MORPHOLOGICAL FEATURES OF GOALPARIYA: A STUDY OF ITS WORD STRUCTURE, CLASSES AND FORMATION IN DHUBRI AND GOALPARA DISTRICTS OF ASSAM

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Abstract:

Goalpariya belongs to the Indo-Aryan group of dialects which is commonly referred to as *Deshi Bhasha* or *Deshi Kota*, meaning "local language." It has been found that Goalpariya exhibits agglutinative and partly inflectional features as the dialect adheres to a subject-object-verb (SOV) word order and employs postpositions. By analysing the word structure, classes and formation, the research aims to contribute to a deeper and more systematic understanding of the language's morphological features. It has also been found that in Goalpariya, the vocabulary is enriched through the nativization of words from Hindi, Arabic, Urdu, Persian and English.To support the analysis, illustrative examples have been provided for each category and process discussed. This paper presents a morphological analysis of the Goalpariya language in the Dhubri and Goalpara districts of Assam, India, with a specific focus on word structure, word classes and word formation processes.

Keywords: Morphological features, Goalpariya, word structure, word classes, word formation processes

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Introduction

Goalpariya (ISO 639-3!) is an Indo-Aryan language primarily spoken in the Dhubri and Goalpara districts in Assam. The linguistic classification of Goalpariya remains a subject of scholarly debate. While Datta (1973) recognized it as a distinct language, Chowdhury (1992) categorized it as a dialect of Assamese. Earlier, Grierson (1963) and Kakati (1935) classified it under Rajbanshi. Among native speakers, however, it is commonly referred to as *Deshi Bhasha*

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or *Deshi Kota*, meaning "local language." According to the 2001 Census of India, the number of Goalpariya speakers is estimated to be around 10 million.

The morphological typology of the language is agglutinative and partly inflecting. It follows subject-object-verb (SOV) word order and it is postpositional. This study focuses on the morphological aspects of Goalpariya, specifically examining its word structure, the classification of word classes, and the processes of word formation. By analysing these core elements, the research aims to provide a detailed account of the language's morphological system and its typological features within the Eastern Indo-Aryan linguistic landscape.

Literature Review

Datta (1973), in his doctoral thesis, explores the historical and linguistic landscape of the undivided Goalpara district. He categorizes the region's languages based on geographical distribution, distinguishing between Eastern Goalpariya and Western Goalpariya, each with its own linguistic features. Eastern Goalpariya, found on both banks of the Brahmaputra, closely resembles Western Kamrupi in terms of phonology and morphology. Western Goalpariya, meanwhile, is identified as essentially Rajbangshi. Datta also notes an intermediary variety spoken in the central region between the two, containing lexical elements from both dialects. Das (1990) makes a valuable contribution to comparative linguistics through a detailed analysis of the dialects of Goalpara and Kamrup. His work focuses on phonological and morphological aspects, offering insights into both their similarities and distinguishing characteristics. Chowdhury (1992) examines three major Goalpariya dialects—Ghulliya, Caruwa, and Jharuwa—found in the undivided Goalpara district. This study offers a detailed analysis of their phonological and morphological structures, highlighting key distinctions among them. In a more recent study, Das (2014) conducted the first instrumental phonetic analysis of Goalpariya, focusing on the acoustic properties of its vowels. He identified five vowels in Goalpariya [i, e, a, o, u] in contrast to the eight vowels found in Standard Assamese [i, e, ɛ, u, ʊ, o, ɔ, a]. Gaffur (2017) contributes to the cultural understanding of the Goalpariya community through an in-depth exploration of their unique rituals and traditional practices. Akhter et al. (2025) offers a comparative analysis of the morphosyntactic features of genitive case markers in three Eastern Indo-Aryan languages—Goalpariya, Assamese, and Bangla. The study investigates the similarities and differences among these genetically related languages that share several prominent linguistic features.

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A comprehensive review of the existing literature reveals that a limited number of research works on descriptive morphosyntax have been produced in Goalpariya. This study seeks to address that gap by examining the language's morphology, with a specific focus on word structure, word classes, and word formation processes.

