

## CHAPTER-1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Origin of the Bodo Language:

Bodo language is derived from the Sino-Tibetan language family under the branch of Tibeto-Burman group. Among Tibeto-Burman group, Bodo-Garo group is one of the most prominent group to influence the Bodo language. The language which is speaks naturally by the Bodo peoples is Bodo language. Bodo language is one of the most developing languages of the Sino-Tibetan language family. Sino-Tibetan language is the second largest language of the world. Different types of languages of the Bodo-Garo group are mainly Bodo, Garo, Rabha, Dimasa, Tiwa, Hajong, Kokborok, Rajbongshi, Wanang and Deori. Among these, Bodo language is most populated and developing language. According to Aleendra Brahma “ *Bodo language is a language of North East Indian’s Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura as well as North Bengal, Bihar and Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan areas which is spoken by Bodo-Kachari or Mech-Kachari group of people belonging to the Tibeto-Burman Language family.*”<sup>1</sup>

From an ancient time, the domain of Bodo speakers is located in the valley of South and North of Brahmaputra River. They have been known with different names in the different era like Mech tribe in North Bengal, Meche Tribe in Nepal, Bodo Tribe in the valley of Brahmaputra River, Kachari in North Cachar, Dimasa etc. In this regard Sir Edward Gait explained in his book ‘*A history of Assam.*’ According to him “*They are identical with the people called Mech in Gaolpara and North Bengal..... In the Brahmaputra valley the Kacharis called themselves Bodo Fisa (Son of the Bodo). In the North Cachar Hill they call themselves Dimasha....*”<sup>2</sup>

Bodos are the first settler of Assam. H.K. Barpujari in his ‘*The Comprehensive History Book of Aman (Volume-II)*’ book explained that “ *The Kacharis, who*

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1 Brahma Aleendra, *Rao Arw Boro Raokanthi*, MRB Publishers, Guwahati, 2014, p.48

2 Muchahary, Rujab, *Baidi Bithing Baidi Saoraitai*, 2016, p.1

*belong to the great bodo race were perhaps one of the earliest aboriginal tribe of Brahmaputra valley.*"<sup>3</sup> J.D Anderson has also mentioned about Bodo peoples and stated that " *The river names of the whole Brahmaputra valley are Bodo names and it is demonstrable that the bodos were the aborigines of the valley. In the great man of hills, an outlying spur of the mountains of upper Burma, which divide the Brahmaputra valley from that of the river surma which runs parallel to it from east to west are two or more Bodo groups.*"<sup>4</sup>

Bodo community is the first residents in the North-East region of India. They have their own unique script, culture, religion, and consuetude. According to the sources of different records human race are divided into four groups. These groups are Austric, Aaryan, Mongoloid, and Dravidian. Austric group was the first group to settle in Assam and later Mongoloid came to Assam. G.A. Grierson explained about Bodo language in his 'Linguistic Survey of India' as follows: " *The original home of Tibeto-Burman speakers group was the North-West China of Huang-Ho and Yangtze Kiang valley.*"<sup>5</sup> According to Baben Narzary " *During 2000 B.C., the Mongolian group were wandering around in the regions of Siberia and Mongolia. As the time passes, they split among themselves into three different directions. One group has moved toward South of China and and another group settled in the valley of Huang-Ho and the remaining group settled in the Tibetan plateau of South-East China. These are the places where they build their domain. According to Suniti Kumar Chatterji " The origin of Sino-Tibetan language group are the North-West middle of Huang-Ho and Yagntze-Kiang river.*"<sup>6</sup>

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3 Muchahary,Rujab:*Baidi Bithing Baidi Saoraitai*,2016,p.1

4 Muchahary,Rujab:*Baidi Bithing Baidi Saoraitai*,2016,p.1

5 Brahma, Aleendra: *Rao Aro Bodo Raokhanthi*, 2014, p.47

6 Chatterji,Suniti Kumar,*Kirata-Jana-kriti*,p.21

Many linguists have classified Sino-Tibetan language family into various sub-families. Some of the classification are stated as below:

i) Classification by James A Matisoff

James A Matisoff has classified Sino-Tibetan language family mainly into two language groups. These are Tibeto-Burman and Siamese Chinese. He place Bodo language under Tibeto-Burman sub family.

