CHAPTER – 4

QUANTIFIER

4.1. Introduction.

Quantifier is a word or phrase which is used before and after a noun to indicate the amount or quantity. In English language, quantifiers are some, any, many, few, a few, much, little, a little, a lot of etc. Quantifiers can be used with both countable and uncountable noun. These are used to give someone information about the number of something. In Linguistics and grammar, a quantifier is a type of determiner or noun which is used with numeral.

According Richard Nordquist *"In grammar, a quantifier is a type of determiner (such as all, some, or much) that expresses a relative or indefinite indication of quantity.*

Quantifiers usually appear in front of nouns (as in all children), but they may also function as pronouns (as in All have returned)

A complex quantifier is a phrase (such as a lot of) that functions as a quantifier."[1]

Quantifiers are the words that indicate not exact number. It is the morphemes that denote a quantity, precise or approximate, and occurs either alone and many or after a classifier in a quantifiers phrase. In language quantifiers are used at the beginning of noun phrases and it is a determiner or pronoun indicative of quantity and a few quantifiers are also related to the number.

According to P.C.Bhattacharya *"A quantifier means the common cardinal numbers, 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. and the bound morphemes indicating these numbers are suffixed to the numeral classifiers"*[2]

The quantifiers of Bodo language are - *burza/gwbaŋ*, *ese*. These are same function to English 'some' or 'any'.

In English language some quantifiers are uses for countable and some are for uncountable nouns, but the word 'some' is used both countable and uncountable noun and for negative and interrogative sentence. 'any' is used with countable and uncountable nouns and for positive, offering and request sentence but in Bodo there is no separate quantifiers for countable and uncountable nouns. The Nouns of a sentence are shown where it is countable or uncountable.

As –

Countable noun -

burza mansi. (many people)

ese mansi. (few people)

Uncountable noun -

burza mairoŋ. (much unboiled rice)

ese mairoŋ. (little unboiled rice)

A quantifier does not show the exact number of things, noun and objects so it is also called quantifier or indefinitive both for uncountable noun and countable nouns. It is used instead of numerals 12, 13, 14, 15 ….etc and when the numerals are used then these indicate the exact numbers but when quantifiers are used, these indicate only the amount or quantity.

As –

zi-nwi bizab. (twelve books)

zi-ba bag. (fifteen bags)

As quantifiers –

gwbaŋ bizab. (many books/ countable noun)

burza bag. (many bags/countable noun)

4.2. Quantifiers of Bodo.

In Bodo language, quantifiers are used with human being, non human being, things and natural objects, also used before and after the noun and verb.

For example –

4.2.1. Used with human being –

burza got^ho or got^ho burza.
(Q   NO or NO   Q)
(Many children)

ese got^ho or got^ho ese.
(Q NO or   NO   Q)
(Few children)

burza poraisa or poraisa burza.
(Q   NO   or   NO Q)
(Many students)

ese poraisa or poraisa ese.
(Q   NO   or   NO Q)
(few students)

4.2.2. Used with non human being

burza musuu pisa or musuu pisa burza.
(Q   NO   or NO   Q)
(many calfs)

ese burma menda or burma menda ese.
(Q   NO   or NO   Q)
(few sheeps)

burza empuu or empuu burza.

(Q   NO or   NO   Q)

(many insects)

ese empuu or empuu ese.

(Q   NO or NO   Q)

(few insects)

burza dao or dao burza

(Q   NO or NO   Q)

(many birds)

ese dao or dao ese.

(Q NO or NO Q)

(few birds)

burza na or na burza.

(Q   NO or NO Q)

(many fishes)

ese na or na ese.

(QNO orNO Q)

(few fishes)

4.2.3. Used with things and Objects

burza no or no burza.

(Q   NO or   NO   C)

(many house)

ese no or no ese.

(QNO or NO C)

(few house)

burza ontʰai or ontʰai burza.

(Q NO or NO C)

(Many stones)

ese ontʰai or ontʰai ese.

(Q NO or NO C)

(few stones)

burza siyar or siyar burza.

(Q NO or NO C)

(many chairs)

ese siyar or siyar ese.

(Q NO or NO C)

(few chairs)

burza zi or zi burza.

(Q NO or NO C)

(many cloths)

ese si or si ese.

