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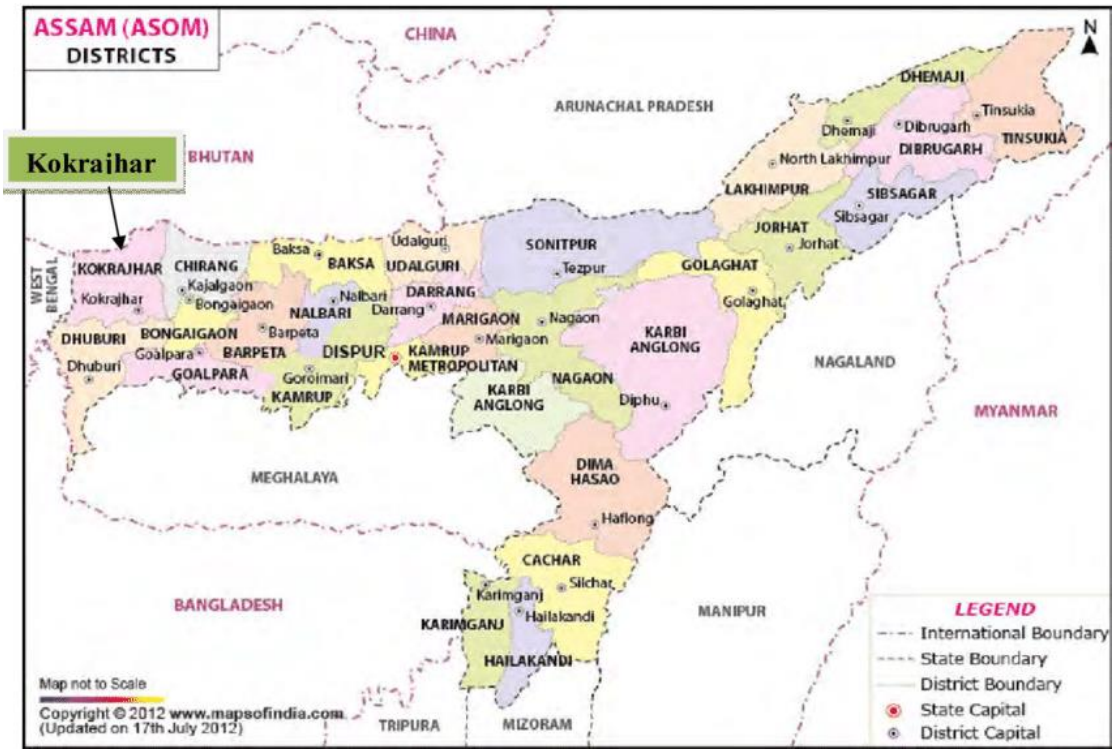
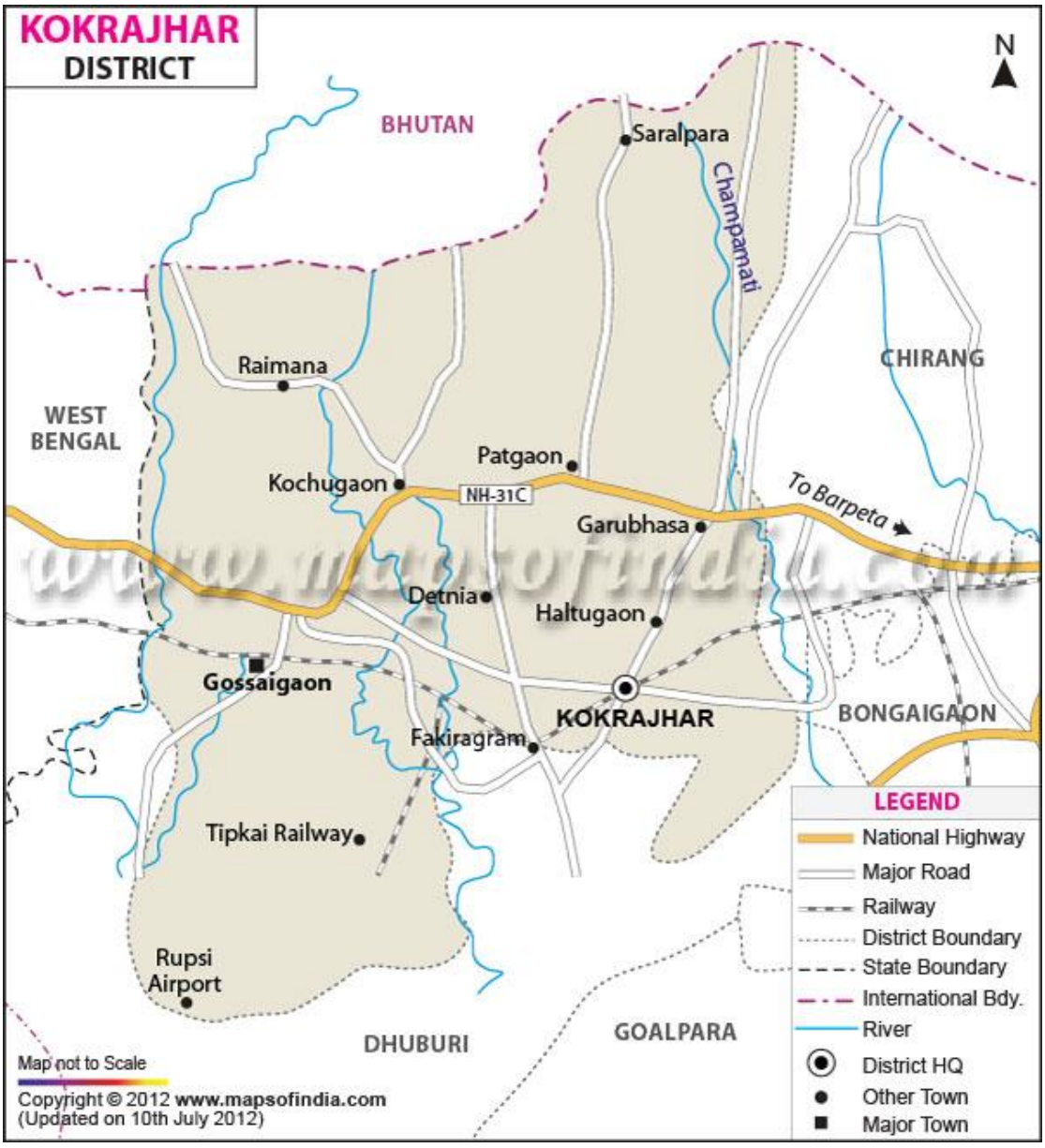