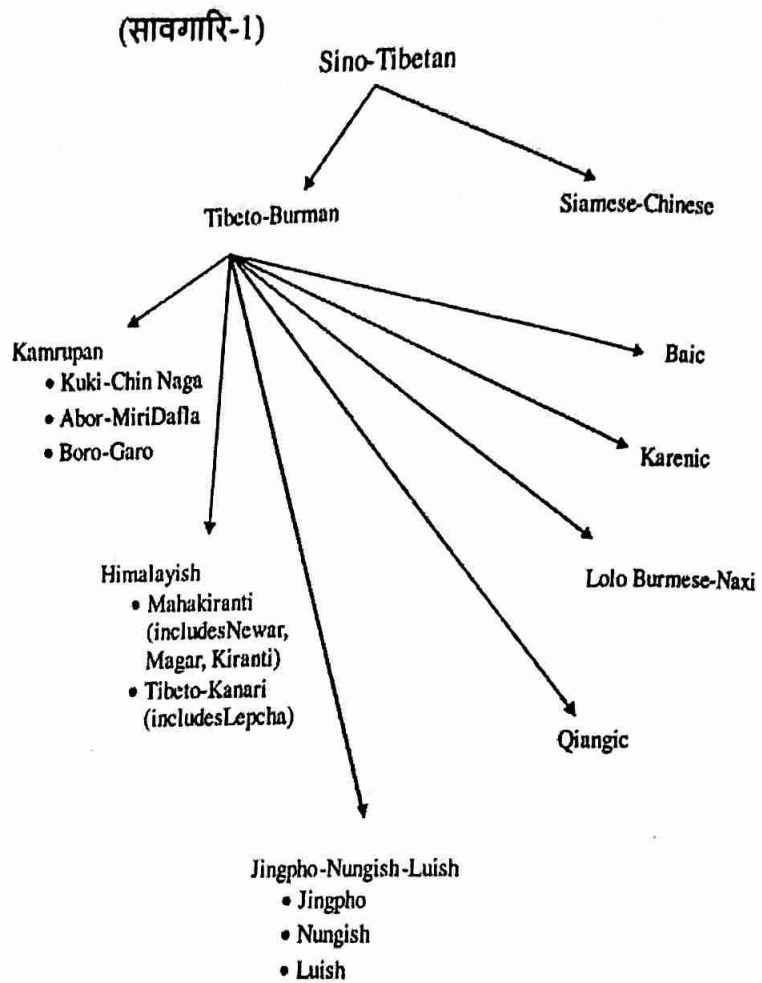


Figure: 1.1

(Extracted from Baidi Bithing Baidi Saoraitai, p.12)

## ii) Classification by Paul k. Benedict

Classification of Sino-Tibetan language family by Paul K. Benedict is given below:

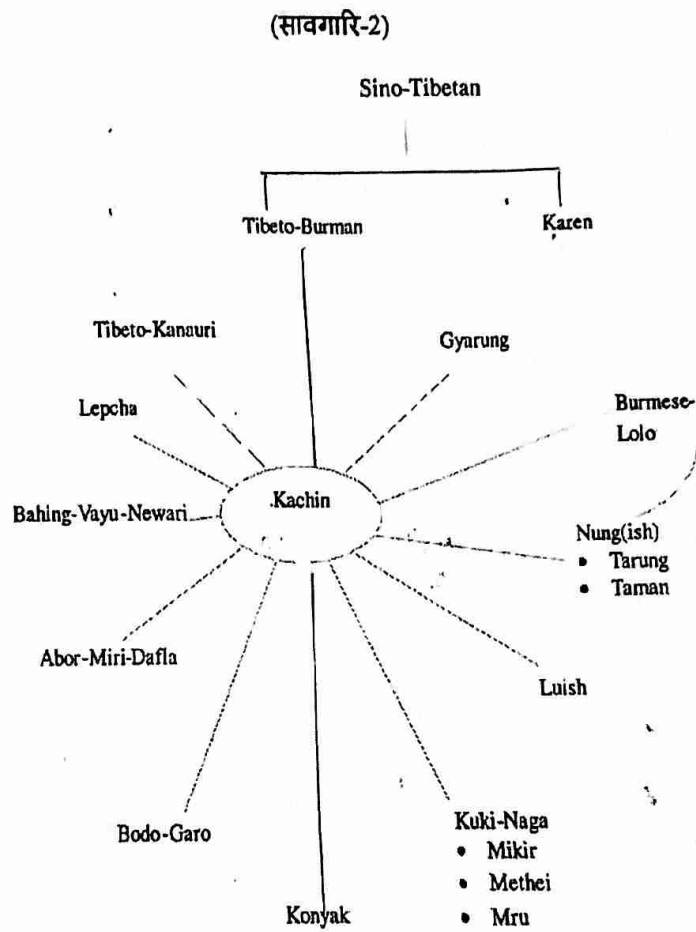


Figure 1.2

(Extracted from 'Baidi Bithing Baidi Saoraitai', p.13)

iii) Classification by Bradley

Classification of Sino-Tibetan language family by Bradley is given below:

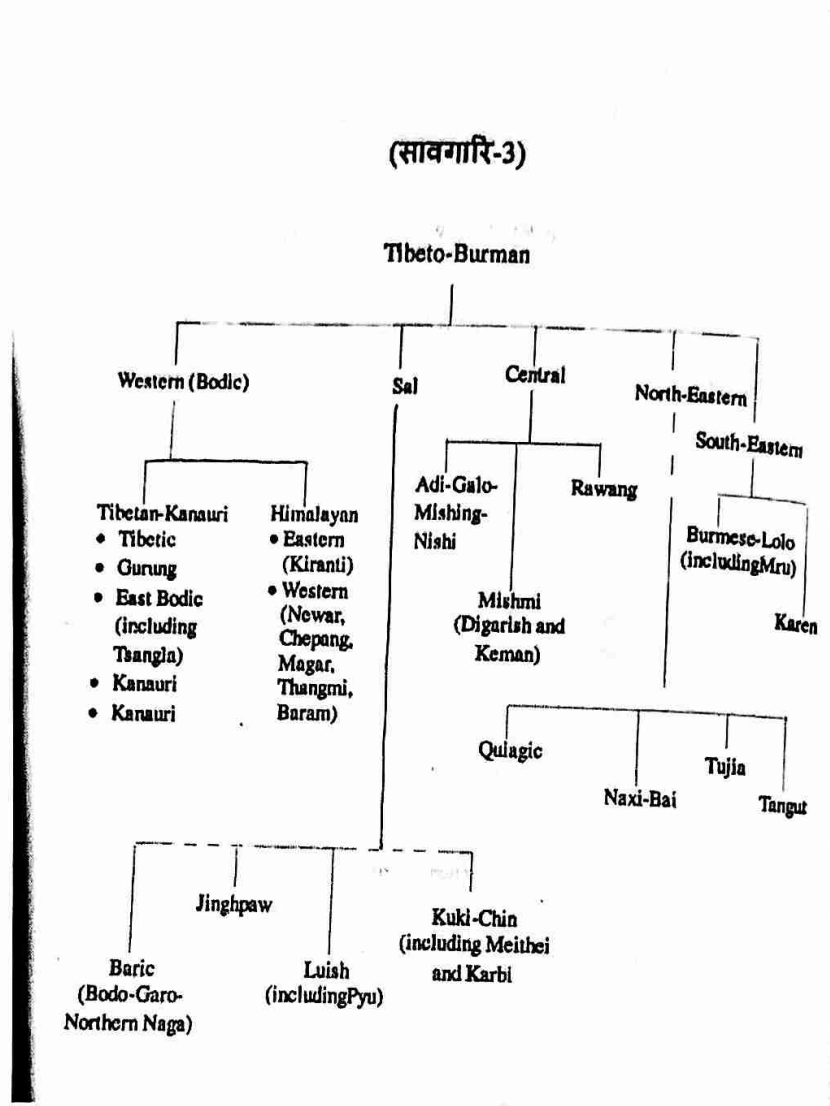


Figure 1.3

(Extracted from 'Baidi Bithing Baidi Saoraitai', p14)

## iv) Classification by Robert Shafer

Classification of Sino Tibetan language by Robert Shafer is given below:

(सावगारि-4)

