

# CHAPTER: 3

## CONTRIBUTION OF MADHU RAM BARO IN BODO LANGUAGE

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### 3.1 Language:

Language is what people utilize, a system of letter and sound combinations, to express their thoughts, ideas, and feelings. It's a set of commonly spoken, manual (signed), or written symbols that people use to communicate as members of a social group and members of that group's culture. Language serves a variety of purposes, including communication, identity expression, play, creative expression, and emotional release.

According to the Collins dictionary, the language is:

*“A language is a system of communication which consists of a set of sounds and written symbols which are used by the people of a particular country or region for talking or writing.”<sup>1</sup>*

The Oxford Dictionary also defines the language-

*“The phenomenon of human symbolic communication, including speech, writing, and sign language. In face-to-face interaction, language is arguably inseparable from nonverbal communication, often referred to as body language. Language as a field of study is termed linguistics.”<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Internet source:

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/language> (access date 03-05-2023)

<sup>2</sup>Internetsource:<https://www.google.com/search?q=definition+of+language+by+oxford+dictionary&oq=&aqs=chrome.0.35i39i362l5j69i59i450j0i66i143i362l2.77769j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8> (access date 03-05-2023)

### 3.2 Bodo Language:

The Bodo community has its own Language. It is very famous with *बर/बड़ Boro Rao* (Boro/ Bodo language). The *Boro Rao* belongs to the Tibeto-Burman sub-language family. It is linguistically connected with other communities of northeast India such as Garo, Rabha, Dimasa, Kokborok, Lalung, and Deuri. On the origin of the Bodo language, Kameswar Brahma says:

*“Linguistically the Bodos include a large group of people who are the speakers of the Tibeto-Burman speeches of the North and East Bengal, Assam and Burma. They are the Bodos or Boros of the Brahmaputra valley, Meches of lower Assam and West Bengal, Rabhas, Garos, Dimasas, and Kacharis of Cachar district, Tipras, Lalungs, Sonowals, Hajongs, Mishings, Deuris, Chutias, etc”<sup>3</sup>.*

Again, he says that:

*“The Boro speaking area of Assam at present are stretching from Dhubri in the west to Sadiya in the East. Tripura and Nagaland also have a small number of Boros or Boro Kacharis. In Jalpaiguri and other adjacent districts of Nepal, The Boros are known as Mech. The Boro language of Assam has at least four clear-cut dialect areas with a sufficient number of dialectal variations; these may be called north-western, south western, north-central and southern dialect areas with phonological, morphological and glossarial differences”<sup>4</sup>.*

According to Madhu Ram Baro, the language is:

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<sup>3</sup> Brahma, Kameswar. *A Study of Socio-Religious Beliefs, Practices and Ceremonies of the Bodos*, 2015. p. 12

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.* p. 1

“समाजाव मानसिफोरा गावबागावनि साननाय हनायफोरखौ सासेया गुबुन  
सासेनि सिगाडाव गारां बोनानै फोरमायनाय राहायानो राव।”<sup>5</sup>

English Rendering:

*“In a social setting, the medium through which one another  
communicate one’s thoughts and ideas vocally is language.”*

At present, the *Boro Rao* (Bodo Language) is growing in different aspects of the country. The Bodo Language has been written in Devanagari script since 1975. Notably, it is also one Official language in the Indian state of Assam. In 1963, The Bodo language was introduced as the medium of instruction in the primary schools in the dominated area of the Bodo community and M.E. & High school was introduced as a medium of instruction in the year 1968. Under Gauhati University and Northeast Hill University it was introduced as an M.I.L. subject in 1978, and Dibrugarh University in 1995. At present M.A. courses in Bodo Language are offered at Gauhati University (introduced in 1996), Bodoland University in 2009, Dibrugarh University (introduced in 2016), and Cotton University (introduced in 2018). Besides, Bodo language is also offered as MIL subject, Elective subject, and Honours in Bachelor Course.

Madhu Ram Baro says, about the Bodo language in the preface of his book *The Structure of Boro Language*.

*“Boro is a fast developing language.”*<sup>6</sup>

According to the Government Employees’ Census Report, in 2009 among the total number 30594 of employees, 12128 employees were Bodo speakers.

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<sup>5</sup> Baro, Madhu Ram. *Rao arw Ronsai*, 2013. 2<sup>nd</sup> edit. p.1

<sup>6</sup> Baro, Madhu Ram. *The Structure of Boro Language*, N.L. Publication, 2008. 3<sup>rd</sup> edit.

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Table No. 26.05

**DISTRIBUTION OF BTAD EMPLOYEES ACCORDING TO DISTRICT AND MOTHER TONGUE  
(AS ON 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH, 2009)**

Sl. No.	District	Assamese	Bengali	Bodo	Hindi	Karbi	Nepali	Mishing	Rabha	Other	Not recorded	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Kokrajhar	4159	1371	5371	288	28	142	24	189	555	27	12154
2.	Chirang	1758	384	1952	57	5	82	2	9	22	0	4271
3.	Baksa	4815	64	2940	12	7	124	1	20	16	1	8000
4.	Udalguri	3593	178	1865	55	11	197	14	90	165	1	6169
<b>Total in BTAD</b>		<b>14325</b>	<b>1997</b>	<b>12128</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30594</b>

Source:- Govt. Employees Census Report, 2009.

***Fig. no. 01 (Govt. Employee Census Report, 2009)<sup>7</sup>***

The Bodo Sahitya Sabha (BSS), the Central Institute of Indian Language (CIIL), the National Translation Mission, the Ministry of Human Resource

<sup>7</sup> *Statistical hand book of Bodoland Territorial Council, B.T.C. (Assam), 2016-17. p.*

Development (MHRD), the Government of India, and many other organizations are working to develop the Bodo language.

### 3.3 Contribution of Madhu Ram Baro in Bodo Language:

Madhu Ram Baro was a famous Bodo writer and a renowned Linguist of Assam. He wrote in Bodo, Assamese, and English. Madhu Ram Baro had always wished for the growth and development of the Bodo language because he had promised his primary school teacher to write Bodo Grammar and Dictionary during his School days.

*“When one of my teachers in primary school called Boro language a Dowan which means a language without a Grammar and Dictionary. Then I promised to write Boro Grammar and Dictionary”.*<sup>8</sup>

To fulfill this promise, he tried and worked very hard and finally, he wrote Bodo Grammar and edited the Dictionary. Along with these Grammar and Dictionaries, Madhu Ram Baro also wrote many Bodo books. In the need basis of Bodo Medium Students, he had written Bodo books in due time to fulfill the need of the Bodo Students. When he delivered his speech at the Sahitya Akademi Awardees’ meet, he said:

*“I am basically a teacher and for the needs of the students I started writing in the true sense”.*<sup>9</sup>

Madhu Ram Baro was a silent and responsible worker with sincerity and a spirit of social service. He had a critical attitude with a nationalistic and academic outlook. He offered his sincere service towards the growth of language, Literature, and the Cultural developments of the Bodos. Madhu Ram Baro was a prolific writer, he wrote in three languages which are: Bodo, Assamese, and

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<sup>8</sup> Talukdar, Khagendra Nath, Bhuban Chandra Kalita. et al. *Subasiita Sadhana Madhu Ram Baro: Jivan Aru Kriti*. N.L. Publication, November, 2011. p. 139

<sup>9</sup> *ibid.* p. 129

English. He published many books on the Bodo language, Literature, and Culture for the needs of Schools, Colleges, and Universities students. Madhu Ram Baro has written Textbooks, Reference books, Grammar, and Rapid reader along with these, he wrote in all genres like Essays, Grammar, Poetry, Drama, Short stories, novels, and Biography, particularly in the Bodo language. Most of his Bodo Books are recognized as textbooks for various levels of classes starting from primary to the Postgraduate level.

According to Joykanta Sarma:

*“In Bodo Medium alone, 22 of his books are prescribed as text-books, including Social studies and Rapid Reading.”*<sup>10</sup>

According to his speech, delivered at the Sahitya Akademi Awardees’ meet, he had started writing in class eight with poems and short stories in the Assamese language.