Methodology

To develop a comprehensive and holistic understanding of the research topic, a descriptive survey method was employed to explore its multiple dimensions and sources of information. In order to achieve the research objectives, a robust and multi-faceted qualitative research methodology was adopted, incorporating a range of methods and strategies to obtain meaningful results. The study utilized a simple random sampling technique to gather data from a diverse sample of 349 informants, representing various age groups, professions, and genders. Data collection involved a combination of primary and secondary sources. Primary data was gathered through observation schedules, interview schedules, and questionnaires conducted in the Dhubri and Goalpara districts of Assam. Secondary data was obtained from books, theses, magazines, newspapers, and online resources.

Word Structure, Classes and Formation of Goalpariya

The formation of words in Goalpariya is characterised by the systematic combination of free and bound morphemes, which collectively contribute to the conveyance of meaning within the language.

A morpheme represents the most minimal unit of meaning. In Goalpariya, morphemes can be divided into two types-free and bound morphemes. Free morphemes are morphemes that can independently convey meaning. Consider the following examples:

Goalpariya	Gloss
[ɡaːs]	'tree'
[tʃeŋri]	'girl'

Table 1: Free morphemes in Goalpariya

Bound morphemes are morphemes that lack the ability to function independently. Such morphemes need affixation to acquire meaning and form complete words. Hence, bound morphemes can also be called affixes. Two types of affixes are found in Goalpariya: prefix and suffix.

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Prefixes are bound morphemes, added to the beginning of free morphemes to modify meaning or create new words. Consider the following examples: Here, *ɔ-* and *be-* are prefixes.

Goalpariya	Gloss
[**ɔ-**manuʃ]	'inhuman'
[**be-**rozgar]	'unemployed'

Table 2: Prefixes in Goalpariya

These bound morphemes are added to the end of free morphemes. Here are some examples of suffixes:

Goalpariya	Gloss
[ga:s-**gule**]	'trees'
[d̪ʰon-**i**]	'wealthy'

Table 3: Suffixes in Goalpariya

Word Classes

In Goalpariya, the fundamental word classes can be categorized into eight main types-nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, postpositions, conjunctions and interjections.

1. Nouns

Noun is a word that represents a person, animal, place, thing or idea. It helps to identify and name objects in a language. There are three subclasses of nouns: Simple nouns, derived nouns and compound nouns.

Simple nouns

The essence of simple nouns lies in their ability to encompass various forms for human, animate (non-human) and in-animate entities. Here are some examples of simple nouns:

Human nouns	Animate (non-human) nouns	In-animate nouns
[bʰai] 'brother'	[bilei] 'cat'	[bari] 'home'
[tʃeŋri] 'girl'	[pakʰi/pahi] 'bird'	[lati/natiʃ 'stick'

Table 4: Simple nouns in Goalpariya

Derived nouns

There are three distinct classes for derived nouns, namely verbal nouns, abstract nouns and gerund nouns. A verbal noun is a type of a noun that is derived from a verb. In Goalpariya, the verbal nouns are derived by suffixing the markers *-ni, -ri, -ok* to the verb. An abstract noun

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refers to an idea, quality, or state as opposed to a physical entity. Abstract nouns in Goalpariya are created by adding the suffix *-powa, -kʰowa, -kora* to the respective word. In English, gerund is a form of a verb that ends in *-ing* that is used as a noun. But, in Goalpariya, the formation of gerund nouns involves the addition of the suffix *-a* to the corresponding verb. Here are some examples of derived nouns:

Verbal nouns	Abstract nouns	Gerund nouns
[randʰoni] 'cook'	[bʰal powa] 'love'	[shatr-a] 'swimming'
[kʰelari] 'player'	[bʰoi kʰowa] 'fear'	[nas-a] 'dancing'
[najok] 'actor'	[gʰin kora] 'hate'	[por-a] 'reading'

Table 5: Derived nouns in Goalpariya

Compound nouns

Compound nouns are created through the fusion of two or more words belonging to the same lexical category or different lexical categories. Consider the following examples:

[Noun+Noun= Noun]

