**CHAPTER III**

**ADJECTIVE FORMATION IN BODO BY THE COMPOUNDING**

**3.0 Compounding**

The compound is a type of word that is formed by adding the two meaningful words are together. Sometimes more than the two meaningful words are added in compound words. In the compounding, all words are except their original meaning and help to form a new meaningful word. All the original meanings of the words have a deep relation with new meanings. Many Linguists and researchers have given various definitions of the compound word. Some definitions are given below.

1. According to Aleendra Brahma, *“A linguistic compound element is a combination of at least, two already existing roots, which can otherwise; occur as free forms separately (i.e, as independent words) or bound roots (in some language).[[1]](#footnote-2)*
2. According to R. L. Vershney, *“A compound is a lexical unit in which two or more lexical morphemes (Free roots) are juxtaposed, e.g. air-craft, text-book, white-cap, slow-down, bed-side, finger-print.”[[2]](#footnote-3)*
3. According to Phukhan Chandra Basumatary, *“The compound is the addition of two or more Free Morpheme (words). After the addition will be formed a big word that can define the new meaning and new class.”[[3]](#footnote-4)*

**3.1 Compounding in Bodo**

Compounding is a productive process in the formation of new adjective and other meaningful words of Bodo. Because by adding together various free morpheme or meaningful words like- noun, verb, adjective, adverb, different new meaningful words can be formed in this language. This process can be found in a broader structure to the formation of the compound verb of Bodo.

**3.2 Parts of Compound word**

Madhu Ram Baro mentioned about this, *“Compound in Bodo are of six types as these of the Sanskrit and Assamese Language; viz; Copulative compound, Relative compound, Determinate compound, Appositional compound, Numeral compound and Indeclinable compound.”[[4]](#footnote-5)* In Bodo, the parts of the compound noun, verb, adjective and other words can be found in different structures. By observing the structure it can be said that the compound verb is more than the other words. Swarna Prabha Chainary says, *“In the Bodo Language can be seen that the compound verb can take some prefixes and suffixes like the complex verbs.”[[5]](#footnote-6)*

In the different compound words of Bodo like- nouns, adjectives, adverbs, only the two words are added together. There is no addition of more than the two meaningful words and affixes. The examples of compound noun and compound adjective are given below.

e.g. : i). Compound Noun

n. ha (land) + v. sib (to clean up) > c. n. hasib (broom )

n. dau (hen) + n. dɯi (water) > c. n. daudɯi (egg)

n. san (sun) + v. duŋ (to be hot) > c. n. sanduŋ (sunshine)

n. pʰisa + n. zɯla > c. n. pʰisazɯla (son)

n. pʰisa + n. zɯ > c.n. pʰisazɯ (dauther) etc.

ii). Compound Adjective

v. pʰɯtʰai (to be believes) + v. kʰebsɔ (break ) > c. adj. pʰɯtʰaikʰebsɔ (faithless)

n. gɯsɯ (mind) + adj. tʰɯule (shallow) > c. adj. gɯsɯtʰɯule (absent minded)

n. sɔm (time) + v. zɯbnai (ended) > c. adj. sɔmzɯbnai (expired) etc.

**3.3 Compound Adjectives and its formation in Bodo**

There are many compound adjective words in Bodo. In the compound adjective of Bodo, only the two meaningful words are added together. The compound adjective of Bodo can be found in different structures. These are

1. Verb + Adjective > Compound Adjective
2. Verb + Verb > Compound Adjective
3. Noun + Adjective > Compound Adjective
4. Adjective + Noun > Compound Adjective
5. Adjective + Adjective > Compound Adjective

The structures of the Compound adjective are discussed below with suitable examples.

* 1. **1 Verb + Adjective > Compound Adjective**

In Bodo, by adding a meaningful adjective behind the verb some compound adjectives can be formed. Here, simple and complex both the verbs are added before the adjectives. The examples are given below.

e.g. : i.) v. pʰɯi (come) + adj. gɯdan > c.adj. pʰɯigɯdan (newcomer)

ii.) v. mini (laugh ) + adj. sɯraŋ/sraŋ > c. adj. minisɯraŋ/minisraŋ (happy/enjoyable)

iii.) v. za (to be) + adj. gɯdan > c.adj. zagɯdan (recent)

iv.) v. lazi (to be shy) + adj. gɯiɯi/rɯŋɯi > c.adj. lazigɯiɯi/lazirɯŋɯi (frontless)

v.) v. sɔŋ (to cook ) + adj. gɯdan > c. adj. sɔŋgɯdan/sɔŋdan (new cooked )

vi.) v. gi (to be afraid ) + adj. rɯŋɯi > c. adj. girɯŋɯi (brave/intrepid)

