

CHAPTER- 4

MORPHOLOGICAL
REDUPLICATION

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4.1 Morphological Reduplication:

Morphological reduplication is also a type of Reduplication. In Morphological reduplication Onomatopoeia, its structure, meaning and functions of Bodo and Assamese languages are will discuss.

Abbi defines Morphological Reduplication- *“the minimally meaningful and segmentally indivisible morphemes which are constituted of iterated syllables. Thus, the base and the iterated part together constitute a single morpheme which is also a lexeme.”*¹

In Morphological Reduplication Onomatopoeia, its structure, meaning and functions of Bodo and Assamese are analyzing below:

4.2 Onomatopoeia:

The term onomatopoeia means the use of words that imitate the sounds associated with the objects or actions they refer to. Onomatopoeia may also refer to the use of words whose sound suggests the sense. The term has the variant forms like onomatopoeic, onomatopoeitic, onomatopoeias etc. Onomatopoeia takes a vital role in the formation of language. A large number of onomatopoeia words are used in Bodo and Assamese languages. The Onomatopoeia words used in Bodo and Assamese languages are chiefly found in Noun and Adjectives. The Onomatopoeia words are simple, complete and partial reduplication.

¹ Abbi, Anvita. (1990). Reduplication in Tibeto Burman Languages of South Asia. Southeast Asian Studies, Vol. 28, No. 2, September 1990. p.171.

4.2.1 Definition of Onomatopoeia:

Alibha Defines:

*“The term onomatopoeia means formation and use of words to imitate sounds. Ex: dong, crackle, moos, etc. It is a figure of speech in which sound reflects the sense.”*²

According to T. Murugarathanam (1994), “the sound of Onomatopoeia is only, that indicating the thing of the sound. That means the sound of the thing is the word. Like this the words which have some similarity with sounds is the reason for calling them onomatopoeia.”³

4.2.2 Structure of Onomatopoeia:

Structurally, the onomatopoeia of Bodo and Assamese languages has a single structure composed of one or two syllables. Most of the onomatopoeias can found either mono syllabic or disyllabic form in Bodo and Assamese languages. Onomatopoeias occur in both the reduplicated and non-reduplicated in Bodo and Assamese languages.

(a) Simple or Non-Reduplicative Onomatopoeia

In Bodo and Assamese languages, the simple or non-reduplicative onomatopoeia occurs in monosyllabic, disyllabic and polysyllabic. These are given below:

Monosyllabic:

Bodo:

t^hem (sound of broken)

t^haw (high sound)

zrab (sound of throwing down)

2 Extracted from: Baro, Daithun. (2018). Process of Reduplication in Bodo. Gauhati University, Department of Bodo. p. 188.

3 Extracted from: Parimalagantham. A. (2008). A Study of Structural Reduplication in Tamil and Telugu. P.S. Telugu University, Hyderabad. p.286.

meu (mewing of cat)

k^hre (shutting sound of door)

k^hreb (breaking sound)

Assamese:

kriŋ (ringing of bell)

g^heŋ (sound uttered by a dog when attacking somebody)

d^hub (falling or beating sound)

mɔ (sound of cow)

meu (mewing of cat)

sik (sound uttered by a musk rat)

p^hət (sound produced by something bursting or cracking)

d^hop (sound produced by a hollow or a soft body when struck or kicked)

təŋ (sound produced by striking metallic plates etc. with a hard thing)

Disyllabic:

Bodo:

k^hɥu-ɥu (cooing of cuckoo)

ha-siu (sneezing sound)

Assamese:

koo-oo (cooing of cuckoo)

tiliŋ (ringing sound of a small ball)

Polysyllabic:

Bodo:

gɔ-gere-gɔ (sound produced by cock)

Assamese:

kɔ-kere-kɔ⁴ (sound produced by cock)

The simple or non-reduplicated onomatopoeia words of Bodo and Assamese can find in reduplicated form also. These reduplicated forms are representing the meaning of continuation.

