

Adverb Formation Process of the Bodo Language

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Abstract

The goal of the present paper is to describe the adverb formation studies of the Bodo language. Linguistically, Bodo belongs to Bodo-Garo sub-group of Tibeto-Burman sub family of languages (Benedict, 1972). Adverb in the language is found in two types, i.e. forming adverb and basic adverb (which are not forming adverb). The forming adverbs are derived by the suffixation, prefixation, compounding and reduplication processes. The suffix /-ui/ takes an important role in the formation of adverb in this language. The manner adverb, locative adverbs are realized in the suffixation process. Adverb of number is derived by the prefixation process. A number of adverbs are formed by compounding process like 'noun + noun', 'adverb + adverb' adverb compounding processes are found in Bodo. In the reduplication, adverbs are formed by the verbs repetition and the adjectives repetition. The above points have been discussed in this paper with appropriate illustrations.

Key words: Bodo, Adverbs, Suffixation, Prefixation, Compounding and Reduplication.

1. Introduction

Bodo is the name of a language as well as community. The people who speak this language call Bodo. The Bodo is one of the ethnic communities of Northeastern India. They are recognized as a plains tribe in the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. Genetically, they belong to the Mongoloid stock of the Indo-Mongoloids (S.K. Chatterji 1951). The Bodo speakers are mainly found in the Kokrajhar, Baksa, Chirang, Udalgury, Kamrup, Goalpara, Karbianglong, Dhemazi districts of Assam as well as some adjacent areas of West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. As per the classification given by Robert Shafer, Bodo language belongs to the branches of Barish section under the Baric division of the Sino-Tibetan language family (P.C. Bhattacharya 1977). The Linguistic Survey of India describes the Bodo language as

a member of the Bodo sub-section under the Assam-Burmese group of the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibeto-Chinese speech family (Linguistic Survey of India, Vol. No.-III, Part-II).

2. Objective

The main objective of this Paper is to discuss a detail study of adverb formation process in Bodo. It attempts to show that adverbs are formed by different types of process i.e. suffixation, prefixation, compounding and reduplication. The formation processes help us to understand how to form the adverbs in Bodo language.

3. Methodology

The data are collected from the two main sources viz. primary and secondary sources. Primary data are collected from several informants of different age groups through the conversation and schedule method, whereas secondary data are collected from renowned books, journal and internet.

4. Typological Characteristics

Bodo is an agglutinating language having a normal word order of SOV structure. Bodo uses two types of affixes i.e. prefix and suffix. Suffixation process is very rich in this language. It has both negative prefix and suffix which make a negation in the language. A simple sentence of Bodo consists of a noun phrase and a verb phrase. Noun phrase consists of the head noun and it may be preceded by the adjective or possessive. Verb phrase consist of lexical verb, which must obligatory be tense, aspect or some other optional elements. The order of adverb generally precedes the verb in Bodo. Like many other Tibeto-Burman language, Bodo is also a tonal language. It has postpositional character.

5. Definition of Adverb

Many linguists have given many definitions and explanations regarding the Adverb. According to David Crystal (1980), adverb is “A term used in the grammatical classification of words to refer to a heterogeneous group of items whose most frequent function is to specify the mode of action of the verbs.” P. H Mathews also define that adverb is “A word of class whose

most characteristic role is traditionally that of modifying a verb or verb phrase: e.g. *badly* in *He wrote it badly*, where it modifies either *wrote* or the phrase *wrote it*.” Givon (2001) state that Adverbs are the least universal lexical class among the four major classes of lexical word that appear most widely across languages i.e. Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives and Adverbs. The usual functional definition of adverbs identifies them as modifiers of verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs (Paul Schachter and Timothy Shopen (2007: 20)). The present paper intends to provide a detail description of the adverb formation process in Bodo.

6. Types of Adverb Formation Process

Adverbs in Bodo are mainly formed by the four types of processes, namely, **suffixation**, **prefixation**, **compounding** and **reduplication**.

6.1. Suffixation

Many adverbs are realized in this process i.e. manner adverbs, locative adverbs, temporal adverbs, Adverb of frequency etc. They are discussed below:

6.1.1. Manner Adverb

Manner Adverbs in Bodo are normally formed by suffixing */-ui/* to the adjective base. When the suffix */-ui/* is added to adjective it gives manner adverbs. Such adverbs answer how the action in question has been performed.

