



A Comparative Study Of Inflectional Affixes In Bodo And Karbi

Sangeeta Ramchiary

Research Scholar, Dept. of Bodo

Gauhati University, Guwahati, Assam, India

1.1 Introduction of Bodo and Karbi Language:

This study aims to provide a comparative study of inflectional affixes in the Bodo and Karbi, of which the speakers are under Tibeto-Burman language of the Sino-Tibetan language family. The Bodos are one of the earliest settlers' communities of Assam. Bodo is the name of the language as well as of the community. As they have come from the place Bod of Tibet to Assam, they are known as the Bodos. The Bodo speakers are found mainly in Bodoland Territorial Area Districts (B.T.R) and more or less in almost all districts of Assam. Except Assam, the Bodos are found in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Cachar, Hailakhandi, Karimganj, Nepal, Tripura, Bhutan border and Bangladesh etc.¹

To introduce both Bodo and Karbi language it may be quoted G.A. Grierson's Linguistic Survey of India (1903). He has shown both the languages in the tabular representation of Sino-Tibetan language family. The family has been divided into two (i) Sino-Tibetan Proper and (ii) Probably early modification of Sino-Tibetan. Again, the Sino-Tibetan proper has been divided into four sub groups like (i) Tibetan (ii) Himalayan (iii) North-Assam and (iv) Assam Burmese. The Assam Burmese again has been divided into two vide (i) Bodo-Naga and (ii) Burmese-Kuki-Chin Kachin Lolo. He divided the Bodo-Naga into two like (i) Bodo and (ii) Naga. Interestingly the Karbi language has been fallen under the Burmese-Kuki-Chin Kachin Lolo sub group. He has mentioned that the Karbi language has some common linguistic features of both Bodo-Naga and Burmese-Kuki-Chin Kachin Lolo, but the language name has been different, he mentioned the Karbi Language as Mikir. We find both the language has some interesting common features. Therefore, in view of the features, it is aimed to discuss on the very interesting topic.

¹ Baro, Madhu Ram: A History of Bodo Literature, 1988: Page- Introduction

Karbis are one of the most numerous and homogeneous tribes in Assam. The speakers of this language are living mainly in majority tribe in the sixth Schedule area of Karbi Ang long district, which was formerly a part of one district known as North Cachar and Mikir Hills district² as well as Kamrup, Sonitpur, North Kachar Hills, Nagaon, Golaghat of Assam. Moreover, they are found in Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.³

This paper based on the standard dialect of the Bodo spoken in B.T.R. area in Assam and the Karbi language, based on the standard Rongkhang variety as spoken in Diphu area of Assam.

1.2 Aims and objective: Some of the objectives highlighted in this discussion are:

- a) To find out the use of inflectional affixes in both languages.
- b) To find out the roles of inflectional nominal suffix in both languages.
- d) To find out the roles of the inflectional verbal suffix in both languages.

1.3 Methodology:

The study aimed to carry out on the topic mentioned above topic has been conducted based on comparative method of study.

1.4 Data Collection:

Any research level cannot be completed without data. Data is very important part of any research work. Hence, for this research work, required data have been collected into two ways. They are: (i) Primary source (ii) Secondary source. The Primary source is mainly based on the native speakers of the Bodo and Karbi spoken region in B.T.R. area and Karbi-Ang-Long districts of Assam. The said data have been collected in the form of interaction, interviews, conversation, questionnaires and direct observation.

The secondary data have been collected from the available written materials in the form of books, journals, textbooks, magazines, newspapers, articles, dictionaries and different language-based writings in books etc. Along with internet, websites, Wikipedia and some social media like Facebook, YouTube have been also used.

1.5 Importance of the Study:

On the topic A Study of comparative inflectional affixes in Bodo and Karbi so far, no notable research has been done on the study on in the both language from a comparative point of view. Hence, the importance lies in the fact that this will be the work. Throughout this study, the Comparative of the both languages will be understood. Therefore, the main objective is to bring to light that there is a close relationship between the derivational affixes of the both languages as well as the difference. In this study undertaken on both languages will be taken into consideration.

1.6 Discussion: Before we discuss the inflectional affixes, let's know what affixation is. Affixes are, in other words, formative morphemes added to roots. Affixes are small word particles, usually only a few letters, added to a root word to change its meaning or grammatical properties. Affixes is the addition of another word particles. It does not have its own independent form. It is a bound Morpheme. It cannot be interpreted alone. It is only with the help of a basic form that it becomes complete. Combining them free morph or bound morph

² District Gazetteers: Government notification No. TDA/R-31/503209, dated 3rd Nov./1950.

