

# **CHAPTER-1**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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### INTRODUCTION

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#### 1.1 A short note on Bodos

The Bodos are an ethnic group having their own cultural and linguistic traits. The term 'Bodo' was first used by B.H. Hodgson in *Essay the first on the Kocch, Bodo and Dhimal Tribes* (1847). This fact is pointed out by G.A. Grierson – “*The generic name 'Bodo' was first applied by Hodgson to this group of languages. The exact sound is better represented by spelling it Bâdâ or Bârâ. Bodo or Bârâ is the name by which the Mech or Mes and the Kachâris call themselves.*”<sup>1</sup> The term 'Bodo' represents both community as well as language. Genetically they belong to the Mongoloid stock of Indo Mongoloids and linguistically they belong to the Tibeto-Burman group of Sino-Tibetan language family. Sunity Kumar Chatterjee identifies them as the Kiratas or Indo-Mongoloids, further he says that “*...the Bodos who spread over the whole of Brahmaputra valley and North Bengal as well as East-Bengal, forming a solid block in North Eastern India, were the most important Indo Mongoloid people in Eastern India, and they form one of the main bases of the present-day population of these tracts.*”<sup>2</sup> Observing the racial features of Bodos Fr. Matthias Hermanns comments “*As is the case with the Meche so also with the Kachari; the Mongoloid features are very prominent: the strong cheek bones, slit eyes, a slight growth of hair on the body, and scant beard. They are shorter and more stocky than the Indians of the north-east.*”<sup>3</sup> They are early settlers of Assam North-East, India. They have been settling different places of North-East, India. Some scholars have given valuable opinion about the original homeland of the Bodos and their migration. Rev. Sidney Endle inquired about the homeland of the Bodos, but he couldn't find any authentic written document so he makes a guess based on their feature and appearance, they have closely related to Mongolian and their homeland might be Tibet and China. He mentions “*The origin of the Kachari race is still very largely a matter of conjecture and inference, in the absence of anything entitled to be regarded as authentic history. As remarked above,*

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<sup>1</sup> Grierson, George Abraham. *Linguistic Survey of India III(II)*. Kolkata: Government of India, 1927. p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Chatterjee, S.K. *Kirata Jana krti The Indo-Mongoloids: Their Contribution to the History and Culture of India*, Calcutta: The Asiatic Society, 1951. p. 27.

<sup>3</sup> Hermanns, Fr. Matthias. *The Indo-Tibetans*. Bombay: K.L. Fernandes, 1954. p. 117.

*in feature and general appearance they approximate very closely to the Mongolian type; and this would seem to point to Tibet and China as the original home of the race.”*<sup>4</sup> Suniti Kumar Chatterjee observed about the migration of Bodos and says that “*The area of characterization for the primitive sino-tibetan speech appears to have been North Western China between the head waters of the Huang Ho and the Yang-tsze Kiang rivers...Mongoloid tribes from Western China speaking forms of the Sino-Tibetan speech appear to have been pushing south and west from their original homeland from prehistoric times, but certain large-scale movements of which we have faint inklings seem to have begun in the early part of the first millennium B.C.*”<sup>5</sup> Anil Boro, a folklorist comments about the homeland of the Bodos based on Suniti Kumar Chatterjee’s opinion that “*the original homeland of the Bodos should be North-Western China or between the head waters of the Hoang Ho and the Yang tsze Kiang.*”<sup>6</sup>

Bodos are considered to be the earliest settler and inhabitants of Brahmaputra Valley of Assam. In this context, Sir Edward Gait states “*The Kacharis may perhaps be described as the aborigines, or earliest known inhabitants, of the Brahmaputra valley. They are identical with the people called Mech in Goalpara and North Bengal. These are the names given to them by outsiders. In the Brahmaputra valley the Kacharis calls themselves Bodo or Bodo fisa (son of the Bodo).*”<sup>7</sup> Suniti Kumar Chatterjee also mentions “*Judging from the wide range of extension of their language, the Bodos appear first to have settled over the entire Brahmaputra valley, and extended west into North Bengal (in Koch Bihar, Rangpur and Dinajpur districts) ; they may have pushed into North Bihar also, and the Indo-Mongoloids who penetrated into North Bihar might equally have been either Bodos or ‘Himalayan’ tribes allied to the Newars.*”<sup>8</sup>

At present Bodos are primarily live throughout the Assam and some pocket areas of adjoining states like- Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, North Bengal part of West Bengal and some parts of neighboring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan,

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<sup>4</sup> Endle, Rev. Sidney. *The Kacharis*. Panbazaar, Guwahati: Bina Library, 2017. p. 3.

<sup>5</sup> Chatterjee, S.K. *Kirata Jana krti The Indo-Mongoloids: Their Contribution to the History and Culture of India*, Calcutta: The Asiatic Society, 1951. p. 13.

<sup>6</sup> Boro, Dr. Anil. *Folk Literature of the Bodos*. Panbazar, Guwahati: N.L. Publications, 2014. pp. 6-7.

<sup>7</sup> Gait, Edward A. *A History of Assam*. Calcutta: Thacker, Spink & Co, 1904. p. 242.

<sup>8</sup> Chatterjee, S.K. *Kirata Jana krti The Indo-Mongoloids: Their Contribution to the History and Culture of India*, Calcutta: The Asiatic Society, 1951. p. 27.

etc. About the concentration areas of Bodo people, Anil Boro in his book *Folk Literature of the Bodos* writes distinctly by categorizing three parts as given below-

*“Areas of concentration of Bodo people in the Northern tract:*

- (a) North and Eastern parts of Dhubri district, the whole of Kokrajhar district and parts of Goalpara and Bongaigaon (Chirang) district.*
- (b) Northern parts of Barpeta, Nalbari and Kamrup districts. (Now BAKSA district)*
- (c) Northern parts Darraang (Now Udalguri district) and Sonitpur.*
- (d) Northern parts of North Lakhimpur and Dhemaji.*

*Areas of Bodo concentration in the southern tract:*

- (a) Dudhnoi and Dhupdhara areas in the Goalpara district.*
- (b) Boko-Chaygaon and Rani areas and South Guwahati-Sonapur-Khetri areas in the Southern part of Kamrup district.*
- (c) Jagiroad-Morigaon areas in the Morigaon district and Rupahi Dhing areas in the Nagaon District.*
- (d) Southernmost part of Sibsagar District.*
- (e) Howrahghat-Langhin areas of Karbi Anglong District.*
- (f) North Eastern part of Dibrugarh district.*

*Areas of Bodo settlement in the neighbouring states:*

- (a) Tikrikilla area of Garo Hills in the state of Meghalaya.*
- (b) Dimapur area in Nagaland.*
- (c) Northern part of Jalpaiguri in West Bengal. ”<sup>9</sup>*