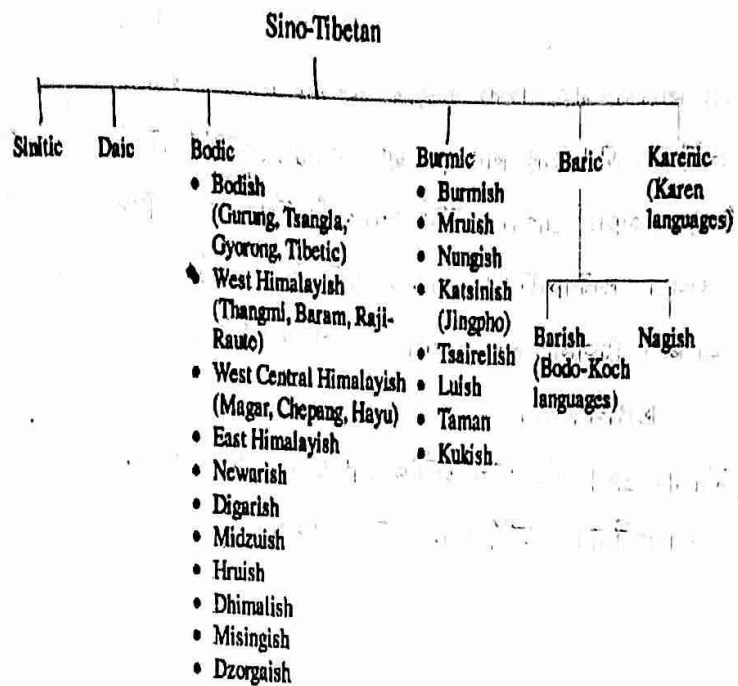


Figure 1.4

(Extracted from Baidi Bithing Baidi Saoraitai, p. 15)



v) Classification by Suniti K. Chatterji

Classification of Sino-Tibetan language family by Suniti K. Chatterji is given below:

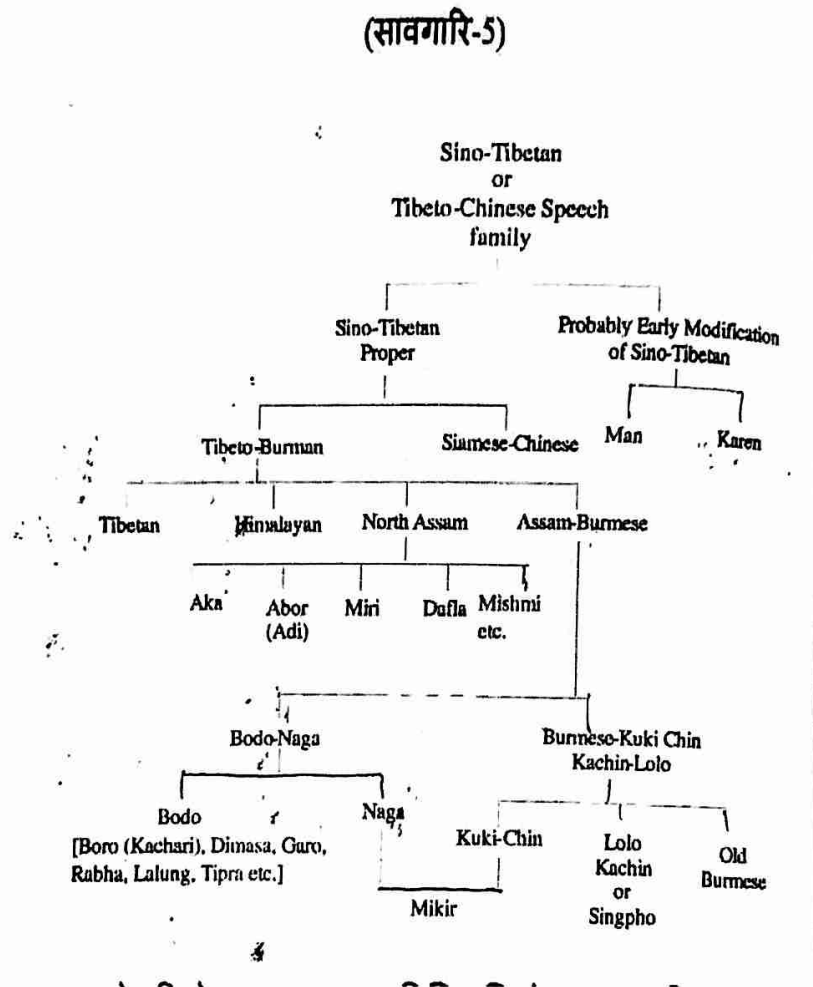


Figure 1.5

(Extracted from Baidi bithing Baidi Saoraitai, p. 16)

## 1.2 Present status of Bodo language:

The evolution of Bodo language is started from 1952 after the foundation of Bodo Sahitya Sabha. The status of Bodo language is as follows:

- a) The Bodo language was introduced as a medium of instruction in the primary level on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1963.
- b) As per the order no. EMI-167/166/ pt-2 dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1968, Bodo language was introduced as a medium of instruction in lower secondary level.
- c) First HSLC exam was conducted in Bodo Language in 1976.
- d) As per order No. GU/VC/COM/17/77/1433/ Dated 26 May 1977, Bodo language was introduced as an MIL in the PU level in Assam under Gauhati University vide Circular no.4.
- e) As per the order No. CDC/C.56/80-81/246-249 Dated 24<sup>th</sup> July 1981 Bodo language was introduced as an MIL in the colleges of Shillong affiliated to NEHU.
- f) On 25<sup>th</sup> January 1980, Bodo language was introduced as a medium of instruction MIL in the degree colleges affiliate to Guwahati University.
- g) On 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1994, Bodo language was introduced as an MIL in the degree colleges affiliate to Dibrugarh University.
- h) As per the order No. M/AC/sp/1/97/5182-13 dated 25<sup>th</sup> November 1997, Bodo language was introduced as a Master Degree course and a separate department at Gauhati University.
- i) As per order no. M/AR/99/66 dated 31<sup>st</sup> July 1999 Bodo language was introduced as elective subject under G.U and as per order no. DU/DR-A/6-11/03/374 dated 4<sup>th</sup> August Bodo language was introduced as a elective subject under Dibrugarh University and in Assam University Silchar in 2011.
- j) As per order no. M/AR/2006/55 dated 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2006 Bodo language was introduced as major course under Gauhati University and under Dibrugarh University in 2011.



- k) As per order no. AHSEC/ACA/CS/11/96/184664-185564 dated 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2006 Bodo language was introduced as Advance subject in class xi and xii under Assam Higher Secondary Education Council, Guwahati.
- l) Bodo language was introduced as a certificate course under G.U in 1980
- m) Bodo subject was introduced in SLET examination under G.U in 2003
- n) Bodo Subject was introduced in NET examination under G.U in 2011
- o) The first Award of Sahitya Akademi was given for Bodo language from 2005.
- p) Bodo language was included in 8<sup>th</sup> schedule of the Indian constitution on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2003.

### **1.3 Characteristics of Bodo language:**

Each and every language has own characteristics. The technique through which human being expresses their thoughts and feelings to others is a language. Every communities of the world have own different languages. As for example, Bodo language, Rabha language, Garo language, Assamese language, Dimasa language, Hindi language, English language etc. All these languages have own unique characteristics. The hidden face or inside face of a people is known by their characteristics, likewise the inside linguistic forms of a language are also known by its characteristics. Especially characteristics are living habits, working habits etc of a people. Language has also same characteristics through which different forms of a language like phonemes, morphology, words etc are identified. Some of the main characteristics of Bodo language are as follows:

#### **i) Characteristics of Bodo phonology:**

Each and every language has own unique characteristics in phonology. Phone and phonemes are the smallest part of the language. Bodo language has also own characteristics in Phonology. These are:

- a) Phonemes: Bodo language has 22 phonemes. Among them 16 phonemes, i.e /p<sup>h</sup>, b, t<sup>h</sup>, d, k<sup>h</sup>, g, m, n, ŋ, s, z, r, l, h, w, j/ are consonant phonemes and 6 phonemes /i, u, e, ə, a/ are vowel phonemes.
- b) Classification of vowel phonemes: Vowel phonemes of the Bodo language are classified into three parts. According to the **height of the tongue**, high, mid and low, **part of the tongue** as front, central, back and as **position of the lips** rounded, unrounded. Example : /i/ unrounded, /u/ unrounded, /u/ rounded, /e/ unrounded, /ə/ rounded, /a/ unrounded. As per the height of the tongue and part of the tongue the vowel phonemes of the Bodo language are as follows:

	front	central	Back
high	/i/		/u/      /u/
Mid	/e/		/ə/
low		/a/	

Extracted from Boro Raokhanthi, p.22

- c) Uses of vowel phonemes: All the 6 vowel phonemes of the Bodo language are voiced and make use of three positions of basic words, i.e initial, medial and final position of a word. Uses of vowel phonemes are given below with some examples:

Phoneme	initial	medial	final
/i/	indi	bisi	gisi
/u/	uŋk <sup>h</sup> ri	guusum	buuk <sup>h</sup> u
/u/	undu	k <sup>h</sup> uga	bu
/e/	ensuə	geŋ	p <sup>h</sup> e