(QNO or NO C)

(few cloths)

burza ruwa or ruwa burza.

(Q NO or NO C)

(many axes)

ese ruwa or ruwa ese.

(Q NO or NO C)

(few axes)

burza sabun or sabun burza.

(Q   NO   or NO   C)

(many soaps)

ese sabun or sabun ese.

(Q NO or NO   C)

(few soaps)

4.3. Noun as Quantifiers -

Quantifier is a noun or word used with the countable things and nouns. If the uncountable things are counted keeping in utensils, container, then these things become countable. Like – *kʰada* (basket), *gari* (bus or car), *tʰela* (hand cart), *no* (house) etc. are countable noun. Quatifiers are also used for uncountable noun as given in the below example.

For example -

gilas – se dui

(NO/Q - NU NO)

(a glass of water)

kʰurwi – se uɯnkʰri

(NO/Q - NU NO)

 (a bowl of curry)

don – se mai.

NO/Q- NU NO)

(a full of small busket of paddy seed)

gari – se mansi.

(NO/Q - NU NO)

(a car full of people)

gami – se mansi.

(NO/Q-NU NO)

(the all people of a village)

Here the words or nouns which are used for quantifiers, are free morpheme and also used as classifiers in sentence. In classifiers, the numerals are added but in quantifiers the numerals do not come as these indicate only approximate quantities of living and non living things. The classifiers are used as quantifiers in Bodo language.

4.4. Number and Classifier as Quantifier -

In Bodo language, some words and nouns are used both as classifier (when it added numerals) and quantifier and also plural number indicating word. These all are used as per as their fuctions in sentences. For example – *damwl, pʰalw, hanza, makʰa, tʰubur, zotʰum,lai/phari/sari, antʰwr, mwzwm* and some plural indicating nouns of Bodo language whose functions are like quantifiers are– *raizw, hador, hadorsa, gami, sohor, hari, mahari* etc

As Quantifier –

 bala damul

           \ /

     Q/Pl N

(places of keeping the sand)

musuu bolod pʰalu

               \ /

            Q/Pl N

(Groups of ox)

pʰuruŋiri hanza .

           \ /

        Q// Pl N

(groups of teacher)

subuŋ zotʰum

      \ /

    Q/NO/W

(group of people)

As Classifier -

damul – bruɨ bala.

 \ /

Q/Pl N

(four places of keeping the sand)

pʰalɨ - do musɨɨ bolod.

 \ /

Q/Pl N

(six groups of ox)

hanza – sni pʰɨrɨŋgiri.

 \ /

Q/ Pl N

(seven groups of teacher)

tʰubur– se mansi.

 \ /

Q/NO/W

(a group of men)

zotʰum – se subuŋ.

 \ /

Q/NO/W

(a group of people)

Sometimes in Bodo Language, some onomatopoeia base words are also used as quantifiers for limited or unlimited quantities. It does not show exact numbers, which are not quantifiers but functions as quantifiers

For example –

zum- zum, zrao- zrao, zahab-zahab, zwmwi-zwmwi etc

In Human being-

zum-zum mansi.

(Q - Q   NO)

(many people which are can't count)

zrao-zrao mansi.

(Q -   Q   NO)

(many people which are can't count)

In Non Human being -

zum-zum na.

(Q   - Q   NO)

(many fishes, can't count)

zrao – zrao musuu

(Q   - Q   NO)

(many cows which can't count)

In Objects and things -

zum – zum dak^{h}ur.

(Q   - Q   NO)

 (many dirty things)

zrao – zrao bilai

(Q - Q   NO)

(many leaves which are can't count)

4.5. Combination of Quantifier –

In Bodo Language, some two or three quantifiers are used in combination in a single sentence. These show more numbers from quantifiers used in a sentence.

Like :

Two Quantifiers -

ese gubaŋ/burza mansi.
(Q   Q   NO)
(a few people)

gubaŋ pʰalɯ natʰur.
(Q   Q   NO)
(many groups of prown)

gubaŋ damul - etʰa.
(Q   Q   - NO)
(many places keeping the bricks)

Three quantifiers -

ese gwbaŋ damwl ha
(Q   Q   Q NO)
 (a few piles of soil)

gwbaŋ tʰubur damwl mai.
(Q   Q   Q NO)
(many of piles of paddy seeds)

4.6. Distributive Quantifier –

In Bodo language, some quantifiers are used for distribution of things with reduplicating.