*“I started my writing from class eight itself when I was a school Student. I composed poems, short stories and articles first in Assamese and collected materials of Boro folk-literature, like folk-tales, folk-songs etc.”*<sup>11</sup>

### 3.3.1 Classification of Madhu Ram Baro’s Contribution in Language:

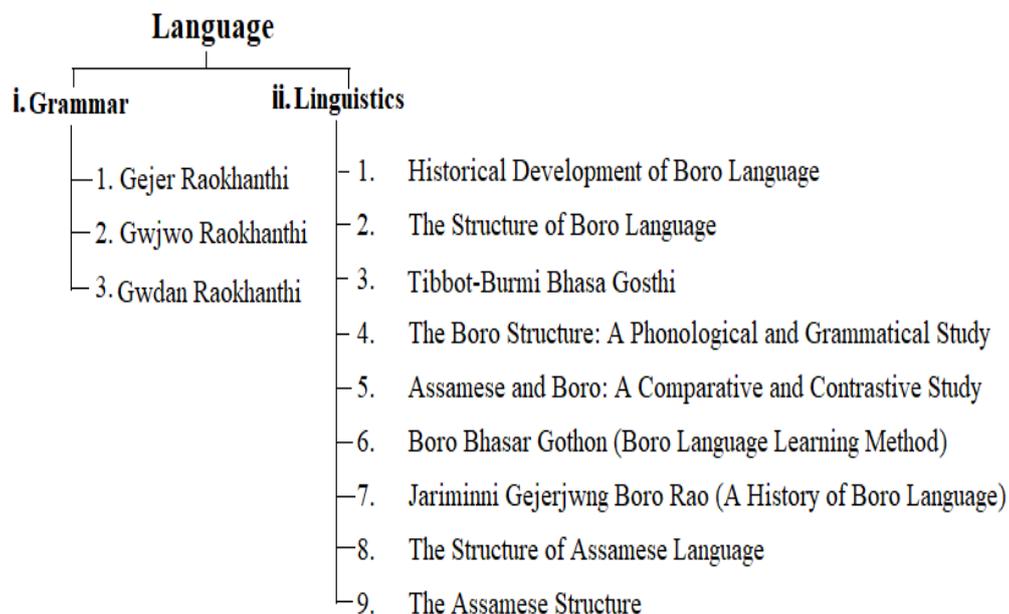
Madhu Ram Baro wrote many books on the part of Language. He has written on Linguistics and grammar and did Comparative study. He wrote in three different languages: Bodo, Assamese, and English languages. The contribution of

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<sup>10</sup> Talukdar, Khagendra Nath, Bhuban Chandra Kalita. et al. *Subasiita Sadhana Madhu Ram Baro: Jivan Aru Kriti*. N.L. Publication, November, 2011. p. 118

<sup>11</sup> Talukdar, Khagendra Nath, Bhuban Chandra Kalita. et al. *Subasiita Sadhana Madhu Ram Baro: Jivan Aru Kriti*. N.L. Publication, November, 2011. p. 129

Madhu Ram Baro in the language part can be classified mainly into two parts. The



classification of his contribution to the language is mentioned below:

**Fig. no. 02 (Classification of Madhu Ram Baro's Contribution in Languages)**

### 3.4 Grammar:

Grammar is a set of rules that govern how words, sentences, and other aspects of a language are combined and understood. The term "grammar" also refers to a book that contains these rules or the study of these abstract aspects. In a narrow sense, the phrase only applies to the study of word and sentence structure (syntax and morphology), leaving out vocabulary and pronunciation.

According to the [Richard Nordquist](#) the Grammar is:

*“The grammar of a language includes basic axioms such as verb tenses, articles and adjectives (and their proper order), how*

*questions are phrased, and much more. Language cannot function without grammar. It would simply make no sense—people require grammar to communicate effectively.*

*Speakers and listeners, authors and their audiences must function in like systems in order to understand one another. In other words, a language without grammar is like a pile of bricks without mortar to hold them together. While the basic components are present, they are, for all intents and purposes, useless.”<sup>12</sup>*

### 3.4.1 Contribution of Madhu Ram Baro in Bodo Grammar:

The Bodo language also has its grammar. When discussing the history of the Bodo Grammar the contribution of missionaries comes first. They published some of the grammar books of the Bodo language in Roman script. The grammar books published by missionaries are given below:

1. *An Outline Grammar of the Kachari (Bodo) Language* by Reverend Sidney Endle, published in 1884.
2. *A Short Grammar of the Mech or Boro Language* by L. Skrefsrud, published in 1889.
3. *Boro Grammar* By H. Halvorsrud, published in 1959.

These three Bodo grammar books were contributed by missionaries in the Bodo language and *An Outline Grammar of the Kachari (Boro) Language* published by Reverend Sidney Endle in 1884 is the first Bodo Grammar.

After that, the Bodo Language was introduced in 1963 as a medium of instruction in schools in Assam. That’s why some educated Bodo people have

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<sup>12</sup> Internet source (<https://www.thoughtco.com/what-is-grammar-1690909>)  
(access date-03-05-2023)

taken the initiative to write Bodo grammar. The Grammar books written by Bodo people are as follows:

1. *Gibi Raokhanthi* by Kamal Kumar Brahma published in 1972
2. *Boro Raokhanthi* by Kamal Kumar Brahma published in 1972
3. *Gwnang Raokhanthi* by Kamal Kumar Brahma published in 1972
4. *Boro Raokhanthi* published by Maniram Muchahary

Kamal Kumar Brahma's *Gibi Raokhanthi* Published in 1972 is the first Bodo Grammar book written by the Bodo people. After these Madhu Ram Baro published three Bodo grammar books.

The mentioned below books are published by Madu Ram Baro which contributed to Bodo Grammar.

1. *Gejer Raokhanthi*, (Bodo Grammar for School Level)
2. *Gwjwo Raokhanthi*, 1996 (Bodo Grammar for H.S. Level)
3. *Gwdan Raokhanthi*, 1999 (Grammar for College and University Level)

#### **1. Gejer Raokhanthi, 1990 (Bodo Grammar for School Level):**

Among the above-mentioned three Bodo Grammar books, the *Gejer Raokhanthi* (Bodo Grammar for School Level) didn't find it at the market and as well as his home. But everyone knows it, the *Gejer Raokhanthi* Bodo grammar is written by Madhu Ram Baro and published in 1990 for the students of Bodo medium at the school level.

#### **2. Gwjwo Raokhanthi, 1996 (Bodo Grammar for H.S. Level):**

*Gwjwo Raokhanthi* Bodo Grammar written by Madhu Ram Baro and published by N.L. publication in 1996 is approved by "Assam Higher Secondary Education Council" (A.H.S.E.C.) as a textbook for Bodo Grammar for Higher Secondary (H.S.) 1<sup>st</sup> year and 2<sup>nd</sup>-year classes for the new course. This book has been reprinted five times, 1<sup>st</sup> edition- in 1996, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition- in 1999, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition- in 2005, 4<sup>th</sup> edition- in 2009, and 5<sup>th</sup> edition in 2019.

There is a total of five chapters along with the introduction in the *Gwjwo Raokhanthi* Bodo grammar. These are:

1. Introduction
2. Chapter- I, Language
3. Chapter- II, Phonology
4. Chapter- III, Morphology
5. Chapter- IV, Syntax

### **1. Introduction:**

In the introduction of *Gwjwo Raokhanthi*, the author writes a short introduction about the language. After society was formed the language came into existence. The language was created in different parts of the world. In this way, the language is also familiar to the people. The language family is different from the community and countries like Sino- Tibetan, Indo- European. The Bodo language is derived from the great language family Sino-Tibetan.

The language analysis system is also changing. Grammar is the old method or traditional system of language analysis. But now Linguistics is the new method of systematic and scientific analysis of language.

### **2. Chapter- I, Language:**

In Chapter- I of *Gwjwo Raokhanthi* Bodo grammar, the author writes about the Language. Language is the system of sound that human beings use to express their thoughts. People use language to communicate with others by using their speech organs. The other animals also use their signal and signs to express their thoughts to others instead of language. People also use signals and signs to express their thoughts along with the language and that is called Sign Language.

People use the language only for communication with others. But now people are writing the language to teach others, to teach knowledge through language, for official use, and for sending the news. Language has two forms, these are- Dialect and Literary. The written form of language is the Standard Language. A Standard Language has different dialects.

The Mother Tongue is the basic and primary language of the person. The mother, father, and family members teach a language to the new baby and the

baby also learns to speak the language; it is called the Mother Tongue. After the Mother Tongue, a person can learn and speak a native language, regional language, and state language, and after this, a person can learn and speak a foreign language.

Along with these, the author writes about the Bodo language in this chapter. The Bodo language is the Associate Official Language of Assam state of India. It is used by the Bodo peoples of Assam and people residing in neighboring states and countries. The Bodo language is a branch of the Sino-Tibetan language family. The Boro, Dimasa, Garo, Rabha, Deuri-Sutiya, Tiwa, Koch-Hazong, and Kokborok languages are the branches of the Bodo Language. The Bodo language has its dialects and the dialect of the Kokrajhar areas is considered as the standard language of the Bodo language. Pramod Chandra Bhattacharya did his first research work on the Bodo Language and published a book on it in 1977 entitled *Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language*.

The Grammar of a Language is the rules of the Sounds, Words, Sentences, and other Components of a language, as well as how they are combined and interpreted. A language has its basic elements, these are- Phone, Phoneme, Sound, Morph, Morpheme, Word, Sentence, Phrase, and Clause. These are called Phonology, Morphology, and Syntax in Linguistics.

The author mentions some history of Bodo grammar. *An Outline Grammar of the Kachari (Boro) Language* by Reverend Sidney Endle published in 1884 was the first Bodo Grammar written with illustrative sentences, notes, reading lessons, and a short vocabulary based on the Bodo people in Darrang district, Assam. After this L. Skrefsrud published a grammar book named *A Short Grammar of the Mech or Boro Language* in 1889. After long years H. Halvorsrud published a grammar book *Boro Grammar* in 1959. These mentioned Bodo grammars are written by Missionaries. These Bodo Grammars have been written in Bodo and English languages in the Roman script.