/ɔ/	ɔn	k <sup>h</sup> ɔn	nɔ
/a/	ap <sup>h</sup> a	k <sup>h</sup> ar	k <sup>h</sup> a

- d) Uses of /w/ vowel phoneme: Among 6 vowel phonemes of Bodo language, use of /w/ vowel phoneme is a unique characteristic of Bodo language.
- e) Classification of consonant phonemes: Like vowel phonemes, consonant phonemes of Bodo language are classified according to their articulation. These are place of articulation, manner of articulation, voice, voiceless etc. In the part of place of articulation consonant phonemes has been classified as bilabial, alveolar, palatal, velar, glottal. In manner of articulation consonant phonemes has been classified as stops, fricative, nasal, trill, lateral, semi-vowel.

	Bilabial		Alveolar		palatal		velar		glottal	
	v.l	v.	vl	v	vl	v	vl	v	vl	v
Stop		b		d				g		
	p <sup>h</sup>		t <sup>h</sup>				k <sup>h</sup>			
Fricative			s	z					h	
Nasal		m		n				ŋ		
Trill				r						
Lateral				l						
Semi Vowel		w				j				

- f) Uses of consonant phonemes in words: Among 16<sup>th</sup> phonemes 6 phonemes /p, l, k, g, s, h/ are not used in Bodo language in final position of the basic words. 3 phonemes /ŋ, w, j/ are also not used in initial position of the basic words in Bodo language. But remaining 7 phonemes /b, m, t, z, n, r, d/ are used in all initial, medial and final position of basic words of the Bodo language. For example :

Consonant phonemes	Initial	Medial	Final
p <sup>h</sup>	p <sup>h</sup> i	gip <sup>h</sup> a	
b	bip <sup>h</sup> a	zabaj	zab
t <sup>h</sup>	t <sup>h</sup> aŋk <sup>h</sup> i	gut <sup>h</sup> ar	
d	dam	k <sup>h</sup> ada	abad
k <sup>h</sup>	k <sup>h</sup> a	ak <sup>h</sup> ai	
g	got <sup>h</sup> ɔ	sagan	zug
m	mai	bima	duunt <sup>h</sup> um
n	na	ɔnla	k <sup>h</sup> ɔn
ŋ		uŋt <sup>h</sup> i	taŋ
s	san	besɔr	
z	za	p <sup>h</sup> uza	arɔz
h	ha	daha	
r	raŋ	burai	p <sup>h</sup> ut <sup>h</sup> ar
l	laŋ	salai	naŋuul
w		suwa	
j		suija	

- g) **Monosyllabic:** Mono syllabic is one of the special characteristics of Bodo language. In Bodo language without agglutinating any affixes, mono syllabic can make a meaningful word. example :

ha, bar, dui, no, daw, or etc.

Moreover, the vowel phonemes of the Bodo language itself can express a meaningful word which is called pure vowel. example : /ɔ/, /e/ etc.

Through this vowel phoneme often one can understand or express one's views or communicate to someone. This is an unique characteristics of Bodo language.

- h) **Tone:** The uses of tones are also one of the characteristics of Bodo language. There are two types of tones in Bodo language. These are high tone and low tone. As per the use of the the tone in words, the meaning of the same words are changed in Bodo language. example:

Word	Meaning
k <sup>h</sup> a <sup>1</sup> (high tone)	to pluck
k <sup>h</sup> a <sup>2</sup> (low tone)	to bind
ha <sup>1</sup> (high tone)	soil/to be able
ha <sup>2</sup> (low tone)	to cut
za <sup>1</sup> (high tone)	to eat
za <sup>2</sup> (low tone)	to be

## ii) **Characteristics of Bodo Morphology**

- a) **Agglutinating:** Agglutinating is also one of the special characteristics of Bodo language. In Bodo language two or more independent words or bound morphemes are combined to make a word. Example:

megɔn + dui = mudui

megɔn + k<sup>h</sup>i = muik<sup>h</sup>i

ha + sib = hasib

bi+ bar= bibar

- b) Opposite meaning of the verb: There are some rules to make a opposite meaning of a verb in Bodo language. To make opposite meaning of a verb there are some prefixes and suffixes in Bodo language. These are- (da-), (u-) and (-a). Example:

Da-+ za= daza(don't eat)

(v)

Da- + t<sup>h</sup>añ= dat<sup>h</sup>añ (don't go)

(v)

u- + hu= uhū (no)

(v)

t<sup>h</sup>añ + -a = t<sup>h</sup>aña (will not go)

(v)

Maw + -a= mawa (will not do) etc.