(Map of Assam Indicating the Kokrajhar District)



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NATIONAL SEMINAR

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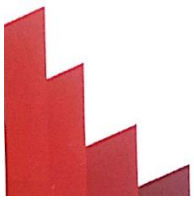

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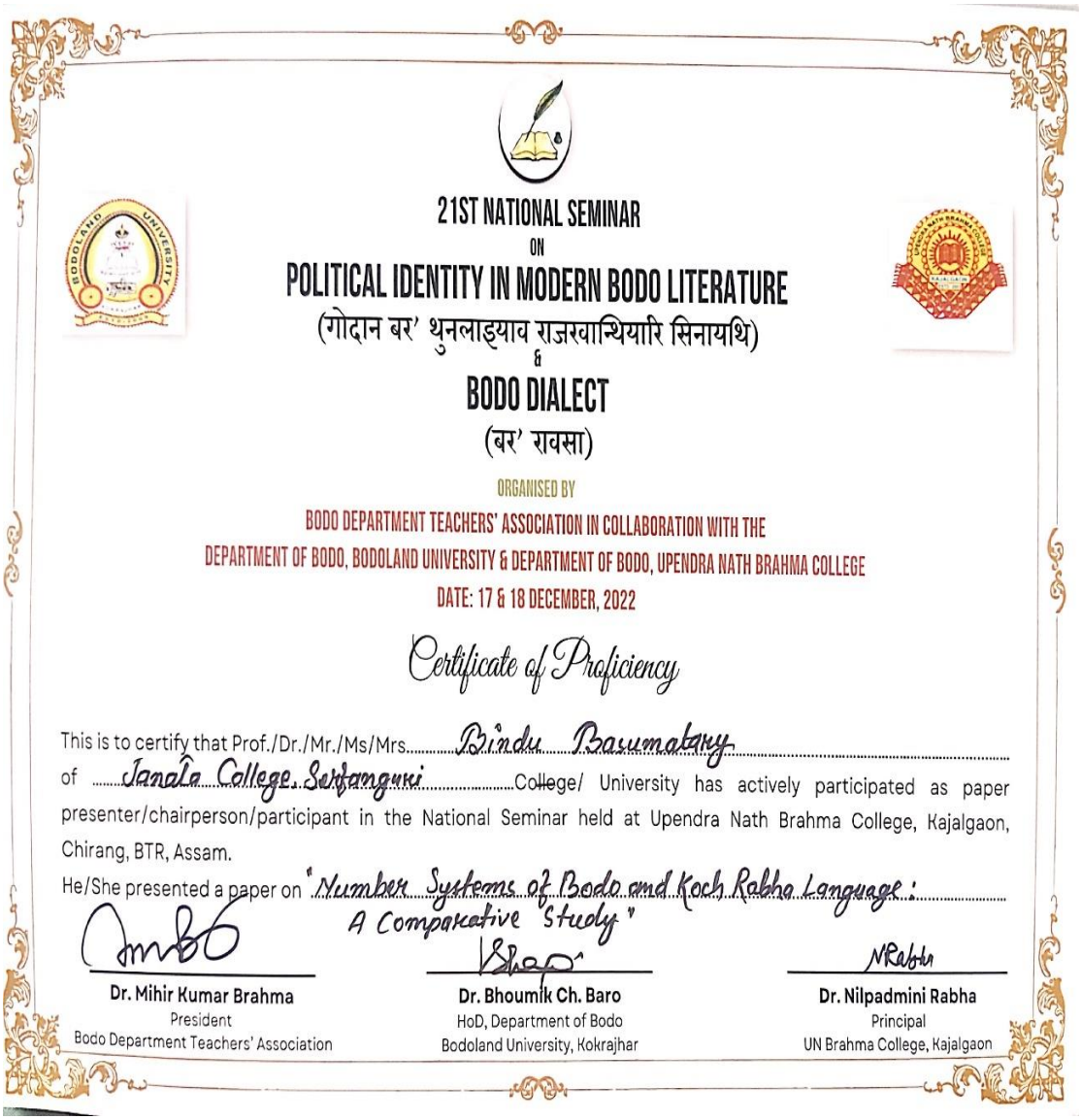

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The Noun Formation of Bodo and Koch Rabha Languages: A Comparative Study

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Abstract

Northeastern States of India present a hub of various communities, ethnic groups and languages. Most of these languages have close affinities in the field of linguistic traits. These languages basically belong to the Sino-Tibetan language family. Among of these languages, Bodo and Koch Rabha belong to the cognate group of Tibeto-Burman groups of languages under the greater Sino-Tibetan Language Family. Linguistically, both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages have similarities in case of phonology, morphology, syntactic and semantically. The present paper intends to make a comparative study in the field of noun formation of Bodo and Koch Rabha languages and the similarities in its formation.