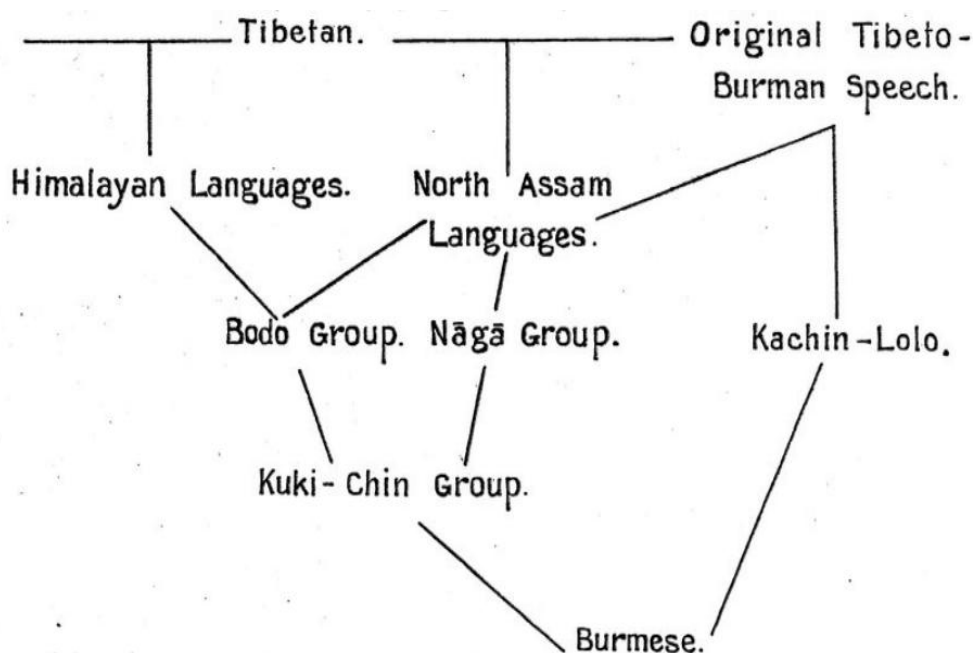
It is remarkable that the five districts of Assam i.e., Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa, Tamulpur, and Udalguri have the highest concentration of Bodo-speaking people. According to the 2011 census of India, the total population of Bodo speakers in the country is 1,482,929. The Bodos have their own culture and language.

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<sup>9</sup> Boro, Dr. Anil. *Folk Literature of the Bodos*. Panbazar, Guwahati: N.L. Publications, 2014. pp. 8-9.

## 1.2 Bodo Language and its development

Bodo language is the mother tongue of the Bodos. It is one of the tribal languages included in the list of 8<sup>th</sup> schedule languages of India in 2003. This language is originated from Tibeto-Burman group of greater Sino-Tibetan language family. The language has its own features in linguistic level. Bodo language is scattered entire Assam and some pocket areas of adjoining states like Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, North Bengal part of West Bengal and some parts of neighboring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, etc. wherever Bodo people live. Many linguists and scholars have opined valuable opinion about Bodo language. G. A. Grierson writes about Bodo language when he studies about the languages of Sino-Tibetan language family. He states that “*the Bodo language belongs to the Bodo-Garo or Bodo group of languages under the Assam-Burmese branch of Tibeto-Burman sub-family under Tibeto-Chinese family.*”<sup>10</sup> The relevant diagram to the Bodo language drawn by G. A. Grierson is given below-



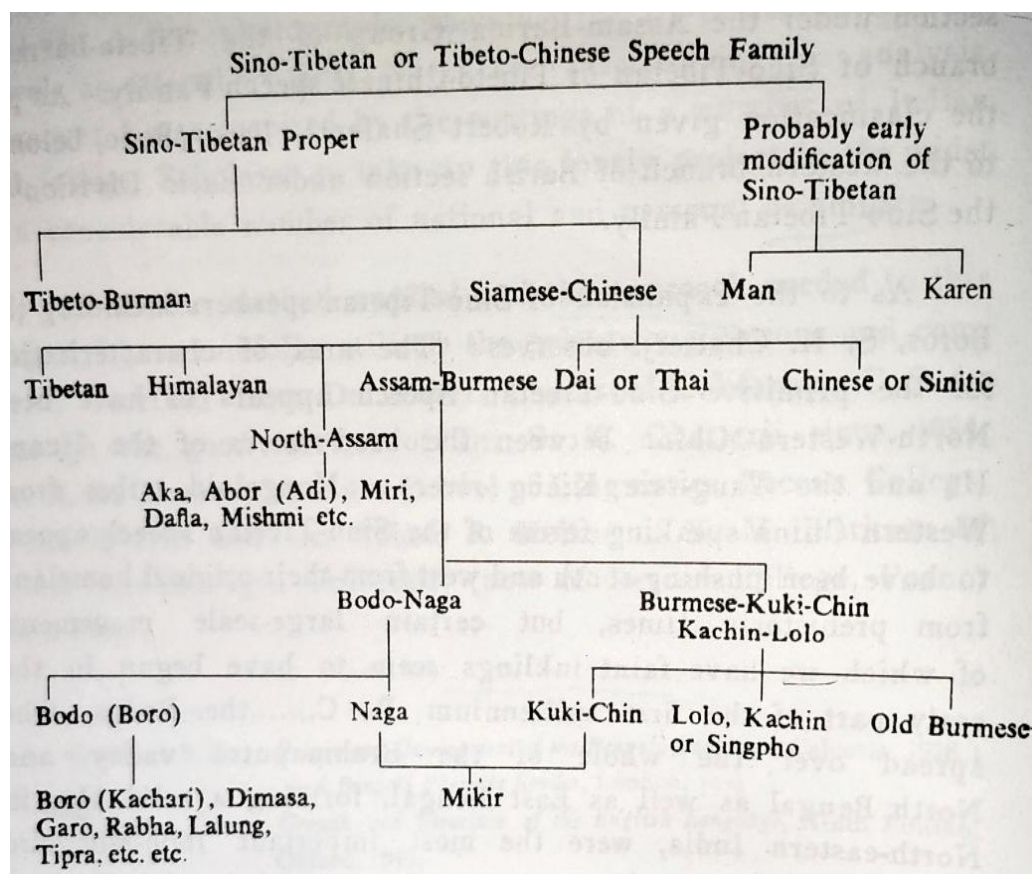
**Figure: 1.1**

(Extracted from *Linguistic Survey of India, Vol.I Part 1*, p. 54.)

<sup>10</sup> Grierson, George Abraham. *Linguistic Survey of India I(I)*. Kolkata: Government of India. 1927. pp. 53-54.