Noun	+	Noun	→	Noun
[sagol] 'goat'	+	[goʃ]/[gos] 'meat'	→	[sagol-er goʃ/gos] 'mutton'
[tʃouk] 'eye'	+	[pa:ni] 'water'	→	[tʃouk-er pa:ni] 'tear'

[Noun+Verb=Noun]

Noun	+	Verb	→	Noun
[tʃul] 'hair'	+	[kata] 'cut'	→	[tʃul kata] 'haircut'
[ma:s] 'fish'	+	[dʰora] 'catch'	→	[ma:s dʰora] 'fishing'

[Noun+Diminuative=Noun]

Noun	+	Diminutive	→	Noun
[goru] 'cow'	+	[batʃtʃa]	→	[basur] 'calf'
[kutte] 'dog'	+	[batʃtʃa]	→	[kutte-r batʃtʃa] 'puppy'

[Adjective+Noun=Noun]

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Adjective	+	Noun	→	Noun
[soto] 'small/younger'	+	[bʰai] 'brother'	→	[soto bʰai] 'younger brother'
[bʰal] 'good'	+	[manuʃ] 'man'	→	[bʰal manuʃ] 'good man'

[Augumentive+Noun=Noun]

Augmentive	+	Noun	→	Noun
[boro] 'big/elder'	+	[beti] 'daughter'	→	[boro beti] 'elder daughter'
[boro] 'big/elder'	+	[gari] 'vehicle/car'	→	[boro gari] 'big vehicle'

2. Pronouns

A pronoun is a word that is used in place of a noun to avoid repetition and make sentences less repetitive and more concise. Goalpariya boasts the presence of six distinct types of pronouns: Personal pronouns, possessive pronouns, interrogative pronouns, reflexive pronouns, demonstrative pronouns and indefinite pronouns.

Personal pronouns

Personal pronouns encompass the categories of first person, second person and third person pronouns. In Goalpariya, there exists a distinct system of personal pronouns that effectively differentiates between three persons and three numbers. The three persons denote to the person speaking- 'speaker', the person listening- 'listener' and the person or thing being referred to- 'third person'. The numbers include singular, dual and plural. It is found that personal pronouns in Goalpariya are gender-neutral. This means that the same pronouns can be used to refer to individuals-male and female regardless of their gender identity. It is also interesting to note that the suffix -ɖuizon is appended to pronouns to indicate dual numbers.

Person	Singular	Dual	Plural
First	[mui] 'I'	[amra-ɖuizon] 'we two'	[amra] 'we'
Second	[t̪ui] 'you'	[t̪omra-ɖuizon] 'you two'	[t̪omra] 'you'
Third	[ui] 'he/she'	[omra-ɖuizon] 'they two'	[omra] 'they'

Table 6: Personal pronouns in Goalpariya

Possessive pronouns

Possessive pronoun indicates that something belongs to someone or something. In Goalpariya, possessive pronouns end with -r/-er, which helps to indicate ownership or possession.

Goalpariya	Gloss
[mor]	'my'

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[amar]   'our' (plural)

[ṭor]   'your'

[ṭomar]   'your' (plural)

[uier]   'his/her'

[omar]   'their' (plural)

Interrogative pronouns

Questions are formed using interrogative pronouns. Here are a few examples in Goalpariya:

Goalpariya	Gloss
[ki]	'what'
[kai]	'who'
[kuti]	'where'
[kon-ta]	'which'
[kon-bela]	'when'
[kemon]	'how'
[ke]	'why'
[kar]	'whose'

Table 7: Interrogative pronouns

Reflexive pronouns

Reflexive pronouns are used when the subject and object of a verb are same. They refer back to a person or thing. In Goalpariya, reflexive pronouns are expressed through the addition of the suffix *-nize* to the end of personal pronouns.