³ Hanse, Khoyasing: Karbi Lamtasam, 2020, p.: 1

can help or convey a complete idea by combining them with meaningful new words.

1.6.1 Classification of Affix: The affix of both the Boro and Karbi can be broadly divided into two categories.

Those are-

1.6.1.1 Inflectional affix and

1.6.1.2 Derivational affix

1.6.1.1 Inflectional Affix: Inflection is a morphological process of word construction by which words are formed with the help of inflectional affixes. Inflectional is the affixation that expresses meaning by adding it front to final position before the original word or roots. In such as affix, if a sum is added to a word and another affix cannot be added to the next of the word. There is no space to add other later affix after words. Therefore, it can be said that if the affixation is added then the other affix cannot be placed after the word again in Bodo and Karbi.

In both the Bodo and Karbi languages the use of the inflectional affix is available only as a suffix. But the use of prefix and infix is not visible.

The inflectional affix used in both the Boro and Karbi languages can be discussed in two parts. Such as.

1.6.1.1.1 Inflectional Nominal suffix

1.6.1.1.2 Inflectional Verbal suffix

1.6.1.1.1 Inflectional Nominal suffix: Inflectional nominal suffixes are attached to the end of the nouns. The inflectional nominal suffixes can be found in the forms of Plural suffixes, Gender suffixes and case markers.

1.6.1.1.1.1 Plural suffixes: In Bodo language there are only three plural suffixes namely-{-sur}, {-p^hur}, {-mun} and in Karbi plural suffixes are-{-tum}, {-mur}, {-hər}, {-hei hui}, etc. It is a bound morpheme.

Include the word free form to describe the meaning of number. In Bodo, all plural suffixes are used by human noun, {-p^hur} is used by animate, inanimate noun, adjective and sometimes materials words. On the other hand, in Karbi, {-tum}, {-mur}, used by human noun and {-hər} is used by animate noun. And {-heihui} is used with both inanimate and animate noun. For example:

a) Human noun:

Bodo:

- {-p^hur}: mansi (person) - p^hur> mansip^hur (persons)
 suurba (-any other) p^hur> suurbap^hur (any others)
- {-sur}: nuη (you) -sur> nuηsur (you: plural)
 bi (he/she) -sur> bisur (they)
- {-mun}: nuηt^hη (honor.you) -mun> nuηt^hηmun (you)
 bit^hη (honor.you) mun> bit^hηmun (they are: hon.)

Karbi:

- {-tum}: nāń (you) -tum> nāńtum (you: plural)
 alāń (he/she) -tum> alāńtum (they)

When it is added to the nouns the plural suffix -tum takes an /a/ prefix. It is only used for human and child interactions. For example-

ik (elder brother) -a-tum > ikatum (elder brothers)

chə (child) -a-tum > chəatum (children)

po (father) -a-tum > poatum (fathers)

mənīt (man) -a-tum > mənītatum (men) etc.

{-mur}: ɔchə (boy) -mur > ɔchəmār (boys)

ɔchəpi (girl) -mur > ɔchəpimār (girls)

Sometimes used of added to the nouns then suffix -li is added after the plural suffix -mar. for example-

chə (child) -mar-li > chomarli (boys)

chopi (girl) -mar-li > chopimarli (girls)

ban (dear) -mar-li > banmarli (beloved)

nie (clans of Ingti) -mar-li > niemarli (one of the main clans of Ingti)

b) Animate noun:

Bodo:

{-p^hur}: dao (bird) -p^hur > daop^hur (birds)

musou (cow) -p^hur > musoup^hur (cows)

Karbi:

{-hər}: cāinañ (cow) -a-hər > cāinañahər (cows)

kipi (monkey) -a-hər > kipiahər (mankeys)

{-heihui}: meñ (cat)-heihui > meñ heihui (cats)

wə (bird) -heihui > wə heihui (birds)

c) Inanimate noun:

Bodo:

{-p^hur}: bizab (book) -p^hur > bizabp^hur (books)

Karbi:

{-heihui}: ārleñ (stone) -heihui > ārleñ heihui (stones)

hem (house) - heihui > hem heihui (houses)

d) Adjective: In the Bodo language plural numbers can be formed by inserting the suffix