Commenting on the origin of Bodo language, Suniti Kumar Chatterjee says that Bodo belongs to the Tibeto-Burman branch. Further he speaks- “*Linguistically the Sino-Tibetan languages of the present day have been classified into two groups or branches- (I) Tibeto-Burman, and (II) Siamese-Chinese..... the Assam-Burmese group, Tibeto-Burman speeches of North and East Bengal, Assam and Burma; these include- (i) the Bodo speeches- Bodo, Mech, Rabha, Garo, Kachari and Tipra and a few more;*”<sup>11</sup>

Based on S.K. Chatterjee’s comment from *Kirata-Jana-Krti* and following the G.A. Grierson’s *Linguistic Survey of India*, Promod Chandra Bhattacharya represents a tabular of Sino-Tibetan or Tibeto-Chinese speech family in his doctoral dissertation entitled *A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language*. This tabular also relevant to Bodo language as given below-

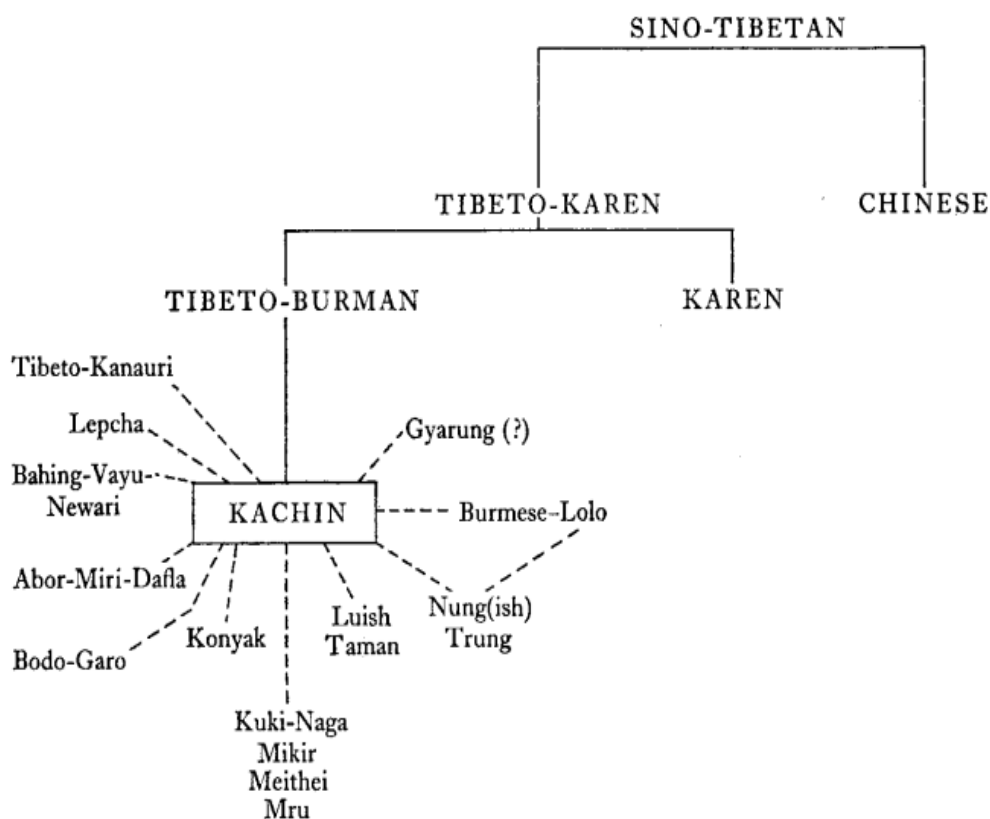


**Figure: 1.2**

(Extracted from *A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language*, p. 8.)

<sup>11</sup> Chatterjee, S.K. *Kirata Jana krti The Indo-Mongoloids: Their Contribution to the History and Culture of India*, Calcutta: The Asiatic Society, 1951. p. 13.

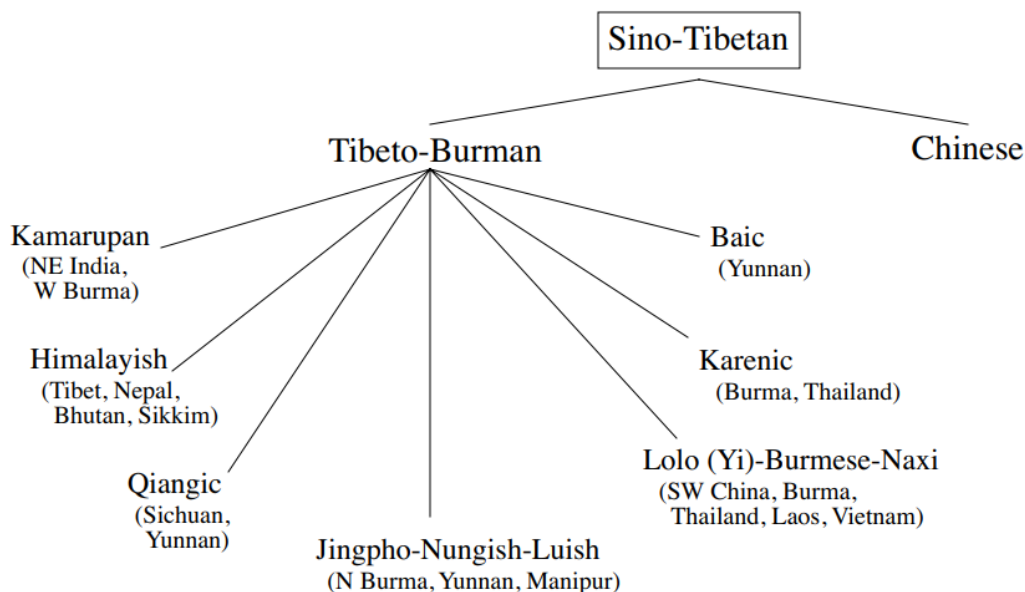
According to classification of Tibeto-Burman languages by Paul K. Benedict Bodo-Garo languages belong to the Kachin group of the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Tibeto-Karen sub-family of the greater Sino-Tibetan language family. The classification made by Paul K. Benedict is as given below:



**Figure: 1.3**

(Extracted from *Sino-Tibetan A Conspectus*, p.6.)

Following the Paul K. Benedict, Linguist James A. Matisoff also makes classification of Sino-Tibetan languages. According to him Bodo-Garo languages belong to the Kamrupan group of the Tibeto-Burman branch of the greater Sino-Tibetan language family. The classification made by James A. Matisoff is also relevant to Bodo as given below:



**Figure: 1.4**

(Extracted from *Handbook of Proto-Tibeto-Burman* p. 5.)