For example –

ese ese na.

(Q Q NO)

 (the fishes are divide with little by little)

burza burza pit^hai.

(Q   Q   NO)

 (the fruits are divide with more by more)

damul damuul ont^hai.

(Q   Q   NO)

 (the rocks are divide of many numbers of places)

hanza hanza burwi.

(Q   Q   NO)

(many old women's groups)

The reduplicating word of quantifiers is both in 1st quantifier and in 2nd quantifier in sentences.

For example –

damwl damwl burza na.

Q   Q   Q NO)

(many piles of fishes)

 ese ese burza pwisa.

(Q   Q   Q   NO)

(little by little money)

ese damwl damwl samu.

(Q   Q   Q   NO)

(a few piles the snails)

114

4.7. Quantifier in pronounciation.

It can also get different meanings or numbers depending on the speaker, how he/she speaks; whether it is long time pronounced or short time pronounced. When it is long time pronunciation then it means more numbers and when it is short time pronunciation then it means less numbers.

In Long pronoucition -

gubaŋ mansi
(Q   NO)
(so many people)

gubaŋ zunar.
(Q   NO)
(so many animals)

mak^{h}ase gosla.
(Q   NO)
(so many dresses)

boibw subuŋ.
(Q   NO)
(all people)

In short pronouncition -

guban mansi.
(Q   NO)
(many people)

gubaŋ bere.
(Q   NO)
(many bees)

mak^hase gosla.

(Q   NO)

(many dresses)

boibw subuŋ.

(Q   NO)

(all people)

4.9. Quantifiers in dialect.

All languages have some differences in their languages which are extra ordinary from their frequently used languages. These are called dialect and regional language of a language or community. These are used in only oral form not written form. The words used for these dialects are different from their standard or written language. In Bodo language, three dialects such as – eastern dialects, western dialects and southern dialects are found. Some words are used for quantifier in dialect area as -

baŋyai/baŋai (use for little).

naoman (use for little).

The *baŋyai/baŋai* is use for both countable and uncountable noun, verb and adjectives.

As –

In countable noun, verb and adjectives. -

dao baŋyai.

(NO Q)

(few quantity of birds)

mansi baŋyai.

(NO   Q)

(few quantity of people)

116

baŋyai mao.

(NO   Q)

(few quantity of working)

baŋyai gwzam.

(NO   Q)

(few quantity of become old)

In uncountable noun and adjectives. –

bala baŋyai.

(NO Q)

(little quantity of sands)

dwi baŋyai.

(NO Q)

(little quantity of water)

onnai baŋyai.

(NO   Q)

(little quantity of love)

The quantifier */naoman/* is use most for objects and things.

As –

mairoŋ naoman.

(NO   Q)

(little quantity of rice)

sini naoman.

(NO Q)

(little quantity of sugar)

4.9. Quantifier with Suffix –

In Bodo language, the addition of affixes is a common character. The suffix when added to quantifiers shows more quantity. Following are examples with adding suffix /tʰar/.

For example –

> *gɯbaŋ – tʰar mɯsɯɯ.*
> (Q   - SU   NO)
> (so many people)

> *ese – tʰar begor.*
> (Q - SU   NO)
> (very little seeds)

With Quantifier */ese/* is added the suffix */lo/, /sɯ/* to show very little numeral.

For example –

> *ese – lo bedor.*
> (Q - SU   NO)
> (very little meat)

> *ese – lo bizab.*
> (Q - SU   NO)
> (very little books)

And also -

> *ese – sɯ mansi.*
> (Q - SU   NO)
> (People which are can count)

> *ese – sɯ mɯsɯɯ.*
> (Q - SU   NO)
> (cows that can count)

With Quantifier it can also added from two or three suffix.

For example -

ese – lo – tʰar mansi – pʰur.

(Q - SU- SU NO - SU)

(Very very little people)

burza – mani – tʰar goi – pʰur.

(Q   - SU - SU NO- SU)

(very very lots of areca nuts)

ese – lo – mani – tʰar mai – pʰur.

(Q - SU - SU - SU NO - SU)

(very very little of paddy seeds)

zi – burza – mansi – tʰar.

