p^h</i>	<i>b^h</i>	<i>t^h</i>	<i>dh</i>			<i>k^h</i>	<i>gh</i>		
<i>Un-aspirated</i>	<i>p</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>d</i>			<i>k</i>	<i>g</i>		
<i>Nasal</i>	<i>m</i>			<i>n</i>				<i>ŋ</i>		
<i>Fricative</i>			<i>s</i>					<i>x</i>		<i>h</i>
				<i>z</i>						
<i>Rolled/trill</i>				<i>r</i>						
<i>Lateral</i>				<i>l</i>						
<i>semi-vowel</i>								<i>y</i>		
		<i>w</i>								

Chart-4

Assamese consonant phoneme

5.0. Assamese Influence on Bodo

Bodo have six vowel phonemes i.e. /i, e, a, o, u, u/ on the other hand Assamese have nine vowel phonemes i. e. /i, e, ε, a, o, ɔ, ə, u, u/. The vowel phonemes /ε, ə, u/ can not found in Bodo. The phoneme /ɔ/ occurs in word final position in Bodo as allophone of /o/ i. e. /t^haso/ > /t^hasɔ/ ‘arum’ /mok^ho/ > /mok^hɔ/ ‘mention’ etc.

Bodo has sixteen consonant phonemes including two semi vowels i. e. /p^h, b^h, t^h, d, k^h, g, m, n, ŋ, s, z, h, r, l, y, w/, on the other hand, Assamese has 21 consonant phonemes and two semi vowels i. e. /p, p^h, b, b^h, t, t^h, d, d^h, k, k^h, g, g^h, m, n, ŋ, s, z, x, h, r, l, y, w/. The consonant phonemes /b^h, d^h, g^h, x/ can not found in Bodo. The consonant phonemes /p, t, k/ can occur in words final position in Bodo as allophone of /p^h, t^h, k^h/.

Lexically Bodo and Assamese have influenced each other. Assamese and Bodo have used many common words which some of these are Assamese origin and some of these are Bodo origin which they articulate according to their own phonological rules. The words like /garu/ < /gandu/ ‘pillow’, /nidan/ < /nidan/ ‘diagnosis’ are Bodo origin and /ɔzon/, ‘weight, /gɔrib/ ‘poor’ etc. are Assamese origin. Orthographically the word /gandu/ is Tibeto-Burman origin.

Handloom is the traditional culture for Bodo women, the name of handloom instruments are both Bodo and Assamese origin, i.e. /salkuta/, /kilabari/, /kuta/, /maku/ /sal/, /tat/ etc. are Assamese (Indo-Aryan) origin and the name of handloom instruments like /surk^hi/, /k^hadini/, /gork^ha/, etc. are Bodo origin.

Animal’s name in Bodo (Tibeto-Burman) language is started with /m/ and /b/ but it is to be noted here that words that begin with /b/ is very rare in Bodo i.e. /burma/ ‘goat’, /musuu/ ‘cattle’, /muisu/ ‘buffalo’ /muui/ ‘deer’, /muider/ ‘elephant’ etc. Animals name which are not started with /m/, are not Bodo origin. It may be Indo-Aryan origin. E.g /g^hora/ > /gorai/ ‘horse’, /xiyal/ > /siyal/ ‘fox’, /xiŋho/ > /siŋho/ ‘lion’ etc.

In Tibeto-Burman language bird's names are started with /d/, i.e. /daok^ha/ 'crow', /daot^hu/ 'dove' etc. and those which are not started with /d/ is not Bodo origin i.e. /xila/ > /sila/ 'kite', /parɔ/ < /p^haruu/ 'pigeon' /soka/ < /sok^ha/ 'sparrow' /səgun/ < /sigun/ 'vulture' etc.