vii.) v. tʰɯi (be die ) + adj. rɯŋɯi > c. adj. tʰɯirɯŋɯi (immortal)

viii.) v. sibi (be worship ) + adj. rɯŋɯi > c. adj. sibirɯŋɯi (disobedient)

ix.) v. pʰɯtʰai (be trust ) + adj. rɯŋɯi > c. adj. pʰɯtʰairɯŋɯi (faithless)

x.) v. hɔmtʰa ( ) + adj. haɯi > c. adj. hɔmtahaɯi (Irrepressible)

xi.) v. delai ( ) + adj. rɯŋɯi > c. adj. delairɯŋɯi (simple)

xii.) v. gɯ (to be holy) + adj. tʰar (truth) > c. adj. gɯtʰar (holy / truth)

In the above examples have seen that the adding negative meaning identifier adjectives like ‘rɯŋɯi’, ‘haɯi’, many meaningful compound adjectives are formed. All compound adjectives are in polysyllabic structure.

**3.3.2 Verb + Verb > Compound Adjective**

There is a kind of compound adjective in Bodo which is formed by adding the two verbs are together. But this kind of compound adjective can be found in a very limited number. The examples are given below.

e.g. : i.) v. pʰɯtʰai (to be believe) + v. kʰebsɔ (break ) > c. adj. pʰɯtʰaikʰebsɔ (faithless)

ii.) v. nai (to see) + v. gɯmɯ (be amazed ) > c. adj. naigɯmɯ (slow-witted )

iii). v. su (be cold) + v. hab (enter ) > c. adj. suhab (frigid)

In the above examples have seen that all the compound adjectives are in Disyllabic and Polysyllabic structure.

**3.3.3 Noun + Adjective > Compound Adjective**

In Bodo, by adding the different meaningful adjectives after the primary nouns many new compound adjectives can be formed. Here primary and derived both adjectives are added with the verbs. The examples are given below.

e.g. : i). n. gɯhɯ (power) + adj. gɯra (strong) > c.adj. gɯhɯgɯra (brave / powerful)

ii). n. gɯhɯ (power) + adj. gɯlɯndaŋ (weak ) > c.adj. gɯhɯgɯlɯndaŋ (powerless)

iii). n. gɯsɯ (mind) + adj. guduŋ (hot ) > c. adj. gɯsɯguduŋ (zealous)

iv). n.sɯlɯ (wit) + adj. gɯiwi (less) > c.adj sɯlwgɯiɯi (witless / stupid)

v). n.sɯlɯ (wit) + adj. gɯnaŋ > c.adj. sɯlɯgɯnaŋ (clever / witty)

vi). n. ziu (life) + adj. gɯlau (long) > c.adj. ziugɯlaw (longlasting / lifelong)

vii). n. ziu (life) + adj. gusuŋ (short) > c. adj. ziugusuŋ (short-lived / ephemeral)

viii). n. akʰu (character) + adj. gɯiɯi (less) > c.adj. akʰugɯiɯi (characterless)

ix). n. akʰu (character) + adj. gɯnaŋ > c. adj. akʰugɯnaŋ (civilized)

x). n. gɯsɯ (mind) + adj. gɯnaŋ > c. adj. gɯsɯgɯnaŋ (interested)

xi). n. gɯsɯ (mind) + adj. gɯiɯi (less ) > c.adj. gɯsɯgɯiɯi (uninterested)

xii). n. sɔm (time) + adj. zɯbnai (ended) > c.adj. sɔmzɯbnai (expired)

xii). n. megɔn (eye) + adj. gidir (big) > c.adj. megɔngidir (insatiable ) etc.

After the use in a sentence, all compound adjectives can define the meaning of adjectives certainly. Some examples are given below.

e.g. : 1). sɯlɯgɯnaŋ hɯuasa. (Clever boy.)

2). gɯsɯgɯnaŋ pʰɔraisa. (Interested student)

3). gɯhɯgɯra mansi. (Brave / Powerful person.)

4). sɔmzɯbnai besad. (Expired things.)

5). gɯsɯgɯiɯi pʰɔraisa. (Uninterested student.)

6). gɯsɯguduŋ mansi. (Zealous man.)

**3.3.4 Adjective + Noun > Compound Adjective**

By adding the adjectives after the nouns some compound adjectives can be formed in Bodo. But this kind of compound adjective is not available in this language. It can be found in a very limited number. The examples are given below.

e.g. : i). adj. mɯzaŋ (good) + n. gɯsɯ (mind) > c.adj. mɯzaŋgɯsɯ (good mind)

ii). adj. gɯrlɯi (soft) + n. gɯsɯ (mind) > c. adj. gɯrlɯigɯsɯ (soft mind)

iii). adj.udaŋ (free) + n. gɯsɯ (mind) > c. adj. udaŋgɯsɯ (free mind)

iv). adj. gazri (bad) + n. gɯsɯ (mind) > c. adj. gazrigɯsɯ (bad mind)

After the use in a sentence, these compound adjectives can define the meaning of adjectives certainly. The examples are given below.

e.g. : i). mɯzaŋgɯsɯni mansi. (person of good mind .)

ii). gɯrlɯigɯsɯni mansi. (person of soft mind .)

iii). udaŋgɯsɯni mansi. (person of free mind.)

iv). gazrigɯsɯni mansi. (person of bad mind .)