(b) Reduplicative Onomatopoeia

The reduplicative onomatopoeia occurs in monosyllabic and disyllabic in both the Bodo and Assamese languages. These are given below:

Monosyllabic:**Bodo:**

p^hou p^hou (barking of dog)

t^haŋ t^haŋ (beating sound of hammer)

glab glab (sound of loudly laughing)

meu meu (mewing of cat)

brum brum (sound of car)

t^haw t^haw (firing sound)

Assamese:

kək kək (to cluck)

krək krək (sound produced by frog)

⁴ Deka, Violeena.Tangla (Ward No. 3)

keŋ keŋ (sound of the cry of a dog when beaten or hurt)

meu meu (mewing of cat)

taŋ taŋ (beating sound of hammer)

b^hok b^hok (barking of dog)

mə mə (sound of cow)

Disyllabic:

Bodo:

gu-rum gu-rum (mild and grave sound of thunder)

zu-gu zu-gu (sound produced by dove)

k^hu-u k^hu-u (cooing of cuckoo)

zi-ri zi-ri (with weak flow)

Assamese:

gu-ru gu-ru (mild and grave sound of thunder)

ku-u ku-u (cooing of cuckoo)

zi-ri zi-ri (with weak flow)

In Bodo and Assamese languages, the Onomatopoeias are found simple or complete and partial reduplication. Maximum Onomatopoeia words of Bodo and Assamese are found in complete reduplicated form. These are given below:

- (a) **Simple:** In Bodo and Assamese simple onomatopoeia occurs in monosyllabic words only. For Example

Bodo:

zram (falling sound)

grəd (sound of drinking water)

k^hrəb (clapping sound)

dum (sound of kick)

t^haw (firing sound)

me (crying sound of baby cow or goat)

Assamese:

d^hub ‘beating or falling sound of things’

taŋ (sound of ring of an anvil)

d^hop (sound of struck or kicked)

sik (sound of musk-rat)

me (crying sound of baby cow or goat)

(b) Onomatopoeia in Complete Reduplication:

In Bodo and Assamese languages onomatopoeia occurs in complete reduplication also. In this type of onomatopoeia complete sounds are reduplicated.

Bodo:

k^hrəb k^hrəb (clapping sound)

gləb gləb (boiling sound of water)

grəd grəd (drinking sound of water)

t^hik^h t^hik^h (sound of house lizard)

t^haw t^haw (sound of firing)

tʰiŋ tʰiŋ (ringing sound of a thing)

Assamese:

pʰɔs pʰɔs (hissing sound)

tək tək (knocking sound)

kʰət kʰət (knocking/ ticking sound)

tik tik (sound of house lizard)

he he (sound of laughing)

tit tit (sound of car/bike horn)

(c) Onomatopoeia of Partial Reduplication

In this type of onomatopoeia the partial sound are reduplicated in Bodo and Assamese languages.

Bodo:

tʰaŋ tʰiŋ (sound of the ring of an anvil)

dubdub dabdab (beating sound)

sene ne (frying sound by hot oil)

kʰaŋkʰraŋ kʰuŋkʰraŋ (Falling sound of utensils)

Assamese:

taŋ tiŋ (an imitative word used to express the ring of an anvil)

dʱub dʱab (beating sound)

tiŋ tɔŋ (ringing sound of calling bell)

kəkere kɔ (sound produced by cock)

g^hɔtɔŋ mɔtɔŋ (a sound like that of small things striking one another)

zunuk zanak (a tinkling sound).

4.2.3 Functions of Onomatopoeia:

The Onomatopoeias functions of Bodo and Assamese languages are as noun or adjectives. While forming sentences the Onomatopoeias primarily have an adverbial function in both the Bodo and Assamese languages. For Example:

Bodo:

(a) ziri ziri duŋi buhɔŋi-duŋŋ

(Water is flowing slowly)

(b) muŋsɔu-a mɔ mɔ gab-duŋŋ

(The cow is crying moo)

(c) meu meu mauzi gab-duŋŋ

(The cat is meowing)

Assamese:

(a) kukure b^hok b^hok kɔrise

(The dog is barking)

(b) tik tik g^hɔri bazise

(The clock is ticking)

(c) xape p^hɔs p^hɔs kɔrise

(The snake is hissing)

4.2.3.1 Onomatopoeia as Noun:

In Bodo and Assamese languages large numbers of noun words are used as Onomatopoeia. In this type of Onomatopoeia imitative sounds of birds, sound produced by animals, insects, human beings, musical instruments, environment or natural sounds are can classified. These are discussing below:

(a) Sound produced by birds

Bodo:

k^hek^h k^hek (cracking sound of goose)

ga ga (cawing of crow)

gab gab (sound of duck)

zugu zugu (cooing of dove)

Assamese:

ka ka (cawing of crow)

ti ti (crying sound of ducklings)

si si (sound produced by poultry)

kək kək (sound of cluck)

(b) Sound produced by animals

Animals also produce different sounds to express their feelings, hunger, thirst and anger. A good number of onomatopoeia words that are produced by animals are found in Bodo and Assamese languages. They are also repetitive in character.

Bodo:

p^hɥu p^hɥu (barking of dog)

me me (crying sound of baby cow or goat)

ɔwe ɔwe (sound produced by pig)

p^hɔs p^hɔs (hissing sound of snake)

meu meu (sound produced by cat)

mə mə (sound produced by cow)

Assamese:

b^hok b^hok (barking of dog)

meu meu (sound produced by cat)

mə mə (sound produced by cow)

be be (sound produced by ship)

p^hɔs p^hɔs (hissing sound of snake)

tər tər (croaking sound of frog)

keŋ keŋ (crying of dog when beaten or hurt)

(c) Imitative sound produced by insects

Different kinds of insects living over ground and underground produce their sounds differently. The sounds produced by them are also considered as onomatopoeia in Bodo and Assamese languages. Imitative sounds produced by them are repetitive in character.

Bodo:

ɔŋ ɔŋ (sound produced by bumble bee)

brɔŋ brɔŋ (sound produced by black bee)

t^hik^h t^hik^h (sound produced by house lizard)

bruŋ bruŋ (sound produced by housefly)

Assamese:

gun gun (sound produced by bumble bee)

tik tik (sound produced by house lizard)

b^hrɔŋ b^hrɔŋ (sound produced by black bee)

b^hruŋ b^hruŋ (sound produced by housefly)

(d) Sound produced by human beings:

During the time of vomiting, laughing, sneezing, swallowing human beings are also producing some onomatopoeic words. For Example:

Bodo:

k^he k^he (sound of laugh)

ha ha (loudly sound of laugh)

grɔd grɔd (sound of drinking water)

gɔr gɔr (sound of snoring)

p^he p^he (sound of blowing nose)

ɔ ɔ (vomiting sound)

Assamese:

ɔ ɔ (vomiting sound)

fi fi (sound of laugh)

g^hɔr g^hɔr (sound of snoring)

(e) Words imitative of sound produced by instruments:

In Bodo and Assamese languages have a large number of onomatopoeia words that are imitative of sounds produced by instruments (these instruments may be either manual or mechanical). These kinds of onomatopoeia words are also repetitive in character. For Example:

Bodo:

sriŋ sriŋ (sound of zot^ha)

grəm grəm t^hra t^hra gəm (beating sound of Kham)

t^hɔŋ t^hɔŋ (ringing sound of bell)

t^haŋ t^haŋ (beating sound of hammer)

Assamese:

tɔŋ tɔŋ (ringing sound of bell)

tiŋ tiŋ (tingkling of metals)

kriŋ kriŋ (ringing of bell)

dum dum (beating sound of drum)

te teu te teu (sound of Gogona)

(f) Sound produced by environment or natural:

Sounds are produced in the environment also. A good number of onomatopoeia words have their origin in imitation of some natural sounds, produced by different kinds of actions. These kinds of sounds are produced in different natural environments like blowing of wind, raining, water sounds coming out from stream, waterfall etc. in both the Bodo and Assamese languages For Example:

Bodo:

ra ra (flowing sound of water)

siu siu (blowing sound of wind)

dram dram (heavy raining sound)

zram zram (heavy raining sound or beating sound)

gurum gurum (roaring sound of clouds)

Assamese:

gər gər (sound of the roaring of clouds, large animals, water etc.)

zər zər (sound of rain falling in rapid)

ziri ziri (sound produced by a small stream of water)

dəp dəp (sound of heavy rains)

4.2.3.2 Onomatopoeia as Adjective:

Most of the words used as noun onomatopoeia in the above examples could be used as adjectives in Bodo and Assamese languages. So, some onomatopoeia words are noun or adjective, but it will depend on use by the speakers in the sentences.