Assamese belongs to Indo-Aryan language group and Bodo belongs to Tibeto-Burman group of language family as we have mentioned above. Bodo and Assamese are the major inhabitants of Assam. Lexically both the languages influenced each other. As Bodos are living in lower Assam for generations together where Kamrupi dialect of Assamese is spoken by the native Assamese speakers, a lot of Kamrupi Assamese influences can be seen in the Bodo language. Following are the presentation of phonemic data of Assamese and Bodo:

Assamese	Bodo	Glosses
1. /ɔzɔr/	/ɔjot/	'objection'
2. /uzɔn/	/ɔjon/	'weight'
3. /uθi/	/ut ^h i/	'getting up'
4. /uttirɔ/	/ut ^h ri/	'success'
5. /upai/	/upai/	'chance'
6. /ural/	/ual/	'grinder'
7. /kot ^h al/	/k ^h ant ^h al/	'jackfruit'
8. /kodal/	k ^h odal/	'spade'
9. /kona/	/kona/	'corner'
10. /kobita/	/k ^h ont ^h ai/	'poem'
11. /kɔt ^h a/	/k ^h ut ^h a/	'voice, language'
12. /kɔpal/	/k ^h ap ^h al/	'forehead'
13. /kɔbiraz/	/kubiraj/	'physician'
14. /kɔmɔla/	/k ^h omla/	'orange'

15. /kɔləm/	/k ^h uluum/	‘pen’
16. /kamla/	/k ^h amla/	‘labour’
17. /kekora/	/kaŋk ^h rai/	‘crab’
18. /kerahi/	/k ^h erk ^h a/	‘a kind of basket use for washing rice’
19. /kilabari/	/k ^h ilabari/	‘a kind of stick use for handloom’
20. /kadini/	/k ^h adini/	‘handloom comb’
21. /kasi/	/k ^h asi/	‘sickle’
22. /kait ^h a/	/k ^h ait ^h a/	‘handloom needle’
23. /kundi/	/k ^h undi/	‘ridge of basket’
24. /kumra/	/k ^h umbra/	‘white gourd’
25. /k ^h ɔrɔs/	/koros/	‘expenditure’
26. /k ^h ɔbɔr/	/kobor/	‘news’
27. /k ^h ɔraŋ/	/k ^h oran/	‘dry’
28. /k ^h o/	/k ^h o/	‘netlike implement made of bamboo for preserving seeds’
29. /k ^h ɔnti/	/k ^h ont ^h i/	‘a kind of weapon use for digging hole’
30. /k ^h abu/	/k ^h abu/	‘trick’
31. /k ^h utra/	/k ^h uduna/	‘a kind of green leaf vegetable’
32. /k ^h ata/	/k ^h ata/	‘loose paper’
33. /k ^h atir/	/k ^h atri/k ^h at ^h ir/	‘respect’
34. /k ^h ar/	/k ^h ardui/	‘a kind of traditional acid’
35. /k ^h irki/	/k ^h urk ^h i/	‘window’
36. /k ^h uta/	/k ^h un.t ^h a/	‘handloom post’

37. /k ^h usi/	/k ^h usi/	‘happy’
38. /kusiya/	/k ^h usiya/	‘a kind of eel with black- brown colour’
39. /goli/	/goli/	‘cow shed’
40. /goli/gili/	/goli/	‘mixed-up with water’
41. /gɔrɔka/	/gork ^h a/	‘handloom implement’
42. /gɔrib/	/guurib/	‘poor man’
43. /gɔrb ^h ɔ/	/guurbu/	‘womb’
44. /gɔrb ^h ɔbɔti/	/guurbubothi/	‘pregnant’
45. /gɔhɔna/	/gohena/	‘ornament’
46. /gandɔi/	/gandui/	‘one of the two beams of a handloom on which yarns and woven cloths are rolled up’
47. /gamla/	/gamla/	‘open mouthed basin’
48. /gamsa/	/gamsa/	‘ traditional towel’
49. /gara/	/gainai/	‘planting’
50. /garu/	/gandu/	‘pillow’
51. /gari/	/gari/	‘vehicle’
52. /gai/	/gai/	‘cow’
53. /gain/	/gahen/	‘heavy wooden pestle for pounding and husking paddy etc.’
54. /gao/	/gami/	‘village’
55. /gaobura/	/gaobura/	‘village headman’
56. /g ^h ɔtɔk/	/k ^h ot ^h ok/	‘matchmaker’
57. /g ^h ɔtna/	/k ^h ot ^h ona/	‘occurrence’
58. /g ^h ora/	/gorai/	‘horse’

