**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. **Bodo Language**

Bodo is one of the developing Languages of the Assam state of India. Linguistically Bodo belongs to the Sino-Tibetan speech family which has the second-highest speaker persons in the world and on the anthropologically belongs to the big Mongoloid community. Bodo is also known ‘Boro’ in their mother tongue. The speaker persons of this language are concentrated mostly in the Brahmaputra valley of Assam as well as more or less in the border areas of Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh of North-East India; Northern part of West Bengal, adjoin outside country like- Bangladesh, Bhutan and the Nepal. According to Madhu Ram Boro, *Boro is the offshoot language of Tibeto-Burman sub family of the Tibeto-Chinese main speech family itself.”[[1]](#footnote-2)* As per classification of Paul K. Benidict, *“The Bodo language is the Boro-Garo section of the Tibeto-Burman group, under the Tibeto-Karen branch of the Sino-Tibetan language family.”[[2]](#footnote-3)*

Suniti Kumar Chatterjee in his book ‘Kirata Jana Krti’ (1951) clearly said that the valley of ‘Huang ho’ and ‘Yang Si Kiang’ river of the Chinese is the origin place of the Bodo. On the other hand Raj Mahon Nath said that the Bodo had come from ‘Bod’ which place is in Tibet of the Chinese. Rev. Sidney Endle said that the original homeland of Bodos were the Tibet and China. In the book ‘The kacharis’ (1911), Sidney Endle said the name of the Bodo people as a ‘kachari’. Because depending on area by area, Bodo is known with different names. By examining this word Manaranjan Lahary clearly said, *“The Bodo are getting a different name according to the country. Like The Bodo of the Moran district of Nepal is known the name of ‘Mech’ which is lived in the valley of the Mechi River. In the West-Bengal is known as Mech or Bodo. Boro (Bodo) in Assam, Dimasa in Nagaland and Tipra or Tipara in Tripura.”[[3]](#footnote-4)* It can be said that in the history of before and after the born of Jesus Christ the Bodo had also known with the different name. Like - Kirat, Danav, Asur and etc. In 1846 B. H. Hodgson firstly used the term of “Bodo’. Regarding on this Manaranjan Lahary says in his book ‘Boro Tunlaini Zarimin’ Hodgson had used the term of ‘Bodo’ to define the Bodo caste and their Langauge.

The Bodo people are very rich in their culture. Various culture of Bodo like, dress, food habit, festival, ceremony, religion, dancing and social system are helping to introduce their caste with the other people. Apart from the culture the Bodo Tribe is also developing in the area of Language and Literature.

To introduce into the world about the Bodo Language and their culture firstly the Christian Missionaries had written some grammar-based and cultural based books. After this some educated Bodo people started to write the creative literature. ‘Boro Thunlai Apad’ (Bodo Sahitya Sabha) was founded on 16th November 1952. With the work of this organization and strive of some educated Bodo people today the Language, Culture and Literature are developing.

In the year 18 May, 1963 Bodo language was recognized as a medium of instruction in the Lower Primary educational institution. Apart from this till now, Bodo Language has reached as a major subject up to the University level. In 2003 Bodo Language had been accepted as the Scheduled language of India. After the accepted as the scheduled Language of India, the Bodo Language has got to write a paper with their Language in various field of the Union Public Service Commission examination like Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and the writing of creative literature of Bodo has got for participate in various award like Sahitya Academy, Saraswati Samman and etc.

There are six Vowel phoneme and sixteen Consonant phonemes in Bodo. These are - / i, ɯ, u, e, ɔ, a / and / b, d, g, pʰ, tʰ, kʰ, s, z, h, m, n, ŋ, r, l, w, j /. The use of / ɯ / vowel phoneme is a special character of this language. Although there is no used of / ɯ / phoneme also in the Proto-Tibeto-Burman. Bodo is an agglutinating category language. In this language by adding the different class-changing derivational affixes before and after the Primary Words, a new meaningful word is formed. Depending on the Tone the same appearance words of the Bodo become different meanings. In this language the structure of the sentence is subject + object + verb.

e.g. : 1) nɯŋ ɯŋkʰam zajɯ. (You eat rice.)

S + O + V

2) biɯ saha lɯŋɯ. (He/She drinks tea.)