For example:

- (1) /bi-yuu **t^hab-ui** p^hui-guun/
 he-Nom. **quick-Adv.** eat-Fut.
 ‘He will come quickly.’
- (2) /ap^ha-ya solo-k^huu **muzaŋ-ui** k^hint^ha-yuu/
 my father-Nom. story-Acc . **nice-Adv.** tell-Hab.
 ‘My father nicely tells the story.’
- (3) /bi-yuu **gu^hruŋ-ui** buŋ-duŋ/
 he-Nom. **strong-Adv.** say-Prog.
 ‘He is strongly saying.’

- (4) /bi-yu **gusuŋ-ui** railai-duŋ/
 he-Nom. **short-Adv.** talk-Prog.
 ‘He is talking shortly.’

Word formation rule of the manner adverb is ‘adjective + ui (suffix) = manner adverb’.

t ^h ab	+	ui	>	t ^h ab-ui
‘quick’ (Adj.)	+	Suf.	>	‘quickly’ (Adv.)
muzaŋ	+	ui	>	muzaŋ-ui
‘nice’ (Adj.)	+	Suf.	>	‘nicely’ (Adv.)
guuk ^h ruŋ	+	ui	>	guuk ^h ruŋui
strong	+	Suf.	>	‘strongly’
gusuŋ	+	ui	>	gusuŋui
short	+	Suf.	>	‘shortly’

In the above examples, the suffix /ui/ derives adverb from the adjective base, the adverb /t^habui/ ‘quickly’ derives from the adjective /t^hab/ ‘quick’, /muzaŋui/ ‘nicely’ from the /muzaŋ/ ‘nice’, /guuk^hruŋui/ ‘strongly’ from the /guuk^hruŋ/ ‘strong’ and /gusuŋui/ ‘shortly’ from the /gusuŋ/ ‘short’. It shows above that the adverbs in Bodo can be occurred before the verb in the sentence.

It is also to be noticed here that when the adjective base ends with the vowel phonemes, the suffix /-ui/ becomes the /-yui/. Considered the following examples:

- (5) /Roze-ya **lasui-yui** t^habai-yu/
 Roze-Nom. **slow-Adv.** walk-Hab.
 ‘Roze walks slowly.’

Adjective base + ui	>	Manner Adverb
/lasui + ui/	>	/lasui-yui/ ‘slowly’
‘slow’ + Suf.		
/gazri + ui/	>	/gazri-yui/ ‘badly’
bad + Suf.		
/guuk ^h rui + ui/	>	/guuk ^h rui-yui/ ‘quickly’

quick	+	Suf.		
/siri	+	ui/	>	/siri-yui/ ‘silently’
silent	+	Suf.		
/somaina	+	ui/	>	/somaina-yui/ ‘beautifully’
beautiful	+	Suf.		

6.1.2. Locative Adverb

Locative adverbs in Bodo are formed by adding /-ao/ morpheme to the noun or pronoun or adjectives. The suffix indicates the ‘location’. It also notice here that when the /-ao/ is added to the vowel ending noun or pronouns in that case the /-ao/ is replaced by /-yao/.

Locative adverbs from noun:

Noun	Locative Adverb
/ok ^h raŋ/ ‘sky’	/ok ^h raŋ-ao/ ‘in the sky’
/hazu/ ‘hill’	/hazu-ao/ ‘in the hill’
/luit ^h u/ ‘ocean’	/luit ^h u-ao/ ‘in the ocean’

Locative adverbs from pronoun:

Pronoun	Locative Adverb
/bé/ ‘this’	/bé-yao/ ‘here’
/bui/ ‘that’	/bui-yao/ ‘there’
/bobé/ ‘which’	/bobé-yao/ ‘where’

Locative adverb from adjective:

Adjective	Locative Adverb
/sà/ ‘upper’	/sà-yao/ ‘up there’
/síŋ/ ‘inner’	/síŋ-ao/ ‘down there/ under’
/gahái/ ‘down’	/gahái-yao/ ‘in the below’
/k ^h at ^h i/ ‘near’	/k ^h at ^h i-yao/ ‘nearby’
/guzan/ ‘far’	/guzan-ao/ ‘far from/ distantly’

6.1.3. Temporal Adverb

Temporal adverbs indicate year, day, part of the day, time duration and temporal question. Most of the temporal adverbs in Bodo are found in basic form and a few adverbs are formation form. These adverbs are explained below:

A few time indicating adverbs are formed by adding locative marker /-ao/ in the language, e.g.

