

**A STUDY OF NOMINALIZATION IN BODO**

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## CHAPTER-5

### CONCLUSION

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This chapter is the concluding chapter of present research work entitled *A Study of Nominalization in Bodo*. The study has been structured into five chapters, including the introduction and conclusion. This chapter provides a concise summary of the key findings from the preceding chapters.

Chapter 1, titled *Introduction*, is organized into several sub-sections, including an overview of the Bodos, the Bodo language and its development, noun, pronoun, nominalization, literature review, problem statement, aims and objectives, significance of the study, area of research, hypotheses, methodology, and data sources. This chapter provides a brief introduction to the Bodos. The term *Bodo* was first used by B.H. Hodgson in 1847. Racially, the Bodos belong to the Mongoloid group within the Indo-Mongoloid category, and linguistically they are part of the Sino-Tibetan language family. At present, they primarily reside in Assam but are also found in Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, North Bengal (West Bengal), Nepal, Bangladesh, and Bhutan. The Bodos possess distinct cultural and linguistic characteristics. The Bodo language has six vowel phonemes: /i, u, e, ə, a/ and sixteen consonant phonemes, including two semi-vowels: /p<sup>h</sup>, b, t<sup>h</sup>, d, k<sup>h</sup>, g, s, z, h, m, n, ŋ, r, l, w, j/. In 1963, Bodo was introduced as a medium of instruction at the primary level. This chapter also provides a brief introduction to nouns and pronouns. A noun is a word that denotes a name, referring to a person, place, thing, animal, or idea. The process of forming new nouns from other lexical categories, such as verbs and adjectives, or from existing nouns, is known as nominalization. Nominalization occurs through various word-formation processes, including affixation, compounding, and reduplication. Additionally, this chapter includes a review of related works by various authors and researchers.

Chapter 2, titled *Nominalization Through Affixation*, explores the formation of new nouns through various affixation processes, primarily prefixation and suffixation, across different lexical categories, including verbs, adjectives, and nouns.

Bodo has four deverbal nominalizer prefixes: *bi-*, *be-*, *p<sup>hi</sup>-* and *gi-*. These prefixes attach to verbs to derive nouns. For example:

*bi-* + *bar* ('to bloom') > *bibar* ('flower')

Among these, the prefix *gi-* applies to only one verb:

*gi-* + *sib* ('to blow') > *gisib*

Additionally, Bodo has two denominal nominalizer prefixes, *p<sup>hi</sup>-* and *bi-*, which derive new nouns from existing nouns.

A significant aspect of prefixation in Bodo is the naming word of body parts of humans, animals, insects, and trees. Many of these terms originate from bound roots, which have intrinsic meaning but cannot occur independently as words. Instead, they require categorial prefixes to form complete nouns. These prefixes are as follows:

Human, animal, and insect body parts: *a-*, *bV-*, *mV-*, *k<sup>h</sup>V-* and *u-*

Tree parts: *bi-*

Bodo has twelve deverbal nominalizer suffixes that form nouns from various verb types, including simple, complex, compound, causative, and passive verbs. These suffixes include *-naj*, *-gra*, *-t<sup>hi</sup>*, *-ari*, *-t<sup>h</sup>ai*, *-giri*, *-sri*, *-sali*, *-sa*, *-ma*, *-ru*, and *-zuur*.

Examples:

Simple verb: V. *za* 'eat' + *-naj* > *zanaj* 'eating'

Complex verb: V. *bek<sup>h</sup>ew* 'to explain' + *-t<sup>hi</sup>* > *bek<sup>h</sup>ewt<sup>hi</sup>* 'explanation'

Compound verb: V. *buslaj* 'to shift' + *-naj* > *buslajnaj* 'shifting'

Causative verb: V. *sigi* 'make fear' + *-naj* > *siginaj* 'frightening'

Passive verb: V. *buza* 'to be beaten' + *-gra* > *buzagra* 'one who is beaten by someone'

Additionally, Bodo has five denominal nominalizer suffixes *-t<sup>hi</sup>*, *-ari*, *-t<sup>h</sup>ai*, *-ru*, and *-giri* which derive new nouns from existing nouns. The suffixes *-t<sup>hi</sup>* and *-naj* are also used to form nouns from adjectives.

Notably, some suffixes carry intrinsic meaning. For instance:

-*t<sup>hi</sup>* denotes constancy

-*giri* refers to the head of a family

Despite their inherent meanings, these suffixes function as nominalizers, forming nouns from various lexical categories.

Chapter- 3 titled *Nominalization Through Compounding and Reduplication of Noun*, explores the formation of new nouns in Bodo through compounding and reduplication focusing on their structural, semantic, and functional aspects.

Compounding involves forming new words by combining two or more existing words into a single unit. In Bodo, compounds are classified based on three perspectives:

1. Semantic classification
2. Structural classification
3. Formal classification

From semantic perspective, Bodo compounds can be found four categories i.e., endocentric compounds, exocentric compounds, copulative compounds and appositional compounds.

In endocentric compounds, one component carries the core meaning (*semantic head*), while the other acts as a modifier. These compounds are further divided into like:

(a) Right-headed endocentric compounds, for example:

*musuw* ('bullock') + *gari* ('cart') > *musuw-gari* ('bullock cart')

(b) Left-headed endocentric compounds, for example:

*goi* ('betel nut') + *dɔdere* ('small/affectionate') > *goi-dɔdere* ('a kind of small betel nut')

Exocentric Compounds are headless compounds where the meaning is not derived from either component. For example:

*suima* ('dog') + *sik<sup>h</sup>ari* ('hunter') > *suima-sik<sup>h</sup>ari* ('a kind of bee')

In copulative Compounds, both participating components contribute equally to the meaning. For example:

*at<sup>h</sup>iy* ('leg') + *ak<sup>h</sup>ai* ('hand') > *at<sup>h</sup>iy-ak<sup>h</sup>ai* ('foot and hand')

Appositional Compounds are hyponym of both components. For example:

*p<sup>h</sup>isa* ('child') + *hinzaw* ('female') > *p<sup>h</sup>isa-hinzaw* ('daughter')

From the structural point of view, Bodo compounds can be found two types i.e., root compounds and synthetic compounds.