Keyword: Northeast India, Koch Rabha Language, Noun, Bodo

1. Introduction

Northeast India is the habitat of many tribes and ethnic groups with diverse ethnic origins. Linguists and scholars are of the opinion that the Bodo and Koch Rabha are known to be the cognate group of languages belonging to the Tibeto-Burman language under the greater Sino-Tibetan group of languages. The languages of Bodo and Rabha belong to the Bodo group of languages under the Bodo-Naga under the greater Assam-Burmese group of languages. There are different dialects in the Rabha group of languages, viz., Rongdani, Koch, Maitori, Pati, Dahori, Totla and Hana. From this point of view, it is observed that there are linguistic similarities between Bodo and Koch Rabha languages in noun formation.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

The languages of Bodo and Koch Rabha are independent languages which are originated from the Bodo group of the Sino-Tibetan language family. In a similar way, Assam-Burmese group is originated from the Tibeto-Burman and the Sino-Tibetan group. The Bodo and Koch Rabha languages also originated from the Bodo-Naga group under the Assam-Burmese group.

There are not only racial similarities between the Bodo and the Koch Rabha but also linguistics similarities. There are close similarities between the two languages in many respects.Therefore, the researcher has taken up this topic to make a comparative study on the similarities of noun formation.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The main objectives of the study are:

(i) To study the formation of the Bodo noun.
(ii) To study the formation of Koch Rabha noun.
(iii) To study the linguistics affiliation and differentiation of noun formation.

1.3 Review of Literature

A good number of researchers have done in different fields like culture, religion, customs, and language of Boro, Rabha and Koch Rabha dialects. Some of these books related to thistopic are:

(a) Bhattacharya, P.C.: A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language (1977), Deptt. of Publication, Gauhati University.
(b) Brahma, Musuka Bala: Bodo Rabha Vocabulary
(c) Brahma, Musuka Bala: Comparative Study of Bodo, Garo and Rabha Phonology.
(d) Koch, Jibeswar: Rabha Dialects: A Linguistics Study.
(e) Lokobok, Romeo Rwtin: English-Koch Rabha Language (A learners' Handbook).
(f) Rabha, Rupak Kumar: Language Shift and Language Maintenance Amongst the Rabhas of Meghalaya.

In reference to the present topic, the researcher has not seen any such specific book or study material on the comparative study of noun formation of Bodo (Boro) and Koch Rabha languages.

1.4 Data Collection and Methodology

The work would be on the comparative study of noun formation of Boro and Koch Rabha languages in linguistic perspective. The study would confine to the Kokrajhar district only. The study would be carried out by data collection from the primary and secondary sources.

2. Discussion

The Noun is a name of persons, places, animals, birds, insects, goods, and rivers. Among the pre-morphemes, the Noun is one of the root words. Hence, noun is considered as one of the parts of morphology. The following is the discussion on the formation of nouns of the Bodo and Koch Rabha in relation to the above given topic.

Morphologically, the use of nouns in both the Bodo and Koch Rabha languages can be studied by dividing them into two different types.

1. Basic noun and
2. Derived noun

2.1 Basic Noun

The noun which we can't divided into smallest meaningful grammatical sequences or category it's called basic noun. In both the Bodo and Koch Rabha languages we can structurally classify the basic noun in to two forms: 1. Monosyllabic basic noun and 2. Disyllabic basic noun.

There are two types of Basic Noun. They are Mono-syllabic basic noun and Disyllabic Basic Noun.

2.1.1 Monosyllabic Basic Noun Words

Boro	Koch Rabha
Dau (hen)	Thou (hen)
Or (fire)	Bar (fire)
Bar (win)	Fang (tree)
Hang (breathe)	Kwi (dog)
Na (fish)	Na (fish)
No (house)	Bak (pig)
Dwi (water)	Kuk (grasshopper)

2.1.2 Disyllabic Basic Noun Words

Boro	Koch Rabha
Man-si (man)	Cho-kot (beer)
Mw-swu (cow)	Chi-ka (water)
o-ma (pig)	So-sa (mosquito)
Mai-rong (rice)	Chos-mar (ant)
Mw-sa (tiger)	Tw-pak (butterfly)
Sw-ma (dog)	Si-gun (vulture)

2.2 Derived Noun

Derived noun is a noun which is formed by adding prefix or suffix to the basic noun. The derived noun can be divided into two different categories from the structural analysis of the Boro and Koch Rabha languages. They are as follows.

2.2.1 noun + suffix (bound Morpheme) = Noun

Examples:

Boro

Dwi (n) + {-ma} (s) = Dwima (river)
Nwgwr (n) + {- ari} (s) = Nwgwrari (citizen0
Abad (n) + {- ari} (s) = abadari (cultivator)
Ha (n) + {-jwu} (s) = Hajw (hill)
Ha (n) + {-sib} (s) = Hasib (

Koch Rabha

Ha (n) + {-song} (s) = Hasong (state)
Ha (n) + {-dam} (s) = Hadam (place)
Ha (n) + {-pak} (s) = Hapak (chest)
Ha (n) + {-sok} (s) = Hasok (lung)
Mai (n) + {-mudi} (s)= Maimudi (small rice)

2.2.2 Verb + suffix (bound Morpheme) = Noun
Verb + verb = Noun

Examples:

Boro

Bi (v) + bar (v) = bibar (flower)
Ja (v) + nai (v) = janai (eat)
Bisi (v) + {- a} (s) = bisia (un-tear)
Pi (v) + twb (v) = pitwb (..)