59. /gura/	/gundui/	‘powder’
60. /zoŋ/	/joŋ/	‘spear’
61. /zoŋal/	/joŋal/	‘yoke’
62. /zonmɔ/	/junuum/	‘birth’
63. /zat ^h a/	/jat ^h a/	‘grinder’
64. /zika/	/jiŋk ^h a/	‘a kind of gourd’
65. /zent ^h er/	/jen.t ^h er/	‘cotton spinning wheel’
66. /tool/	/t ^h ool/	‘round sitting site’
67. /t ^h undri/	/t ^h undri/	‘handloom string’
68. /tulsi/	/t ^h ulsi/	‘tulsi plant’
69. /tɛɔl/	/t ^h eowl/	‘bamboo sting’
70. /dɔn/	/don/	‘small size of basket’
71. /dos/	/dai/	‘offence’
72. /dɔbɔl/	/doblai, dɔbɔl/	‘square size of circle of paddy field’
73. /dɔrza/	/dor/	‘door’
74. /daŋnat ^h a/	/daŋgunata/	‘a kind of handloom implement made of bamboo to twist thread’
75. /dan/	/dan/	‘contribution’
76. /dam/	/dam/	‘price’
77. /dabɔr/	/dabur/	‘a kind of open mouth basin’
78. /dal/	/dalai/	‘branch’
79. /dalim/	/dalim/	‘pomegranate’
80. /daini/	/daini/	‘witch’
81. /din/	/din/	‘day’
82. /dokan/	/dɔk ^h an/	‘shop’

83. /duli/	/duli/	‘a large open mouthed bamboo basket for keeping grains’
84. /dɛksi/	/debsi/	‘a type of pot’
85. /d ^h ɛki/	/diŋk ^h i/	‘a kind of grinder’
86. /d ^h ɛkiya/	/diŋk ^h iya/	‘fern’
87. /dɛgar/	/degar/	‘sharp weapon’
88. /nokɔl/	/nok ^h ol/	‘imitation’
89. /nɔgɔd/	/nuɔgud/	‘cash’
90. /nɔgɔr/	/nuɔgur/	‘town’
91. /nɔzɔr/	/nujuur/	‘look’
92. /nɔrɔm/	/norom/	‘soft’
93. /nɔstɔ/	/nosto/	‘destroyed’
94. /naki/	/nak ^h i/	‘nose string’
95. /naŋal/	/naŋul/	‘plough’
96. /nam/	/nam/	‘name’
97. /nalis/	/nails/	‘complain’
98. /nara/	/nara/	‘paddy’s stem’
99. /narikɔl/	/nareŋk ^h ol/	‘coconut’
100. /nimɔntrɔn/	/nimontro/	‘invitation’
101. /niyɔm/	/nem/	‘rule’
102. /nidan/	/nidan/	‘diagnosis’
103. /nila/	/nila/	‘blue’
104. /nisan/	/nisan/	‘mark’
105. /nɛmu/	/lebu/	‘lemon’
106. /nə/	/nuu/	‘heddles’

107.	/pət ^h ar/	/p ^h ut ^h ar/	‘field’
108.	/pər ^h /	/p ^h orai/	‘read’
109.	/pərda/	/p ^h uisali/	‘screen’
110.	/pap/	/p ^h ap/	‘sign’
111.	/papi/	/p ^h ap ^h i/	‘signer’
112.	/pan/	/p ^h at ^h ui	‘batal leaf’
113.	/pagol/	/p ^h agla/	‘mad’
114.	/pag g ^h or/	/p ^h agk ^h or/	‘kitchen’
115.	/parə/	/p ^h ruu/	‘pigeon’
116.	/pit ^h a/	/p ^h it ^h a/	‘traditional cake’
117.	/puruhit/	/p ^h uruhid/	‘priest’
118.	/puwa/	/p ^h uŋ/	‘morning’
119.	/puzə/	/puja/	‘worship’
120.	/puzari/	/pujari/	‘priest’
121.	/pohər/	/p ^h ohor/	‘light’
122.	/prəman/	/p ^h roman/p ^h urman/	‘proof’
123.	/prəhəri/	/p ^h ohera/	‘watchman’
124.	/puk ^h uri/	/pokri/	‘pond’
125.	/p ^h ul/	/p ^h ul/	‘flower’
126.	/p ^h erai/	/ p ^h erai/	‘the bamboo frame of a thatch house on which thatch grass are placed’
127.	/p ^h esa/	/p ^h esa/	‘owl’
128.	/bəgəri/	/buigri/	‘plum’
129.	/boza/	/boja/	‘bundle’
130.	/bozai/	/bojai/	‘load’
131.	/bədnam/	/bodnam/	‘bad reputation’
132.	/bəndhə/	/bondo/	‘closed’
133.	/bəsər/	/buusur/	‘year’