The Bodo language was introduced in 1963 as a medium of instruction in schools of Assam. In 1972, Kamal Kumar Brahma published *Gibi Raokhanthi*, *Boro Raokhanthi*, and *Gwnang Raokhanthi* in the Assamese script; later on, in 1976 these books were published in Devanagari script. From 1976 onwards after

Kamal Kumar Brahma some Bodo-educated people like Maniram Muchahary and Madhu Ram Baro started publishing Bodo grammar. For example, *Boro Raokhanthi* by Maniram Muchahary, *Gejer Raokhanthi*, *Gwjwo Raokhanthi*,\_and *Gwdan Raokhanthi*\_by Madhu Ram Baro.

### **3. Chapter- II, Phonology:**

Madhu Ram Baro analyses this chapter about Phonology and its elements. He analyzed the use of Vowel letters and Consonant letters for the Bodo language. The letter is used to write the language and the united letter is the word. The letter is in two types-

- 1. Vowel letter and**
- 2. Consonant letter.**

A total of 22 (Twenty-two) letters are used to write the indigenous Bodo language. There are 6 (Six) Vowel and 16 (Sixteen) consonants among these 22 letters.

#### **1. Vowel letter:**

Vowels are a representation of open, frictionless vocal sounds. An open sound is represented by a vowel, which is a letter. Vowels represent speech sounds made with the mouth open, whereas Consonants indicate sounds produced when the vocal tract is partially or completely closed. There is typically little to no variation in how consonants are produced between various English speakers because they call for a precise position of the Lips, Cheeks, Tongue, etc. On the other hand, depending on the dialect, vowel pronunciation might vary greatly.

Madhu Ram Baro writes very clearly and details the 6 (six) vowels in his Grammar, which are used in the origin and genuine Bodo language. Promod Chandra Bhattacharya wrote about the Vowels in his book *A Descriptive Analysis of the Bodo Language* in International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) but Madhu Ram Baro wrote about it in Devanagari script.

(ii) Syllabics (Vowels)

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Mid	e	ō	o
Low		a	

*Fig. no. 03 (A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language)<sup>13</sup>*

	बिजौ / मोखां	गेजेर	गुदि / उन	
	गुवार	गुवार	गुवार	दुलुर
गोजौ	इ		ओ	उ
गेजेर	ए			अ
गाहाय		आ		

*Fig. no. 04 (Gwjwo Raokhanthi)<sup>14</sup>*

## 2. Consonant letter:

<sup>13</sup> Battacharya, Promod Chandra. *A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language*, 2007. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edit. p. 21

<sup>14</sup> Baro, Madhu Ram. *Gwjwo Raokhanthi*, 2019. 5<sup>th</sup> Edit. p. 21

Consonants are characters that are considered as letters that represent a particular spoken sound. These sounds need the vocal tract to be partially or completely closed.

Madhu Ram Baro wrote about the sixteen consonants in a detailed form in his Grammar which are used in the origin and genuine Bodo language. Before it, Promod Chandra Bhattacharya wrote in his *A Descriptive Analysis of the Bodo Language* about these consonant letters only in the form of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). But Madhu Ram Baro wrote these first in Devanagari script which is used academically.

(a) Consonants :

	Bi-labial	Denti-alveolar	Alveolo-palatal	Velar
<b>Plosives :—</b>				
<b>-aspirated</b>	ph	th		kh
<b>-unaspirated</b>	b	d		g
Nasals	m	n		ɳ
<b>Fricatives :—</b>				
<b>-voiceless</b>			s	
<b>-voiced</b>			z	
<b>Tremulant</b>		r		
<b>Lateral</b>		l		

(b) Vocoids :

(i) Non-syllabics (Semivowels)

Frictional : h

frictionless palatal : y

frictionless rounded velar : w

*Fig. no. 05 (A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language)<sup>15</sup>*

गारां बोनाय आदब	गारां सोमजिनाय जायगा						
	गुसथि		हाथाय गुदि		गाराम		गाराम नाला
	गारां गैयै गोरा	गारां गोनां गुरै	गारां गैयै गोरा	गारां गोनां गुरै	गारां गैयै गोरा	गारां गोनां गुरै	गारां गैयै गोरा
नांजाब	फ	ब	थ	द	ख	ग	
नेरखां		म		न		ङ	
हादुं			स	ज			ह
जिंबिलाव				ल			
मावबिलाव				र			
नांजाब बारग'		व		य			

*Fig. no. 06 (Gwjwo Raokhanthi)<sup>16</sup>*

Along with Vowels and Consonants Madhu Ram Baro discusses the Spelling system, its cluster, and the punctuation systems of the Bodo language in this Phonology chapter.

#### 4. Chapter- III, Morphology:

<sup>15</sup> Battacharya, Promod Chandra. *A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language*, 2007. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edit. p. 20

<sup>16</sup> Baro, Madhu Ram. *Gwjwo Raokhanthi*, 2019. 5<sup>th</sup> Edit. p. 21

In this chapter, Madhu Ram Baro discussed Morphology. The study of Morphology examines how morphemes, or the constituents of words, combine or stand alone to convey a variety of meanings. He discusses all the parts of morphology. These are:

Noun, Adjective, Pronoun, Gender, Number, Case, Declension, Person, Declension Pronouns, Verb, Mood, Verbal Tense, Conjugation, Roots, Indeclinable, Voice, Change of Voice, Compound, Copulative Compound, Relative Compound, Determinative Compound, Appositional Compounds, Numeral Compounds, Indeclinable Compounds, Suffixes, Primary Suffixes, Secondary Suffixes, Feminine Suffixes, Affixes, and Numeral Definitive.

### **5. Chapter- IV, Syntax:**

Syntax is also one of the parts of Grammar or linguistics. In Chapter- IV, Madhu Ram Baro discusses Syntax and its parts. Syntax is the placement of words in Clauses, Sentences, And Phrases as well as the study of how sentences are put together and how their elements interact. Madhu Ram Baro discusses all the parts of syntax in Bodo by classifying the introduction into parts, part two and part three. The parts of syntax discussed by the author are as follows-

**Introduction Part:** In the introduction, part of this chapter author wrote about the Syntax, Kind of Sentences, Expansion, and Contraction of Sentences, Conversation of sentences, Combination of Sentences, Analysis of Sentences, and Narration.

**Part Two:** In part two of this chapter, he wrote on the Parsing and interchange of parts of Speech, Idioms, Phrases, and Word and Sentence Construction.

**Part three:** In this part, the author wrote about the Proverbs and Expansion of Ideas.

### **3. Gwdan Raokhanthi, 1999 (Grammar for College and University Level):**

*Gwdan Raokhanthi* is also a Bodo grammar book written in 1999 by Madhu Ram Baro and it was published for the Bodo students at the college and University level after the introduction of the M.A. (Master of Arts) course in the Bodo language at Gauhati University. In comparison between *Gwjwo Raokhanthi*

and *Gwdan Raokhanthi*, both the books are similar only upgraded it from H.S. (Higher Secondary) level to college and University level by changing the name of the book.

### 3.5 Linguistics:

The scientific study of language is called Linguistics. It involves a thorough, methodical, objective, and accurate investigation of every component of language, including its Cognitive, Social, Environmental, Biological, And Structural aspects.

Within the Humanities and Social Sciences, Linguistics is regarded as both a general academic topic of study and an Applied Science. The Traditional linguistic analysis focuses on Syntax, Rules Governing Sentence Structure, Semantics Meaning, Morphology Word Structure, Phonetics, Speech Sounds and Sign Language equivalents, Phonology, the Abstract sound system of a particular language, Pragmatics, and how social context affects the meaning. Numerous of these fields are connected by subdisciplines like Biolinguistics, the study of biological aspects and the Evolution of language, and Psycholinguistics, the study of psychological factors in human language.

#### 3.5.1 Contribution of Madhu Ram Baro in Linguistics:

In the field of linguistics in Bodo, Promod Chandra Bhattaharya's *A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language* is the first linguistics book in Bodo. After this Madhu Ram Baro wrote some linguistics books in Bodo as the Bodo writers were not very much interested in Linguistics. They don't have linguistics in Bodo without Madhu Ram Baro.

Dr. Swarna Prabha Chainary criticizes the linguistics contribution of Madhu Ram Baro.