Koch Rabha

Zi + {-lwo} (s) = Zilwo (chili)
Lwi (v) + mwn (v) = Lwimwn (Young stage)
Cha (v) + phang (v)= Chaphang (Thigh)
Ra (v) + san (v) = Rasan (Sun)

Apart from the above given discussion, there is also a noun which is called compounding noun. Compound noun is composed of more than one free morpheme. In simple term, compound noun is a noun made up of two or more existing words. In other words, compound noun is formed through adding a noun to another noun, but these words not necessarily be nouns themselves.

Examples

Boro

Phisa(n.) + jwla(n.) = Phisajwla(n.)
Phiswo(n.) + jwla(n.) = Phiswojwla(n.)
Dau(n.) + jwla(n.) = Daujwla(n.)

Koch Rabha

Mai(n.) + dong(n.) = Maidong(n.)
Nuken(n.) + Chika(n.) = Nukchi(n.) etc.

3. Conclusion

From the above discussion, it is seen that the languages of Bodo and Koch Rabha both belong to the Sino-Tibetan language family. It is also seen that both these languages have similarities in many aspects especially in the field of different types of noun formation and noun structure.

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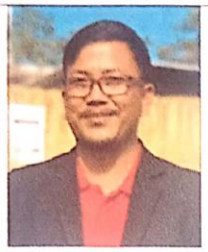

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Verb Formation in Bodo and Koch Rabha Language: A Comparative Study

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Abstract

Northeastern States of India is a hub of various communities, ethnic groups and languages. Most of these languages have close affinities in the field of linguistic traits. These languages basically belong to the Sino-Tibetan language family. Among of these languages, Bodo and Koch Rabha belong to the cognate group of Tibeto-Burman groups of languages under the greater Sino-Tibetan Language Family. Linguistically, both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages have similarities in case of phonology, morphology, syntactic and semantically. The present paper intends to make a comparative study in the field of noun formation of Bodo and Koch Rabha languages and the similarities in its formation.

Keyword: Bodo, Koch Rabha, Language, Verb.

1.0 Introduction

Northeast India is the habitat of many tribes and ethnic groups with diverse ethnic origins. Linguists and scholars are of the opinion that the Bodo and Koch Rabha are known to be the cognate group of languages belonging to the Tibeto-Burman language under the greater Sino-Tibetan group of languages. The languages of Bodo and Rabha belong to the Bodo group of languages under the Bodo-Naga under the greater Assam-Burmese group of languages. There are different dialects in the Rabha group of languages viz. Rongdani, Koch, Maitori, Pati, Dahori,

Totla and Hana. From this point of view, it is observed that there are linguistic similarities between Bodo and Koch Rabha languages in verb formation.

1.1 Statement of the Problems

The languages of Bodo and Koch Rabha are independent languages which originated from the Bodo group of the Sino-Tibetan language family. In a similar way, Assam-Burmese group originated from the Tibeto-Burman and the Sino-Tibetan groups. The Bodo and Koch Rabha languages also originated from the Bodo-Naga group under the Assam-Burmese group. There are not only racial similarities between the Bodo and the Koch Rabha but also linguistic similarities. There are close similarities between the two languages in many respects. Therefore, the researcher has taken up this topic to make a comparative study on the similarities of verb formation.

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The work would be on the comparative study of noun formation of Boro and Koch Rabha languages from a linguistic perspective. The study would confine to the Kokrajhar district only. The study would be carried out by data collection from the primary and secondary sources.

2.0 Discussion

The term *Verb* denotes the meaning of action, state, or occurrence. It is an integral part of the parts-of-speech. Verb functions an important role in morphology and syntax. In Bodo and Koch Rabha languages, the verb may necessarily carry tense, aspect and negative markers. However, it is to be noted that the verb may be changed into the other class of words. This process may be called derivation. In both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages the verb may be classified into two categories:

(i) Basic verbs, and

(ii) Derivational verb.

2.1 Basic verb

Generally, the basic verbs are called verb roots. The verbs which are not fractioned in smallest meaningful segments are called verb roots or basic verbs. Structurally the phonemic structure of the verb both Bodo and Koch Rabha language can be found in the following phonemic structure-

(i) Monosyllabic basic verb and

(ii) Disyllabic basic verb

2.1.1 Monosyllabic Basic Verbs

The monosyllabic verbs of both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages are found in the following phonemic structures VC, CV, CVV, CVC in Bodo and CV' CVV' CVC in Koch Rabha. The examples are given below-

Bodo:

VC. un 'to reduce to powder'

ɔr 'bite'

er 'toincrease'

ɔn 'to love'

CV. kha 'to plough'

za 'eat'

tha 'stay',

kha 'to bind'

CVV. zau 'to dig',

sau 'to burn',

maɔ 'do'

CVC. khar 'run',

bar 'to jump',

nar 'to press',

khɔn 'to collect'

Koch Rabha

CV. sa 'to eat'

sɔ 'to measure'

si 'to die'

la 'to take'

phu 'to pour'

CVV. saa 'to pain'

sui 'to see'

lau 'to give'

phui 'to come'

lui 'to go'

CVC. ham 'to burn'

buth 'to pull'

zur 'run away'

luŋ 'to sing'

suŋ 'to ask'

From the above examples of both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages, it is seen that in Koch Rabha language there is no single verb beginning with vowel phoneme in comparison to Bodo language.