Linguist R. L. Varshney mentions the Bodo language is a minor language of Tibeto-Burman branch when he studied about the Sino-Tibetan language family. He opines that “*This family is quite extensive, and consists of two branches- Tibeto-Burman and Chinese. Burmese and Tibetan are the two major languages of the former branch, but it has also several minor languages, such as Garo, Bodo and Naga which are spoken in some eastern regions of India.*”<sup>12</sup>

Bodo language has consisted of six vowel phonemes like- /i, u, e, ɔ, a/. All the vowel phonemes are voiced and short vowel and all vowels have initial, middle and final occurrence. Bodo has eight diphthongs viz. /iu, ui, uu, ui, eu, ɔi, ai and au/. The phonemic inventory of vowel is given in tabular form as follow:

<sup>12</sup> Varshney, R.L. *An Introductory Textbook of Linguistics & Phonetics*. Bareilly: Student Store, 2016-17, p. 407.



	Position of Tongue					
	Front		Central		Back	
Position of lips →	UR	R	UR	R	UR	R
Height of tongue ↓						
High	i				ɯ	u
Mid	e					ɔ
Low			a			

**Figure: 1.5**

(Phonemic inventory of Bodo Vowel Phoneme)

Bodo has sixteen consonant phonemes including two semi-vowels like- /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/. Among these /w/ and /j/ are semi-vowels. The phonemic inventory of consonant phoneme is presented in tabular form as given below:

Manner of Articulation		Place of Articulation									
		Bilabial		Alveolar		Palatal		Velar		Glottal	
		Vl	Vd	Vl	Vd	Vl	Vd	Vl	Vd	Vl	Vd
Plosive	Un-aspirated	b		d				g			
	Aspirated	p <sup>h</sup>		t <sup>h</sup>				k <sup>h</sup>			
Nasal		m		n				ŋ			
Fricative				s	z					h	
Trill				r							
Lateral				l							
Semi-vowel		w				j					

**Figure: 1.6**

(Phonemic inventory of Bodo Consonant Phoneme)

For Bodo language, the Devanagari Script has been adopted from the year 1975. The representation of vowel and consonant phonemes in Devanagari Script is given below in tabular form:

Vowel Phoneme in IPA	Vowel Phoneme in Devanagari Script
i	इ
u	ओ
u	उ
e	ए
o	अ
a	आ

**Figure: 1.7**

(Bodo Vowel phonemes in Devanagari Script)

Consonant Phoneme in IPA	Consonant Phoneme in Devanagari Script
p <sup>h</sup>	फ
b	ब
t <sup>h</sup>	थ
d	द
k <sup>h</sup>	ख
g	ग
m	म
n	न
ŋ	ङ
s	स
z	ज
h	ह
r	र
l	ल
w	व
j	य

**Figure: 1.8**

(Bodo Consonant Phonemes in Devanagari Script)

The development of Bodo literature has started since the foundation of Bodo Sahitya Sabha in 1952. Bodo language has been introduced as a medium of instruction at primary level on 18<sup>th</sup> May, 1963. After that, in the year 1968 at lower secondary or middle school level and in the year 1972 at high school level Bodo language has been introduced as medium of instruction respectively. In 1977 Bodo has recognised as an MIL subject at Pre-University level. After that Bodo has been introduced as an MIL subject for Bachelor of Arts under different universities i.e., Gauhati University in 1980, North Eastern Hill University in 1978 and Dibrugarh University in 1994. In 1985 Bodo has introduced for Certificate Course for Non-Bodo under Gauhati University. Now, Bodo has introduced as a P.G. department by four universities of Assam state i.e., Gauhati University in 1996, Bodoland University 1998, Dibrugarh University in 2016 and Cotton University in 2018. Bodo has been introduced as an Elective Subject under Gauhati University in 1999, under Dibrugarh University in 2004 and under Assam University in 2011. Bodo has been introduced as Major Course for Bachelor of Arts under different universities i.e., Gauhati University in 2006, Dibrugarh University in 2011, Bodoland University in 2015 and Cotton University in 2021-22. Bodo has been introduced as an optional paper in the State Level Eligibility Test (NE Region) in 2003 and National Eligibility Test under UGC in 2011. Besides the development as well as inclusion in educational system now Bodo language is developing in different fields. Bodo language is recognised as one of the associate official state languages of Assam in Bodo dominated areas in 1985. A program in Bodo has been broadcasted in All India Radio since 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1975 as regular program in Guwahati centre and in Kokrajhar centre since 15<sup>th</sup> August 1998. It is remarkable that after MoS signed among the Govt. of India, Govt. of Assam and BLT on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2003 the Bodo language has included in 8<sup>th</sup> schedule of Indian Constitution on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2003. Sahitya Akademi award has been given for literature of Bodo since 2005. Further Bodo language has introduced as an optional paper in various competitive examinations i.e., UPSC, APSC, etc.

### 1.3 Noun

Noun is an indispensable part of word. Generally, noun is a naming word, it denotes the name of a person, place, thing, animal, idea, etc. According to Matthew T. Zakaria, “A noun is a word used to name a person, animal, place, thing, and abstract idea.”<sup>13</sup> A noun functions in a sentence as a subject, an object, compliment, an appositive, an adjective or an adverb. In Bodo language, a noun is simply a root, a stem or a base. In traditional grammar, nouns are classified into eight types in Bodo. these are-

- a) **Proper noun:** Proper noun refers to the name of a specific person, place, river, mountain, group, thing, organisation, etc. For example: *razu* ‘Raju’, *sumphram* ‘guwava’, etc.
- b) **Common noun:** Common noun refers to the name of a class of person, place, thing, idea, etc. For example: *phurungiri* ‘teacher’, *bizab* ‘book’, *suima* ‘dog’, etc.
- c) **Material noun:** Material noun refers to the names of materials or substances. It is also a type of common noun. Material noun includes metals, liquids, gases, fabrics, etc. For example: *sona* ‘gold’, *sonkhri* ‘salt’ etc.
- d) **Collective noun:** Collective noun refers to the name of the group of creatures, places or things. Collective noun represents group of people, animals, objects, concepts, etc. For example: *nokhor* ‘family’, *hanza* ‘group’ etc.
- e) **Abstract noun:** Abstract noun refers to the names of concepts, feelings, ideas, states and qualities that cannot be perceived through the five senses (sight, smell, sound, touch, taste). For example: *guzunnaj* ‘happiness’, *phuthajnaj* ‘belief’, etc.
- f) **Concrete noun:** Concrete noun refers to the names of tangible objects, substances or entities that can be perceived or experienced through our five senses. These can be seen, heard, smelt, tasted or felt. For example: *phitha* ‘rice cake’ *masi* ‘chair’, etc.
- g) **Countable noun:** Countable noun refers to the things that can be counted as individual units. Count nouns have singular and plural forms and can be preceded by numbers or quantifiers. For example: *bizab* ‘book’, *dau* ‘bird’, etc.

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<sup>13</sup> Zakaria, Matthew T. *Nouns*. New Delhi: Commonwealth Publishers Pvt. Ltd., 2009. p. 1.