*"In the book of The Historical Development of the Boro Language, a small book having a total of 44 pages, Shri Boro has described in brief the family identity of the language, migration root, its*

*cognate languages, and its dialects showing a few specimens of these variations in the levels of phonology, morphology and lexis. In this book he also tried to show the lexical similarities of Boro with Garo, Dimasa, Deuri, Tiwa, Rabha and Kokborok languages and the grammatical similarities of the Boro language with Garo, Dimasi, Tiwa and Rabha languages. The Boro and the different types of scripts they used for writing their language is also included in brief in this book. Though the Boro people are using the Devanagari script for their writing purpose, before 1976, they shifted to different scripts from time to time from Bangla to Assamese and sometimes using simultaneously both the scripts at a time. But before permanently shifting to Devanagari script from 1976 to till date, it is thought that they had their own script know as Deodhai, which is now a completely extinct script due to lack of their proper care and preservation. In this book he has also mentioned about the contribution of the Boro language in Assamese language and has also mentioned about Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee who has said that "the Boros have maximum contribution towards the development of Assamese language than any other tribes like the Ahoms, Khasis, Mishings have."(Extracted from *The Historical Development of the Boro Language*, p-22). He has also mentioned about the other Assamese scholars like Dr. Birinchi Kumar Baruah, Dr. Bani Kanta Kakati, Dr. Golok Chandra Goswami and others who have mentioned about the contribution of the Boro language towards the Assamese language. He has also mentioned about the reception of words in Boro language from other Aryan languages like Assamese, Hindi, Bangla and others and also about the reception of the sounds like /p t k ch sh/ etc. from Assamese when these are not Boronised. The reception of the words from other cognate languages like Dimasa and Kokborok, the coining of new words in the language have also been included in the book to give the readers a proper knowledge on Boro lexis. Though this book is mainly to study the stages of development of*

*the Boro language, he has tried to include a brief introduction on the Boro literature based on its different periods of time.*

*The other book Assamese and Boro: A Comparative and Contrastive Study published in 1990 is an important book for the students of language and linguistics, researchers and the general readers. In this book, in the Introductory Chapter, Boro has included the family identity of this two languages, origin and loan words available in the languages. In the Chapter-1 phonology has been included and has tried to do justice with the two languages comparing and contrasting segmental and suprasegmental features of the both side by side. In Chapter-2 he has explained about the morphology of both the languages starting from non-particles to particles from primary grammatical category to secondary grammatical category. In this book his basic intention was to show to the readers, how despite the development of these two languages from different sources, maximum similarities are found in the languages in comparison to dissimilarities. This is not a very in-depth study on morphology; despite that is thought to be very helpful for the students studying language and linguistics because of its examination oriented subject matter. In Chapter-3, has included syntax. In this chapter he has tried to compare the syntax of these two languages from structural viewpoint, the idiomatic and non-idiomatic uses of words in the sentences and the different types of sentences used to express statement, order, question and others. If one go thoroughly through the comparative and contrastive study of Shri Boro in this chapter then starting from idiomatic and non-idiomatic use of words in the sentences to structural division of sentences and the types of sentences used to express statement, order and question will get almost equal types of structures. Here am quoting two examples from idiomatic use of words from the book where one will feel that it is either the Boro version of Assamese or the Assamese version of Boro, e.g. chakutloga in Assamese has become megonao nang in Boro and the other one hatlor in Assamese and akhai asira in Boro. These are the*

*two idioms having common meaning and common words in both the languages. In Chapter-4, Boro has tried to give a comparison of Assamese and Boro vocabulary starting with the names of animals and creatures and ending with verbs.*

*The other book, am going to include here is gwjwu Raokhanthi, the Boro grammar meant for the students of the Higher Secondary level This book is written in Boro language and is published in the year 1996 Its contents are also almost same to the above mentioned book, only the difference is that its study is confined only to the Boro language. This book contains a total of four chapters starting with introduction and ending with the syntax. In this book, in the introductory chapter has included the definition of language and grammar, the dialects of Boro language, standard language and the parts of grammar. In the second chapter has included phonology and tried to explain in detail the segmental and suprasegmental features of the language including spelling system, punctuation mark etc., as these are very important for the students of the Higher Secondary stage. In the third chapter, Boro has included the morphology and tried to describe in detail the word class available in the Boro language along with the process of compound formation. It is to be mentioned here that though the process of compound formation (Sandhi) is not available in the language, is frequently asked in the examinations of the Higher Secondary and Degree levels. This may be the reason that Boro has included this topic in this book. In the last ie. in the fourth chapter he has included syntax and described on the types of sentences, expansion and contraction of sentences, narration, parsing, the uses of idioms, phrases and proverbs along with the expansion of idea. So, this book seems to be helpful to the students of the Higher Secondary level.*

*The last one book going to be mentioned here is The Boro Structure: A Phonological and Grammatical Analysis (second edition published in 2001). Like the other two books mentioned above, in this book also four chapters are included-Chapter-1, Introduction, chapter-*

2, *Phonological Structure*, Chapter-3, *The Morphological Structure* and Chapter-4, *The Syntactic Structure*. Its contents are same to the third book mentioned just before it. But despite that the viewpoints of describing the contents seem to be something different. In the third book he always kept in mind the target for which he is writing the book. So, the descriptions of its chapters were basically from the viewpoint of the school grammar which is absent in this book. In this book he has tried to explain and elaborate all the chapters from the linguistics point of view keeping in mind the features of the Tibeto-Burman group of languages, the group from which the Boro language has developed. So, this book is thought to be helpful in comparison to the other books for knowing and understanding the Boro language well. Lastly it is to be said that it was the Missionaries who first tried to study Boro language. After them Dr. Pramod Chandra Bhattacharya has took it a step forward and following their footsteps, the Boro native speakers Kamal Kumar Brahma and Madhuram Boro have tried to study this language in their own and it is Madhu Ram Boro, who contributed a lot in comparison to the others in this field.”<sup>17</sup>

The following books composed by Madhu Ram Baro which contributed to linguistics in Bodo:

1. *Historical Development of Boro Language*.
2. *The Structure of Boro Language*, 1990.
3. *Assamese and Boro: A Comparative and Contrastive Study*, 1990.
4. *Tibet-Burmi Bhasa Gosthi*, 1994 (Tibeto-Burman Family of Languages) (Assamese).
5. *The Boro Structure: A Phonological and Grammatical Study*.
6. *Boro Bhasar Gothon*, 1995 (Boro Language Learning Method).
7. *Jariminni Gejerjwng Boro Rao (A History of Boro Language)*, 2007.
8. *The Structure of the Assamese Language*, 2001.

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<sup>17</sup> Talukdar, Khagendra Nath, Bhuban Chandra Kalita. et al. *Subasiita Sadhana Madhu Ram Baro: Jivan Aru Kriti*. N.L. Publication, November, 2011. pp.12-124

### 9. *The Assamese Structure.*

There is a total of nine 9 linguistic books found in this study. But all the books of these are not available in the market as well as his home. *The Historical Development of Boro Language, The Boro Structure: A Phonological and Grammatical Study, Jariminni Gejerjwng Boro Rao (A History of Boro Language), 2007, The Assamese Structure* books are not founded, only 5 (five) books are pounds in this study and the books founded are analyzed below:

- **The Structure of Boro Language, (1990):**

Madhu Ram Baro discussed the Structure of the Bodo language in four chapters in this book. These are:

1. Chapter- I, Introduction
2. Chapter- II, Phonological Structure
3. Chapter- III, Morphological Structure
4. Chapter- IV, Syntactic Structure

#### **1. Chapter- I, Introduction:**

The author writes about Linguistics and its different branches like Structural linguistics and its branches in the introduction chapter of this book. Linguistics is the modern technique of studying a language scientifically. It is called Modern Grammar as opposed to Traditional Grammar, generally known as school or college grammar. It has three branches (1) Structural, (2) Historical, And (3) Comparative Linguistics. Structural Linguistics has three main parts known as (1) Phonology, (2) Morphology, and (3) Syntax concerning respectively (1) Sound (2) Word, and (3) Sentence levels of structures of a Language.

Phonology is the study of speech sounds and their functions within the sound system of a particular language. Morphology is the study of words, regarding their basic and constructed forms. Syntax is the study of the an-arrangements of words in sentences. The Morphology and Syntax are together

called Grammar. As one of its parts, the Morphology is called Word Grammar, and the Syntax is called Sentence Grammar. In the same pattern, some want to bring the sound structure under Sound grammar, although the sound structure does not come under the grammatical structure in linguistics.

Like other languages, the Bodo language also has three levels of structures relating to (1) Sound, (2) Word, and (3) Sentence, which are known respectively as Phonological, Morphological, and Syntactic Structures. The analysis of each of these structures will follow under each respective head.