S + O + V

Some Dialects are also found in the Bodo language. By looking geographically it can be seen that the Bodo language is not same to almost all region. Depending on the various regions in the culture of any caste can see a little difference. In the same way, depending on the region in Bodo Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, and Semantic a few differences are being seen. By looking at those differences the dialects of Bodo can be identified. Many Researchers of the Bodo had been divided the Bodo dialect into various parts. Promad Chandra Bhattacharya has divided the Bodo Dialect into four parts. These are:

*“*1). North-West Dialect area having two forms of speech of sub-dialect, the North Kamrup and North Goalpara;

2). South-West Dialect area comprising South Goalpara, Garo Hills and a few places of South Kamrup;

3). North-Central Assam Dialect areas comprising the districts of Darrang, Lakhimpur and a few places of NEFA (Arunachal Pradesh); and

4). The Southern Assam areas covering Nogaon, North Kachar and Mikir Hills Kachar and adjacent areas.*”[[4]](#footnote-5)*

Madhu Ram Baro in his book ‘The Historical Development of Boro Language’ has also divided Bodo Dialect into four parts. These are -

1). Kokrajhar and Dhubri Districts (formerly North Goalpara), Nalbari and Barpeta Districts (formerly North Kamrup.) known as North Eastern dialect areas;

2). Goalpara (formerly south Goalpara) and south Kamrup extended up to Garo Hills of Meghalaya state, known as south western dialect areas;

3). Darrang, Sonitpur and Lakhimpur Districts extended up to Arunachal Pradesh, which is known as North Central Assam dialect areas; and

4). Nogaon, North Kachar and Karbi Anglong Districts known as Southern Assam dialect areas.

Such as the Linguists has divided the Bodo dialects in various ways. But still the divided of the Bodo dialect can’t reach up to the last decision. Within the various parts of Bodo dialect, the dialect of Kokrajhar District or Western Bodo dialect has got accepted as a standard form of language.

**1.1 Adjective**

The adjective is a kind of word that can be used before and after the nouns and pronouns. In a sentence, adjective tell something about the size, colour, number, character, quality, quantity of nouns and pronouns. According to Phukhan Chandra Basumatary, *“Generally the word ‘Adjective’ refers to the quality or characteristics, quantity and numbers of the Nouns.”[[5]](#footnote-6)* In the same ways, which introduces any size or shape, good or bad character, quality and quantity of the noun and pronoun, it is called adjectives.

**1.1.1 Parts of Adjective in Bodo**

Many Grammarians of the Bodo has divided Adjective into different parts. According to Kamal Kumar Brahma, *“Adjective is categories into three. These are -*

1. *Adjective of Noun*
2. *Adjective of Adjective*
3. *Adverb.”[[6]](#footnote-7)*

Depending on the traditional grammar Kamal Kumar Brahma has divided Adjective into these three different parts. On the other hand, emphasizing structure Promad Chandra Bhattacharya, Pukhan Chandra Basumatary and Swarna Prabha Chainary have classified Bodo adjective into two main parts. These are - Primary adjective and Derived adjective.

In the Primary adjective there is no addition of any prefix and suffix. These words have their own set of meanings. These are can be in Monosyllabic, Disyllabic and Polysyllabic structure. Many disyllabic primary adjective can be found in Bodo. But, monosyllabic primary adjective can be found in a very limited number. The examples are given below.

e.g. : 1). Monosyllabic adjective word : tʰar (truth), sraŋ (light), srem (dry), lau (liquid), un (back/last).

2). Disyllabic adjective word : gibi (elder), siri (silent), baigɔr (unstable), gɔtʰa (solid), lutʰum (fat), gaŋzeb (thin), mizi (smooth), tʰekʰla (short and little), dabla (flat), udaŋ (free), gɯrlɯi (easy), mɯzaŋ (good), gazri (bad), pʰisa (small), adra (half), kʰɯmsi (dark), sɯraŋ (light), laŋdaŋ / kʰɔŋkʰla (blank), rɯkʰa (clear), saosrɯd (duplicitous), gɯkʰrɯŋ (strong), dɔdre (little and beautiful girl), dulur (round / circle), gɯtʰaŋ (blue), gɯdan (new), sɯdrɯm (gentle), ese (little), gubun (another), gɯnaŋ (rich), gɯiji (poor), gɯmɯ (yellow), gɔŋgra / gɔŋgar (intractable), gɯba (thin), dɔdrɔ (stable), pʰisla (glib), tʰeleb (petite), mɯle (dim), gawbreŋ (dirty and careless (lady)) and etc.