- h) **Uncountable noun:** Uncountable noun refers to the name of things that can not be counted as individual unit. These are seen as wholes or masses. Such kind of nouns do not have plural form. These are measured or quantified using units or measures. For example: *bar* ‘air’, *gaik<sup>h</sup>er* ‘milk’, *bala* ‘sand’, etc.

In Bodo language morphologically noun is divided into two broad classes. These are-

- a. Basic Noun, and
- b. Derivational Noun.

Basic nouns are the pure noun and termed as noun root or noun stem. Basic nouns have their independent meaning. Most of the Bodo basic nouns are monosyllabic. Disyllabic and polysyllabic basic nouns are very rare.

Derivational nouns are formed by adding affix to verb, adjective, noun and compounding of two or more roots or stems. So, derivational noun can categorize into four sub-categories like- a) Deverbal noun, b) Denominal noun, c) Deadjectival noun, and d) Compound noun. The noun words those are created or derived from verb is called deverbal noun. Deverbal nouns are formed by prefixation and suffixation methods of word formation. Denominal nouns are derived or created from noun itself. Denominal nouns are also formed by prefixation and suffixation methods of word formation. Those nouns are created from adjective is called deadjectival noun. Deadjectival nouns are formed through suffixation method. Compound nouns are formed by joining two or more roots or stems. The stem or root may be from same class or different.

## 1.4 Pronoun

Pronoun is a word that is used as a substitute for a noun or noun phrase. For that it is necessary to include pronoun in the study of noun. So, it is of much importance to introduce pronoun. Pronouns are essential because these allow to avoid repeating the same nouns over and over again, make sentences smoother and easier to read. Pronoun can function as a subject, object, complement, etc. in a sentence. According to David Crystal, pronoun is “*a term used in the grammatical classification of words, referring to the closed sets of items which can be used to substitute for a noun phrase (or single*

noun).<sup>14</sup> A. Brahma, in his book entitled *Modern Bodo Grammar* classifies Bodo pronoun into seven types these are-

- a) Personal Pronoun
- b) Demonstrative Pronoun
- c) Interrogative Pronoun
- d) Indefinite Pronoun
- e) Reflexive Pronoun
- f) Relative Pronoun
- g) Reciprocal Pronoun

These pronouns are given below in form of table:

**(a) Personal Pronoun:**

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> person</b>	añ 'I'	zuñ 'we'
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> person</b>	nũñ 'you' nũñ <sup>th</sup> añ 'you' (Hon.)	nũñ-sur 'you' nũñ <sup>th</sup> añ-mũñ 'you' (Hon.)
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> person</b>	bi 'he/she' bi <sup>th</sup> añ 'he/she' (Hon.)	bi-sur 'they' bi <sup>th</sup> añmũñ 'they' (Hon.)

**Figure: 1.9**

**(b) Demonstrative Pronoun:**

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Plural</b>
<b>Proximal</b>	be 'this'	be-sur 'these' (human) be-p <sup>h</sup> ur 'these' (non-human)
<b>Distal</b>	bui 'that'	bui-sur 'those' (human) bui-p <sup>h</sup> ur 'those' (non-human)

**Figure: 1.10**

<sup>14</sup> Crystal, David. *A First Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics*. London: Andre Deutsch Limited, 1980. p. 245.

**(c) Interrogative Pronoun:**

Singular	Plural
ma ‘what’	ma ma ‘what’
sur ‘who’	sur sur ‘who’
bobe~mabe~obe ‘which/what’	bobe bobe~mabe mabe~obe obe ‘which/what’

**Figure: 1.11****(d) Indefinite pronoun:**

Singular	Plural
rawbu ‘nobody’	
surba ‘somebody/someone’	surba surba ‘somebodies’
bəhaba~bəbejawba ‘somewhere’	bəhaba bəhaba ~bəbejawba bəbejawba ‘somewhere’

**Figure: 1.12****(e) Reflexive Pronoun:**

Singular	Plural
gaw ‘self’	gaw gaw/ gaw-sur ‘selves’

**Figure: 1.13****(f) Relative pronoun:**

Singular	Plural
zaj ‘which’	zai-p <sup>h</sup> ur ‘which’

**Figure: 1.14****(g) Reciprocal pronoun:**

Reciprocal pronoun
gawzuŋ gaw ‘each other’

**Figure: 1.15**

## 1.5 Nominalization

The term ‘Nominalization’ is closely related to noun. The process of forming noun word is called nominalization. “*The term nominalization means in essence ‘turning something into a noun’*”<sup>15</sup> In nominalization, a new noun word is derived or formed from different lexical categories i.e., verb, adjective and noun. According to D. Victoria Rau “*Nominalization is a process that derives a noun from some other lexical category, typically a verb or adjective, by modifying the root.*”<sup>16</sup> In Bodo language, noun is formed through the word formation processes namely affixation and compounding methods. Nominalization is also realized in reduplication.

## 1.6 Literature Review

A lot of linguistic research works have been done on Bodo noun and its formation. A good number of books, theses and research papers or articles are available on Bodo noun and its formation. However detailed research work on nominalization is so far not available. This review section intended to view some previous works on Bodo noun.

### Books:

#### i. Essay the first on the Kocch, Bodo and Dhimal Tribes (1847)

B.H. Hodgson has done first ever study on Bodo language. This book is written in three parts namely (i) vocabulary, (ii) grammar and (iii) origin, location, numbers, creed, customs, character and condition of the Kocch, Bodo and Dhimal people with a general description of the climate they dwell in. In the vocabulary part, he writes a lots of noun words of Bodo. In the grammar part, he discusses some aspects of grammar like orthography, number, gender, case, adjective etc.

#### ii. Gwnang Raokhanthi (1972)

Kamal Kumar Brahma has done pioneer work on Bodo grammar during the last part of twentieth century. He discusses the different aspects of Bodo grammar.

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<sup>15</sup> Comrie, B and Thompson, S. A. “Lexical Nominalization.” *Language Typology and syntactic Description: Volume III, Grammatical Categories and the Lexicon*. Edited by Timothy Shopen, Cambridge University Press, 2007, p. 334.

<sup>16</sup> Rau, D. Victoria. “Nominalization in Yami.” *Language and Linguistics*, Edited by Dah-an Ho, Vol.3. Issue. 2, 2002, p. 165.



In this book, he gives an introduction about noun. He classifies Bodo noun into six types as follows: (a) common noun, (b) material noun, (c) proper noun, (d) abstract noun, (e) verbal noun, and (f) collective noun. In this book, he also writes about onomatopoeic and reduplicating words in chapter fourteen. He states the imitative sound produced by animals, birds and materials are onomatopoeic word like- *dawk<sup>h</sup>ani ga ga* ‘cawing of crow’, *mawzini mew mew* ‘mewing of cat’, etc. On the other hand, he classifies the reduplicating words into two categories i.e., (i) *gurubp<sup>h</sup>a dazab sudub* ‘similar words’ and (ii) *zora sudub* ‘duplicating words’.