In the above examples have seen a new meaningful adjective formed by combining both an adjective and a noun.

**3.3.5 Adjective + Adjective > Compound Adjective**

There is a kind of compound adjective in Bodo which is formed by adding the two different meaningful adjectives are together. This kind of compound adjectives can be found in a very limited number.

e.g. : adj. dukʰu + adj. gɯnaŋ > c. adj. dukʰugɯnaŋ (tragic)

adj. dukʰu + adj. gɯiɯi > c.adj. dukʰugɯiɯi (fortunate)

adj. gɯzɯn + adj. gɯnaŋ > c. adj. gɯzɯngɯnaŋ (happy )

adj. meŋnai + adj. gɯnaŋ > c. adj. meŋnaigɯnaŋ (tired )

adj. gɯzɯn + adj. gɯiɯi > c.adj. gɯzɯngɯiɯi (unhappy)

After the use in a sentence, these compound adjectives can define the meaning of adjectives certainly. The example is given below.

e.g. : 1). gɯzɯn gɯnaŋ ziu. (Happy life.)

2). gɯzɯn gɯiɯi ziu. (Unhppy life.)

3). dukʰu gɯnaŋ sɔlɔ. (Tragic story.)

4). meŋnai gɯnaŋ mansi. (Tired person.)

**3.4 Hybrid Adjective word of Bodo**

Hybrid is also a kind of word that is formed by the compounding process. There is the use of hybrid words in every language. Which words are formed by adding the two meaningful words of the two different Languages, it is called hybrid word. The use of the hybrid words can see more between the bilingual and multilingual persons.

Sometimes hybrid compounding can be seen between the meaningful words of a language and the affix or any grammatical parts of another language. This kind of the hybrid words can’t change the classes of the meaningful words. But can change the grammatical structure of the meaningful words. The examples are given below.

e.g. : zebra + -pʰɯr > zebrapʰɯr (Zebras)

glass + -pʰɯr > glasspʰɯr (Glasses)

zutʰa + -pʰɯr > zutʰapʰɯr (Shoes)

mobile + -pʰɯr > mobilepʰɯr (Mobiles)

pencil + -pʰɯr > pencilpʰɯr etc.

In the above examples, the plural form suffix of Bodo has been added behind the meaningful nouns of other languages. After the addition, the number of the nouns changed singular to plural form. It can be called a compound of meaningful words and affix. This kind of compound words can be seen in loan words of every language. Because in every language can see to communicate with each other by using the grammatical units of their language with different loan words.

The use of the hybrid compound can be seen in the noun, verb, adjective and other words of Bodo. In the hybrid compound of these words, only a meaningful word of other language is added with an origin word of Bodo. After adding with two words a new meaningful word is formed.

e.g. : 1). n. mas (fish) + v. laŋkʰar > h. n. maslaŋkʰar (A kind of Bird )

2). n. matʰi (land) + adj. galdab > h.n. maʰtiguldab (A kind of Vegetable )

In the first example, a new meaningful noun is formed by adding a noun of another language before the verb of Bodo, and in the second, a new meaningful noun is formed by adding a noun of another language before the adjective word of Bodo.

One can also see the use of some hybrid adjective words in Bodo. These are formed by adding a word of another language before the meaningful adjectives of Bodo. The examples are given below.

i). n. sahɔs (courage) + gɯra > h. adj. sahɔsgɯa (brave)

ii). n. gijan (knowledge) + gɯnaŋ > h. adj. gijangɯnaŋ (civilised)

iii). n. bhaigɔ (forehead) + gɯnaŋ > h. adj. bhaigɔgɯnaŋ (lucky)

iv). n. bhaigɔ (forehead) + gɯiɯi > h. adj. bhaigɔgɯiɯi (unlucky)

v). n.gijan (knowledge) + gɯiɯi > h. adj. gijangɯiɯi (uncivilized)

vi). n. sahɔs (courage) + gɯiɯi > h. adj. sahɔgɯiɯi (coward) etc.

**3.5 Idiomatic Adjective word in Bodo**

There is the use of idiomatic adjective in both the written and oral form of the Bodo language. Idiomatic words are also formed in Bodo by the compounding process. Because an idiomatic word is formed by combining two different words of different classes are together. But idiomatic words are not explained directly the external meaning of the words. These are explained indirectly the internal or deeper meaning of the words.