(SU- Q -   NO - SU)

(so so many people)

In Bodo Language the suffix /mani/ is also added with quantifier to show the more numeral.

For example –

gubaŋ mani gotʰo.

(Q   SU   NO)

(so many children)

burza mani poraisa.

(Q   SU   NO)

(so many students)

Here the plural suffix /pʰur/ is also can added to show the plural meaning.

For example – gubaŋ mani gotʰo – pʰur.

(Q   SU   NO -Pl.SU)

(so many children)

119

burza mani poraisa – pʰur.

(Q   Su   NO - Pl.SU)

(so many students)

In Bodo the classifiers and numeral are added suffixes in sentence to shows not exact number like quantifiers.

For example –

mun – se-sɯ

(C - NU-SU)

(one or more, it may be two or three)

dɯŋ - se- sɯ.

(C   -NU-SU)

(one or two, three numbers)

gor – nɯi-sɯ.

(C - NU -SU)

(two or more, it may be three or four)

ma – tʰam – sɯ.

(C - NU - SU)

(three or four numbers)

In Bodo language there are some words or plural numbers words which functions are also used as quantifier.

Like –

Quantifier	Meaning
makʰase	some
gaswi/gaswibw	All (for things and objects)
boibw	All (for human beings)
bara	maximum
raobw	anybody
kʰom	minimum

The word */dlam/* is also used like quantifier in different Bodo dialect. These words are used in Bodo language for counting, for the quantity or an approximate numbers things.

For example -

makʰase mansi or mansi makʰase.
(Q   NO   or   NO   Q)
(a few people)

dlam mansi or mansi dlam.
(Q   NO or   NO   Q)
*(*many people)

gasɯi mansi or mansi gasɯi.
(Q   NO   or NO   Q)
(all people)

boibɯ mansi or mansi boibɯ.
(Q   NO   or NO   Q)
(all people)

raobɯ gotʰo or gotʰo raobɯ.
(Q   NO   or   NO   Q)
(a few children)

gasɯibɯ gʰotʰo or gʰotʰo gasɯibɯ.
(Q   NO   or   NO   Q)
(all children)

kʰom poraisa or poraisa kʰom.
(Q   NO or   NO   Q)
(many students)

With adding suffixes.

In Bodo some suffixes are added with plural indicating word to show more quantity of things.As - */ lo/, /sin/, /tʰar/, /sw/, /mani/*.These suffixes has been uses in sentences in single, double and triple

Like –

makʰase – lo – si/zi.
(Q   -SU - NO)
(lillte quantity of cloths)

bara - tʰar muwa.
(Q   - NO SU)
(so many things)

gasɯibɯ – mani – tʰar mansi.
(Q   - SU   - SU NO)
(all people)

boibɯ – mansi - zub – tʰar.
(Q   -   NO - SU - SU)
(all people are)

makʰase – mani – tʰar - kʰolom.
(Q   - SU - SU -   NO)
(so many pens)

dlam   - mani - *tʰar – natʰur.*
(Q   - SU   - SU -   NO)
(so many praws)

kʰom – sin - tʰar - zagra.
(Q   - SU - SU - NO)
(Minimum numbers of food)

bara – sin bizab.

(maximum numbers of books)

(Q - SU NO)

kʰom – tʰar number.

(Q - SU   NO)

(minimum numbers)

burza – mani na.

(Q - SU   NO)

(maximum numbers of fishes)

In Bodo there are some words which are used for countable and uncountable numbers of actions, nouns and verbs. But in Bodo these are use as Quantifier without counting and mentioning the actions, nouns and verbs.

 As –

kʰebprwmbw/kʰonprambw (times of actions)
 mwnprwmbw (every things/ noun)

Like -   *kʰebprwmbw pwi*

                    (Q   V)

                    (come in many times)

                    mwnprwmbw muwa

                    (Q   NO)

                    (all things)

4.10. Reduplication of Noun –

          In Bodo language, some reduplicating nouns are also used for quantifiers to show more numbers from given numbers.

Like –   *no no pwi*. (come by homes)

 gari gari pwi. (come by cars)

 gami gami tʰaŋ. (go by villages)

4.11. Rhyming reduplicate word -

The uses of similar word reduplication and rhyming reduplication words in Bodo language also indicate the uncountable noun or as quantifiers.