### iii. Structure of Boro Language (1990)

Madhu Ram Baro has discussed different aspects of Bodo grammar in this book. He also studies about noun. Studying on kinship term formation, he states that there are three types of kinship terms in Bodo. These are (a) First personal kinship, (b) second personal kinship and (c) third personal kinship terms.

### iv. Raoni Mohor (Part-I) (2004)

In this book, S. P. Chainary and P. Basumatary jointly compiled their different works. Chainary analyses about the kinship nouns. She mentions the Bodo kinship nouns are basically bound base and they are formed with the combination of personal pronoun and case-marker. She divided the kinship noun into two types *kinship noun used for direct address* and *kinship noun used for reference*. The first type of kinship noun is formed with the combination of first personal pronoun, case-marker and bound-base such as- *aŋ-ni-da* > *ada* ‘my elder brother’; on the other hand, the second type is formed with the combination of second or third personal pronoun, case-marker and bound base such as *nunŋ-ni-da* > *nunŋda* ‘your elder brother’.

### v. An Introduction to the Boro Language (2005)

P. Basumatary have done outstanding research work on Bodo language and linguistics. In this book, he discusses on phonology, morphology and vocabulary of Bodo language. Here, he has done structural analysis on noun. He describes two types of derivational process of derived noun. These are (a) Noun derived from verb base and (b) noun derived from noun base. In the first

type he enumerates seven suffixes *-nay*, *-gra* ~ *-gwra*, *-ari*, *-t<sup>h</sup>i* *-t<sup>h</sup>ay*, *-sali*, and *-giri* which are added after verb base to form derived nouns like- v. *za* + *-nay* > *zanay* ‘act of eating’, v. *p<sup>h</sup>an* + *-gra* > *p<sup>h</sup>angra* ‘seller’, etc. On the other hand, in second type, he enumerates six suffixes *-t<sup>h</sup>i*, *-ari*, *-t<sup>h</sup>ay*, *-sali*, *-t<sup>h</sup>ili*, and *-giri* which are added after noun base to constitute derived nouns like-, n. *subuŋ* + *-t<sup>h</sup>i* > *subuŋt<sup>h</sup>i* ‘personality’, etc. Further he studies another two processes of noun formation i.e., (a) contract form of noun and (b) compound noun. The contract form of noun occurs in case of kinship noun formation. When the kin relationship indicating bound noun base is added to the pronoun and genitive case-marker then the contract form takes place like- *aŋ-ni-da* > n. *ada* ‘my elder brother’, *bi-ni-da* > n. *bida* ‘his elder brother’, etc. In respect of compound noun formation, he illustrates three types i.e., (a) free noun + bound noun, (b) free noun + free noun, and (c) bound noun + bound noun.

**vi. Boro Raokhanthi (2006)**

S. P. Chainary has done remarkable works on grammar and Bodo linguistics. In this book, she discusses on different aspects of Bodo language like- phonology, morphology, syntax, etc. In morphology section she also studies about noun. She focused the study on the process of derivational noun formation. The derivational nouns are formed with the affixation process from verb base and noun base. The nouns which are derived from noun base is termed as class maintaining derivational noun, on the other hand those are derived from verb base is termed as class changing derivational noun. She enumerates nine class maintaining affixes, where four are prefix and five are suffix i.e., *bi-*, *be-*, *p<sup>h</sup>i-*, *si-*, *-t<sup>h</sup>i*, *-ari*, *-t<sup>h</sup>ai*, *-gra*, and *-ru*; on the other hand, seven class changing affixes, where two are prefix and five are suffix i.e., *bi-*, *p<sup>h</sup>i-*, *-nai*, *-gra*, *-ari*, *-t<sup>h</sup>i-*, and *-t<sup>h</sup>ai*. She also discusses the compound noun with four sub-headings i.e., (a) free noun + bound noun, (b) free noun + free noun (free form), (c) free noun + free noun (contract form), and (d) free noun + adjective.

**vii. Modern Bodo Grammar, Vol-1 (2013)**

A. Brahma has done outstanding work on Bodo Grammar. In this book, he discusses the different aspects of morphology. In the preface of this book, he says that he attempts to study almost all kinds of morphological structure of

Bodo language with illustration of examples. On the basis of structures, he classifies Bodo noun into two broad classes i.e., primary and secondary. Again, he classifies the secondary noun into two subgroups: derived noun and compound noun. Derived nouns are formed by adding affixes to roots or stems. He mentions three type of affixes which can form derived noun. These are:

- (a) Personal pronominal prefixes
- (b) General nominalizing affixes, and
- (c) Categorical prefixes.

He enumerates five personal pronominal prefixes, these are: *a-*, *nwɨ-*, *nwm-*, *nw-*, and *bi-*. These are added to the bound base of kinship term to make it usable one like- *a-* + *p<sup>h</sup>a* > *ap<sup>h</sup>a* ‘my father’, *nwm-* + *bɔ* > *nwmbɔ* ‘your elder sister’. There are many general nominalizing affixes which are added to verb, noun and adjective to form derived noun. For instance: *lir* ‘write’ + *-nai* > *lirnai* ‘writing’, *abad* ‘crop’ + *ari* > *abadari* ‘cultivator’, etc. In the categorical prefixes, he studies the formation of naming words of bird, animal, fish, fruit, tree, paddy, and body parts. Further he discusses about compound noun. He identifies two types of compound noun: *free* + *free* and *free* + *bound*.

### Theses:

#### i. **A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language (1977, Published Ph.D thesis)**

Promod Chandra Bhattacharya has done pioneer research work on Bodo language. He studies in the field of phonology, morphology, syntax, and vocabulary. He also analyses about the Bodo noun and the process of its formation with examples. In Bodo noun, he includes the name of objects, people, places, substances and abstract qualities including social relationship. According to him a verb base can be noun by taking affixes and they behave like as noun bases and also capable of taking nominal affixes. He gives a lot of examples of monosyllabic noun bases like- *on* ‘rice powder’, *or* ‘fire’, *em* ‘bed’, etc. He says that disyllabic and polysyllabic noun bases are analysable as derived formation of nominalizing affix plus bound base. He identifies two chief types of affixes i.e., (a) personal pronominal prefixes and (b) general nominalizing affixes. In the first, the personal pronominal prefixes are added to the bound bases those indicate human relationship. There are three types of prefixes, these are- first personal pronominal prefix i.e., *a-* ~ *am-* ~ *ø-*, second

personal pronominal prefix i.e., *non-* ~ *nom-* ~ *no-* ~ *ø-* and third personal pronominal prefix i.e., *bi-*, ~ *phi-* ~ *ø-*. These prefixes are added to the noun bases those denote human relationship. Like- *a-pha* > *apha* ‘my father’, *am-may* > *amay* ‘my maternal uncle’, *non-da* > *nonda* ‘your elder brother’, *bi-ma* > *bima* ‘his/her mother’, etc. In the general nominalizing affixes, he discusses many affixes which are added to the different types of bound or free noun bases denoting human limbs, trees, etc. Further he discusses noun formation by compounding process. There are many noun bases which added to the bound noun bases to form new noun. He says these bases appear as contracted form. In this point he includes the formation of naming words of birds, animals, and fruits.