The Bodo have some idiomatic words that can explain the meaning of the adjectives. These are formed by the compounding process. Therefore, these are can be called idiomatic adjectives of Bodo. Idiomatic adjective words of Bodo can be seen into three structural parts. These are:

i). Noun + Adjective > Idiomatic Adjective

ii). Noun + Noun > Idiomatic Adjective

iii). Adjective + Noun > Idiomatic Adjective

These are described below with suitable example.

**3.5.1 Noun + Adjective > Idiomatic Adjective**

In Bodo, Idiomatic words can be formed by adding a noun before an adjective that can clearly explain the meaning of an adjective in a sentence. The examples are given below.

e.g. : i). n. bikʰa (hearth) + adj. guar (broad) > bikʰaguar (kindful / compassionate)

example: biɯ sase bikʰaguar mansi. (He is a compassionate person.)

ii). n. akʰai (hand) + adj. guar (broad) > akʰaiguar (prodigal)

example: akʰai guar mansia ziuao dauganɯ haja.(The prodigal person can’t develop in life.)

iii). n. daubɔ (bird) + adj. gɯran (thin) > daubɔgɯran (thin)

example: daubɔgɯran atʰiŋ. ( small and thin leg.)

In the above examples, all idiomatic words are explaining the internal meaning of the adjective indirectly.

**3.5.2 Noun + Noun > Idiomatic Adjective**

By adding together the two nouns some idiomatic words can be formed in Bodo that can define the meaning of the adjective.

e.g. : i). n. mɯkʰra (monkey) + n. asi (finger) > mɯkʰra asi (unstable)

example: biɯ sase mɯkʰra asi mansi. (He is an unstable person.)

ii). n. ɔntʰai (stone) + n. bikʰa (hearth) > ɔntʰai bikʰa (kind less)

example: ɔntʰai bikʰa aizɯ. (kind less woman.)

iii). n. ɔŋkʰa ( ) + n. bikʰlɯ ( ) > ɔŋkʰa bikʰlɯ (coward)

example: ɔŋkʰabikʰlɯ aizɯ. (Coward woman.)

In the above examples, all idiomatic words are explaining the internal meaning of the adjective indirectly.

**3.5.3 Adjective + Noun > Idiomatic Adjective**

By adding the noun after the adjective, a few idiomatic adjective can be formed in Bodo. The example is given below.

e.g. : i). adj. gɯtʰaŋ + n. gɯsɯ > gɯtʰaŋ gɯsɯ (Non-interested (mind))

ii). adj. gɯtʰaŋ + n. haba > gɯtʰaŋ haba (Bad-work)

**3.6 Findings**

With the above discussion it can be clear that there is the use of compound adjectives in Bodo. But, compound adjectives are not available in Bodo. It can be found in a limited number. In the formation of compound adjectives, only the two meaningful words are added. These words are: simple and complex verbs, primary nouns and primary and derived adjectives.

Some hybrid adjectives are also used in Bodo. These words are formed by adding together a word from other language with a word of Bodo. Apart from this, there is the use of many idiomatic words in Bodo which can define the meaning of adjectives. These are can be called idiomatic adjective words of Bodo. From the structural point of view it can be seen that all idiomatic adjectives have formed by the compounding process. In this process some important points are reflected. These are:

i). In the formation of compound adjectives of Bodo, only the two different meaningful words are added together.

ii). By adding an adjective with the simple and complex verbs, new meaningful compound adjectives are formed.

iii). By adding together the two simple and complex verbs, new meaningful compound adjectives are formed.

iv). By adding the noun after the simple and complex verbs, a new compound adjectives are formed in Bodo.

v). All compound adjectives of Bodo are in polysyllabic structure.

vi). Hybrid adjective words of Bodo also formed by the compounding process.

vii). By adding the nouns with the primary adjectives new adjectives are formed.

viii). All compound adjectives of Bodo can address the quality and character of the noun or pronouns.

1. Brahma, Aleendra (2012). Modern Boro Grammar, N.L. Publication, p. 164 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Varshney, Radhey, L. (Reprint 2013-14). *An Introductory Textbook of Linguistics & Phonetics,* Rampur,Bagh,Bareilly, p. 138 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Basumatary, Phukan (2017). *Rao Bigianni Phora,* Nilima Prakashani, Barama::Baganpara, Bagsa, p. 79 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Baro, Madhuram (1996). *Gwjwo Raokhanthi,* Hajo, Kamrup, Priyadini Brahma, p. 110 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Chainary, Swarna Prabha (4th edition). *Boro Raokhanthi,* Nilima Prakashani, Baganpara,Bagsa, p. 91 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)