Like –   **Similar word reduplication** –

hanza hanza subuŋ.
 (groups of people)

pʰalw pʰalw mwider.
(herds of elephants)

tʰubur tʰubur subuŋ.
(groups of people)

Rhyming reduplication words –

In Bodo some rhyming reduplication words are also use as Quantifiers such as -

 raizw-raza (people of a state)

 tʰwrsi-lotʰa (utensils)

 mansi-dumsi (people)

 ha-hu.(plots)

 daoma-daosa. (birds)

 zib-zunar. (animals)

 empwu-enla. (insects)

 gotʰo-gotʰai. (children)

Some plural indicating suffixes as - /pʰwr/, /lo/, are can add with similar word reduplication and rhyming word reduplication.

As – *tʰubur tʰubur subuŋ-pʰwr.*

(Re. W.　　　NO – Pl. SU)

(so many groups of people)

gotʰo-gotʰai – pʰwr.

(Rhy. Re. W. – Pl.SU)

(many children)

zib-zunar　　- lo.

(Rhy.Re.W. Pl.SU)

(Only animals)

raizw – raza – pʰwr.

(Rhy.Re.W – Pl.SU)

(people of village/city/state)

The uses of words for communities also indicate the countable and uncountable noun or as quantifiers. These are also use with adding plural indicating suffix as - /pʰwr/.

As –　　　　　*Boro - pʰwr.*

(NO – Pl.SU)

(people of Bodo Community)

Boro – subuŋ.

(NO – NO)

(people of Bodo Community)

Boro – subuŋ - pʰwr.

(NO – NO – Pl.SU)

(people of Bodo Community)

Assomiya - p^hwr.

(NO – Pl.SU)

(people of Assamese Community)

Assamiya – subuŋ.

(NO – NO)

(people of Assamese Community)

Assomiya – subuŋ – p^hwr.

(NO – NO – Pl.SU)

(people of Assamese Community)

Quantifier is found in two types as mention *"In Bodo the quantifiers are found for Multiplication and fraction."[3]* Multiplication quantifiers are as – k^heb/k^hon and p^han and Fraction quantifiers are as – puwa and fraction with some words are used as – ½ (k^hawse), 2 ½ (nwi k^hawse) .

Quantifiers of fraction is used for weight and volume of thing –

As - *puwa – se gaik^her.*

(Q -NU NO)

(250 gram of milk)

ser – se na

(Q - NU NO)

(1 kg fish)

goi -k^haw se

(Q - NU NO)

(½ piece of areca nut)

.

The fraction numerals which are used in some words for ½, 1 ½, 2 ½, 3½, are *ada*, *der, arai, saraitin* and more. These all are loan word and come from neighboring languages Assamese, Bengali and Hindi. At present day the

influences of English language is high in all languages of the world. So in Bodo language the English word are loan day by day. They used for counting in English like – one and half (1½), two half (2½) and more.

4.12. Classifier and Quantifier

In Bodo language, classifiers and quantifiers related to each other. So in Bodo language there are some words and affixes which are used as classifiers with numeral and without numeral as quantifier in sentences.

For examples –

hador, gami, sohor, raizw, hari, mahari etc.

As Classifier –

hador – se mansi
 (NO/C- NU NO)
(people of a country)

so hor – se subuŋ.
(NO/C- NU   NO)
(people of a city)

hari – se subuŋ.
(NO/C- NU NO)
(people of a caste)

mahari – se subuŋ.
(NO/C - NU   NO)
(people of a community)

As quantifier –

subuŋ hari.
(NO   Q)
(human being)

mwswu hari.
(NO   Q)
 (type of cow animals)

dao hari.
(NO   Q)
(type of birds)

The morphological terms 'classifier' and 'quantifier' are related to each other. The term classifier means that word which is used for the real structure of living and non living thing and the real type of living thing with adding the numerals and the last term quantifier is that term which is used for quantity of living and non living things and also used with classifier. Only a difference is that classifiers are always used before the numerals but in quantifiers the numerals do not come.

4.13. Quantifier and Number –

The term number stands for singular number and plural number of thing (countable and uncountable). The numbers use as collection indicating words for plural number and it can also be used as quantifier. On the other hand, the quantifier is also used in plural indicating words.