/p ^h uŋ/ ‘morning’	/p ^h uŋ-ao/ ‘in the morning’
/belasi/ ‘evening’	/belasi-yao/ ‘in the evening’
/hor/ ‘night’	/hor-ao/ ‘at night’
/bilip ^h aŋ/ ‘the first quarter of the night’	/bilip ^h aŋ-ao/ ‘in the after evening’

Some basic adverbs are given below which indicate time and tense of a verb:

Bodo	Gloss
Da	Now
Dahai	A little later
Dohai	A little before

Table 1

Adverbs indicating year in Bodo are as follows:

Bodo	Gloss
deglai	This year
k ^h almasi	Next year
p ^h ir-k ^h almasi	The year after next year
semun	Last year
osemun	The year before last year

Table 2

The adverbs which indicate the day in Bodo:

Bodo	Gloss
dinui	Today

gabun	Tomorrow
soŋp ^h ur	The day after tomorrow
t ^h amblip ^h ur	Two days after tomorrow
denaŋ	The day after long days
muiya	Yesterday
dak ^h ali/ dak ^h li	The day before yesterday
ok ^h ali	The day before long days

Table 3

6.1.4. Adverb of Frequency

This kind of Adverbs tells us how many times the action occurs or will occur. There are some adverbs found in Bodo which indicates the frequency of the action verbs. A few adverb of frequency are formed by adding suffix /-buw/.

For example:

- (6) /bi-yu **zeblabui** t^har bat^hra buŋ-u/
 he-Nom. **always** true sentence speak-Hab.
 ‘He always speaks the truth.’

/zebla/ ‘when/ while’ /zebla-bui/ ‘always’
 /orai/ ‘ever’ /orai-bui/ ‘forever’

6.2. Prefixation

In Bodo, **adverb of number** is realized in this process. The adverb indicating numbers are formed by prefixing /k^hón-/ or /k^héb-/ to the basic number. It’s also modifies the verbs how many times action is done. The following example adverb of number /k^hont^ham/ ‘thrice’ modifies the verb /t^haŋbaimun/ ‘had gone’ and the adverb answers that how many times went to Delhi ‘three times’.

- (7) /aŋ-u Delhi-yao **k^hont^ham** t^haŋ-bai-mun/
 I-Nom Delhi-Loc. **thrice** go-Perf.-Past

‘I had gone to Delhi thrice.’

Prefix	+ Number	>	Adverb of number
/k ^h ón-/k ^h éb-/	+ /se/ ‘one’	>	/k ^h ón-se/ k ^h éb-se/ ‘once’
/k ^h ón-/k ^h éb-/	+ /nui/ ‘two’	>	/k ^h ón-nui/ k ^h éb-nui/ ‘twice’
/k ^h ón-/k ^h éb-/	+ /t ^h am/ ‘three’	>	/k ^h ón-t ^h am/ k ^h éb-t ^h am/ ‘thrice’
/k ^h ón-/k ^h éb-/	+ /brui/ ‘four’	>	/k ^h ón-brui/ k ^h éb-brui/ ‘four times’

6.3. Compounding Adverb

There are a number of adverbs found in Bodo which are formed by compounding process. The processes are discussed below:

6.3.1. Noun + Noun > Compounding Adverb

- (8) /aŋ **p^huŋ-belase** k^hamani mao-guŋ/
 I **whole day** work do-Fut.