134.	/bɔsta/	/bost ^h a/	‘a kind of bag use for paddy’
135.	/bowari/	/bahaori/	‘daughter-in-law’
136.	/bagan/	/bagan/	‘garden’
137.	/bazar/	/bajar/	‘market’
138.	/baduli/	/badali/	‘bat’
139.	/ban/	/ban/	‘exorcism’
140.	/band/	/bandu /	‘dam’
141.	/banda/	/banda/	‘servant’
142.	/bami/	/bami/	‘a kind of fish’
143.	/bala/	/bala/	‘sand’
144.	/baltɪŋ/	/balt ^h ɪŋ/	‘bucket’
145.	/baɔka/	/baok ^h a/	‘a piece of split bamboo with pointed ends used for carrying loads by shoulder’
146.	/bikri/	/bik ^h ri/	‘act of selling’
147.	/big ^h a/	/biga/	‘counting system of land’
148.	/bidai/	/bidai/	‘fare well’
149.	/bindu/	/bindu/	‘point’
150.	/bir/	/bir/	‘warrior’
151.	/bisswas/	/bisas/	‘belief’
152.	/bis/	/bis/	‘poison’
153.	/buzi/	/buji/	‘act of understanding’
154.	/beda/	/beda/	‘a kind of rake’
155.	/behar/	/besor/	‘oil seed’
156.	/bɛl/	/behel/	‘wood apple and its tree’
157.	/bɛra/	/bera/	‘fencing’
158.	/b ^h ol/	/bohol/	‘the club gourd’
159.	/b ^h ɔtuwa/	/but ^h wa/	‘a kind of edible vegetable’
160.	/mona/	/mona/	‘bag’
161.	/mɔndir/	/mondir/	‘temple’

162.	/mora/	/mora/	‘sitting sit made by bamboo or cane’
163.	/mɔwa/	/maowa/	‘a kind of small fish’
164.	/maku/	/mak ^h u/	‘a kind of handloom weapon transpiring the thread’
165.	/magur/	/magur/	‘a kind of scale less fish’
166.	/mandali/	/mandali/	‘highest pillar of the house’
167.	/mara/	/mara/	‘to sort out seed from stalks’
168.	/mimaṅsa/	/nimaṅsa/	‘decision’
169.	/mihi/	/mihi/	‘smooth’
170.	/mukti/	/muk ^h t ^h i/	‘release’
171.	/mut ^h a/	/mut ^h a/	‘classifier denoting small bundle’
172.	/mud ^h a/	/muda/	‘top of the house’
173.	/mela/	/mela/	‘fair’
174.	/mɛl/	/mel/	‘conference’
175.	/mɛi/	/mɛi/	‘harrow’
176.	/rɔza/	/raja/	‘king’
177.	/rani/	/rani/	‘queen’
178.	/ras/	/rasu/	‘reed of handloom’
179.	/raidan/	/raidun/	‘cane’
180.	/laz/	/laji/	‘shame’
181.	/lat ^h i/	/laot ^h i/	‘stick
182.	/lɔp ^h a/	/lap ^h a/	‘a kind green vegetable’