Bodo:

tʰiŋ tʰiŋ denaj (sound of tinkling metals)

grəd grəd sʉdʉb (sound of drinking water)

pʰəs pʰəs sʉdʉb (sound of hissing)

dub dub sʉnaj (sound of struck)

dum dum zuŋaj ((sound of kick)

t^hɔp^h t^hɔp^h sɔdɔɔb (falling sound of liquid drops)

p^her p^her sɔdɔɔb (sound of throwing cold water etc. on hot oil or vessel)

Assamese:

g^hɔt g^hɔt xɔbdɔ (mutual hitting of several things)

ser ser xɔbdɔ (sound of throwing cold water etc. on hot oil or vessel)

zɔr zɔr xɔbdɔ (sound of produced by a large quantity of seeds falling
down at a time)

taŋ tiŋ xɔbdɔ (sound of tinkling metals)

g^hɔr g^hɔr xɔbdɔ (sound of snoring)

tɔp tɔp xɔbdɔ (sound of falling of liquid drops)

d^hɔm d^hɔm xɔbdɔ (sound of blazing fire).

4.2.4 Onomatopoeia in Children Language Acquisition:

In Bodo and Assamese languages Onomatopoeias can found in the children language acquisition also. These are given below:

Bodo:

mam mam (rice)

dudu (moon)

meu meu (cat)

bɔbɔu / bɔɭɔu (insect)

gɔdi (dog)

gɔgɔ (bird)

gɔgɔ / kəkɔ (water)

tete (fish)

mɔ mɔ (cow)

du (sleep)

e e (feces)

zeze (dirty)

haw haw (fire)

Assamese:

“p^hu p^hu (roam)

mam mam (rice)

b^hou (dog)

meu meu (cat)

fiamɔ (cow)

fagu (feces)

mani (water)

gak^hu (milk)

fau (tiger)

d^hunu (beautiful)

su su (urine)

bei (bad)

fiamu (sleep)

dustə⁵ (wicked)

In Bodo and Assamese languages Onomatopoeia of children languages have reflected in some folk songs also. For Example:

Bodo:

ɥi dudu p^hɥi p^hɥi

ɥi dudu p^hɥi

nɥŋ p^hɥiabɥla t^halir t^haise hɔr

t^halir t^haise hɔrabla t^halir t^hainɥi hɔr

ɥi dudu p^hɥi p^hɥi⁶

English rendering:

Come down, oh moon,

Come down to us,

Or else send a banana

Or two

Oh moon, come down to us.

In the above example of Bodo nursery song, the Onomatopoeia word *dudu* ‘moon’ is a child language.

4.2.5 Onomatopoeia Words in Folk-songs of Bodo and Assamese Languages:

In Bodo and Assamese languages there are different types of folk songs. For Example: songs of soil, songs of flower, songs of birds and animals, songs of love of

⁵ Deka, Jitaen. APSC, Khanapara, Guwahati.

⁶ Extracted from: Basumatary, Phukan Ch. & Chainary. Swarna Prabha. (2017). Monograph of the Boros. Lakshi Publishers. p. 118.

nature, nursery rhymes etc. In these types of folk-songs many onomatopoeic words are reflected indicating different meanings and functions as nouns, adjectives or adverbs based on the contexts of Bodo and Assamese languages.

Bodo:

Songs of Soil:

azlɔŋ bizlɔŋ

zɔŋni nɔa gɔblɔŋ,

dahasɔŋi ɔk^{ha} dahasɔŋi

sandɔŋ hɔnɔŋi p^hɔŋinɔŋsɔŋi,

ɔŋi sandɔŋ ɔŋi sandɔŋ

ɔk^{ha} hadɔŋ dram dram

ɔk^{ha} t^hɔŋbla zagɔŋ sraŋ

t^habainɔŋ mɔŋgɔŋ gran gran⁷

English rendering:

Our hut is wretched,

Oh rains do not come down

Yonder the sun rises, look,

Welcome to you oh sun, come on.

Drive away the rain drops

That has begun to fall.