3). Polysyllabic adjective word: badua (impure / dirty), hɔlɔŋga (very big), rɯisumɯi (tuneful), dakʰura (unlucky), adua (foolish), alaizabre (careless lady), gɯlɯndaŋ (powerless), zaulia (mad) and etc.

On the other hand, Derived adjective is a constructive word that is formed by adding various class-changing affixes with nouns and verbs. Most of the Derived adjectives can be seen as disyllabic and sometimes polysyllabic. The examples are given below.

e.g. : 1). Disyllabic Derived adjective word : gidir / geder (big), gisi (wet), gɯzam (old / ancient), gɯbɯu (sharp), gɯbab (salty), gɯrɯŋ (expert), gɯlau (long), gɯra (hard / rigid), gizi (torn), guruŋ (loose), gupʰuŋ (fat), guduŋ (hot), gusu (cold), guseb (narrow), gubuŋ (thick), gupʰur (white), geseŋ (thin), gesew (rotten), gezen (defeated), gaham (good), gahai (short), gikʰɔ (craven), sɯmkʰɯr (green), and etc.

2). Polysyllabic Derived adjective word: sibisula (worshipful), manisula (obedient), lubɯisula (greedy), tʰɔgaisula (liar), kʰarsula (unstable), ɔnsula (kindful (man) ), baudia (absent minded), delaimaŋkʰri (foppish girl), sɯrzilu (creative), gɯmɯtʰaw (wonderful), gɔnaitʰaw (acceptable), minitʰaw (comic), sirinai (fallen), mugɯitʰaw (hateful), mɯdannai (bright), barpʰrunai (blooming), sɔmaina (beautiful), zariminari (historical) and etc.

According to Phukan Chandra Basumatary, *“From the usage perspective, it can reflective into three categories. These are- Adjective of quality, Adjective of quantity and Adjective of Number.”[[7]](#footnote-8)* Which define the values and characteristics of the noun and pronouns, it is called Adjective of quality. As for example: mɯzaŋ (good), mawtʰi (active), etc. Besides, which adjectives define the proportion or amount of the noun and pronoun; it is called Adjective of quantity. Like: gɯbaŋ (more / much), ese (little), etc. And which Adjectives are indicates the exact number of noun and pronoun; it is called Adjective of number. Like: barnɯi (two), mabrɯi (four), etc.

**1.1.2 Comparison of Adjective in Bodo**

According to Swarna Prabha Chainary, *“Depending on the comparison Adjective can be divided into three parts in Bodo like the other languages. These are:*

1. *Positive Degree*
2. *Comparative Degree*
3. *Superlative Degree”[[8]](#footnote-9)*

In a sentence, there is no addition of affix to a Positive degree with the adjective words. Here the adjectives are directly defined the quality, quantity and number of the nouns or pronouns.

e.g. : 1). be bibara sɔmaina. (This Flower is beautiful.)

2). anarua mɯzaŋ. (Anaru is good.)

3). biɯ gɯsɯm. (He is black.)

4). biɯ gikʰɔ. (He is coward.)

5). sinia gɯdɯi. (Sugar is sweet.)

In the above examples, all adjective words are directly addressing the value of noun and pronouns.

The Comparative degree is a comparison between the two nouns. In this comparison, the two suffixes are added. These are - ‘-kʰrui, -sin’. The ‘-kʰrui’ is added with the nouns and ‘-sin’ is added with the adjectives. In Bodo, the ‘-kʰrui’ can’t added directly with the nouns. Therefore in comparison, add a case maker ‘ni’ before the ‘-kʰrui’.

e.g. : 1). bibara mɯinanikʰrui gɯzɯusin. (Bibar is higher than the mwina.)

2). mɯidera mɯsanikʰrui gedersin. (The elephant is bigger than the Tiger.)

3). binaja ruzunikʰrui sɔmainasin. (Bina is more beautiful than the Ruzu.)

Sometimes a comparative degree can make in Bodo by adding the ‘-badi’ before the nouns. There is no use of affix with the adjectives.

e.g. : 1). bini mɯkʰaŋa gaikerbadi gupʰur. (His face is white like the milk.)

2). bini megɔna marbilbadi gidir. (His eyes are big like the marble.)