Goalpariya	Gloss
[mui-nize]	'myself'
[amra-nize]	'ourselves'
[ṭui-nize]	'yourself'
[ṭomra-nize]	'yourselves'
[ui-nize]	'himself/herself'
[omra-nize]	'themselves'

Table 8: Reflexive pronouns

Demonstrative pronouns

A demonstrative pronoun is a type of pronoun that points out or indicates a specific person, thing or idea. Here are a few examples in Goalpariya:

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	Singular	Plural
Proximate	[eite] 'this'	[eile] 'these'
Distal	[oite] 'that'	[oile] 'those'

Table 9: Demonstrative pronouns

Indefinite pronouns

Indefinite pronouns do not specifically identify what it is referring to. It is used when we want to talk about people or things in a general or non-specific way. It is noteworthy that indefinite pronouns in Goalpariya can occasionally take the form of word combinations. A few examples are given below:

Goalpariya	Gloss
[ʃogai]	'everyone/ everybody'
[kaiba]	'someone/ somebody'
[kaio na]	'no one/ nobody'
[ʃob kitʃtʃu/kisu]	'everything'
[olpo kitʃtʃu/kisu]	'something'
[zi kono]	'anything'
[kitʃtʃu/kisu na]	'nothing'
[ʃod̪ai]	'everyday'
[konod̪ino na]	'never'

Table 10: Indefinite pronouns

3. Adjectives

An adjective is a word that describes or modifies a noun or pronoun by providing additional information about its quality, state or characteristics.

Various types of adjectives in Goalpariya are:

Adjective types	Goalpariya	Gloss
Color	[ʃad̪a/ d̪ʰola]	'white'
Size	[soto]	'small'
Speed	[ast̪e]	'slow'
Human prosperity	[kʰata]	'short'
Taste	[t̪it̪e]	'bitter'
State	[paka/ paha]	'ripe'

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Quality	[bʰal]	'good'
Status	[d̪ʰoni]	'rich'
Age	[ʃijen]	'young'
Dimension	[ʃoza]	'straight'
Quantity	[mella]	'many'
Position	[utʃe]	'low'
Cardinal number	[ek]	'one'
Ordinal number	[ek ba:r]	'once'

Table 11: Adjectives in Goalpariya

Degree of adjectives

An adjective is divided into three types-positive, comparative and superlative degree. The positive degree represents the adjective in its simplest form, without any markers indicating its intensity. When describing a noun using an adjective, we can also state that something is smaller and bigger than that of another thing and also that one is the smallest or the biggest among all the objects or entities. To compare between two nouns, a comparative and superlative form of adjective is used. These comparative and superlative distinctions are marked by the prefix's *bʰale-* and *ʃogare t̪ʰaki* - respectively, which are added at the beginning of the adjectives.

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
[beja] 'bad'	[bʰale beja] 'worse'	[ʃogare t̪ʰaki beja] 'worst'
[mota] 'fat'	[bʰale mota] 'fatter'	[ʃogare t̪ʰaki mota] 'fattest'
[ʃund̪or] 'beautiful'	[bʰale ʃund̪or] 'more beautiful'	[ʃogare t̪ʰaki ʃund̪or] 'most beautiful'

Table 12: Degree of adjectives

4. Verbs

A verb is a word that expresses what the subject of a sentence is doing. It can be divided into three types-action verb, process verb and stative verb.

Action verb

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An action verb is a type of verb that describes an action or movement performed by a subject. Some examples are given below:

Goalpariya	Gloss
[hata]	'walk'
[zʰappa]	'jump'
[kanḍa]	'cry'

Table 13: Action verbs

Process verb

Process verbs signify a transformative transition from one state or form to another. A few examples are given below:

Goalpariya	Gloss
[uʃe]	'boil'
[bana]	'make'
[ranḍa]	'cook'

Table 14: Process verbs

Stative verb

Stative verbs pertain to the realm of thoughts and opinions. Here are some examples:

Goalpariya	Gloss
[biʃʃeʃ]	'believe'
[mana]	'agree'
[buza]	'understand'

Table 15: Stative verbs

5. **Adverbs**

An adverb is a word that modifies or describes a verb, adjective or another adverb. The various types of adverbs found in Goalpariya are:

Adverb of manner

Goalpariya	Gloss
[ṭaraṭari]	'quickly'
[zore]	'loudly'