183.	/lai/	/lai/	‘a kind of green vegetable’
184.	/lau/	/lao/	‘gourd’
185.	/lik ^h /	/lir/	‘write’
186.	/soka/	/sok ^h a/	‘sparrow’
187.	/xona/	/sona/	‘gold’
188.	/solai/	/solai/	‘match’
189.	/xɔti/	/sot ^h i/	‘chaste women’
190.	/xɔtya/	/sɔituu/	‘real’
191.	/xɔndeh/	/sondeho/	‘uncertainly’
192.	/xɔnyax/	/soinasi/	‘ascetic life’
193.	/xɔnman/	/sonma/	‘respect’
194.	/xɔman/	/soman/	‘equation’
195.	/sɔrki/	/sɔurk ^h i/	‘a kind of spinning wheel made of bamboo’
196.	/xɔha/	/sohai/	‘bearable’
197.	/xɔtru/	/sut ^h ur/	‘enemy’
198.	/xɔmpɔtti/	/somp ^h ot ^h i/	‘wealth’
199.	/xɔmad ^h an/	/somadan/	‘solution’
200.	/xɔmossya/	/somoissya/	‘problem’
201.	/xakk ^h i/	/sakk ^h i/	‘witness’
202.	/xad ^h u/	/sadu/	‘honest’
203.	/salɔni/	/sandri/	‘sieve’
204.	/xal/	/sal/	‘handloom’
205.	/xal.k ^h uta/	/sal.k ^h un.t ^h a/	‘handloom post’
206.	/xahɔxi/	/sahos/	‘courageous’
207.	/xima/	/sima/	‘boundary’
208.	/silɔni/	/sila/	‘kite’
209.	/xilik ^h a/	/selek ^h a/	‘a kind of bitter fruit’

210.	/silim/	/silim/	‘vessel’
211.	/sukti/	/sukti/	‘agreement’
212.	/suŋa/	/suŋa/	‘tube’
213.	/xut/	/sut/	‘interest’
214.	/sombok/	/sombuk/	‘magnet’
215.	/setɔn/	/set ^h on/	‘consciousness’
216.	/xewali/	/sep ^h ali/	‘a kind of flower’
217.	/xiŋhɔ/	/siŋho/	‘lion’
218.	/xəgun/	/sigun/	‘vulture’
219.	/hazira/	/hajira/	‘daily labour’
220.	/haturi/	/hat ^h ura/	‘hammer’
221.	/hal/	/hal/	‘plough’
222.	/hah/	/haŋsuw/	‘duck’

6.0. Conclusion:

From the above mentioned data, it becomes clear that though Assamese and Bodo belongs to different group of language families, lexically both the languages have influenced each other in case of periphery. As both the languages belong to different family of languages, they have some phonemes which are not to be found in the other language. As a result of it, they have to articulate those common words as per their individual phonological system.

Assamese has nine vowel phonemes and 23 consonant phonemes including two semi vowels otherwise Bodo has six vowel phonemes and sixteen consonant including two semi vowels. The vowel phonemes /ɛ, u/ cant not be found in Bodo. The vowel phoneme /ɔ/ is possible only to occur in Bodo in word final position in influence of near phonemes. The consonant phonemes /b^h, d^h, g^h, x/ in Assamese can not occur in Bodo.

The phonemes /b^h, d^h, g^h, x/ become /b, d, g, s/ in Bodo. The consonant phonemes /p, t, k/ can occur in words final position in Bodo as allophone.

The contact between Bodo and Assamese is a very old one and it is going for several centuries. Assamese, being the language of the majority community of Assam influenced the Bodo language as far as above mentioned lexical items are concerned. The Bodo language has borrowed those words from Indo-Aryan language Assamese as the Bodos came into day to day contact with the Assamese community. Of course, the above mentioned words are of Indo-Aryan origin, but these words are borrowed by Bodo only from Assamese language. So we can see clearly the Assamese flavor in those words as other Tibeto-Burman languages that are not in contact with Assamese language are not using these types of words.

Therefore, we can conclude it by safely saying that since Bodos are exposed to the Assamese language from their very birth, they are incorporating these Assamese lexical items in their everyday use of Bodo language. The borrowing that took place in Bodo language is a need fulfilling exercise as originally these words were either not available in Bodo or Bodo lost it because of excessive contact with the Assamese population. Whatever may be the case, it is a fact beyond doubt that this is case of lexical borrowing by Bodo from Assamese language. These Assamese loan words, it must be noted here, are pronounced in a typical Bodo way as per the phonological system of the Bodo language and as a result of it, sometimes it becomes very difficult to identify the original form of the words. The phonological rules that are applied by Bodo speakers in case of Assamese loan words are substitution, de-aspiration or aspiration, vowel shifting, vowel insertion, consonant shifting or elision, voicing, devoicing etc as the case may be.

Colophon:

I express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Ajit Kumar Baishya, Professor, Linguistics department, Assam University, Silchar, for his valuable comments and suggestions, which inspired and helped me to improve this paper. Without which help and support this article might not be completed. I am indebted to him.

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