{-p^hur} even with adjective words. For example-

{-p^hur}: gumu (yellow) -p^hur > gumup^hur (yellow)

gut^hañ (green) -p^hur > gut^hañp^hur (green)

e) Materials/Object: In the Bodo language plural numbers can be formed by inserting the suffix {-phwr} even with any kind of materials/objects words. For example-

{-p^hur}: ha (land) -p^hur > hap^hur (lands)

bip^haŋ (tree) -p^hur > bip^haŋp^hur (trees)

1.6.1.1.1.2 Gender Suffix: We found the gender suffix in Bodo languages for the gender of the masculine gender of the pair {-a}, {-lu}, {-sula}. But {-i}, {-e}, {-u} {-li}, {-suli} is available for the feminine gender. On the other hand., in a significant character is found in the suffix expressing the gender of the masculine gender of Karbi language. By the words denoting male and female as suffix {-po} (male) and {-pi} (female) after the word indicating common gender. Example are given below:

Bodo:

Masculine Gender:

- {-a}: k^hano-a > k^hana (blind male)
- {-lu}: onza-lu > onzalu (male dear)
- {-sula}: on-sula > onsula (dear)
mao-sula > maosula (activer)

Feminine Gender:

- {-i}: k^ha-na-i > k^hani (blind female)
- {-e}: nabra -e > nable (female who has plan noise)
- {-u}: hai- t^hu > hait^hu (female who has very low)
- {-li}: onza-li > onzali (female dear)
- {-suli}: za-suli > zasuli (a kind of female who has very eater)
on-suli > onsuli (a kind of female who has very lover)

Karbi

Masculine Gender

- {-po}: char-po > charpo (old man)
ārleñ-po > ārleñpo (man)
hem-po > hempo (male master)
zir-po > zirpo (male friend)

Feminine Gender

- {-pi}: char-pi > charpi (old woman)
ārleñ-pi > ārleñpi (women)
hem-pi > hempi (female master)
zir-pi > zirpi (femalr friend)

1.6.1.1.1.3 Case Marker: The case marker used in the Bodo language is obtained as the suffixes such as {-a, -u}, {-k^huo}, {-zuŋ}, {-ni}, {-nu}, {-ao} and a post position {-p^hraj}. On the other hand, the suffixes used in the Karbi Language is {-chi}, {-le}, {-phān}, {-āphān}, {-pen}, {-penchi}, {-ā}, {-ālāñ} etc. For example-

Bodo:

{-a}: Ram-a > rama

(i) rama zaduη

Ram-CAM eat-PFV

English- Ram is eating.

{-u}: aη-u > aηu

(ii) aηu t^haηgun

i-CAM go-Fut.

English- I will go.

{-k^huo}: zuη- k^huo > zuηk^huo

zuηk^huo buduη

we-CAM beat-PFV

English- beat us

{-zuη}: aη- zuη > aηzuη

aηzuη p^huηjduη

i-CAM come-PFV

English- come with me.

{-ni}: mansi-ni > mansini

mansini gami.

Man-CAM village

English- Village of the man.

{-nuu}: bi-nuu > binuu

binuu zajga hu

he/she-CAM place give

English- Give space to him.

{-ao}: lama-ao > lamaao

lamaao bip^haη doη

road-CAM tree PFV

English- There are trees on the road.

{-p^hraj}: biphaη-ni-p^hraj > bip^haηp^hraj

bip^haηnip^hraj p^hitaj sirijju

tree-Gen.-CAM fruit fall-NOM

English- Fruit fall down the tree.

Karbi:

{-chi}:	Dip <u>hu-chi</u> > Dip <u>huchi</u> Dip <u>huchi</u> bazar do. Dip <u>hu-CAM</u> market PFV
English-	There is a market in Dip <u>hu</u> .
{-le}:	penap- <u>le</u> > penap- <u>le</u> nang penaple vangnon You come-CAM tomorrow
English-	you should come tomorrow.
{-phān}:	ne- <u>phān</u> > nep <u>hān</u> nep <u>hān</u> thārwe epum. i-CAM mango give
English-	give me a mango.
{-pen}:	kalam- <u>pen</u> > kalamp <u>en</u> ne kalamp <u>en</u> chi tok I pen-CAM one write
English-	I write with a pen
{-penchi}:	bus- <u>penchi</u> > buspen <u>chi</u> alangle Dip <u>hu buspenchi</u> kedam he-NOM Dip <u>hu bus-CAM</u> go-PST
English-	He goes to Dip <u>hu</u> by bus.
{-ā}:	Ram- <u>ā</u> > rama Ram <u>ā</u> hem Ram-CAM house
English-	Ram's house.
{-ālān}:	hem - <u>ālān</u> > hem <u>ālān</u> hem <u>ālān</u> komāt do? home-CAM who PFV
English-	who is at home?