Table 16: Manner adverbs in Goalpariya

Adverb of place

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Goalpariya	Gloss
[boglo̱ṯ]	'near'
[ḏuro̱ṯ]	'far'

Table 17: Adverb of place

Adverb of time

Goalpariya	Gloss
[kailke]	'tomorrow'
[ʃoḏai]	'always'

Table 18: Adverb of time

Adverb of direction

Goalpariya	Gloss
[a:g-paʃe]	'forward'
[upre]	'above'

Table 19: Adverb of direction

Adverb of frequency

Goalpariya	Gloss
[ek ba:r]	'once'
[prai]	'often'

Table 20: Adverb of frequency

6. Postpositions

Postpositions are used to establish the relationship between nouns or pronouns and other words in a sentence. Unlike prepositions, which come before the nouns, postpositions in Goalpariya are positioned after the nouns, hence earning their name as post positions. A few examples are given below:

Goalpariya	Gloss
[ṯ]	'to/in/at'
[upre]	'on/above'
[ṯol]	'below'
[bʰiṯre]	'inside'
[baire]	'outside'
[zoinne]	'for'

Table 21: Postpositions in Goalpariya

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7. Conjunctions

A conjunction serves the purpose of linking together words, phrases and clauses. Some examples of conjunctions in Goalpariya are:

Goalpariya	Gloss
[kinṯu]	'but'
[a:r]	'and'
[zuḏi/zoḏi]	'if'

Table 22: Conjunctions in Goalpariya

8. Interjections

An interjection is a word, phrase, or sentence through which one's emotions, meanings or feelings find vibrant expression. Here are a few examples in Goalpariya:

Goalpariya	Gloss
[bah]	'wow'
[hei]	'alas'

Table 23: Interjections in Goalpariya

Word Formation Processes

In Goalpariya, the word formation processsses can be categorized into inflection, derivation, nominalization, compounding, reduplication, borrowing, negation, clipping, acronym and eponym.

1. Inflection

Inflection refers to the process used to create different forms of the same word. Consider the following examples:

[ga:s] 'tree'   + [gule] 'plural marker (s)'→   [ga:s gule] 'trees'

[mota] 'fat'   + [ʃogare ṯʰaki] 'est'   →   [ʃogare ṯʰaki mota] 'fattest'

2. Derivation

Derivation is the process used to create entirely new words from existing ones. The newly created word can align with its existing word class or deviate from it. Accordingly, depending on the word class, this process is divided into two types-class-maintaining and class-changing derivation. Consider the following examples:

Class-maintaining derivation

[ḏokan] 'shop' (N)   + [-ḏar] 'NMLZ'   → ḏokanḏar 'shopkeeper' (N)

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[tʃouk] 'eye' (N)   + [pa:ni] 'water' (N)   → [tʃouk-er pa:ni] 'tear' (N)

Class-changing derivation

[lekʰ] 'write' (V)   + [-ok] 'NMLZ'   → lekʰok 'writer' (N)

[ʃona] 'gold' (N)   +[-li]   → [ʃonali] 'golden'(ADJ)

3. Nominalization

Nominalization is the process of transforming a verb, adjective or another part of speech into a noun. Consider the following examples:

[kʰela] 'play' (V)   + [-ri] 'NMLZ'   → [kʰelari] 'player' (N)

[bʰal] 'good' (ADJ)   + [powa] 'NMLZ'   → [bʰal powa] 'love' (N)

4. Compounding

Compounding is a process of incorporating two or more words to form a new word. In Goalpariya, three types of compounding are found-endocentric, exocentric and coordinative compound.