2.1.2 Disyllabic Basic Verb

In both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages the disyllabic verbs are found in the following morphophonemic structure- V-CV, V-CVV, V-CVC, VV-CV, VC-CV, CV-CV, CV-CVC, CV-CVC, CV-CVV, CVC-CVC etc. in Bodo and CV-CV, CV-CVV, CV-CVC, CVC-CV, CVC-CVV, CVC-CVC etc. in Koch Rabha language. Examples of both languages are given below-

Bodo-

V-CV. e-lɔ 'to take out'

u-si 'to overflow'

	V-CVV.	a-luuu 'to spicy'
		u-khuui 'to hungry'
	V-CVC.	e-rɔn 'to go out'
		a-zaw 'to catch'
	VV-CV	au-li 'to melt'
		au-thi 'to melt by boiling'
	VC-CV.	er-lu 'to poke'
		er-kho 'to take out'
	CV-CV.	si-gi 'to
		phi-si 'to make wet'
	CV-CVC.	za-laŋ 'to eat and go'
	CV-CVV.	dugɯi 'to bath'
	CVC-CVC.	khaɔ-laj 'to request'
Koch Rabha-		ɯŋɔ
	CV-CV.	la-sa 'to accept'
		la-ha 'to bring'
	CV-CVV.	ma-nai 'to obey'
		ba-khai 'to throw'
	CV-CVC.	la-laŋ 'to take away'
		da-phakh 'be light'
	CVC-CV.	dil-la 'loosen'
	CVV-CVV.	phai-lau 'to distribute'

sɯi-lau 'to watch'

CVC-CVV. dun-lau 'to inform'

If observed the above examples ofdisyllabic patterns both Bodo and Koch Rabha languagethat some syllable patterns are not available in Bodo or Koch Rabha, such that syllabic patterns are- V-CV, V-CVV, V-CVC, VV-CV, VC-CV, and VC-CVCare not available in Koch Rabha language, whereas the syllabic patterns CVC-CV, CVV-CVV and CVC-CVV are not available in Bodo language. It is also seen that in Koch Rabha like monosyllabic basic verb the disyllabic basic verb also not begin with the vowel phonemes.

2.2 Derivational Verb

In the case of derivational verb in Bodo and Koch Rabha language the verbs are form by adding affixes with verb roots and by compounding with verb roots. In these regard in derivational verb the formation of verbs both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages can be discussed under the two heads-

a) By Affixation and
b) By Compounding

2.2.1 By Affixation

In this method of verbformation in Bodo and Koch Rabha language, there are lots of affixes to form the verb in both the languages. These affixes can be discussed under two heads.

a) Prefixation and
b) Suffixation

2.2.1.1 Prefixation

The prefix is an affix that is added before the root words to denote the meaning. Bodo and Koch Rabha both the languages have limited number of verbal prefixes in comparison to suffix. These are- {bi-}, {phɔ-}, {si-}, {sɯ-} in Bodo and {da-}, {tha-}, {ma-} in Koch Rabha. As discuss in the below:

Bodo-

{bi-}: This prefix is added with limited numbers of verbs to form another new verb in Bodo language and when it is combined with the verbs it indicates the meaning of 'to make', 'to cause to'. As for examples-

bi- + v. si (to torn) > bisi (totear)

bi- + v.zir (to peel) > bizir (to make peel)

{phɔ-}: This prefix is also added to verb in Bodo language to form verb again. The examples are given below-

phɔ- + v. dɔm (to bent) > phɔdɔm (to make bent)

phɔ- + v. raj (to utter) > phɔraj (to read)

phɔ- + v. zɔ (to sit) > phɔzɔ (to cause to sit) etc.

{si-}: This is also a prefix thatattached to verb to form the new verb In Bodo language this prefix is added to verb to form new verb and it denote the meaning of 'to do', or 'to make'. As for examples-

si- + v. gi (to fear) > sigi (to make afraid)

si- + v. phaj (to bend) > siphaj (to make broken) etc.

{sɯ-}: It is a prefix that is appended to a limited number of verbs in Bodo language. It is attached with verb to represent the meaning of 'to do' 'to make', 'to cause to'. As for examples-

sɯ- v. gab (to cry) > sɯgab (to make cry)

sɯ- v. maw (to tremble) > sɯmaw (to make move)

Koch Rabha-

{da-}: This prefix is added before a verb in Koch Rabha language to form another verb. Like {bi-}, {phɔ-} and {phu-} of Bodo language, {da-} prefix in Koch Rabha language is used to represent the meaning of 'to make', 'to cause to'. The examples are given below-

da- + v. phakh (light) > daphakh (be light)

da- + v. ban (to take in soldier) > daban (to forget)

{tha-}: This prefix is also appended before a verb to form the new verb. It is a negative marker of the Koch Rabha language. The examples are given below-

tha- + v. la (to to take) > thala (don't take)

tha- + v. phui (to come) > haphui (don't come)

tha- + v. bakh (to speak) > thabakh (don't speak)

{ma-}: It is a prefix attached to the verb in Koch Rabha to form the verb again. The examples are given below-

ma- + v. naj (to move) >manaj (to obey)

ma- + v. raj (to roll) >maraj (to make round)

{dun-}: It is also a prefix of the Koch Rabha which is added with verb root to form a new verb. As for example-

dun- + v. lau (to give) >dunlau (to inform)

2.2.1.2 Suffixation

The suffixation method is also a kind of to formation of verb in Bodo and Koch Rabha language. In comparison to Bodo language the verbal suffixes of the Koch Rabha is very limited in number. The details of suffixes are given below-

Bodo-

{-khɔ}: The suffix is used to verb to form verb again. This suffix is used to denote the meaning of 'to release' and 'to separate'. Examples are given below-

v. er (to stir) -khɔ > erkhɔ (to bring out)

v. kheb (to pinch) -khɔ > khebkhɔ (to release by pinching out)

{-kha}: In Bodo this suffix is added after the verb to form another verb. The suffix {-kha} is used to convey a meaning separate from something else, it may be cutting, pulling, digging, etc. As for examples-

v. er (to stir) –kha > erkha (to stir out)

v. zaw (to dig) –kha > zawkha (to dig out)