1.6.1.1.2 Inflectional Verbal suffix: Inflectional Verbal suffixes are also the same as nominal suffixes. Even if the suffixes are added after the original word, there is no change, or the new word does not change. Inflectional verbal suffixes are the tense and tense marker, negative or negation etc.

1.6.1.1.2.1 Tense and Tense marker: Tense and Tense marker are {-u}, {-baj}, {-mun}, {-gun}, {-nususui} etc. these are clearly indicating the time of operation of the tense. In Karbi tense marker are- {-bom}, {-atol}, {-lo}, {-po}, {-zi} etc.

Bodo:

- {-u}: aŋ za-u> aŋ zaju. (I eat.)
 {-baj}: bi t^haŋ -baj> bi t^haŋbaj. (He/She has gone)
 {-mun}: bi doŋ-mun> bi doŋmun. (He/She was there)
 {-gun}: aŋ bazarao t^haŋ-gun> aŋ bazarao t^haŋgun. (I will go to the market)
 {-nususuj}: biju p^hui-nususui> biju p^hui nususui. (He will come)

Karbi:

- {-bom}: ālāñli lo tok-bom. (He is writing book)
 {-atol}: ne an cho' -etlo. (I have eaten rice)
 {-lo}: ne ān cho-lo. (I ate rice)
 {-zi}: ālāñlitum lādñk wāñ-zi. (they will come here)

1.6.1.1.2.2 Negative/Negation Suffix: {-a}, {-lia}, {-a-k^hui} is found as the suffix for the negative expression of the Bodo language. On the other hand, in Karbi language {-e}, {-ave} {-kali}, {-ri} is found as the suffix for the negative expression.

Bodo:

- {-a}: bu (beat) -a > bua (do not beat)
 p^hui (come)-a > p^huia (do not come)
 {-lia}: gan (wear) -lia > ganlia (do not wear)
 nai (see) -lia > nailia (do not see)
 {-a-k^hui}: gab (cry) -a- k^hui > gabak^hui (do not cry)
 k^har (run) -a- k^hui > k^harak^hui (do not run)

Karbi:

- {-e}: i (to wear) > i-e (do not wear)
 et (to accept) > ete (do not accept)
 en (make) > ene (do not make)
 {-ri}: zun (to drink) > zunri (do not drink)
 klem (to do) > klemri (do not do)
 {-ave}: ka (no; nill) - ave > kave (without)
 {-kali}: kere (wise) -kali > kere kali (not wise)

1.7 Similarities and dissimilarities:

The use of inflectional affixes of both languages has seen some similarities and dissimilarities shown, such as,

- I. In Bodo and Karbi languages have to use of inflectional affixation of prefix and suffix.
- II. In both languages the category of the original form has not changed even after the addition of affixes.
- III. Inflectional nominal and verbal derivation cannot be given by changing the basic form.

1.8 Findings: The above discussion shows that the inflectional affixes of both the Boro and Karbi languages are prefix and suffix are used in the words. The Inflectional Nominal suffixes are used of plural, gender, case marker, tense and tense marker, negative/negation suffixes. Therefore, it can be seen that the use of inflectional affixes in both languages is almost similar. #####

References:

