

AFFIXATION AND COMPOUNDING AS TWO MAJOR PROCESSES OF WORD FORMATION IN BODO LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

Bodo is one of the languages of Tibeto-Burman branch of Sino-Tibetan language family. The speakers of this language are concentrated mostly in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam as well as more or less in the border areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya of North-East India; North Bengal of West Bengal and the Nepal. There are many processes of word formation in Bodo. But the present study will highlight only affixation and compounding as two major processes of word formation. In Bodo, the prefixes and suffixes take very important role in the process of affixation of word formation. In compounding, root words like noun, verb and adjective take important role which will be highlighted in the paper.

KEYWORDS: *Bodo, Word Formation, Affixation, Compounding*

INTRODUCTION

Linguistically, Bodo is one of the languages of Tibeto-Burman branch of Sino-Tibetan language family. The term 'Bodo' was first used by Brian Houghton Hodgson in 'Essay the first on the Kocch, Bodo and Dimal tribes' one of the essays of the book 'Miscellaneous essays relating to Indian subject, Vol.-I.' in 1847 (Hodgson, B.H., 1847). Anthropologically, they are the people of Mongoloid stock. In history, they were also well known as Kachari. H.K. Barpujari says the Kacharis, who belong to the great Bodo race, were perhaps one of the earliest aboriginal tribe of Brahmaputra valley. (Barpujari, H.K., 1992) J.D. Anderson also observes that the river names of the whole of Brahmaputra valley are Bodo names and it is demonstrable that the Bodos were the aborigines of the valley. (Endle, S., 1997) Their concentration is chiefly found in the vast areas of northern and southern parts of the Brahmaputra valley of Assam. Apart from they are obtainable more or less in the border areas of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya of North-East India; Jalpaiguri, Alipur Duar, Darjeeling and Cooch Behar districts of North Bengal of West Bengal and Japa district of Nepal. They are identical with different names in different provinces. Thus, in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam they are well known as Bodo~Boro, in North Bengal as Mech and in Nepal as Meche. Sir Edward Gait in his book 'A History of Assam' says that they are identical with the people called Mech in North Bengal. In the Brahmaputra valley the Kacharis call themselves Bodo fisa (sons of the Bodo). (Gait, Sir Edward, 2008)

Aim and Objectives

- To highlight two major processes affixation and compounding of word formation of Bodo language.
- To give information about the processes of word formation to the future researchers.

Methods

Primary and secondary data are the key source of this paper. The researcher being a native speaker of Bodo language collected the data by applying introspective knowledge. The secondary data were collected from written documents.

Word Formation in Bodo

Word formation is also known as word making or word building. According to S. N. Arora, word-formation or word making or word building means the process of creating or forming words out of sequences of morphemes or words. (Arora, S.N., 2006) In Bodo, words can be formed by different processes. But the present study targets only two core important types of processes of word formation i.e. affixation and compounding.

Affixation

Affixation is one of the morphological processes of word formation. During affixation, bound morphemes are added to a stem word to create a new word with different new meaning. Like other Tibeto-Burman languages, in Bodo also affixation takes an important role in forming different new words. In this language, affixes can be discussed by classifying into two types of prefix and suffix according to the use of before or after the root word. There is no use of infix in Bodo language.

Prefixes

Prefix is a term used in MORPHOLOGY referring to an AFFIX which is added initially to a root or stem (Crystal, David, 1978). Prefixes are added to the beginning of a word in order to create a new word with different meaning. In Bodo, a few prefixes are there which play a significant role in forming new words with different meaning. Some examples are given below.

- {da-} : da + v. za (eat) > v. daza (do not eat)
- {p^hɔ-} : p^hɔ + v. dɔm (bend) > v. p^hɔdɔm (to make bend)
- {bi-} : bi + v. Bar (bloom) > n. bibar (flower)
- {su-} : su + v. maɔ (move) > v. sumaɔ (shake)

Suffixes

Suffix is a term used in MORPHOLOGY referring to an AFFIX which is added following to a root or stem (Crystal, David, 1978). The suffixes are added to the ending of a word in order to create a new word with different meaning. There are many suffixes in Bodo language which play an important role in forming different kinds of new words. Some examples of nominal suffixes and verbal suffixes are given below.