## 2. Chapter- II, Phonological Structure:

The inventory of Bodo phonemes consists of the number of (a) Segmental Phonemes being Consonants and vowels, and (b) Suprasegmental phonemes being Tone, Juncture, and Contour, Co-Occurring with them as extra sound features used in the language. There are sixteen consonants as segmental Phonemes. There are 16 (sixteen) consonants as segmental Phonemes, and the author gives a chart according to their place and manner of articulation and voicing:

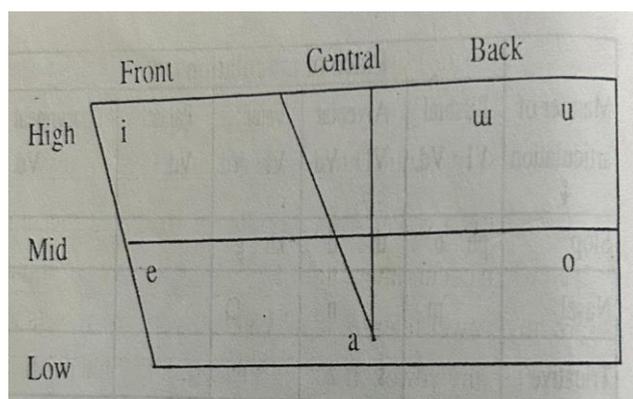
Manner of articulation ↓	Place of articulation						
	Bilabial		Alveolar		Velar	Palatal	Pharyngeal
	VI	Vd.	VI	Vd.	VI	Vd.	Vd.
Stop	ph	b	th	d	kh	g	
Nasal		m		n		ŋ	
Tricative			s	z			h
Rolled			r				
Lateral			l				
Friction'ess Continuant		w				j	

**Fig. no. 07 (The Structure of Boro Language)<sup>18</sup>**

Madhu Ram Baro explains that:

*“In pursuance of the chart given above, Boro consonants are divided into six classes according to their manner of articulation. They are (a) stops, being (1) bilabial] ph b/, (2) alveolar/ the d/, (3) velar/ kh g/, (b) nasals, being (1) bilabial/ m/, (2) alveolar/ n], (3) velar D/ /, (c) fricatives, being (1) alveolar/ s z], (2) Pharyngeal/h/, (d) rolled alveolar/ r/ ; (e) lateral alveolar/ l/ and (f) frictionless continuants being (1) bilabial/ w/, (2) palatal/ j/ . / w/ and/ j/ may be termed as glides produced due to vowel transactions.”<sup>19</sup>*

There are six vowels in Bodo as segmental Phonemes. They are given below in a symmetrical pattern. They may be shown with the help of a chart in terms of tongue position, tongue height, and lip-rounding while articulating them. The chart is:



**Fig. no. 08 (The Structure of Boro Language)<sup>20</sup>**

High and Low Vowels may be termed closed and open vowels because the part of the tongue is raised or lowered according to their articulation. Higher

<sup>18</sup> Baro, Madhu Ram. *The Structure of Bodo Language*, 2008. 3<sup>rd</sup> edit. p. 3

<sup>19</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> *ibid.* p. 4

to the mid position is termed as high-mid or half-close, and lower to it as lower-mid or half-open. The closeness and openness of the vowels are established depending on the expansion of the mouth cavity while articulating them.

After these, the author analyses the individual Phonemes along with their Allophonic variations where they incur. He analyses the Consonants and Vowels with their description and distribution with examples.

### **Diphthongs and Triphthongs:**

Along with the Consonants and Vowels, the author wrote about the Diphthong and Triphthong. The diphthong and triphthong are the combinations of two and three vowels respectively, each of them having a peak of sonority, being falling, and rising of two types.

Bodo has a sufficient number of diphthongs and a few number triphthongs falling with the first element and rising with the second element stressed. Some of them are formed by the Affixation of the Inflectional suffixes to the Root. Like Monophthongs they are also contrastive and available in every position of the word, co-occurring with either of the two tones.

In the introduction chapter of this chapter, the author analyses the following:

Syllable Structure, Juncture, Contour, Tone System, Intonation Pattern, the use of Glides, and the use of Morphophoneme.

### **3. Chapter- III, Morphological Structure:**

Morphology is the study of the smallest unit of grammar in a language. It is the study of the patterns of word forms. The word is the smallest Grammatical Unit. The morpheme which can express or stand by itself is a word. The minimum meaningful unit of speech sounds is a morpheme. The word /<sup>2</sup>man<sup>2</sup>si/ man is the minimum unit of five speech sounds as/ m a, n, s, i/, bearing a meaning in the Bodo language. it is free by itself. The word is a free morpheme. The word/ <sup>2</sup>man<sup>2</sup>si<sup>2</sup>ph is also, a word. There are two minimum meaningful units of speech sounds, such as/ <sup>2</sup>man<sup>2</sup>si/ man; and/ <sup>2</sup>phwr/ plural. Here /<sup>2</sup>phwr/ is not a word. It is a morpheme bearing the meaning of plurality, but not complete by itself to express full meaning. Therefore, it is a bound morpheme. Unless and until it is added with some nominals, it cannot bear a complete meaning. The word/

<sup>2</sup>man<sup>2</sup>si/ is a free morpheme in its contrast. A morpheme that has no phonological representation is a zero morpheme, e.g., sheep (Sg.) sheep f (Plural).

The morphs which are alternative representations of the same morpheme are Allomorphs. A particular morpheme may not be represented by the same morph in different environments. The alternative phonological representations of such a morpheme are called allomorphs. They are known as morpheme alternants or morpheme variants also. So, an Allomorph is a non-distinctive variant of a particular morpheme. It may be called a class of morphs that are phonemically and semantically identical. In this chapter, the author discusses the mention below:

The Kinship Terms, Common Kinship Terms, Opposite Kinship Terms, Double use of Relation, General Affixes, The Numeral Terms, Enclitic Definitive, The Inflection of Nominals (Case Suffices), The Pronouns, The Gender System, The Number System, The Verbs, The Tense System, The Inflection of the Verbs, Finite Verbal Affixes, The Adjectives, and The Adverbs.

#### **4. Chapter- IV, Syntactic Structure:**

Syntax is the traditional term for the study of the rules which govern the way how words are combined as opposed to morphology, the study of word structure. Both Morphology and Syntax are together known as grammatical as opposed to sound structure or Phonology. Its alternative concept is the study of the inter relationship between the elements of sentence structure and of the rules governing the arrangements of sentences in sequences. Syntax is concerned with the study of the arrangement of words in sentences and of how such relationships are shown as Word Order or inflection. Thus, the syntactic structure arranges the order of the words already inflected from out of non-particle bases and also the particles which are never inflected, directly in a sentence and also even in the formations of phrases and clauses which are also the parts of sentences, behaving like the individual class of words, to express the idea of complete utterances. The structural class of words by the name of particles may stand alone as free morphemes to enter the constructions of Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences. According to their function, they are divided into Adjectival, Adverbial, Conjunctional, and Interjectional Particles.

Bodo sentences are structurally divided into three these are- (1) Simple with one Subject and one Finite Verb, (2) Complex with one Principal Clause and one Subordinate Clause, (3) Compound with two independent Clauses or with one Principal and one Complex sentences as a minimum.

- **Assamese and Boro: A Comparative and Contrastive Study, 1990:**

This book is a comparative and Contrastive study of two languages written by Madhu Ram Baro and published in 1990. The Bodo and Assamese languages are from different language families. Bodo language is a family of the group of Sino- Tibetan. On the other hand, the Assamese language is a family of the Indo-Europeans. Most of the speakers of both languages live in Assam and neighboring states. The author mentions it clearly in the prelude of the book.

*“On comparative method of linguistics taking Assamese and Boro as its subject matter of study. Assamese is the link language of Assam and its neighboring states of W. Bengal, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland and Meghalaya. Boro, being the chief communication language in the area of Bodoland Territorial Autonomous Districts (B.T.A.D) within the state of Assam, is another state language of Assam along with Assamese. At present both languages are gaining importance on communication and learning. So it seems to be necessary to prepare this kind of book on these languages. The book is prepared mainly on learning purpose. Besides, the book is written as per syllabus of the Master Degree in Assamese, Bodo, Post Graduate Certificate, Diploma, Elective and Major course in Bodo language under Gauhati University”<sup>21</sup>*

There are a total of five chapters in *Assamese and Boro: A Comparative and Contrastive Study*. These are:

### **1. Chapter- I, Introduction**

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<sup>21</sup> Baro, Madhu Ram. *Assamese and Boro A Comparative and Contrastive Study*, 2012. 3<sup>rd</sup> edit.

- 2. **Chapter- II, Phonology**
- 3. **Chapter- III, Morphology**
- 4. **Chapter- IV, Syntax**
- 5. **Chapter- V, Vocabulary**

Along with these chapters, the author had given the Guidelines for pronunciation of the Assamese scripts used in the books.

- A. **Vowels** and
- B. **Consonants**

### **1. Chapter- I, Introduction:**

In the introduction of this book, the author wrote about linguistics and its classification. General linguistics is classified into three main subdivisions- Descriptive, Historical, and Comparative. Out of them, Comparative Linguistics compares two or more different languages. It traces the evolution of languages and then establishes the relationships between them by comparing one with another. This comparison is done between the languages that are genetically related or the languages that are developed from one common source. It studies the similarities between related languages giving particular emphasis on similarities and differences as well. It is an approach to language study in which sets of phonological, grammatical, and lexical correspondences between related languages are listed and classified. It may study the developments of one language in case of its different linguistic features in different periods by following the methods of comparison.