(v)

- c) Uses of numerical word: There are only ten basic numbers from one to ten for counting in Bodo language. These are:

Numbers	Bodo numbers
1	se
2	nui
3	t <sup>h</sup> am
4	brui
5	ba
6	do
7	Sini
8	daen

9	gu
10	zi

- d) **Uses of numerical classifier:** It is also one of the special characteristics of Bodo language. There are various uses of numerical classifiers in Bodo language. These are mainly uses before the numerical words in Bodo language. Moreover sometimes numerical classifiers are use in Bodo language before or after the noun words.

example :

Sa + se = sase (in case of human being)

ma + se = mase (in case of animals)

p<sup>h</sup>añ + se = p<sup>h</sup>añse (in case of trees)

bar + se = barse (in case of flower)

t<sup>h</sup>ɔ + se = t<sup>h</sup>ɔse (in case of bamboo) etc.

- e) **Agglutinating of independent word for plural form:** To make plural form of a noun different independent words are combined before and after of the noun words in Bodo language. example :

muisu + p<sup>h</sup>alw = muisu p<sup>h</sup>alw

(n)

Daw + p<sup>h</sup>alw = daw p<sup>h</sup>alw. etc

(n)

- f) **Uses of noun words to make plural form:** Using a noun words more than once form a word from singular to plural number in Bodo language. example: nɔ nɔ, gami gami, bari bari etc.



- g) Uses of adverbs: Uses of last syllable of a adverb more than one time makes the meaning of the adverb more effective in Bodo language.

example :

guza +za = guzaza.

gusum + sum = gusum sum

gut<sup>h</sup>aj + t<sup>h</sup>aj= gut<sup>h</sup>aj t<sup>h</sup>aj etc.

- h) Gender change : There are three formula to change the gender from male to female in Bodo language. These are:

**Through the use of independent word**

Male	Female
ada	bazui
gumui	abo
adui	madui
huɔja	hinzaw. etc

**Through the use of male female words before and after noun words.**

(In case of human being)

Male	Female
p <sup>h</sup> isa zu	p <sup>h</sup> isa zuɔ
huɔja mansi	hinzaw mansi. etc

(In case of animals)

Male	Female
suima baŋgra	suima baŋgri
musuɔ dambra	musuɔ dambri

(In case of birds)

Male	Female
dawzuɔ	dawzu

dawt<sup>h</sup>u zuuladawt<sup>h</sup>u zuu . etc**Through agglutinating of suffixes after noun words**

Male

Female

k<sup>h</sup>ana + /i/k<sup>h</sup>ani

beŋga + /i/

beŋgi

hait<sup>h</sup>a + /u/hait<sup>h</sup>u

hoŋla + /e/

hoŋle. Etc

**iii) Characteristics of Bodo Syntax**

- a) Structure : The word order of the Bodo language is different from others.

The structure of sentence of Bodo language is S+O+V. example:

aŋ uŋk<sup>h</sup>am zaŋu.

S O V

aŋ bizab p<sup>h</sup>oŋraŋu.

S O V

biŋu na hoŋduŋ

S O V

- b) Types of the sentence: According to the meaning and structure of the sentence, there are different types of sentences in Bodo language. These are Assertive, Interrogative, Imperative, Order, Octative, Exclamatory and Simple, Complex and Compound sentence. example :

aŋ bek<sup>h</sup>uɔ mit<sup>h</sup>iŋu (assertive )

nuŋ boha t<sup>h</sup>aŋnu? (interrogative)

bek<sup>h</sup>uɔ maw (imperative)

nuŋni ziwja gulaw zat<sup>h</sup>uŋ. (octative)

bese soŋmaina habab.(exclamatory)

aŋ uŋk<sup>h</sup>am zaŋu.(simple sentence)

beŋu boha doŋ aŋ mit<sup>h</sup>iŋuɔ.(complex sentence)

an lurban nat<sup>h</sup>ai an t<sup>h</sup>an<sup>g</sup>un.(complex sentence)

#### **1.4 Aims and Objectives of the study**

Now a day code mixing and code switching is used by every people of every community while communicating each other. In case of Bodo language too, code mixing and code switching is used and cannot be isolated. The main aims of this study are about code mixing and code switching in Bodo language. There are some specific aims and objectives of the study. These are:

- i) To find out why code mixing and code switching has taken place in Bodo language.
- ii) To find out how code mixing and code switching has taken place in Bodo language.
- iii) To find out the reasons why code mixing and code switching has taken place in Bodo language.
- iv) To find out different types of code mixing and code switching used in Bodo language.
- v) To find out the relation and influence of code mixing and code switching in Bodo language.