- {-mun} : n. ai (mother) + mun > n. aimun (mother and others)
- {-p^hur} : n. mansi (man) + p^hur > n. mansip^hur (men)
- {-sali} : n. gut^hui (dead) + sali > n. gut^huisali (grave yard)
- {-t^hili} : n. daɔha (war) - t^hili > n. daɔhat^hili (battle field)

{-ari}	: v. bibai (beg) + ari > n. bibaiyari (beggar)
{-nai}	: v. zə (sit) + nai > n. zənai (sitting)
{-t ^h ai}	: v. nu (see) + t ^h ai > n. nut ^h ai (scene)
{-sali}	: v. sibi (worship) + sali > n. sibilali (prayer place)
{-la}	: v. za (eat) + la > v. zala (do not/ does not eat)
{-ak ^h ui}	: v. luŋ (drink) + ak ^h ui > v. luŋak ^h ui (did not drink)
{-p ^h a}	: v. t ^h aŋ (go) + p ^h a > v. t ^h aŋp ^h a (go together)
{-t ^h ar}	: v. za (eat) + t ^h ar > v. zat ^h ar (must eat)
{-k ^h a}	: v. dan (cut) + k ^h a > v. dank ^h a (cut out)
{-bai}	: v. za (eat) + bai > v. zabai (have eaten)
{-a}	: v. t ^h aŋ (go) + a > v. t ^h aŋa (do not go)

COMPOUNDING

Compounding is one of the important processes of word formation available in Bodo language. Compounding contains two or more root words. In Bodo, many new words with new meaning can be constructed by compounding different two or more root words.

Noun + Noun

- n. dau (fowl) + n. zuula (male) > n. dauzuula (cock)
- n. dui (water) + n. k^hər (hole) > n. duik^hər (well)
- n. dau (fowl) + n. k^hi (excreta) > n. dauk^hi (fowl's excreta)

Noun + Adjective

- n. dui (water) + a. sa (small) > n. duisa (stream)
- n. dau (fowl) + a. sa (small) > n. dausa (chick)
- n. ha (soil) + a. zuu (tall) > n. hazuu (hill)

Noun + Verb

- n. ha (land) + v. sib (sweep) > n. hasib (broom)

Noun + Noun + Noun

- n. bar (wind) + n. dui (water) + n. sik^hla (young girl) > n. barduisik^hla (a kind of weather)

Verb + Verb

- v. za (eat) + v. p^hui (come) > v. zap^hui (come and eat)

v. za (eat) + v. zuub (finish) > v. zazuub (eat all)

v. maɔ (do) + v. p^hui (come) > v. maɔp^hui (come and do)

Verb + Noun

v. hasu (urinate) + n. dui (water) > n. hasudui (urine)

v. muzu (spit) + n. dui (water) > n. muzudui (saliva)

v. guuba (vomit) + n. dui (water) > n. gubadui (vomiting)

Verb + Adjective

v. luŋ + a. gudan (new) > v. luŋgudan (just drank)

v. za + a. guudan (new) > a. zagudan (recent)

Verb + Verb + Verb

v. maɔ + v. laŋ + v. zuub > v. maɔlaŋzuub (do everything and go)

v. za + v. zuub + v. laŋ > v. zazuublaŋ (eat everything and go)

v. laŋ + v. p^hui + v. zuub > v. laŋp^huizuub (take away everything)

Verb + Verb + Verb + Verb

v. luŋ + v. laŋ + v. zuub + v. p^hui > v. luŋlaŋzuubp^hui (come, drink everything and go)

v. maɔ + v. laŋ + v. zuub + v. p^hui > v. maɔlaŋzuubp^hui (come, do everything and go)

CONCLUSIONS

Like other Bodo-Garo languages, Bodo is also agglutinating language. Through the process of affixation, different kind of new words with new meaning can be formed. In this process, many prefixes and suffixes play an important function during word formation. Apart from this, it is also clear that by compounding many root words, different kind of new words can also be formed in this language. So, it can be mentioned here that affixation and compounding are the two major processes of word formation in Bodo language.

ABBREVIATIONS

a. adjective

v. verb

n. noun

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