{-khe}: It is the verbal suffix, attached to the verb to form the verb. When used with root it represents the meaning of 'a side'. For example-

v. er (to pull) + –khe > erkhe (to take aside)

v. dan (to cut) + –khe > dankhe (to cut aside)

{-khuu}: This suffix is appended after the verb to form other verb. The suffix is used to denote the meaning 'upwards'. Examples are given below-

v. buu (to pull) + -khuu > bukhuu (to pull up)

v. khan (to comb) + -khuu > khankhuu (to dress hair)

{-khaŋ}: The suffix is added after the verb to form another verb. The suffix {-khaŋ} is used to express the meaning of 'finished', 'completed'.In addition to the above mentioned ones, sometime the suffix {-khaŋ} is also used to express the meaning of 'up' and 'increase'. The examples are given below-

v. la (to take) + –khaŋ > lakhaŋ (to have taken)

v. maw (to do) + –khaŋ > mawkhaŋ (to complete)

v. za (to be) + –khaŋ > zakhaŋ (to come up/to grow up)

v. zaw (to dig) + –khaŋ > zawkhaŋ (to dig out)

{-khrɔb}: This suffix is appended to form verb from new verb. When used with verb it represents the meaning 'to make tight/to minimize'. As examples-

v. buu (to pull) + –khrɔb > bukhrɔb (to pull together)

v. kha (to tie) + –khrɔb > khakhrɔb (to tie together)

The suffixes mention in the above examples there are {-khraŋ},{-khlɔ},{-khlaj},{-khleŋ},{-pha} and so on suffixes are appended with the verb roots in Bodo language to form new verbs.

Koch Rabha-

{-laŋ}: It is a verbal suffix of the Koch Rabha language which is added to verb root to form another new verb. When used with the verb it represents the meaning of 'to take away'. Examples are given below-

v. la (to take) + –laŋ>lalaŋ (to take away)

{-thɔkh}: This suffix is appended with verb roots to form another verb. After adding with verb it is denote the meaning 'take out' in Koch Rabha. For example-

v. dɔg (out) + –thɔkh > dɔgthɔkh (to take out)

{-khai}: This suffix is added to the verb root to form the verb in Koch Rabha.It isdenote the meaning 'taste' in Koch Rabha language. For example-

v. sa (to eat) + –khai > sakhai (to taste)

v. ba (to carry on back)+ –khai > bakhai (to throw)

2.2.2 By Compounding

It is also a primary way of forming the verbs in Bodo and Koch Rabha languages. In this compounding, two or more words are combined to form a new verb in both languages. The formation verb by compounding in Bodo and Koch Rabha language can be expressed as given below-

(a) Verb + Verb

A verb can be formed by combining two verbs in the Bodo and Koch Rabha language. Examples are given below-

Bodo-

mawlaŋ (to do and go) < maw (to do) + laŋ (to take away)

zaphui (come and eat) < za (to eat) + phui (come)

ergar (to throw away) < er (to stir) + gar (to leave/to throw)

zalaŋ (to go after eating) < za (to eat) + laŋ (to take away)

khɔnza (to pick up and eat) khɔn (to pick up) + za (to eat) etc.

Koch Rabha-

suilau (to watch) <sui (to see) + lau (to give)

lausa (don't give) < lau (to give) + sa (to eat)

badalau (make prohibit) < bada (prohibited) + lau (to give)

sanaŋ (to eat and go) < sa (eat) + naŋ (take) etc.

As mentioned above in the examples of both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages, the two verbs are combined to form the verb again. If observed the above examples it can be found that sometimes both verbs are head words (co-ordinate) or neither head nor modifier words (exocentric), or either a head or a modifier word (endocentric) in both the languages. Taking two Bodo words 'ergar' and 'khɔnza' show that both have two base –'er-gar' and 'khɔn-za'; but there is no modifying word, both are found as head word.

b. Verb + Verb + Verb

It is possible in both Bodoand Koch Rabha languages that a verb can be formed by combining three verb roots. For example-

Bodo-

laŋphuizub (to come and take all) laŋ (to take) + phui (to come) +zub (to finish)

thaŋphuizub (to come and go all) < thaŋ (to go) + phui (to come) + zub (to finish)

zazublaŋ (to finish eating and go away) < za (to eat) + zub (to finish) + laŋ (to take)

Koch Rabha-

lalaŋphui (to come and take all) <la (to take) + laŋ (to take away) + phui (to come)

sanaŋphui (to come and eat all) < sa (to eat) + naŋ (to take) + phui (to come)

In the above examples, it is seen that three verb roots are combined to form a new verb in both languages. If these examples are analyzed a semantic head and a modifier could be found. These are- 'za, thaŋ, la, laŋ' respectively used as head word in Bodo and Koch Rabha language because these are the principal key of the compound verb. Whereas other verb roots are attributes that modify the whole meaning.

3.0 Conclusion

Verb formation in Bodo and Koch Rabha languages has lots of similarities in the verb and verb formation. In the case of basic verbs in both the languages we find monosyllabic and disyllabic patterns. The derivational verb formation is found in two types- by affixation and compounding in both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages. From the above discussion we find that verbs in Bodo and Koch Rabha languages are formed by adding prefixes and suffixes with verb roots and also by combining two or three verbs. In Bodo language the verbs begin with both vowel and consonant phonemes. While in Koch Rabha, the verbs begin only with consonant phonemes.

