

The Noun Formation of Bodo and Koch Rabha Languages: A Comparative Study

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Abstract

Northeastern States of India present a hub of various communities, ethnic groups and languages. Most of these languages have close affinities in the field of linguistic traits. These languages basically belong to the Sino-Tibetan language family. Among of these languages, Bodo and Koch Rabha belong to the cognate group of Tibeto-Burman groups of languages under the greater Sino-Tibetan Language Family. Linguistically, both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages have similarities in case of phonology, morphology, syntactic and semantically. The present paper intends to make a comparative study in the field of noun formation of Bodo and Koch Rabha languages and the similarities in its formation.

Keyword: Northeast India, Koch Rabha Language, Noun, Bodo

1. Introduction

Northeast India is the habitat of many tribes and ethnic groups with diverse ethnic origins. Linguists and scholars are of the opinion that the Bodo and Koch Rabha are known to be the cognate group of languages belonging to the Tibeto-Burman language under the greater Sino-Tibetan group of languages. The languages of Bodo and Rabha belong to the Bodo group of languages under the Bodo-Naga under the greater Assam-Burmese group of languages. There are different dialects in the Rabha group of languages, viz., Rongdani, Koch, Maitori, Pati, Dahori, Totla and Hana. From this point of view, it is observed that there are linguistic similarities between Bodo and Koch Rabha languages in noun formation.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

The languages of Bodo and Koch Rabha are independent languages which are originated from the Bodo group of the Sino-Tibetan language family. In a similar way, Assam-Burmese group is originated from the Tibeto-Burman and the Sino-Tibetan group. The Bodo and Koch Rabha languages also originated from the Bodo-Naga group under the Assam-Burmese group.

There are not only racial similarities between the Bodo and the Koch Rabha but also linguistics similarities. There are close similarities between the two languages in many respects. Therefore, the researcher has taken up this topic to make a comparative study on the similarities of noun formation.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are:

- (i) To study the formation of the Bodo noun.
- (ii) To study the formation of Koch Rabha noun.
- (iii) To study the linguistics affiliation and differentiation of noun formation.

1.3 Review of Literature

A good number of researchers have done in different fields like culture, religion, customs, and language of Boro, Rabha and Koch Rabha dialects. Some of these books related to this topic are:

- (a) Bhattacharya, P.C.: A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language (1977), Deptt. of Publication, Gauhati University.
- (b) Brahma, Musuka Bala: Bodo Rabha Vocabulary
- (c) Brahma, Musuka Bala: Comparative Study of Bodo, Garo and Rabha Phonology.
- (d) Koch, Jibeswar: Rabha Dialects: A Linguistics Study.
- (e) Lokobok, Romeo Rwtin: English-Koch Rabha Language (A learners' Handbook).
- (f) Rabha, Rupak Kumar: Language Shift and Language Maintenance Amongst the Rabhas of Meghalaya.

In reference to the present topic, the researcher has not seen any such specific book or study material on the comparative study of noun formation of Bodo (Boro) and Koch Rabha languages.

1.4 Data Collection and Methodology

The work would be on the comparative study of noun formation of Boro and Koch Rabha languages in linguistic perspective. The study would confine to the Kokrajhar district only. The study would be carried out by data collection from the primary and secondary sources.

2. Discussion

The Noun is a name of persons, places, animals, birds, insects, goods, and rivers. Among the pre-morphemes, the Noun is one of the root words. Hence, noun is considered as one of the parts of morphology. The following is the discussion on the formation of nouns of the Bodo and Koch Rabha in relation to the above given topic.

Morphologically, the use of nouns in both the Bodo and Koch Rabha languages can be studied by dividing them into two different types.

1. Basic noun and
2. Derived noun

2.1 Basic Noun

The noun which we can't divided into smallest meaningful grammatical sequences or category it's called basic noun. In both the Bodo and Koch Rabha languages we can structurally classify the basic noun in to two forms: 1. Monosyllabic basic noun and 2. Disyllabic basic noun.

There are two types of Basic Noun. They are Mono-syllabic basic noun and Disyllabic Basic Noun.

2.1.1 Monosyllabic Basic Noun Words

Boro	Koch Rabha
Dau (hen)	Thou (hen)
Or (fire)	Bar (fire)
Bar (win)	Fang (tree)
Hang (breathe)	Kwi (dog)
Na (fish)	Na (fish)
No (house)	Bak (pig)
Dwi (water)	Kuk (grasshopper)

2.1.2 Disyllabic Basic Noun Words

Boro	Koch Rabha
Man-si (man)	Cho-kot (beer)
Mw-swu (cow)	Chi-ka (water)
o-ma (pig)	So-sa (mosquito)
Mai-rong (rice)	Chos-mar (ant)
Mw-sa (tiger)	Tw-pak (butterfly)
Sw-ma (dog)	Si-gun (vulture)

2.2 Derived Noun

Derived noun is a noun which is formed by adding prefix or suffix to the basic noun. The derived noun can be divided into two different categories from the structural analysis of the Boro and Koch Rabha languages. They are as follows.

2.2.1 noun + suffix (bound Morpheme) = Noun

Examples:

Boro

Dwi (n) + {-ma} (s) = Dwima (river)
Nwgwr (n) + {-ari} (s) = Nwgwrari (citizen)
Abad (n) + {-ari} (s) = abadari (cultivator)
Ha (n) + {-jwu} (s) = Hajw (hill)
Ha (n) + {-sib} (s) = Hasib (

Koch Rabha

Ha (n) + {-song} (s) = Hasong (state)
Ha (n) + {-dam} (s) = Hadam (place)
Ha (n) + {-pak} (s) = Hapak (chest)
Ha (n) + {-sok} (s) = Hasok (lung)
Mai (n) + {-mudi} (s) = Maimudi (small rice)

2.2.2 Verb + suffix (bound Morpheme) = Noun

Verb + verb = Noun

Examples:

Boro

Bi (v) + bar (v) = bibar (flower)
Ja (v) + nai (v) = janai (eat)
Bisi (v) + {-a} (s) = bisia (un-tear)
Pi (v) + twb (v) = pitwb (..)

Koch Rabha

Zi + {-lwo} (s) = Zilwo (chili)
Lwi (v) + mwn (v) = Lwimwn (Young stage)
Cha (v) + phang (v) = Chaphang (Thigh)
Ra (v) + san (v) = Rasan (Sun)

Apart from the above given discussion, there is also a noun which is called compounding noun. Compound noun is composed of more than one free morpheme. In simple term, compound noun is a noun made up of two or more existing words. In other words, compound noun is formed through adding a noun to another noun, but these words not necessarily be nouns themselves.

Examples

Boro

Phisa(n.) + jwla(n.) = Phisajwla(n.)

Phiswo(n.) + jwla(n.) = Phiswojwla(n.)

Dau(n.) + jwla(n.) = Daujwla(n.)

Koch Rabha

Mai(n.) + dong(n.) = Maidong(n.)

Nuken(n.) + Chika(n.) = Nukchi(n.) etc.

3. Conclusion

From the above discussion, it is seen that the languages of Bodo and Koch Rabha both belong to the Sino-Tibetan language family. It is also seen that both these languages have similarities in many aspects especially in the field of different types of noun formation and noun structure.

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