“I shall do the work whole-day.”

p ^h uŋ	+	belasi	>	p ^h uŋ-belasi
morning	+	evening	>	‘whole day’
san	+	hor	>	san-hor
sun	+	night	>	‘regularly’
duizlaŋ	+	mesen	>	duizlaŋ-mesen
summer	+	winter	>	‘whole-season’

6.3.2. Adverb + Adverb > Compounding Adverb

gabuŋ	+	sonp ^h uur	>	gabuŋ-sonp ^h uur
tomorrow	+	the day after tomorrow	>	‘almost two or a few days later’
muija	+	dak ^h ali	>	muija-dak ^h ali

yesterday + the day before yesterday > ‘almost two or a few days ago’

sant^hruub + hort^hruub > sant^hruub-hort^hruub

wholly-day + wholly-night > ‘restlessly’

6.3.3. Verb + Verb > Compounding Adverb

p^huŋza + sanza > p^huŋza-sanza

to be morning + to be day > ‘early in the morning’

hor za + sanza > horza-sanza

to be night + to be day > ‘any time’

6.4. Reduplication

In Bodo, many adverbs are formed by the reduplication process. Adverbs can be derived from the verbs as well as from the adjectives by reduplication. They are discussed below:

6.4.1. Adverb Formation by Verb Reduplication

It is shown here that when the monosyllabic verb is reduplicated to form the adverb in that case the verb followed the adverb suffix /-ui/ for repeating. On the other hand disyllabic (more than one syllabic) verbs can be repeated without taking adverb suffix /-ui/ to form the adverb in the language.

(a) Adverb formation by monosyllabic verb

In the following examples, the adverb /k^hon-ui khon-ui/ ‘by singing’ modify the verb /t^habaidun/ ‘walking’ and the adverb /gab-ui gab-ui/ ‘by crying’ modify the verb /undudun/ ‘sleeping’. These adverbs also answer the nature of action being performed.

- (9) /Mina-ya met^hai k^hon-ui k^hon-ui t^habai-dun/
 Mina-Nom. song sing-Adv. sing-Adv. walk-Prog.
 ‘Mina is walking by singing a song.’

- (10) /gotho-wa gab-ui gab-ui undu-dun/
 child-Nom. cry-Adv cry-Adv. sleep-Prog.
 ‘The child is sleeping by crying.’

Verb	Adverb
/k ^h on/ ‘to sing’	/k ^h on-úi khon-úi/ ‘by singing’
/gab/ ‘to cry’	/gab-úi gab-úi/ ‘by crying’
/k ^h ár/ ‘to run’	/k ^h ár-úi k ^h ár-úi / ‘by running’ etc.

(b) Adverb formation by disyllabic verbs:

In Bodo, disyllabic and polysyllabic verbs can derive adverbs by repetition. In the following examples, the adverb /muusa-muusa/ ‘by dancing’ modify the verb /p^huiduŋ/ ‘coming’ and the adverb /mini-mini/ ‘by smiling’ modify the verb /railaiduŋ/ ‘talking’. These adverbs also answer how the action is done.

- (11) /bi-yu **muusa-muusa** p^hui-duŋ/
 he-Nom. **dance-dance** come-Prog.
 ‘He is coming by dancing.’
- (12) /bi-yu **mini-mini** raizlai-duŋ/
 he-Nom. **smile-smile** talk-Prog.
 ‘He is talking by smiling.’

Verb	Adverb
/muusa/ ‘to dance’	/muusa muusa/ ‘by dancing’
/mini/ ‘to smile’	/mini mini/ ‘by smiling’
/guuba/ ‘to clasp’	/guuba guuba/ ‘by clasping’
/lazi/ ‘to shame’	/lazi lazi/ ‘by being shame’

6.4.2. Adverb Formation by Adjective Repetition

Most of the adjective of taste can derive adverbs by reduplication in Bodo. For example:

- (13) /bi-yu **guduí guduí** saha luŋ-duŋ/
 he-Nom. **sweet sweet** tea drink-Prog.
 ‘He is drinking tea sweetly’.
- (14) /aŋ-ú **duŋbur duŋbur** uŋk^ham zá-duŋ/
 /aŋ-ú **duŋbur duŋbur** uŋk^ham zá-duŋ/

I-Nom. **medium hot medium hot** rice eat-Prog.
 ‘I am having rice in medium hot’.