A superlative degree is used to compare between the various nouns. It is used to compare one thing against the rest of a group. Superlative degree demonstrated a higher level of comparison between entities. For comparison, the group identifier word like- ‘bɔi /gasɯi’ (all) is used. Behind the group identifier word the three suffixes like- (-ni, -kʰrui, -bɯ) are added together. Apart from this the ‘-sin’ suffix is added with the adjectives.

e.g. : 1). anarua bɔinikʰruibɯ zɯsin. (Anaru is tallest of all.)

2). mɯidera gasɯibɯ zunarnikʰrui dersin. (The elephant is the biggest of all animals.)

3). daukʰaja gasibɯ daunikʰrui sɯmsin. (The crow is blacker than all birds.)

**1.1.3 Process of Adjective Word Formation in Bodo**

In Bodo, adjective can be formed with the different process. Many Linguists of the Bodo are based only on the process of affixation. But apart from this with the Process of Compounding and the Process of Reduplication, many meaningful adjective words can form in this language. By the use of Idioms many adjective words can be formed in Bodo. But in this study, it only discussed the three major processes of adjective formation of the Bodo language. These major processes are Affixation, Compounding and Reduplication.

**1.2 Area of the study**

The area of the study is based on the three major processes of Adjective word formation in Bodo. These are - Affixation, Compounding and Reduplication. In the process of Affixation, the study is focused only on the derivational prefixes and suffixes. The main emphasis of the study is based on the principle of language Typology.

* 1. **Importance of the study**

In Bodo, adjective can be formed by the different processes. However, no sufficient research has still been done on this Topic. Many researchers of the Bodo are stress only on the process of Affixation. But apart from this many meaningful adjectives can be formed by the Compounding and Reduplication. Therefore keeping in mind the call of the time the researcher thinks that it is needful to analyze the process of adjective formation in Bodo. It is also needful mentioned here that this study will also enrich the academic sphere of the society.

* 1. **Objectives of the study**

The objectives of the study are given below.

1. To highlight the three major processes of adjective words formation in Bodo. These are - Affixation, Compounding and Reduplication.
2. To find out the formation of adjectives in Bodo by the affixation process. Because many adjectives of Bodo can be formed by adding various derivational prefixes and suffixes before and behind the free or primary words.
3. To find out the formation of adjectives in Bodo by the Compounding process. Because new meaningful adjectives can be formed in Bodo by adding the two different words are together.
4. To clearly described the formation of adjectives in Bodo by the Reduplication process.
   1. **Methodology**

To clearly defined the major processes of adjective formation in Bodo the Researcher studied with the observation and analytical method from the Typology and Linguistics point of view. The data for the study has collected from both the primary and secondary sources. For the primary data the researcher has collected many adjective words from the Bodo (Boro) language speakers of Kokrajhar District by the Interview, Questionnaire and Observation.

To collect the Secondary data the researcher visited different Libraries, e-libraries and had seen many books, magazines, e-magazines, e-journals.

* 1. **Hypothesis**

To discuss the Topic some hypothesis is appointed. These hypothesises are mentioned below.

1). In Bodo, adjective can be formed by Affixation, Compounding and Reduplication.

2). By adding various derivational prefixes and suffixes with different verbs many meaningful Derived adjectives can be formed in Bodo.

3). By adding derivational suffixes behind some nouns new meaningful Derived adjective can be formed in Bodo.

4). By adding the prefix and suffix with the Bound Base a new meaningful adjective can be formed in this language. But this kind of adjective can be found in a very limited number.

5). By adding the two different words are together, a new compound adjective can be formed in Bodo.

6). The use of Reduplication of the meaningful and independent meaningless words, many meaningful adjective is formed in Bodo.

**1.7 Review of Literature**

Until now several Linguists and Researchers have been undertaken research work on the Adjective of the Bodo Language by emphasizing the theories of the traditional grammar and Linguistics. They have already discussed in different literary works regarding the adjective of Bodo. Regarding the written books of the adjective word of Bodo has given chronologically below.

To introduce the Bodo Language the Christian Missionaries has written firstly some grammar-based books. Rev. Sidney Endle is one of them. In 1884, he was published *‘An outline grammar of the Kachari (Bara) Language’.* This book is based on the Bodo Dialect of the Darrang district of Assam.

Rev. L. O. Skrefsrud was written *‘A short grammar of the Mech or Boro Language’* in 1889. In this book had written about the grammatical parts of Bodo.

In 1959, Rev. S. Holversrud was written *‘Boro Grammar’.* In this book the author described about the various word of Bodo.