**ii. A Descriptive Analysis on Bodo Suffix (2014, Unpublished Ph.D Thesis)**

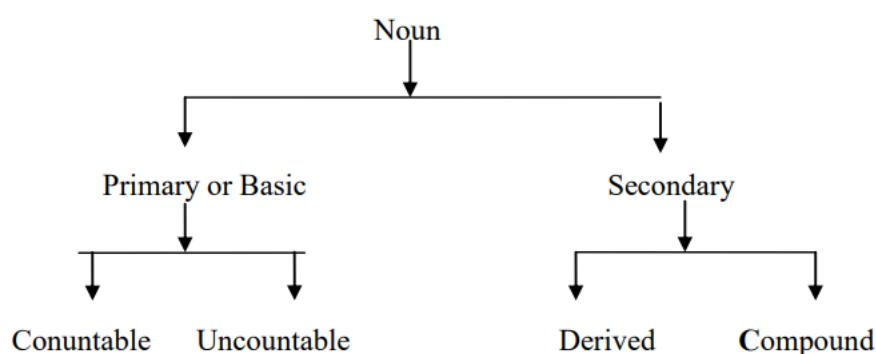
Guddu Prasad Basumatary has studied about the suffixes of Bodo. Here, he also discusses about Bodo noun and noun forming suffixes. He says most of the Bodo nouns are monosyllabic; disyllabic and polysyllabic nouns are mostly compound or derived. For example- monosyllabic: *bɔn* ‘wood fire’, *mai* ‘paddy’, etc.; di-syllabic or polysyllabic: *bizab* ‘book’, *sanjgrema* ‘firefly’, etc. Further he discusses the structure of naming words related to animal, bird, fish, fruit, and body part.

**iii. Word Formation in Bodo (2016, Unpublished Ph.D thesis)**

In this thesis, Daimalu Brahma has studied about the processes of word formation in Bodo. He discusses about words formed by affixation, compounding and reduplication processes. Here, he also studies about the noun formation and illustrates the noun formed by affixation and compounding. In affixation, he provides some prefix and suffixes which are added to verb and noun to form new nouns. For instance: *bi+zab* > *bizab* ‘book’, *la+nai* > *lanai* ‘taking’, *abad+ari* > *abadari* ‘cultivator’, etc. In compounding, he illustrates the nouns formed in combination like: noun + noun > noun, noun + verb > noun, verb + noun > noun, etc. In the reduplication chapter, he also discusses about the reduplication of noun; again, he discusses about echo formation and expressive.

iv. **Bodo Vocabulary: A Structural Analysis (2019, Unpublished Ph.D thesis)**

In this thesis, Raje Brahma analyses about the vocabularies of Bodo. He includes different types of words like- basic word, derived word, compound word, onomatopoeic word, and loan word. He makes structural analysis of all kind of such words with examples. Here he also discusses on noun word and its structures. Analysing the noun word, he says due to nominalization process, verb and adjective can be converted into noun. Further he draws a diagram classifying the Bodo noun as given below



**Figure: 1.16**

(Extracted from *Bodo Vocabulary: A Structural Analysis*, p. 23.)

He mentions different types of affixes which can be added to verb, adjective and noun to form derived noun words i.e., *bi-*, *-ari*, *-t<sup>h</sup>ai*, *-nai*, *-t<sup>h</sup>i*, etc. He also analyses the structure of different kind of naming words related to fish, animal, body part, kinship term, fruit, tree, etc. Again, he identifies five types of compound noun, these are- (i) *noun + verb = compound noun*, (ii) *noun + adjective = compound noun*, (iii) *noun + noun = compound*, (iv) *noun + noun + noun = compound*, (v) *free noun + bound noun > compound*. He also discusses about the structure of onomatopoeic noun words produced by birds, animals, insects, human beings and the sound of natural phenomena.

### Research Papers:

#### i. Formation of kinship terms in Boro (Published in *US-China Foreign Language*, Vol. 11, No. 2, 2013)

S. P. Chainary illustrates the kinship terms with examples. She states “The structure of these kinship terms is very much common to various cognate languages of Bodo spreading in different North-Eastern states of India and neighboring Bhutan.” She discusses under eight heads as given below:

- (a) Bound base form of kinship terms
- (b) personal pronoun and bound base
- (c) Absence of 1<sup>st</sup> person personal pronoun
- (d) Combination of bound base and verb
- (e) Combination of personal pronoun and verb
- (f) Combination of personal pronoun and noun/adjective
- (g) Combination of personal pronoun, bound base and noun/adjective
- (h) Common kinship terms

In the first type she writes about the bound base form of kinship terms, she mentions such bound bases have no own existence in the language. But it functions as head of kinship term and without these no kinship terms can be formed. These terms are *da*, *p<sup>h</sup>a*, *bui*, etc. and their meanings are elder brother, father and grandmother. Though these have meaning, they need the help of personal pronoun to occur in language and so these have been identified as bound base. In the second type, she mentions the bound base of kinship term always accompanied by singular forms of personal pronoun like- *aŋ* ‘I’-*p<sup>h</sup>a* ‘father’> *ap<sup>h</sup>a* ‘my father’. In the third type, she writes some kinship terms which can arise without taking personal pronoun like- *bazui* ‘wife of one’s elder brother’, *gumui* ‘husband of one’s elder sister’. In the fourth type, she mentions there is only one kinship term which forms in combination of bound base plus verb i.e., *ma+dui*> *madui* ‘younger sister of one’s mother’ (here *ma* is a bound base that indicates mother and *dui~dui* ‘be small’ is a verb). In the fifth type, she states only one kinship term that is formed in combination of personal pronoun and verb i.e., *aŋ + dui*> *adui* ‘younger brother of one’s father’ (here *aŋ* is 1<sup>st</sup> personal pronoun indicates I and *dui~dui* ‘be small’ is a verb). In the sixth type, she writes only one kinship terms which is formed in addition of personal pronoun and noun i.e., *aŋ-nui*> *anui* ‘younger or elder sister of one’s

father or one's mother's elder or younger brother's wife' (here *an* 'I' is 1<sup>st</sup> personal pronoun and *nui* 'two' is noun). In the seventh type, she illustrates a few kinship terms those are formed in combination of personal pronoun + bound base + noun/adjective. i.e., *nuŋ+ma+nui* > *numanui* 'your father's younger or elder sister or your mother's elder or younger brother's wife' (here *nuŋ* 'you' is 2<sup>nd</sup> personal pronoun, *ma* 'mother' is bound base and *nui* 'two' is noun). In the last type, she mentions some common kinship terms which are same to the male or female lineage like- the terms for the elder brother of one's father and the elder sister of one's mother are same- *an-ɔŋ* > *ayɔŋ* 'elder brother of one's father or the elder sister of one's mother'.