As – **Plural number as Quantifier -**

> *got^{h}o p^{h}alw*
> (NO   Q/Pl SU)
> (groups of children)

> *bwrai t^{h}ubur*
> (NO   Q/Pl SU)
> (groups of old men)

siyal pʰalw.

(NO   Q/Pl SU)

(groups of foxes)

In Bodo the plural indicating suffixes */swr, pʰwr, mwn/* are added with noun and adjectives. These suffixes are used with words and it shows countable and uncountable numbers as quantifier.

As –   **With Noun -**

bizab-pʰwr.

(NO   Pl.SU/Q)

(books)

allu – pʰwr.

(NO   Pl.SU/Q)

(potatoes)

bi – swr.

(NO   Pl.SU/Q)

(they)

nwŋ – swr.

(NO   Pl.SU/Q)

(you all)

With Adjective –

switʰw pʰwr.

(Adj. Pl.SU)

(truths)

gupur– pʰwr.

(Adj. Pl.SU)

(white things)

gisi – pʰwr.

(Adj. Pl.SU)

(wets)

The plural suffix */swr, mwn, pʰwr/* are used with noun and adjectives and these show the plural numbers. But it may be countable or uncountable and when the countable things are used as collective words.

4.14. - Findings

1. This chapter shows the word or phrase Quantifier, which are used before a noun to indicate the amount or quantity.

2. It can be used with countable and uncountable noun to give someone information about the number of something.

3. Quantifiers are a word or number that shows an amount or number but not exact number like classifier.

4. Quantifiers are used for quantity of things and an approximate quantity of things.

5. In Bodo language it is a character of quantifier that the countable numerals as 14, 15, 16 …etc. is also used as uncountable and uses quantifier word *burza/gwbaŋ* as-

In Classifier –

sa – zi-brwi aizw.

(C – NU NO)

(fourteen ladies)

ma – zi-ba guma.

(C - NU NO)

(fifteen grasshoppers)

In Quantifier –

      gwbaŋ aizw.

      (Q   NO)

      (many ladies)

      burza guma.

      (Q   NO)

      (many grasshoppers)

6. In English language the word of quantifiers are separate of countable and uncountable as –

Countable – few, a few, many,

Uncountable – little, a little, much

Both countable and uncountable – a lot of, some, any.

But in Bodo language this rule is not used, both countable and uncountables are use for the same quanfiers, but things are shown the countable and uncountable.

 A word or affix is can uses as both classifier and quantifier.

As Quantifier -

mai lari.
(NO Q)
(lines of paddy plants)

sant^hri hanza.
(NO   Q)
(groups of soldiers)

As Classifier –
mai lari – se.
(NO C - NU)
(a line of paddy plants)

131

santri hanza – nwi.
(NO   C   - NU)
(two lines of Soldiers)

7. In Bodo language quantifiers are loan from other language weight and volume.

As –

tʰao –adaser.
(NO – Q)
(500 gram oil)

mairoŋ – adaser.
(NO   - Q)
(500gram rice)

8. In Bodo language the words use for quantifiers are limited as – *burza/gwbaŋ, ese, makʰase, gaswibw, boibw, raobw* etc.

9. But some plural indicating noun, words and affixes are also used *for* quantifiers which are used for countable and uncountable nouns. These quantifiers are used as classifiers with using numerals as e.g.*hanza, damwl, zutʰum, atʰum, lar/sari/pʰari, dwlw, pʰalw, mwzwm* etc.

10. These are found out that combination, reduplication, rhyming reduplication words are function as quantifier.

11. The words are found out difference in quantifier but meaning is same.

12. When the plural suffixes as /swr/, /pʰwr/ and /mwn/ are added with noun, verb and adjectives, than its functions are like quantifiers.

13. In Bodo classifiers are always added with numeral on the other hand quantifier are not added numeral.

14. Many suffixes as /lo/, /sw/, /tʰar/, /mani/ are added with noun, verb and adjectives to show more approximate numbers.

15. Not only in written form but also with listening the tone, strees of words show more or less quantity of things.

End Note and References –

[1] https:/www.thoughtco.com Richard Nordquist, 03 April, 2017.

[2] Bhattacharya, P.C. (1976)	*A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language*, Gauhati University Publication, p. 134.
[3] Chainary, S.P. (2006)	*Boro Raok^{h}ant^{h}i*, Gumur publication, Guwahati. p. 57