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CLASSIFIERS OF BODO AND KOCH RABHA LANGUAGES

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ABSTRACT

The use of classifiers is a significant linguistic feature in many Sino-Tibetan and Tibeto-Burman languages, including Bodo and Koch Rabha languages spoken in North East India, mainly in Assam. Basically classifiers are grammatical elements used with numerals and numbers or quantifiers to categorize and quantify nouns based on their inherent characteristics such as shape, size or function. This abstract explores in Bodo and Koch Rabha languages, highlighting their similarities and unique aspects within the two linguistic systems. with the comparative methods of study.

Keywords: Bodo, Koch Rabha, language, Classifiers

1. INTRODUCTION

Bodo and Koch Rabha languages are belong to Sino-Tibetan language family. Both Bodo and Rabha spoken predominantly in Assam, India, are significant branches of the Bodo-Naga sub group of the Tibeto-Burman family under the greater Sino-Tibetan language family. Primarily Bodo is spoken by the Bodo people and Rabhais spoken by the Rabha people in Assam and other North Eastern states of India. There are different dialects in the Rabha group of languages viz. Rongdani, Koch, Maitori, Pati, Dahori, Totla and Hana. But, here the researcher wants to discuss the classifiers of Bodo and Koch Rabha languages. Generally, Bodo and Rabha languages are known as the cognate or sister languages because both the languages do belong to Tibeto-Burman branch of greater Sino-Tibetan language family.North East India is the habitat of many tribes and ethnic groups with diverse ethnic origins.

1.2 Statement of the problems: The exploration of the classifier systems in Bodo and Koch Rabha languages may provide valuable insights into their typological features and cultural underpinnings. This may reveal how these languages encode information about the physical world and social interactions. Furthermore, the study may contribute to the broader understanding of the Tibeto-Burman languages and may keep up in preserving the linguistic heritage of these two communities. Therefore, the researcher has taken up this topic to make a comparative study on the similarities and differentiation of classifiers of both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages.

1.3 Objectives of the study: The objectives of the study are:

(i) To study the classifiers of Bodo language.
(ii) To study the classifiers of Koch Rabha language.
(iii) To study the similarities and differentiation of classifiers of both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages.

1.4 Review of Literature: A good number of researchers of both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages have done in different fields like culture, religion, customs and language. Some of these books related to the topic are-

(a) Basumatary Pukhan Ch.: *Boro Raoni Mohorkhanthi* (2000), Gumur Publication, Dhirenpara, GHY-25.
(b) Bhattacharya, P.C.: *A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language* (1977), Deptt. Of Publication, Gauhati University.
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(d) Koch, Jibeswar: *Rabha Dialects: A Linguistics Study.*
(e) Lokobok, Romeo Rwtin: *English-Koch Rabha Language* (A learners' Handbook).
(f) Rabha, Rupak Kumar: *Language Shift and Language Maintenance Amongst the Rabhas of Meghalaya.*

In reference to the present topic, the researcher has not seen any such specific book or study material on the classifiers of Bodo and Koch Rabha languages.

1.5 Data Collection and Methodology: The study would be carried out by data collection from the primary and secondary sources and the collected data of both the languages are discussed in comparative method. The researcher would collect the sources by visiting libraries and from the villagers of both the languages.

DISCUSSION

Classifiers are words or morphemes used with nouns to denote their type, shape, size or other inherent characteristics. Generally, it refers to grammatical or lexical markers used to categorize nouns based on their semantic or physical characteristics. Classifiers are particularly common in certain languages. The study of classifiers in Bodo and Koch Rabha languages delves into the linguistic phenomenon of noun classification system, which play a vital role in structuring and organizing linguistic expressions in these Tibeto-Burman languages.

The classifiers of both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages are classified in to two types:

1) General Classifiers and
2) Noun Classifiers

2.1.1 General Classifiers: There are lots of classifiers in both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages. These are completely dependent on numerals. Without numerals the classifiers can't denote their meaning in both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages. The details are discussed below with their examples:

i) **{bɔza-}:** The classifier *{bɔza-}* is used in both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages to represent and calculate the bundles of stick like objects like jute, paddy, sugarcane, fire wood etc. these are called as bundles of jute, bundles of paddy, bundles of sugarcane, bundles of fire wood. For examples-

Bodo,

1) pʰatʰɯ-kʰɯɯ bɔza-/atʰi-se labɯ
Jute-ACC CLS-one bring
Bring one bundle of jute.

Koch Rabha,

1) aŋ-na kʰɔrɔpʰaŋ bɔza-niŋ lapʰa
I-DAT sugarcane CLS-two bring
Bring me two bundles of sugarcane.

ii) **{gaŋ-} and {kʰaraŋ-}:** These two classifiers are used tocount or calculate the leaves of the trees, blades of the grasses, papers, cloths etc. in both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages. For examples-

Bodo,

1) ai-ja aŋ-nɯ gɔsla gaŋ-nɯi labɯ-dɯŋ
Mother-NOM I-DAT shirt CLS-two bring-PRO
Mother has brought twoshirts for me.

Koch Rabha,

1) amai-ɔ aŋ-na kʰaraŋ-niŋ bisil la-ɯu
Mother-NOM I-DAT CLS-two shirt bring-PRO
Mother has brought two shirts for me.

{dɯŋ-} and {tʰɯŋ-}: The classifier *{dɯŋ-}* in Bodo and *{tʰɯŋ-}* in Koch Rabha languages do indicate the same meaning. In both the languages these two classifiers are used to count or calculate the long and thin objects like hair, ropes, road, threads etc. For examples-

Bodo,

1) nɯŋ-ni khanaj-a dɯŋ-se mɯn-baj
You-GEN hair-NOM CLS-one to grey-PST
Your one hairhas turned grey.