Madhu Ram Baro writes about Comparative linguistics. He mentioned that comparative linguistics-

*“The comparative linguistics may study the similarities between the linguistic features like sound, grammar and vocabulary of two different languages which are not genetically related. It may study and compare two languages of the same period, either modern or*

*ancient, just as it may compare the same languages which developed in two or more periods in course of time from one common source.”<sup>22</sup>*

He also wrote some history on Comparative Linguistics. Comparative Linguistics started in the 18th century when Sir William Jones, the British Jurist in India, made the statement in 1786 by pointing out that Greek, Latin, Sanskrit, Celtic, and Germanic languages appeared to have originated from a common source of language which was known as the Indo-European family. Comparative linguistics compares the similarities existing between the different elements like Sound, Grammar, and Vocabulary in the languages which are to be compared. It finds out the differences along with the similarities to contrast the linguistic elements prevalent in the languages that are taken for comparison. It enlists the possible similarities and differences as well to analyze the languages in separate levels of structures.

Comparative linguistics generally compares and contrasts languages that originated from the same Parent language. The languages which originated from the same source share some common linguistic elements as a major portion. In contrast, they may possess less uncommon features in them. Comparative linguistics may also compare languages that did not originate from the same common source. In this case, the respective language elements may not share the major common features and may show the contrastive elements as a major portion. The age-old principle of comparing only between the languages that originated from the same common language now seems to be invalid. The main points are that the languages to be compared must be of the same period or they must be contemporary. They may be ancient, classical, or modern. Or it may compare only one language which developed into different forms and structures in different historical periods. For instance, it may compare modern English with modern German or modern Assamese with modern Bengali or it may compare Assamese or any Indo-Aryan languages with their common source of classical Sanskrit language. Likewise, it may compare the modern Assamese with modern

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<sup>22</sup> Baro, Madhu Ram. *Assamese and Boro A Comparative and Contrastive Study*, 2012. 3<sup>rd</sup> edit. p.1

Boro, though they developed from different sources of the Indo-Aryan Sanskrit and Tibeto-Burman family of languages respectively.

Along with this comparative linguistics, the author wrote very clearly about the Bodo language and Assamese language. He compares two languages of the modern period Assamese and Bodo to find out the similarities and differences in their Sound, Grammar, and Lexical Levels of structures. Assamese is an Indo-Aryan language spoken by the Assamese people is the link language for the people living in Assam and the adjoining states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, etc. The Mongoloid people living in the state of Assam also speak this language in a bilingual situation for their communication with the Aryan Assamese people. This language came from Sanskrit as its offshoot through different stages of development known as Prakrit and Apabhramsa. Sanskrit itself is the language that was used in the classical period throughout the northern Indian states by the Aryan people. It came out from the Indo-European family through its different stages of development in different periods.

The Assamese language is the modern form of development as a final substratum of the original Indo-European family now current in the north-eastern regions of Indian states including mainly Assam and its neighborhood. Originally Assamese was inflectional and synthetic, but like other languages, it was modified to varying degrees in the direction of simplification with some loss of inflectional endings in the case of the word formation and the use of word order to indicate grammatical relations. This process is nothing but the inter-influence of the languages that are currently in the same area side by side.

Sino-Tibetan family is well-spread from China in the north and by crossing over Tibet and India to Burma in the south. Its different sub-groups are generally spoken by the Mongoloid people. This family is sometimes known as the Indo-Chinese family also according to age-old nomenclature. It is spoken in China, Tibet, Burma, Thailand, Indo-China, India, and Manchukuo. This family is divided into Chinese, Thai, and Tibeto-Burman sub-families. Some linguists want to group Chinese and Thai languages into one Thai-Chinese or Sino-Siamese sub-family. The Sino-Tibetan family of languages are tonal languages. They are analytic which shows syntactic relationships by functional words and word order

as opposed to inflected or agglutinative languages, where such formed relationships are expressed by the close combinations of linguistic elements like Prefixes, Suffixes, and Infixes with Base or Root words. The words of the languages of this family consist of simple and free morphemes.

The introduction of Madhu Ram Baro about the Bodo language in this book is:

*“The languages of the Sino-Tibetan family are highly monosyllabic. Even then it is doubtful whether this remark is correct in the truest sense of the term, The recent investigation on Tibetan and Burmese has focussed some doubt on their monosyllabism as original. The investigation shows that these languages have inflectional character with prefixation and suffixation system. This system may be borrowed from the neighbouring Indo-European languages due to intermingling of these languages originated from Indo European and Sino-Tibetan stock. This has come to be true in case of the Bodo group of the Tibeto-Burman sub family. The Boro language under the Bodo group came from the main stock of Sino-Tibetan family as the modern regional language spoken by the Mongoloid Bodos who live in the north eastern regions of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Manipur, N.&W. Bengal, Bangladesh, Sikkim, Nepal, Bhutan etc. The Bodo people have now occupied an autonomous area within the state of Assam under supervision of Bodoland Autonomous Council (B.A.C.) to safeguard their language, literature and culture. The present area is spread from Dhubri District in the west to Sonitpur District in the east. The Boro language is the Associate State Language of Assam, Bengali being another of the same category. According to use in educational institutions as medium of instruction Assamese occupies the first place, Boro the second and Bengali the third position.*

*The Boro speech community is now well-spread throughout the north eastern states of India and some adjoining foreign countries. It belongs to the Bodo sub-section of Bodo-Naga section under the*

*Assam-Burmese group of the TibetoBurman branch of the Tibeto-Chinese or Sino-Tibetan main family. The Bodo group includes Boro (Plain Kachari), Dimasa (Hill Kachari), Rabha, Tiwa (Lalung), Borok (Tippera or Tripuri), Deuri, Koch-Hajong, Garo, Karbi etc. It is a developing language in the field of education and literature.”<sup>23</sup>*

*“The Boro language is considered as the most important Indo-Mongoloid form of language which has great influence on Assamese for socio-cultural integration. It played an important role throughout the north-eastern parts of India for the spread of its cultural trends known sometime as Kirata or Mongoloid culture. The number of speakers of Boro language is estimated as 15 lakhs according to the non-official census of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha. The government census report of 1971 also indicates almost the similar figure of the speakers by recording more than sixteen lakhs. The majority of speakers are bilingual using Assamese and Bengali in upper and westernmost parts of Assam respectively. Towards the northern parts of Assam particularly in the BTAD area some of the non Boro speakers use Boro language as lingua franca for their communication with the Boro people.”<sup>24</sup>*

And Madhu Ram Baro wrote an introduction about the Assamese language in this book as:

*“Assamese is the major language spoken in Assam and some of adjoining states. It is used as lingua-franca among speech communities in the whole of the north eastern regions of India. In Assam it is spread from Dhubri District in the west to Lakhimpur District in the east. The different class of the Naga people use a kind of hybrid Assamese known as Nagamese (Naga-Assamese). In the border*

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<sup>23</sup> Baro, Madhu Ram. *Assamese and Boro A Comparative and Contrastive Study*, 2012. 3<sup>rd</sup> edit. p. 6, 7.

<sup>24</sup> Baro, Madhu Ram. *Assamese and Boro A Comparative and Contrastive Study*, 2012. 3<sup>rd</sup> edit. p. 8

*areas of Assam including Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, West Bengal, Bangladesh, Bhutan etc. Assamese serves the purpose of communication language for the Assamese and the people of those bordering areas. In the Brahmaputra valley and also to some extent in the Barak valley also Assamese is used as medium of instruction in educational institutions and as state language for official purposes. Most of the Mongoloid people of Assam can speak Assamese very fluently in the rate of native language. Assamese is the state language. Boro and Bengali are the Associate state language of Assam. It has different dialects used particularly by the people living in different district areas. The dialect spoken by the Koch people in the western part of Assam is a kind of mixed variety of Assamese, Boro and Bengali being intermingled. It has Assamese structure. It is said that some other dialects in the south western part with the Rabha population and in the north eastern Assam with the tea garden Adivasi people have been newly formed. Though structurally Assamese, these dialects have picked up the linguistic elements of Rabha, a branch of the Tibeto-Burman Bodo group of language and the Adivasi language groups. The number of speakers of Assamese had been estimated at sixty-eight lakhs according to the census of India report of 1961. About fifteen percent of the total population of Assam use this as their second language.”<sup>25</sup>*

In this introductory chapter, the study gives a historical background of Assamese as well as Bodo languages by comparing their different topics of discussion side by side. It is a pioneer work to give such a comparative study of these two languages.

## **2. Chapter- II, Phonology:**

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<sup>25</sup> Baro, Madhu Ram. *Assamese and Boro A Comparative and Contrastive Study*, 2012. 3<sup>rd</sup> edit. p. 7

In this chapter, the author discusses Phonology and its Structure in Bodo and Assamese languages. The inventory of Assamese segmental phonemes consists of Eight Vowels and Twenty-three consonants and the Bodo segmental phonemic inventory consists of Six Vowels and Sixteen consonants. Madhu Ram Baro explained it very clearly with I.P.A. (International Phonetic Alphabet) the phonetics of both languages.

Beside Monophthongs, both languages have Diphthongs and Triphthongs as stated above. These are called Segmental phonemes which are defined as the minimum unit of Speech Sounds. Both languages have suprasegmental phonemes which co-occur with the vowels as extra sound features used in the languages to express the complete meaning of the words or sentences. There are common suprasegmental features both for the languages being three Junctures and three Contours. The special Assamese suprasegmental feature consists of two types of Stresses and the Bodo special suprasegmental feature consists of two types of contrastive Tones. Over and above these all, both languages possess Syllable structures and morphophonemes, many of which are common for both languages.