⁷ Extracted from: Baro, Daithun. (2018). *Process of Reduplication in Bodo*. Gauhati University, Department of Bodo. p.p. 197,198.

Spread you your heat

That the moisture

May get dried up,

To let us have dry roads.

From the above example of song of soil, the ‘azlɔŋ’ means ‘to stand on the toe’ and ‘bizlɔŋ’ is the partial reduplicated form of the azlɔŋ. On the other hand, ɔk^ha haduŋ dram dram (heavily raining sound) and t^habainw muŋguŋ graŋ graŋ (dried up) are the full reduplicated onomatopoeias which are functioning as adjectives.

Assamese:

gun gunkɔi b^humura p^hule p^hule pɔrise

t^hupa t^hupe naŋɔr tɔgɔr dal b^hɔri p^hulise

zanmɔni tumie mor zibɔnɔr kamona baxɔna

tumie mor zibɔnɔr b^hɔrɔxa

tumie mor bukure kɔli

rɔŋa nila pɔk^hila

zake zake urise..

koo koo kɔi koolitie patɔr arɔt matise..⁸

In the above example of Assamese folk song *gun gun* means sound of the insects of bumble bee and *koo koo* means cooing of cuckoo which are full reduplicated Onomatopoeia in the song.

Song of the sounds of birds and animals:

bandɔrɔr bialɔi zame zam

⁸ <https://www.4to40.com/culture-tradition-of-india/bihu-songs-bihu-festival-song-lyrics/>

pet b^horai sira doi k^hame k^ham...

kauri mafi ahibo

mərəmote matibo ka..ka..ka..

bandərər bialoi zame zam

pet b^horai sira doi k^hame k^ham...

mekuri mafi ahibo

mərəmote matibo

meu..meu..meu

bandərər bialoi...

xial mafi ahibo

mərəmote matibo

maŋk^ho tukura anibo

ke fiowa ke fiowa

bandərər bialoi...

bag^h mafi ahibo

mərəmote matibo

g^hau⁹

English rendering:

Will go to monkeys' marriage

Will eat lots of sira doi

⁹ Boro, Ranu. Village: Nachansali, P.O.: Nachansali, Dist.: Udalguri

Craw aunty will come

Will caw by kindly

Will go to monkeys' marriage

Will eat lots of sira doi

Cat aunty will come

Will mew by kindly

Will go to monkeys' marriage....

Fox aunty will come

Will bring piece of meat

Will bark by kindly

Will go to monkeys' marriage...

Tiger aunty will come

Will say ghau by kindly.

4.3 Findings:

Similarities:

1. In Bodo and Assamese languages Onomatopoeia words can found in monosyllabic, bi-syllabic and poly-syllabic structure.
2. There are two types of onomatopoeic constructions possible both in Bodo and Assamese languages. Those are- Reduplicated and Non-Reduplicated.

3. Onomatopoeia words are simple complete and partial reduplication in both the languages.
4. Onomatopoeia takes a vital role in the word formation in both the Bodo and Assamese languages.
5. Generally, onomatopoeia words have adverbial functions, but sometimes it also seems that it works as noun or adjective in both the Bodo and Assamese languages.
6. Onomatopoeia can find in children language acquisition in both the Bodo and Assamese languages.
7. In both the Bodo and Assamese languages onomatopoeia has reflected in folk songs also.

Dissimilarities:

1. There are some onomatopoeia words in Assamese language where added *-a, -ia, -m-i* after the onomatopoeia words. But these kinds of onomatopoeia words has not founded in Bodo language.
2. The use of Onomatopoeia words sound produced by animals are not similar in Bodo and Assamese languages. For example:

Barking of dog: **Bodo:** p^hɔu p^hɔu

Assamese: b^hok b^hok

3. The use of Onomatopoeia words sound produced by birds are different in Bodo and Assamese languages. For example:

Cawing of crow:

Bodo: ga ga

Assamese: ka ka etc.

4. In Imitative sound produced by insects the use of some onomatopoeia words are different in Bodo and Assamese languages.
5. The use of onomatopoeia words of sound produced by human beings are not similar in Bodo and Assamese languages. For example:

Cry of newly born baby:

Bodo: eṅa eṅa / ewa ewa

Assamese: tewa tewa etc.