Adjective of Taste

/guuduí/ ‘sweet’

/duŋbur/ ‘medium hot’

/guuk^hui/ ‘sour’

/guuk^ha/ bitter’

Manner Adverb

/guuduí guuduí/ ‘sweetly’

/duŋbur duŋbur/ ‘in medium hot’

/guuk^hui guuk^hui/ ‘sourly’

/guuk^ha guuk^ha/ ‘bitterly’

Another adjective also can derive adverbs by repetition in the language, for example:

Adjective

/t^hab/ ‘immediate’

/guuk^hrui/ ‘quick’

/lasui/ ‘slow’

Adverb

/t^hab t^hab/ ‘immediately’

/guuk^hrui guuk^hrui/ ‘quickly’

/lasui lasui/ ‘slowly’

Conclusion

On the basis of above discussion, it can be placed that adverb formation processes of the Bodo language are suffixation, prefixation, compounding and reduplication. The manner adverbs, locative adverbs, temporal adverbs and adverb of frequency are formed by the suffixation process in the language. The manner adverbs are formed by adding /-ui/ to the adjective base, e.g. /muɯzɔŋ/ ‘nice’ /muɯzɔŋ-ui/ ‘nicely’, /gusɔŋ/ ‘short’ /gusɔŋ-ui/ ‘shortly’. If the adjective is ended with vowel phoneme in that case /-ui/ is replaced by /-yui/, e.g. /gazri/ ‘bad’ /gazri-yui/ ‘badly’, /siri/ ‘silent’ /siri-yui/ ‘silently’. The locative adverbs are formed by adding /-ao/ morpheme to the noun, pronoun and adjective, e.g. /hazu/ ‘hill’ /hazu-ao/ ‘in the hill’, /luit^hu/ ‘ocean’ /luit^hu-ao/ ‘in the ocean’, /bé/ ‘this’ /bé-yao/ ‘here’, /gahái/ ‘down’ /gahái-yao/ ‘in the below’. Some temporal adverbs also form by adding /-ao/ morpheme e.g. /p^huŋ/ ‘morning’ /p^huŋ-ao/ ‘in the morning’, /belasi/ ‘evening’ /belasi-yao/ ‘in the evening’. The /-buu/ suffix can form adverb of frequency e.g. /zebla/ ‘when/ while’ /zebla-buu/ ‘always’, /orai/ ‘ever’ /orai-buu/ ‘forever’. The adverb of number is formed by adding /k^hón-/ or /k^héb-/ prefix in the language, for example /se/ ‘one’ /k^hón-se/ ‘once’, /nuui/ ‘two’ /k^héb-nuui/ ‘twice’, /t^ham/ ‘three’ /k^hón-t^ham/ ‘thrice’.

There are three types of adverb compounding processes found in the language i.e. ‘noun + noun’, ‘adverb + adverb’ and ‘verb + verb’. In the reduplication, adverbs are formed by verbs repetition and adjectives repetition. When the monosyllabic verb is reduplicated, the adverb suffix /-ui/ is attached with the monosyllabic verbs to form the adverbs in Bodo language, e.g. /gab/ ‘to cry’ /gab-ui gab-ui/ ‘by crying’, /k^hár/ ‘to run’ /k^hár-ui k^hár-ui / ‘by running’. But the disyllabic verbs can be repeated without taking adverb suffix /-ui/ to form the adverbs, e.g. /musa/ ‘to dance’ /musa musa/ ‘by dancing’, /mini/ ‘to smile’ /mini mini/ ‘by smiling’. The adjective of taste and some adjectives can derive adverbs by reduplication in Bodo, e.g. /guđuí/ ‘sweet’ /guđuí guđuí/ ‘sweetly’, /duᅅbur/ ‘medium hot’ /duᅅbur duᅅbur/ ‘in medium hot’, /guk^hrui/ ‘quick’ /guk^hrui guk^hrui/ ‘quickly’, /lasui/ ‘slow’ /lasui lasui/ ‘slowly’. This is the mainly study of adverb formation processes in the Bodo language. There is more scope for the further in depth analysis of adverbial structure and adverbial phrase.

Abbreviations

Acc.	Accusative Case	Adv.	Adverb Suffix
Fut.	Future Tense	Hab.	Habitual Aspect
Nom.	Nominative Case	Perf.	Perfect Aspect
Prog.	Progressive Aspect	Suf.	Suffix

Symbol:

High tone: (´)

Low tone: (˘)

Level tone: unmarked

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