**ii. Process of Nominalization in Bodo: An Analytical Study (Published in *Indian Streams Research Journal*, Vol. 4, Issue 8, 2014)**

Here, Guddu Prasad Basumatary discusses about the noun formation by affixation. He mentions only one nominalizing prefix i.e., *bɔ*-which derive noun from verb. For instance: *bɔ-bar* (to bloom) > *bibar* (flower), *bɔ-dui* (to lay egg) > *bidui* (egg), etc. Further he mentions three types of nominalizing suffix i.e., (a) deverbal noun suffix, (b) denominal noun suffix and (c) de-adjectival noun suffix.

**iii. Kinship Structure and Related Terminology of The Boros: Discussion From Sociological and Linguistic View Point (Published in *IJELLH*, Vol. IV, Issue VIII, 2016)**

P. Basumatary discusses about the kinship terminology under two sub-heads i.e., (a) kinship structure and sociological perspective and (b) linguistic structure of kinship terminology. In the first type he studies from sociological view point and illustrates two types of kinship structure. These are- (a) kinship structure from father's blood relation i.e., *abuu* (father's father), *ayong* (father's elder brother), *anui* (father's elder or younger sister), etc. and (b) kinship structure from mother's affine kin group i.e., *abuu* (mother's father), *amai* (mother's elder or younger brother), *anui* (mother's elder or younger brother's wife), etc. He mentions some common terminologies to represent kin relationship both for father's and mother's side which conventionally using and accepting. In the second, from the linguistic point of view, he says the kinship terminology is

made up of two morphological units. Further he discusses classifying two sub-heads (a) typology of kinship terms in case of addressing someone and (b) typology of kinship terms used in case of reference. The first type the kinship term forms in combination of 1<sup>st</sup> personal pronoun and term of kin relationship like- *ang* (I)-*pha* (refers to father) > *apha* (my father). The second type is also made up of 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> personal pronoun and term of kin relationship like- *nung* (you)-*ma* (refers to mother) > *numa* (your mother).

At the end, after reviewing the existing works on Bodo noun and its formation done by different grammarians, linguists and scholars at different times it can state that existing works can provide only an introduction and types of Bodo noun. A detailed research work on noun formation (nominalization) has to be done yet. The processes of noun formation need a clear investigation. There can find lacunae and gaps. These are pointed out below:

- a) The nominalizer prefixes and suffixes are not studied in detail yet. So, a proper investigation on nominalizer prefixes and suffixes is need.
- b) In the available works, only root compounding and formal classification of compound noun have been done. Semantic classification and synthetic compound of compound noun need a clear investigation. The existing works on formation of kinship terms have been done in different ways by different grammarian and linguists. But the kinship term is formed preceded by pronominal prefix to bound root which need a clear and proper investigation. Reduplication of noun has been discussed in general; but available work could not provide the purpose of reduplication, which need a clear investigation.
- c) The structure of noun phrase is not analyzed yet. The functions of a noun phrase and noun clause are not discussed yet. Noun phrase and noun clause can act various roles, like- subject, object, complement, etc. which need a proper study. The movement of noun phrase is not studied yet.

Therefore, further deep study on nominalization is of much importance to fill up the gap.



## 1.7 Problem statement

Nominalization, the process of forming new noun words is a linguistic phenomenon where includes noun formation through affixation, compounding and reduplication processes of word formation. It is found that most of the Bodo nouns are nominalized nouns and it is used wider than basic nouns. The increasing use of nominalized nouns in academic and formal writing has raised concerns about readability and clarity. So, there is much need of a comprehensive study on nominalization. For that, the researcher has taken for study the proposed topic entitled A Study of Nominalization in Bodo.

## 1.8 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of proposed research work are given below:

- i. To study the affixes that derive noun from verb, adjective and noun.
- ii. To study the compound nouns that are formed by compounding process as well as to study the reduplication of noun for various purposes.
- iii. To analyse the structure of noun phrase and noun clause; also aims to study the functions of noun phrase and noun clause.

## 1.9 Significance of the study

The proposed study, *A Study of Nominalization in Bodo*, holds significant importance in both academic and linguistic contexts within the Bodo language. It aims to examine the affixes that contribute to noun formation through affixation, analyze compound nouns, investigate the purpose of noun reduplication, and study the structure and functions of noun phrases and noun clauses. This research will provide valuable insights into the formation of derivational and compound nouns, clarify the role of reduplication in noun formation, and contribute to the accurate use of derivational nouns in the Bodo language.

## 1.10 Area of the study

The present research focuses on identifying the affixes involved in the formation of derivational nouns, analyzing the structural patterns of compound nouns formed through compounding, examining the purposes of noun reduplication, and investigating the structure and functions of noun phrases and noun clauses in the Bodo language.

## 1.11 Hypotheses

Following are the hypotheses of present study:

- i. Derivational nouns are formed through the affixation process, where verbs, adjectives, and nouns undergo morphological changes to derive new noun words.
- ii. Compound nouns are created by combining two or more roots or stems into a single unit through the process of compounding. Additionally, noun reduplication serves various functions, such as expanding meaning, indicating plurality, drawing attention, creating awareness, and expressing irritation.
- iii. Nouns serve as the core elements of noun phrases and noun clauses. In a sentence, a noun, noun phrase, or noun clause can function as a subject, object, complement, or appositive.

## 1.12 Methodology and source of data

Descriptive and analytical methods will be applied to study the proposed topic. The linguistic terms will be explained using the descriptive method and examples will be structurally analyzed using analytical method. The data in this study will be transcribed using the International Phonetic Alphabet. Additionally, references will be cited in footnotes according to the guidelines of the ninth edition of the *Modern Language Association Handbook*.

This study is based on data from both primary and secondary sources. Being a native speaker of Bodo, the researcher has gathered primary data through observation of real time speeches in various contexts. Secondary data has been collected through review of relevant literatures. The existing works have been analyzed to identify gaps and limitations, providing a foundation for this study. Data collection also involved visiting libraries such as the Madhu Ram Baro Memorial Library of the Bodo Department and the Padmashri Madaram Brahma Central Library of Bodoland University. Furthermore, e-libraries and online resources were accessed to gather relevant information from books, magazines, journals, research articles, and dissertations.