Endocentric compounding

In an endocentric compound, one element serves as the head, while the other functions as its modifier. Both left and right-headed compounding are found in Goalpariya. Consider the following examples:

Left headed compounding

[tʃul] 'hair'   +   [kata] 'cut'   → [tʃul kata] 'haircut'

[kopal] 'luck'   +   [pʰota] 'bad'   → [kopal pʰota] 'bad luck'

Right headed compounding

[noṯun] 'new'   +   [bosor] 'year' → [noṯun bosor] 'new year'

[bʰal] 'good'   +   [manuʃ] 'man' → [bʰal manuʃ] 'good man'

Exocentric compounding

In an exocentric compound, no element within the compound acts as head. That means this type of compounding lacks a head word. Consider the following examples:

[ʃiel] 'fox'   +[kʰa/kʰoa] 'eat'   →   [ʃiel kʰowa] 'gipsy'

[ut] 'camel'   +[pakʰi/pahi] 'bird'   →   [ut pakʰi/pahi] 'ostrich'

Co-ordinate compounding

In this type of compounding, the elements share the same status. Here are some examples:

[uṯtor] 'north'   + [pub] 'east'   →   [uṯtor pub] 'north-east'

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[bʰaʈ] 'rice'   +[ʈorkari] 'curry'   →   [bʰaʈ ʈorkari] 'rice and curry'

5. Reduplication

It is a linguistic process where meaning is conveyed by repeating the entire word or a portion of it. Goalpariya encompasses various reduplication processes. Consider the following examples:

Complete reduplication: When the entire word is reduplicated, it is called complete reduplication.

Goalpariya	Gloss
[tʃup tʃup]	'silently'
[boro boro]	'big'

Table 24: Complete reduplication

Partial reduplication: When the word is reduplicated partially, i.e., only a part of the word undergoes reduplication, it is called partial reduplication.

Goalpariya	Gloss
[ka:m ta:m]	'work'
[a:ʃe pa:ʃe]	'near'

Table 25: Partial reduplication

Semantic reduplication: When two words are reduplicated with some modification and convey the same meaning, it is called semantic reduplication.

Goalpariya	Gloss
[pʰol mul]	'fruits'
[ga:s ga:sani]	'trees'

Table 26: Semantic reduplication

Syntactic reduplication: When emphasizing syntax, words undergo syntactic reduplication, achieved through spacing and hyphenation.

Goalpariya	Gloss
[eti oti]	'here and there'
[len-ḏen]	'transaction'

Table 27: Syntactic reduplication

Onomatopoeic reduplication: When two reduplicated words describe sound, it is called onomatopoeic reduplication.

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Goalpariya	Gloss
[gur gur]	'thundering sound'
[tupuʃ tupuʃ]	'slow rain sound'

Table 28: Onomatopoeic reduplication

Numeral reduplication: When two reduplicated words have numerals, it is called numeral reduplication.

Goalpariya	Gloss
[ek ek]	'one one'
[t̪in t̪in]	'three three'

Table 29: Numeral reduplication

Noun reduplication: When the reduplicated words are nouns, it is called noun reduplication. It often signifies plurality.

Goalpariya	Gloss
[gʰor gʰor]	'houses'
[rast̪a rast̪a]	'streets'

Table 30: Noun reduplication

Adjective reduplication: When the reduplicated words are adjectives, it is called adjective reduplication.

Goalpariya	Gloss
[not̪un not̪un]	'new'
[bʰal bʰal]	'good'

Table 31: Adjective reduplication

Adverb reduplication: When the reduplicated words are adverbs, it is called adverb reduplication

Goalpariya	Gloss
[ʃod̪ai ʃod̪ai]	'daily'
[eti oti]	'here and there'

Table 32: Adverb reduplication

Intrinsically, some interrogative pronouns in Goalpariya reduplicate to show plurality. Consider the following examples:

[kai] 'who'   +   [kai] 'who'   → [kai kai] 'who (plural)'

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[kuti] 'where' +   [kuti] 'where' → [kuti kuti] 'where (plural)'

(1) kai kai   *aiʃ-pe*   *aiske*

who~RED (PL)   come-NF   today

'Who all are coming today?'

(2) kuti kuti   *za-bu*

where~RED (PL)   go-FUT.2

'Where will you go?'