#### **1.5 Area of the study**

As per the topic, the research has conducted in the Bodo majority areas of kokrajhar district. Kokrajhar is one of the Bodo dominated areas of old BTAD. In Kokrajhar apart from Bodos, there are different groups of people like Rabha, Garo, Rajbongshi, Nepali, Assamese, Bengali, Santhali, Muslim, Hindi speakers, English speakers etc. It can be stated that the district of Kokrajhar is surrounded by multilingual speakers. For this reason, the people of Kokrajhar are becoming multilingual gradually. That's why Kokrajhar is a multilingual society. This is the fact that code mixing and code switching has also happened in Bodo language.

## **1.6 Importance of the study**

Code mixing and Code switching is an important situation to be taken into account now a days. It is very important to study every parts of a language through linguistics and Socio-linguistics point of view. Bodo is also a under developing language of India. Like other developing languages, Bodo language also need to study through different linguistic point of view. Code mixing and code switching is one among them. Some of the importance facts of the study are given below:

- i) Till now no linguists has ever made a detailed research on code mixing and code switching in Bodo language.
- ii) In daily conversation generally code mixing and code switching exits, but people are not aware of this kind of happenings.

## **1.7 Methodology of the study**

The study has discussed through the Analytical method of the research methodology with Sociolinguistics point of view.

## **1.8 Data Collection**

Both primary and secondary data are used for the study. For primary data linguistic situations of different places in kokrajhar district are observed. Field survey, questionnaires etc are also included for the primary data. Secondary data are collected from different published materials such as books, journals, dissertation, thesis, library visiting etc.

## **1.9 Hypothesis**

The main Hypothesis of the study are:

- i) Kokrajhar district is a place which is inhabited by different communities of people apart from the Bodos. For that reason, every person of the

kokrajhar district has become multilingual day by day and that's why code mixing and code switching has also taken place in Bodo language.

- ii) Code mixing and code switching has originated in Bodo language through different linguistic situation such as classroom situation, marketplace situation, jobs etc.
- iii) Due to various reason and diversity code mixing and code switching has used in Bodo language to express all the opinions, thoughts and desires in a better way without knowing itself among literate, illiterate, children, adult peoples of Bodo community.
- iv) Effect and influence of code mixing and code switching can shifts one language to another either complete or partial.

### **1.10 Review of Literature**

To date, the research that has been done in Bodo language can be found in varieties of types such as, vocabulary of Bodo language, grammar and many others. But, while talking about code-mixing and code-switching in the Bodo language, it is not seen adequate and much satisfactory research that has been made on it. So following are the given available researches that have been done on code-mixing and switching:

- i) The first book based on code-mixing and switching was written by Phukan Chandra Basumatary in his Book 'Raobigianni Phora' 2017. In this book, he has explained the different types of forms that a language can take through socialization. He has explained in wide terms about the different situations of the society which makes people to become bilingual and multilingual and how multilingual helps code-mixing and code-switching to originate. He has divided bilingual situation into two parts based on type of peoples. Those are:



- a) Co-ordinate
  - b) Sub-ordinate
- ii) Bhawtina Basumatary, in her Dissertation, the research of code-mixing and code-switching that has been made in the Bodo language is an existing circumstance. In Bodoland University, under the Bodo department, for an M.A. degree, she has done the research in 2017. She has explained the code-mixing and code-switching of Bodo language through her research on language and society.

### **1.11 Problem statement of the study**

Code mixing and code-switching is an existing situation in today's daily conversation of different languages. Bilingual and multilingual situation is its major advantage. Language is not just for a single person, as language itself is a bridge of communication among multiple peoples. It has a deep meaning not only among individuals, but also in society. Within the society and among different peoples, language is used and through this, a language takes different forms and shapes. Code-switching and code-mixing are one of them. Every single word of a language is important because it has a connection with linguistic matter.