Koch Rabha,

1) nɯŋ-ni hɯrɯkʰ-ɔ tʰɯŋ-sa mɯn-ɯu
You-GEN hair-NOM CLS-one to grey-PST
Your one hairhas turned grey.

iii) {bidaŋ-} and {haisɔŋ-}: These classifiers are use to count or calculate bunches of the rice, bananas, coconut etc. in both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages.For examples-

Bodo,

1) aŋ-nɯ tʰalir bidaŋ-se naŋgɯu
I-DAT banana CLS-one need
I have needed one bunch of banana.

Koch Rabha,

1) aŋ-na lɯtʰɯi haisɔŋ-sa niga
I-DAT banana CLS-one need
I have needed one bunch of banana.

iv) {sɯi-} and {sir}: To calculate the slices of fruits these two classifiers are used before the numerals in both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages. For examples-

Bodo,

1) bi-nɯ tʰaizɯu sɯi-se hɔr
He-DAT mango CLS-one give
Give him a slice of mango.

Koch Rabha,

1) u-na bɔsɔrtʰɯi sir-sa law
He-DAT mango CLS-one give
Give him one slice of mango.

v) {gɔŋ-} and {gɔ-}: These two classifiers are used when calculated the some items and equipments like house, furniture, sticks etc. in both the languages. For examples-

Bodo,

1) bi-jɯ hatʰaj-nipʰraj siphuŋ gɔŋ-se labɯ-dɯŋ
He-NOM market-ABL flute CLS-one bring-PRE
He has brought one flute from market.

Koch Rabha,

1) u-ɔ gɥri phdan gɔ-sa pʰɥrɥi-ɥu
He-NOM car new CLS-one buy-PST
He has bought a new car.

vi) {pʰaŋ-}: The classifier *{pʰaŋ-}* is used both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages to calculate the trees. It is usedbefore the numerals in both the languages. Examples are given below-

Bodo,

1) aŋ pʰaŋ-se pʰipʰaŋ gaj-baj
I CLS-one tree plant-PST
I have planted a tree.

Koch Rabha,

1) aŋ pʰaŋ-sa pʰaŋ kʰaj-ɥu
I CLS-one tree plant-PST
I have planted a tree.

{zɔra-} and {zar-}: These classifiers are used before the numerals to calculate the pairs of goods, birds, flowers etc. in both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages. For examples-

Bodo,

1) aŋ-nɯ gɔi zɔra-nɯi hɔr
I-DAT betel nut CLS-two give
Give me two pairs of betel nut.

Koch Rabha.

1) aŋ-na gɔi zɔra-niŋ law
I-DAT betel nut CLS-two give
Give me two pairs of betel nut.

It is observed from the above examplesthatto indicate the separate characters of the nouns the classifiers of both the languages are attached before the numerals as prefix, In both the languages these classifiers can be appliedeither before or after the noun, but it can't be used after the numerals in neither the languages.

2.1.2 Noun Classifiers: Some nouns can be used as classifiers in both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages. It is used or attached before the numerals. It is discussed with examples in the preceding chapter.-

a) bɔtʰɔl: It is a noun word representing the *'bottle'* and it is used to calculate the items of the bottle in both the languages. Examples are given below:

Bodo,

1) aŋ-nɯ bɔtʰɔl-nɯi zɯu labɯ
I-DAT bottle-two wine bring
Bring for me two bottle of wine.

Koch Rabha,

1) aŋ-na bɔtʰɔl-niŋ sɔkʰɔr lapʰa
I-DAT bottle-two wine bring
Bring for me two bottle of wine.

b) kʰada: It is one kind of agricultural tool. Agriculturist of Bodo and Koch Rabha communities make a kind of container for grains or other kinds of objects by bamboo. The noun word *'kʰada'* is also used as classifier adding by numerals in both the languages. It is used to calculate the seeds, paddy, rice, soil etc. Examples are given below.

Bodo,

1) aŋ-nɯ kʰada-se ha naŋgɯu-nɯ
I-DAT basket-one soil need-SUF
I have needed one basket of soil.

Koch Rabha,

1) aŋ-na kʰada-briŋ mai law
I-DAT bucket-four rice give
Give me four buckets of rice.

c) dan and mas: These two noun words of Bodo and Koch Rabha languages represent the *'month'*. In both the languages it is also used as classifiers to calculate the months by adding before the numerals. For examples-

Bodo,

1) mawkhɔ-a dan-se-ni tʰakʰaj bɔndɔ
Office-NOM month-one-GEN for close
The office is closed for one month.

Koch Rabha,

1) Ram-ɔ Delhi-ai mas-buŋ pʰaŋ-tʰuŋna
Ram-NOM Delhi-LOC month-five live-PAST
Ram has lived for five months at Delhi.

From the above examples, it is clear that the noun can be used as classifiers by adding before the numerals in both the languages. There aremany more noun words in both the languageswhich are used as classifiers by adding before the numerals and these kind of language are used in their everyday life.

3.1 Conclusion: From the above discussion of classifiers of Bodo and Koch Rabha languages, it is found that there are lots of similarities. The analysis has revealed some close similarities in the structure and function of classifiers in both the languages. Both the languages exhibit a shared typological feature of using classifiers to categorize nouns based on attributes such as shape, size, animate or inanimate distinctions. Additionally, certain classifiers in both the languages are corresponding in form and usage, reflecting a possible shared linguistic heritage. In conclusion, the close similarities between the classifiers in Bodo and Koch Rabha languages underscore their shared linguistic traits, reflecting a potential common origin interaction. These parallels not only highlight the typological richness of the Tibeto-Burman language family but also open avenues for further historical and comparative studies to unravel the intricate relationships among these two languages.

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CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

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