- Arora, S.N. : Some Aspects of Linguistics Phonetics and Modern English Grammar, Student Store, Rampur Bagh, Bareilly, second edition, 2011-2012.
- Baro, Madhu Ram : *Structure of Boro Language*, Mahamaya printing works, Kokrajhar, 1990.
- Baro, Madhu Ram : *A History of Bodo Literature*, Mahamaya printing works, Kokrajhar, 2007.
- Baro, Madhu Ram : *The Historical Development of Boro Language* (revised & enlarged). N. L. Publications, Punbazar, Guwahati-1, 2007.
- Basumatary, Phukan : *Introduction to the Boro Language*, Mittal Publication, New- Delhi, India, 2005.
- Basumatary, Phukan : *Boro Raoni Mohorkhanthi*, Nilima Prakashani, Barama, Baganpara, New Edition, 2019.
- Basumatary, Phukan : *Raobigianni Phora*, Nilima Prakashani, Barama, Baganpara, 1st Edition, 2017.
- Basumatary, Phukan : *A Dialectology and Boro Dialect*, Nilima Prakashani, Barama, Baganpara, 1st Edition, 2020.
- Basumatary, Rajendra Kr. : *Rao Bigiyan Shri Bhojen Ch. Baro*, Karaibari, 1st Edition, 2002.
- Bhattacharya, P.C. : *A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language*, University publication Deptt. Gauhati University, 1st Edition, June, 1977.
- Bora, Lilabati Saikia : *Asamiya Bhasar Ruptattva*, Ananta Hazorika, Jaswanta road, panbazar, Guwahati, first edition, January 2006.
- Boruah, Dr. Bhimkanta : *Asamar Bhasa*, publish by Sri Pradyut Hazarika on behalf of Banalata, Dibrugarh and Guwahat, Assam, 1st published, 1990.
- Brahma, Pratima : *Phonology and Morphology of Bodo and Dimasa: A comparative Study*, Unpublished Ph.D. Thesis, Department of Linguistics. Assam University, Silchar, 2013.
- Brahma, Aleendra &

- Brahma Biswajit : Boro-Garo Rao Hanja, N. L Publications, Panbazar, Guwahati-781001, Assam, 2013.
- Brahma, Mihir Kumar : *The Structure of Southern Dialect of Bodo*, Unpublished Ph.D Thesis, Department of Linguistics, Assam University, Silchar, 2015.
- Chainary, Swarna Prabha : *Boro Raokhanthi*, Nilima Prakashani, Baganpara, Fourth Edition, 2012.
- Chatterji, Suniti Kumar : *Kirata-Jana-Kriti*, The Asiatic Society, 1-Park street, Kolkata 700016, Reprinted, 1998.
- Dhanaraju, Vulli & Teron Dharamsing : *Karbi History Past and Present*, Krishan Mittal for Mittal publications, Daryaganj, new delhi, 1st published, 2020.
- Endle, Rev. Sidney : *The Kacharis*, Bina library, Guwahati, Assam, 2nd Edition, 2012.
- Goswami, S.N. : *Studies in Sino-Tibetan Languages*, Ambari Gopinath Bordoloi Road, Guwahati, Nov. 1988.
- Grierson, G.A. : *Linguistic Survey of India*. Voll. III, Part. II, Motilal Banarsidas, Delhi-Varanasi, Patna, Reprinted 1967-68.
- Hanse, Khoyasing : *Karbi Lamtasam*, Anundoram Borooh Institute of Language, Arts & Culture, Assam, Rajaduar, North-Guwahati, Guwahati, 1st Published, 2020.
- Konnerth, Linda Anna : *A Descriptive Karbi Grammar*, Assam Book Hive, chancellor Commercial building, H.B. Road, panbazar, Guwahati, 1st published, 2015
- Konowar, Dr. Arpana : *Karbi: The People and The Language*, Designer Graphics H.S. Road, Dibrugarh, 1st published, March, 2003.
- Kro, Bidor Sing : *Karbi Sanskritir Anbexkan*, cultural Affairs Department, Karbi-Anglong Authonomous Council, Diphu, 1st edition, 2015.
- Lahary, Monoranjan : *History of Boro Literature*, Ansumwi Library, 1st edition, 1991.
- Lyall, Sir Charles : *The Mikirs*, united Publishers, pan bazar, Gauhati, April, 1908.
- Machahary, Premananda : *Ancient Social History of the Kirata-Bodos and other Historical Essay Collections*, IT Press, Nilbagan, Hojai, 2019.
- Narzaree, Indramalati : *Mainaw Borainai*, N.L. publication, ARB road, panbazar, Guwahati, 1st edition, 2006
- Narzary, Mintu : *An Essential English Grammar and Composition*,

- Nilima prakashani, baganpara, baksa,BTAD, new edition, 2018
- Ramaswami, N. : *Common Linguistic feature in Indian Languages: Phonetics*, CIIL, Mysore,1999.
- Terang, Rong Bong : Karbi Lamtasam, Orunodoi Prakashan, panbazar, Guwahati, revised edition, 2010.
- Teron, Longkam : Karbi Lamtasam, Soseng offset, Diphu, 1st edition, 1998.
- Thakur, Damodar : *Linguistics Simplified Morphology*, Bharati Bhawan (publisher & distributors) Thakurbari road, Kadamkuan, patna, 1st edition, 1997.