Kamal Kumar Brahma was the first Bodo author who has written the first Bodo grammar in Bodo Language. His literary work began from the book *‘Gibi Raokhanthi’*. This book was published in 1963. He also wrote *‘Gwnang Raokhanthi’* and published in 1972. The books are written by focusing on the theory of traditional grammar. In these books, there are discussions on the classification of adjectives, compare of adjectives and the formation of adjectives of the Bodo Language.

Promad Chandra Bhattacharya has been made a remarkable research work on Bodo Language in the field of its Phonology, Morphology, Syntax and Vocabulary. *‘A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language’* in 1977 was the outcome of his authentic work. In this research, he has described about the adjective formation in Bodo by the affixation process.

Madhu Ram Baro wrote *‘Assamese and Boro: A comparative and Constructive study’*, published in 1990. The author has written this book focusing on the theory of Philology and Linguistics. In this book the author has comparatively analyzed the Phonology, Morphology, Syntax and Vocabulary of Bodo and Assamese. In the chapter of Morphology the author has described about the formation of adjectives and other words of both languages by the Affixation process. In 1996, he has published *‘Gwzwu Raokhanthi’.* In this book the author has described the parts of adjective and formation of adjective in Bodo.

In 2000, Phukan Chandra Basumatary published *‘Boro Raokhanthi’*. In this book the author has discussed about the formation of adjective and other words from the structural point of view. Apart from this the author published *“Boro and Rabha: Two Tibeto-Burman Language of the North-East India’* in 2014. In this book the author has comparatively studied on Phonology, Morphology and Vocabulary of both languages.

Swarna Prabha Chainary and Phukan Chandra Basumatary Published *‘Raoni Mohor’* *(Part-I)* in 2004. They have published *Raoni Mohor (Part-II)* in 2008 and *Raoni Mohor (Part-III)* in 2012. In these books the authors are described structure of the different words of the Bodo and its cognate Languages.

Swarna Prabha Chainary has written *“Boro Raokhanthi’.* This book was published in 2006. Here the author is clearly described about the Phonology, Morphology, and Syntax of the Bodo Language. In the Morphology part, the author has described parts of adjective, comparison of adjective and the formation of adjective by the Affixation process.

In 2013, Aleendra Brahma has published *‘Modern Boro Grammar (Vol-I)’.* In this book the author described the various words of Bodo and its structure.

*‘Jwuga Boro Raokhanthi’* was written by a group of editors on behalf of (Boro Thunlai Apad) Bodo Sahitya Sabha. The book was published in 2013. In this book discussed the part of adjective, structure or formation of adjective and comparison of adjective of the Bodo Language.

Daimalu Brahma has written *‘Word Formation process in Bodo: By the Affixation’*. This book was published in 2017. In this book the author analyzed base on the Morphological features and Affixation process of Word Formation of Bodo.

Sangeeta Ramchiary has written *‘Raoni Gumur’*. This book was published in 2019. In this book discussed the Phonology, Morphology and Vocabulary of Bodo.

Through the mentioned books has been studied about the traditional grammar of Bodo. But till now there is no complete study about the formation of adjectives in Bodo by the Affixation, Compounding and Reduplication. Hence this topic is selected again to discuss the adjectives formation of the Bodo Language.

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2. Benidict, P. K. (1972). *Sino-Tibetan : A Conspectus,* Cambridge University Press, p. 6 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Lahary, Manaranjan (1991). *Boro Thunlaini Zarimin,* Onsumoi Library, R.N.B. Road, Kokrajhar, B.T.A.D. Assam, p.2 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Bhattacharya, Promad Chandra (1977). *A Descriptive Analysis of The Bodo Language,* Gauhati University,p.11-12 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Basumatary, Phukan Chandra (2014). *Boro and Rabha : Two Tibeto-Burman Language of the North-East India,* LAMBERT Academic publishing, Germany, p. 54 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Brahma, Kamal Kumar (reprint-2007). *Gwnang Raokhanthi,* Panbazar, Guwahati, Assam, p. 54 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Basumatary, Phukan, Chandra (2013). *Boro Raoni Mohorkhanthi,* Nilima Prakashani, Baganpara, B.T.A.D. Assam, p. 20 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Chainary, Swarna Prabha (4th edition). *Boro Raokhanthi,* Nilima Prakashani, Baganpara,Bagsa, p. 108 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)