In this Chapter, the author mainly discusses about the vowels and consonant distribution in both languages. Along with this, the author also discussed the syllable Structure, Contour, Assamese Stress and Bodo tone, and Tone shifting.

➤ **Vowels and their description and distribution:**

There are some common characteristics of the languages in Vowels. These are Allophonic variants that occur in different environments. All the Vowels are voiced, but become voiceless with consonantal voiceless environment, and short but longer in duration when occur in the final position and syllabic stressed position of the words. All Vowels are vocalic or oral. They are Sonorant continuants. They are nasalized when occur after any nasal sound or when occur in an internal position. They are tense in closed and stressed syllables and lax elsewhere.

➤ **Consonants and their description and distribution:**

Both Assamese and Bodo have corresponding consonant sounds as q equivalent to / p<sup>h</sup> t<sup>h</sup> k<sup>h</sup> b d g m n o z h r l w j / respectively. Like Vowels, the Consonants in them also have some common characteristics. Allophonic variants occur in different environments or positions. All of the consonants in these languages including those not stated above share common characteristics. All vowels unlike consonants are not stopped or interrupted. Except for Nasal sounds, other consonants are non-sonant. The consonants are tensed before vowels and lax intervocalically in the released position and the word finally after vowels in the unreleased position in isolation and before consonants in clusters. The Voiceless Consonants become voiced in the voiced environments when preceded or followed by the voiced sounds in clusters or groups. Reversely, the voiced consonants become voiceless in the voiceless environments as stated above. They form initial, medial, and final clusters depending on the possibility of occurrence due to homorganic or voicing characters. The medial clusters are larger in number in comparison with those occurring in the initial and final position of the word. Two medial consonant clusters are common for all positions, but three consonant clusters to occur in the initial position are very rare in Assamese. It is nil in Bodo. Two final consonant clusters also are a few both in the languages. Four or five medial consonant clusters may be possible both in languages.

➤ **Syllable Structure:**

Madhu Ram Baro wrote about the syllable structure of both languages with detailed examples. The words of these languages may be monosyllabic and polysyllabic (more than one syllable). They are described because of the sequences of phonemes in segments of the Vowels (V) and Consonants (C) and their Consonant Cluster (CC). The Bodo words unlike Assamese are highly monosyllabic and any syllable in Bodo must co-occur with any of the tones. As per the distribution of segmental phonemes and consonant clusters, we may divide the syllable structures by illustrating.

➤ **Contour:**

The author explained the contour of both languages very clearly. Both languages have three classes of contours. They are 1. Rising, 2. Falling, and 3. Neutral.

➤ **Assamese Stress and Bodo Tones:**

Bodo is a Tonal language whereas Assamese is a Stressed language. The difference between the two features is that Assamese Stress has less importance whereas the Bodo Tone is very important. For instance, the primary stress applied on the second syllable of the disyllabic word by the upper Assam standard dialect is applied on the first syllable by the lower Assam dialect, eg. 1. কৰি'ছিল (Upper Assam standard), 2. ক'ৰিছিল (Lower Assam dialect). The speakers of the two areas will mutually understand the meaning of the word as to bearing the same meaning (had done), although the same stress occurs on different syllables. The different Bodo tones occur in the same syllabic environment to differentiate the meaning of the same word. For instance, the word জা' with a rising or high tone on its syllable will mean "to eat" whereas the same word জা with falling or low tone applied on the same syllable will mean 'to be". In Assamese, the primary stress and the weak stress never occur in the same syllabic environment as Bodo tones do. On the other hand, the Sentence stress and the Emphatic stress of the utterance level occur on the same syllabic environment to differentiate the meaning of the word in the sentence (utterance) as Bodo tones do on the word.

➤ **Tone shifting:**

The Bodo tones have a shifting system in the grammatical construction of word formations. The rising and falling tones in Bodo may change their original character in the process of morphophonemic alternation where they come together in the words juxtaposed in morphological constructions. This process of changing or shifting of tones can be shown under the following mathematical formula with the help the figures 1 and 2 positing respectively to indicate the rising  $T^1$  and falling  $T^2$  tones.

1.  $1+1=2+1$  ; (b)  $1+2=2+1$  ;

Examples:

${}^1\text{জা} + {}^1\text{জাব} = {}^2\text{জা}^1 = \text{to eat with}$

${}^1\text{জা} + {}^2\text{জোব} = {}^2\text{জা} {}^1\text{জোব} / \text{to eat up}$

### 3. Chapter- III, Morphology:

Madhu Ram Baro wrote about the Bodo and Assamese morphology through Comparative and Contrastive study. Both Assamese and Bodo words including so-called Parts of Speech in traditional grammar may broadly be divided into two structural classes as Non-particles and Particles. The words having morphemes as Base and Affixes are non-Particles and the words having morphemes as Base but without Affixes are Particles. The Non-particle words enter into different morphological constructions; they may be added with affixes or separated from affixes. The Particle words enter into syntactic structure directly without any change of construction. Non-particle words are inflected or declinable and derivable. These are nouns including Numerals, Pronouns, Adjectives, and Verbs. The particle words are indeclinables.

The author discussed Morphology in this chapter- Numeral System, Definitive System and Indefinite, Nominal or Personal Definition, Nominal Nouns; Pronouns, Adjectives, Numerals, Pronouns, Adjectives, Gender, Number, Case, Verb Bases- Their Tense Suffixes, Causative Verbs, Denominatives, Finite Verbal Affixes, Tense Suffixes, Adjectives, and Adverbs.

### 4. Chapter- IV, Syntax:

Particles enter into the construction of Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences. According to their functions, Particles are divided into Adjectival, Adverbial, Conjunctive, Disjunctive, Interjunctive, Interrogative, Onomatopoeic, Vocative, Comparative, Conditional, Replicative, etc. They are not inflected and many of them are used as Postpositions after the inflected forms.

Madhu Ram Baro discussed in this chapter about the Adjectival, Adverbial, Conjunctive, Disjunctive, Interjunctive, Interrogative, Onomatopoeic, Vocative, Comparative, Conditional, and Replicative. Here, he

said that some particles are used as postpositions both in the languages i.e., Bodo and Assamese.

Along with the mentioned above, the author wrote about the Sentences, its Structural Division, Functional Division, Order of Words, and Words understood in sentences.

➤ **Sentences- Structural Division:**

Although the Sentences are traditionally divided into three- Simple, Complex, and Compound, they have structurally two main classes- Simple with one Subject and one Finite Verb, and Complex with one Principal Clause and one Subordinate Clause in minimum. The so-called Compound sentence in traditional grammar is included in the body of the structures of Simple and Complex sentences.

The Phrases, Clauses, and Sentences in these languages may be non-idiomatic and idiomatic respectively with general flexible (simple) and rigid special meaning. The phrases of different Clauses of Nouns, Adjective, Verbs and Adverbs, and Preposition function as the respective word classes and are made of different groups of word classes like nouns together with Nominals, Adjectives, Adverbs, Conjunction, and Echo words.

The different classes of Noun, Adjective, and Adverb clauses function as respective classes do and are formed by one Subject and one Finite or non-Finite Verb in subordinate clauses of complex sentences.

➤ **Sentence- Functional Division:**

The author discussed the different types of sentences to express their functional divisions. The Simple Statement, Order, Conditional, Question, Emphasis, Exclamation, and Optative are explained very well with the examples.

➤ **Order of Word:**

When the pronouns of different persons become the Subject in the sentence, the order of them will be as 3rd, 2nd, 1st and the verb will agree with the last one standing as the subject in preference.

Examples:

Assamese: *সি, তুমি আৰু মই যাম*

Boro: *बि, नों आरो आं थांगोन*

English: *He , you and I will go*

The nominals of 3rd personal pronoun and also 2nd and 1st personal pronouns. If not stressed, the emphatic word always precedes the other words to emphasize the idea of the sentences.

#### ➤ **Words Understood in Sentences:**

The construction of sentences depends upon (a) the Order of Words and (b) the Agreement of Words in sentences. The order of words has the structure of (1) Adjunct + Vocative, (2) Adjunct + Subject (3) Adjunct + Indirect / Direct object, and (4) Adjunct) + Infinite/Finite Verb) + Participle. The agreement has the structure of words as expansion + Adjective / Possessive / Denominative / + subject (1st/2nd/ 3rd person (noun) / object/verb + (participle).