In root compounds, names of animals, birds, fishes, and fruits are formed by combining roots as follows:

*mi* ('animal') + *suu* ('cow') > *musuu* ('cow')

*dau* ('bird') + *t<sup>h</sup>u* ('dove') > *daut<sup>h</sup>u* ('dove')

*na* ('fish') + specific bound root > fish names

*t<sup>h</sup>ai* ('fruit') + *gir* ('elephant apple') > *t<sup>h</sup>aigir* ('elephant apple')

The same pattern applies to soil related word (*ha* 'soil' + *bru* > *habru* 'mud') and water related word (*dui* 'water' + *bo* > *duib<sup>o</sup>* 'a place full of water').

In Bodo, Kinship terms are formed using pronouns as pronominal prefix and bound roots. Kinship terms are found in two types like: kinship terms for address and kinship terms for reference.

Kinship terms for address are used to address relatives directly like, for example:

*aŋ* ('I') + *p<sup>h</sup>a* ('father') > *ap<sup>h</sup>a* ('my father')

Kinship terms for reference are used during conversation to address someone's relative.

For example:

*nunŋ* ('you') + *p<sup>h</sup>a* > *nump<sup>h</sup>a* ('your father'), *bi* ('he/she') + *p<sup>h</sup>a* > *bip<sup>h</sup>a* ('his/her father')

In Synthetic Compounds, a root is combined with a derivative, where the derivative holds the semantic head. For example:

*bas* ('bus') + *solajgra* ('driver') > *bas solajgra* ('bus driver')

It is observed that there are at least nine types of formal compounds, the patterns include as given below:

- a) Verb + noun > noun
- b) Verb + adjective > noun
- c) Verb + verb > noun
- d) Noun + verb > noun
- e) Noun + adjective > noun
- f) Noun + noun > noun

- g) Adjective + noun > noun
- h) Noun + derivational noun > noun
- i) Derivational noun + noun > noun.

Reduplication in Bodo is used for various grammatical and semantic functions. It occurs in two forms:

1. Complete Reduplication
2. Partial Reduplication

Reduplicated nouns serve multiple purposes, such as:

- a) Expressing plurality
- b) Intensification
- c) Indicating locative meaning
- d) Drawing attention
- e) Expressing irritation
- f) Expanding existing meanings

Additionally, deverbal nouns participate in reduplication, reinforcing their role in nominalization.

Nominalization is also observed in echo formation, where the initial phoneme or syllable of a base noun is replaced by /s/ or /t<sup>h</sup>/. Echo words do not have independent meanings but it adds extra meaning to base noun or expand the meaning of base noun. These typically indicate ‘etcetera,’ ‘such and such,’ or ‘and the like’.

It is observed that Bodo also has a rich collection of onomatopoeic nouns derived from natural sounds, such as:

*mew mew* (‘mewing of a cat’)

*dram dram* (‘sound of heavy rain’)

This chapter highlights how compounding and reduplication play a crucial role in nominalization in Bodo, contributing to the expansion of its noun lexicon.

Chapter- 4 titled *Structure and Function of Noun Phrase and Noun Clause*, explores the structure and function of noun phrases and noun clauses. A phrase is a group of words or sometimes a single word that functions as a unit within a clause or sentence. It typically consists of a head word and its modifiers, though in some cases, it may contain only the head word.

A noun phrase is a type of phrase that functions as a noun within a clause or sentence. Like other phrases, it consists of a head word, which may be a noun, pronoun, adjective, or numeral, along with one or more modifiers. These modifiers can include adjectives, adverbs, numerals, and classifiers. Based on their position relative to the head word, modifiers are classified into two types: premodifiers, which appear before the head, and postmodifiers, which appear after it.

Noun phrases perform various grammatical functions within a sentence, such as subject, direct object, indirect object, complement, and appositive. Additionally, noun phrases may shift from their base position in passive constructions and question formation.

A clause is a group of words that must contain at least a subject and a predicate. Clauses are categorized into independent clauses and dependent clauses. An independent clause contains a finite verb and can stand alone as a complete sentence, whereas a dependent clause contains a non-finite verb and relies on an independent clause for meaning.

A noun clause is a type of dependent clause that functions as a noun or pronoun within a sentence that contains an independent clause. Since it is dependent, it cannot express a complete thought on its own. Like noun phrases, noun clauses can serve various roles within a sentence.

Chapter-5 titled *Conclusion*, presents the concluding remarks based on the discussions in the preceding chapters. It has been observed that during the processes of affixation and compounding, phonological changes such as assimilation and elision often occur. These changes happen for specific reasons. Regressive assimilation takes place when a sound changes due to the influence of a following sound, while progressive assimilation occurs when a sound changes due to the influence of a preceding sound. Elision, on the other hand, occurs due to phonological constraints or to facilitate easier articulation.

The overall study reveals that nouns formed through various word formation processes constitute a significant portion of Bodo nouns and contribute substantially to the vocabulary.

**Further scope for study:**

This study entitled *A Study of Nominalization in Bodo* has scopes for further study. The scopes would be as follows:

- Comparative study with its cognate languages and other neighboring languages.
- Nominalization found in different genre of literature.