6. Borrowing

Loanwords are words adopted by the speakers of one language from a different language (the source language). A loanword can also be called borrowing. It is generally agreed that the entry of loanwords in a language from other languages correlates with articulation and cultural diffusion (Lehmann 1962:216). In Goalpariya, the vocabulary is enriched through the nativization of words from Hindi, Arabic, Urdu, Persian and English. Consider the following examples:

Words borrowed from Hindi

Goalpariya	Gloss
[zoŋgol]	'jungle/forest'
[raza]	'king'

Table 33: Words borrowed from Hindi

Words borrowed from Arabic

Goalpariya	Gloss
[d̪unije]	'world'
[hiʃeb]	'calculation'

Table 34: Words borrowed from Arabic

Words borrowed from Urdu

Goalpariya	Gloss
[muʃkil]	'difficult'
[d̪ur]	'far'

Table 35: Words borrowed from Urdu

Words borrowed from Persian

Goalpariya	Gloss

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[ba:za:r]	'market'
[tʃehra]	'face'

<div align="center">Table 36: Words borrowed from Persian</div>

Words borrowed from English

Goalpariya	Gloss
[puliʃ]	'police'
[ɔnlain]	'online'

<div align="center">**Table 37: Words borrowed from English**</div>

7. Contraction

Contraction is a prevalent linguistic phenomenon in Goalpariya, representing the shorter form of words. Consider the following examples:

Goalpariya	Gloss
[betisawa]-[bessawa]	'woman'
[bagʰ]-[bag]	'tiger'

<div align="center">**Table 38: Contraction in Goalpariya**</div>

8. Negation

It is the process to deny something. Three negative markers *na*, *nai* and *nowai* are found in Goalpariya. Consider the following examples:

na serves multiple functions in Goalpariya:

Here, it functions as a negative response to single-word questions.

(3)   *t̪ui*   *bʰa̪t̪*   *kʰa-siʃ*   *neki*

        2SG   rice   eat-NF   Q

        'Did you eat rice?'

(3a)   *na*

        NEG.BE

        'No'

It also functions as a prohibitive marker (suffixed to the verb).

*(3b)   koiʃ-**na***

        tell-NEG

        'Don't tell'.

And expresses negation in declarative sentences (prefixed to verb).

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(3c)   *mui*   *aiske*   *kamoṯ*   **na-*za-im***

        1SG   today   work   NEG-go-FUT

        'I will not go to work today'.

/-nai/ serves to express definiteness when employed in negation.

(4)   *ui*   *oti*   ***nai***

        3SG   there   NEG.BE.3

        'She is not there.'

(4a)   *mui*   *kam-ta*   *koroŋ*   ***nai***

        1SG   work-CLF   do-NF   NEG.BE.PST

        'I did not do the work'

-nowai is mainly used with nouns and adverbs in negation. It is mostly used in the present tense.

9. Clipping

Clipping involves shortening a word while retaining its original meaning. Consider the following examples:

[bubu] 'elder sister' → [bu] 'elder sister'

[bʰaijaan] 'elder brother' → [bʰai] 'elder brother'

10. Acronym

An acronym is a term formed by combining initial letters or syllables of each word in a phrase to create a new, single word.

[ɔgɔpɔ] → Asom Gana Parishad

[akraʃu] → The All Assam Koch Rajbongshi Students' Union

11. Eponym

Eponyms are terms that originate from the names of individuals, whether historical figures, mythological characters or fictional personalities and are used to designate specific words, locations or concepts.

[tʃilarai] → a college in Golakganj, Dhubri named after Bir Chilarai of the Koch Dynasty.

Conclusion

This study focuses on the morphological aspects of Goalpariya, specifically examining its word structure, the classification of word classes, and the processes of word formation. The study has explored both free and bound morphemes in Goalpariya and has provided a classification

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of word classes-including nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, postpositions, conjunctions and interjections, and their respective subcategories. Furthermore, it has analysed a range of word formation processes such as inflection, derivation, nominalization, compounding, reduplication, borrowing, negation, clipping, acronym and eponym. It has also been found that in Goalpariya, the vocabulary is enriched through the nativization of words from Hindi, Arabic, Urdu, Persian and English.To support the analysis, illustrative examples have been provided for each category and process discussed. By analysing these core elements, the research aims to contribute to a deeper and more systematic understanding of the language's morphological features.

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