Case in Reang

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Abstract

This paper attempts to describe the various case markers used in Reang which show the relationship between the noun and pronoun with other constituent elements in a sentence. Case is a grammatical category whose value reflects the grammatical function performed by a noun or pronoun in a phrase, clause or sentence. It deals with the nominative, accusative, genitive, instrumental, locative, ablative and associative markers in Reang.

Key words: Reang language, case markers, noun, pronoun, phrase, sentence.

1. Introduction

Reang is one of the tribal languages spoken by the Reang people in different parts of North East India, and Chittagong Hill tracts of Bangladesh. Ethnically, Reangs are mongoloid and their language may fall under the Bodo-Garo group of the Tibeto-Burman language family. The speakers of Reang are mainly found in three districts of Tripura, namely, West, South and North Tripura. They are also found in Northern part of Mizoram and Southern part of Assam. It is the second largest majority among the tribes in the state of Tripura.

2. Seven Case Markers in Reang

2.1 Nominative Case -thaŋ

Nominative case is the naming case, used for the subjects of the sentence. Nominative case marker in Reang is –thaŋ and is not found obligatory. For example:

Buŋ   thaŋ   toŋuo
He   NOM   goes

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'He goes.'

Buŋ   (thaŋ) mai   cauo

He   NOM   food   eats

'He eats food.'

Ram le Shyam no buou

Ram   TOP shyam ACC. Beats

'Ram beats Shyam.'

2.2 Accusative Case -no

The direct object case is accusative case, used to indicate direct receivers of an action. The accusative case marker is not completely optional. However, occurrence of the accusative is more commonly used.

John   Marino   hamyakuo

John   Mari-ACC   loves

'John loves Mary.'

John   Marino   nuhpaiha

John   Mary-ACC   saw

'John   saw   Mary.'

Buŋ bini mpha no chresta khe toiŋ

He his   father ACC care takes

'He takes care of his father.'

The accusative marker –no usually occurs with indirect objects, and not with direct objects.

John poem pore uo

John poem   reads

'John reads poem.'

Buŋ coffee nuŋo

He coffee   drinks

'He drinks coffee.'

2.3 Genitive Case -ni

Genitive case is the possession case, used to indicate ownership. It indicates the relationship between two substantives in which the preceding substantive acts as a qualifier of the succeeding one. Genitive marker in Reang is –ni.

Aini   boi

I GEN book

'My book'

In the above sentence it is to be noted that in Reang the word aŋ stands for I but when the genitive marker -ni is added to aŋ it becomes aini.

Bini   kutai

He GEN shirt

'His shirt'

In Reang buŋ stands for he. But when ni is added it becomes bini as in the sentences given below.

Bole aini kolom sei

This I GEN pen EMP

'This is my pen.'

Bole ram ni bak paimi sei

It   Ram GEN for   buy EMP

'I buy it for Ram.'

2.4 Instrumental Case -bai

The instrumental case is a grammatical case used to indicate that a noun is the instrument or means by or with which the subject achieves or accomplishes an action. The instrumentality of an object with reference to an action is expressed by instrumental case – bai.

Aŋ   phaikho-bai   mai   cauo
I   spoon INST food   eat
'I eat food with a spoon'

Aŋ   thaino daplai bai   rauo
I   fruit   knife   INST   cut
'I cut the fruit with a knife.'

Mari kolom bai cithi soio
Mary pen INST letter write
'Mary writes a letter with a pen.'

Buŋ slai bai msa no mthoi uo
He gun INST tiger ACC kill TM
'He kills the tiger with a gun.'

John le yaukoŋ bai silchar thaŋ ou
John TOP leg   INST silchar   go PRE
'John goes to silchar by walking.'

Buŋ bini room no ruŋ khaŋ bai
He   his   room ACC colour green INST
'He painted the room with green colour paint.'

Aŋ university o gari bai thaŋ ou
I university LOC car INST go PRE
'I went to University by car.'

2.5 Locative case -o

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The locative case marker expressed the place of location of an object or event. Locative case marker in Reang is –o**.**

Indication of location of an object or event or place is done as follows.

John   Delli   O   toŋo

John   Delhi-LOC   lives

'John lives in Delhi.'

Tebl   O

Table   LOC

'On the table.'

Lekha boi le tebl O   sei

The book   table LOC EMP

'The book is on the table.'

John le silong O se rethaŋha

John   shillong LOC Perf. Go PST.

'John has gone to Shillong.'

2.6 The Indication of Time

Salboi aŋ school O 10 O'clock O thaŋ ou

Everyday I school LOC 10 O'clock LOC go PRE

Everyday I go to school at 10 O'clock.

2.7 Ablative Case -ni

Ablative case is a case in various languages that is used generally o express motion away from something. The ablative marker expresses separation, source and direction of movement from one to another. It is indicated by –ni.

Aŋ   Gauhati   ni   phaiha

I   guwahati   ABLA came

'I came from Guwahati.'

Mphaŋ mthai kra ni

Tree fruit   fall ABLA

'The fruit falls from the tree.'

Buŋ le Gauhati ni

He TOP Guwahati ABLA

'He is from Guwahati.'

2.8 Associative Case -bai

This case expresses social accompaniment. The associative marker in Reang is –bai. It is used to indicate that the action has been performed in conjunction with another person.

Buŋ john bai toi   O   aa rom ni thaŋ ha

He john ASSO. River LOC fish catch to go PST

'He went with John to the river to catch fish.'

John bai kla kenoi field O thuŋpai toŋo

John ASSO boy two field LOC playing

'John with two boys are playing in the ground.'

3. Conclusion

On the basis of the above analysis, it is seen that there are seven case markers in Reang. It is also seen that the genitive case marker –ni is homophonous to the ablative case marker. Similar is the case with instrumental case marker and associative case marker.

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