#### **5. Chapter- V, Vocabulary:**

In this chapter, Madhu Ram Baro writes the comparatively both Bodo and Assamese vocabularies. The stock of words at the disposal of a speaker or writer is Vocabulary. This term may refer to all the words of the whole language. Different languages have different numbers of words according to the special needs of their speakers or writers or to the quality of a language or language variety compiled and alphabetically arranged by the lexicographers in general or special dictionaries. For certain limited purposes, it is convenient to determine the basic or core vocabulary of a language. This includes the lexical items which refer to concepts and fundamentals of all human activities. The kinship or relative terms, the terms for everyday activities, some natural objects, etc. are some of their basic vocabularies. These basic items are generally stable over long periods of the historical development of all of the languages. So, these may be used for lexico-statistical comparisons between different languages. In Mexico-statistics or

Glottoconology a list of basic (core) vocabulary has been suggested for any language to cover 200 items. In language teaching frequency counts are made to prepare the lists of the most common items of vocabulary used in the languages and from these, the teaching items are generally selected. For comparison of the two languages also the basic vocabulary of the languages may be listed side by side to learn these comparing languages.

Hence Assamese and Bodo languages hence 1. Basic vocabulary 2. Vocabulary from genetically related languages 3. State language 4. National language and 5. International language.

In the first chapter, the writer has given some items common in words, and meanings for both Assamese and Bodo have been given side by side. In this chapter, a list of some other comparative basic vocabulary has been listed. He listed some areas of vocabulary with examples, these are-

### 1. Animal and Creatures:

<u>Assamese</u>	<u>Boro</u>	<u>English</u>
অজগৰ	অজগৰজিবৌ	boa
এন্দুৰ	এনজৰ	rat
উট	উটগাদ	মোসাত
উইপৰুৱা	উৰি	white ant
উদ	মথাম	otter

The author writes total 76 examples of in animal and creatures in Assamese, Boro, and English languages.

### 2. Tree, Plants, and Vegetables:

<u>Assamese</u>	<u>Boro</u>	<u>English</u>
অমিতা	মোদোমফুল, মৈথু, মৈথ্ৰু	papaya
আদা	হাইজেং	ginger
আম	থাইজৌ	mango
আলু	আলু	potato
আইত	ফাখ্ৰি	pepul tree

In the Tree, Plants, and Vegetables author writes total 57 examples.

**3. Natural Objects:**

<u>Assamese</u>	<u>Boro</u>	<u>English</u>
আকাশ	অখ্ৰাং	sky
জোন	অখাফোৰ	moon
গুহা	খংখৰ	cave
গ্ৰহ	গ্ৰহ	planet
ধুমুহা	বাৰহুংখা	storm

Total 30 examples given in Natural objects.

**4. Household Objects:**

<u>Assamese</u>	<u>Boro</u>	<u>English</u>
আইনা	আইনা	looking glass
উঙাল	উৰাল	a husking pit
কলহ	দৈছ	pitcher
কাচি	খাসি	sickle
কুলা	সংগ্ৰাই	winnowing fan

Total 48 examples of Household objects are given.

**5. Household Edibles:**

<u>Assamese</u>	<u>Boro</u>	<u>English</u>
কনী	দাউদৈ, বিদৈ	egg
খাৰ	খাৰৈ	alkoli
চাউল	মাইৰং	rice
চাহ	চাহা	tea
তেল	থাৰ	oil

Total 21 examples of Household edibles are given.

**6. Time and Tense:**

<u>Assamese</u>	<u>Boro</u>	<u>English</u>
আজি	দি‌নৈ	today
আবেলি	বেলাসি, বেলাসে	afternoon
এতিয়া	দা	now
কালি	মৈয়া	yesterday
কেতিয়া	মাল্লা	when

The author has total 35 Examples of Time and tense are given.

### 7. Trade and Commerce:

<u>Assamese</u>	<u>Boro</u>	<u>English</u>
কিনা	বায়	buy, purchase
দাম	বেসেন	price
দালাল	বায়স'গ্ৰা	broker
দোকান	গ'লা, দোকান	shop
ধাৰ	দাহাৰ	loan

Total 28 examples of Trade and commerce are given.

### 8. Educational:

<u>Assamese</u>	<u>Boro</u>	<u>English</u>
অৰ্থনীতি	বাংখাস্তি	economics
কবিতা	খস্বাই	poem
কাগজ	লেখাবিলাই	paper
গল্প	সল'	story
ছবি	সাৰগাৰি	picture

Total 33 examples of educational vocabulary are given.

### 9. Body Parts (Limbs):

<u>Assamese</u>	<u>Boro</u>	<u>English</u>
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আঙুলি	আসি	finger
আঠু	হানথু, আনথু	knee
উৰু	ফেন্দা	thigh
কপাল	খাফাল	forehead
চকু	মেগন	eye

Total 36 examples of Body Parts (Limbs) are given in the book.

### 10. Kinship Terms (Relating to 3<sup>rd</sup> Person):

<u>Assamese</u>	<u>Boro</u>	<u>English</u>
আইতাক	বিবৈ	grand mother
ককায়েক	বিদা	elder brother
ককাদেউতা	বিবৌ	grand father
কুটুম	খুৰমা	relative
খুৰিয়েক	বিমাদৈ	aunt

Total 34 examples of Kinship Terms (Relating to 3<sup>rd</sup> Person) are given in the book.

### 11. Administration:

<u>Assamese</u>	<u>Boro</u>	<u>English</u>
আইন	আইন, আয়েন	law
আৰ্জি	আৰজ	prayer
পতাকা	ফিৰফিলা	flag
পৰাজয়	জেননায়	defeat
পুলিচ	ফুলিস, পুলিস	police

Total 51 examples of Administration vocabularies are given in the book.

### 12. Adjectives and Adverbs:

<u>Assamese</u>	<u>Boro</u>	<u>English</u>
আগ	সিগাং	front

আধা	আদ্রা	half
উপৰ	সা	up
ঘীৰ	লেহেম	slow
পখৰা	ফাখ্ৰা	spotted

Total 44 examples of Adjectives and Adverbs vocabularies are given in the book.

### 13. Verbs:

<u>Assamese</u>	<u>Boro</u>	<u>English</u>
আই	ফৈ	come
উজোৱা	দাউ	go upwards
উভলা	ফু	uproot
উৰ	বিৰ	fly
এৰ	গাৰ	leave

A total of 113 examples of Verbs are given in the book.

The author writes on the vocabulary of Bodo, Assamese, and English three languages with lots of examples on the 1. Animal and Creatures, 2. Tree, Plants, and Vegetables, 3. Natural Objects, 4. Household Objects, 5. Household Edibles, 6. Time and Tense, 7. Trade and Commerce, 8. Educational, 9. Body Parts (Limbs), 10. Kinship Terms (Relating to 3<sup>rd</sup> Person), 11. Administration, 12. Adjectives and Adverbs, and 13. Verbs. But, in this study, only 5 examples are given in each part of the vocabulary.

Madhu Ram Baro compares and contrasts the Bodo and Assamese languages in this book from Chapter- I to Chapter- V with examples.

## 3.6 Finding:

After completing this chapter, the study found some findings on Madhu Ram Baro's contribution to languages.

1. There is a total of 12 (twelve) language books found by Madhu Ram Baro's contributions to the language part. Among these, the 3 (three) books are grammar, and the 9 (nine) books are linguistics.
2. The contribution of Madhu Ram Baro to language can be classified mainly into two. These are- Grammar and Linguistics.
3. Madhu Ram Baro Writes linguistics in two languages, Bodo and Assamese.
4. The 3 (three) grammar books are written in Bodo language and another 9 (nine) Linguistics books are written in Assamese and English languages.
5. All three grammar books were syllabus-approved. *Gejer Raokhanthi* is approved for School Level as a Bodo Grammar. *Gwjwo Raokhanthi* is also approved for Higher Secondary Level as Bodo Grammar. And also, after the M.A. Diploma course at Gauhati University Madhu Ram Baro's *Gwdan Raokhanthi* is approved by the Gauhati University for Grammar at the affiliated college and University.
6. The *Gejer Raokhanthi grammar* book is not found at the market as well at his home and the *Gwjwo Raokhanthi* and *Gwdan Raokhanthi* both are the same analyses inside the books. Only the title of the book is updated from *Gwjwo Raokhanthi* to *Gwdan Raokhanthi* for the purpose of college and university students.
7. Madhu Ram Baro writes very clearly and details the 6 (six) vowel letters and 16 (sixteen) consonant letters in his Grammar, which are used in the origin and genuine Bodo language. Promod Chandra Bhattacharya writes in "A Descriptive Analysis of the Bodo Language" about the vowel and consonant letters he mentions only in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). But Madhu Ram Baro writes these first in Devanagari script.
8. Madhu Ram Baro is the first linguist among the Bodos. After the Promod Chandra Bhattacharya Madhu Ram Baro studied the Bodo language from a linguistics viewpoint. He wrote 9 (nine) linguistics books after the Promod Chandra Bhattacharya.
9. The maximum linguistics book of Madhu Ram Baro is accepted as a reference book at Gauhati University and now at Bodoland University.

10. Among the language books of Madhu Ram Baro, the *Historical Development of Boro Language*, *Tibet-Burmi Bhasa Gosthi*, *The Boro Structure: A Phonological and Grammatical Study*, *Jariminni Gejerjwng Boro Rao*, and *The Assamese Structure* are not found in markets and his home.
11. His language contributions are very important and valuable for the students.
12. His language contribution: grammar and Linguistics are helping the development of the Bodo language.