CHAPTER-V
CONCLUSION & FINDINGS

Chapter Five presents the final section of this research work, focusing on the key findings. In this chapter, the researcher highlights the outcomes of the study, particularly emphasizing the morphological structures and processes found in the Bodo and Koch Rabha languages. The research is organized into five chapters: Introduction, Bodo Morphology, Koch Rabha Morphology, a Comparative Analysis, and finally, Conclusion and Findings.

Chapter I, the Introduction, provides a concise overview of the ethnic identity, geographic distribution, and linguistic status of the Bodo and Koch Rabha language communities. Additionally, this chapter outlines the research problem, objectives, review of relevant literature, hypotheses, methods of data collection, and the overall research methodology. Both language communities are of Indo-Mongoloid origin and are believed to have migrated from the Hoang-ho and Yang-tse-kiang river regions in northwestern China. From a linguistic perspective, they belong to the Bodo sub-group within the Bodo-Naga branch of the Assam-Burmese group, which is part of the larger Sino-Tibetan language family.

Chapters II and III examine the morphological structures of the Bodo and Koch Rabha languages, respectively. The morphological elements in both languages are categorized into two main groups: the nominal (or noun) group and the verbal group. The nominal group includes elements such as nouns, pronouns, numbers, gender, cases and case markers, numerals, kinship terms, and classifiers. The verbal group encompasses verbs, adjectives, adverbs, tense, and tense markers. Chapter II provides a detailed discussion of the morphological word structure of the Bodo language, while Chapter III presents the same for the Koch Rabha language. A detailed comparison of both languages is carried out in Chapter IV.

Chapter IV presents a comparative analysis of the morphological word structures in the Bodo and Koch Rabha languages. Section 4.1.1 focuses on the noun, whose structural patterns have already been examined in Chapters II and III. Both languages feature basic noun roots that are monosyllabic, disyllabic, and trisyllabic in form. Additionally, Bodo and Koch Rabha make extensive use of affixes attached either before or after nouns and verbs—to create new noun forms. A noun can be formed through various structural combinations such as noun + noun, noun + verb, noun + adjective, and verb + noun. Section 4.1.2 focuses on pronouns, which are classified into five categories: personal, demonstrative, interrogative, reflexive, and indefinite. Notably, in both languages, all types of pronouns can take case markers, and to express plurality, they either use plural suffixes or, in some cases, undergo reduplication. Section 4.1.3 focuses on the number systems of both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages, with a detailed analysis of the processes used to form plurals. In Bodo, three plural suffixes are used: *{-pʰur}, {-mun}*, and *{-sur}*, while the Koch Rabha language employs two plural suffixes: *{-dɔ}* and *{-rɔŋ}*. Section 4.1.4 addresses the concept of gender in both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages. In these languages, gender distinctions are made only for human and non-human nouns. The differentiation is achieved through several methods: using separate terms for male and female, forming compounds, and applying affixes. Specific gender-indicating words may be placed before or after a common noun to denote male or female. Additionally, both languages use suffixes to mark gender distinctions. The Bodo language employs three suffixes—*{-i}, {-e}*, and *{-u}*—while the Koch Rabha language uses one suffix, *{-i}*, to form feminine nouns from masculine ones. Additionally, Bodo has four other suffixes—*{-sula}, {-tʰa}* for males, and *{-suli}, {-tʰu}* for females—that are added to verb roots to derive adjectives based on behavioral aspects. Section 4.1.5 discusses the seven cases in both languages, along with the different suffixes used to represent them. It is observed that when nouns, pronouns, and numerals take other suffixes, case markers are attached only after the suffixes. Section 4.1.6 examines numerals, addressing both (i) cardinal and (ii) ordinal numerals. Cardinal numerals in both languages are represented by digits 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and so on up to 10. Other numbers, such as 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and up to 1000, are formed through addition, multiplication, or a combination of both in both languages. Ordinal numerals are created by adding the suffix *{-tʰi}* in Bodo and *{-pʰɔila}* in Koch Rabha to the cardinal numerals. Section 4.1.7 discusses kinship terms, detailing their structure and types. In

both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages, kinship terms always take the singular form of personal pronouns with the case marker *{-ni}*. Finally, in Section 4.1.8, the use of classifiers in both languages is examined. Classifiers are always placed before numerals and are used both before and after nouns to indicate the shape, size, quantity, or quality of objects.

The verbal group includes the verb, adjective, adverb, along with tense and tense markers. Section 4.2.1 focuses on the verb, where the researcher aims to describe the structure and formation of verb words. The adjectives in Bodo and Koch Rabha languages describe various attributes such as size, shape, color, number, and quality. This is discussed in Section 4.2.2, where the structure and types of adjectives are examined in detail. In both languages, adjectives are formed through affixation, compounding, and reduplication. Adjectives are categorized into three groups: those denoting quality, those denoting quantity, and those of comparison, and these categories are explored for both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages.

The adverbs in Bodo and Koch Rabha languages indicate the manner in which actions are performed. This is covered in Section 4.2.3, where the researcher discusses the structure of adverbs. Adverbs are formed through affixation, compounding, and reduplication. Based on their function, adverbs are classified into four types: manner, location, temporal, and interrogative.

Section 4.2.4 addresses the tense system, which is divided into present, past, and future tenses. Various suffixes are used to indicate these tenses in both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages. In both languages, the past tense and future tense are further classified into two categories: the immediate past tense and remote past tense, as well as the immediate future tense and remote future tense.

Research Findings

Chapter I provide a brief introduction to the Bodo and Koch Rabha languages. The speakers of both languages are of Mongoloid descent and are believed to have migrated from the Hoang-ho and Yang-tse-Kiang rivers in northwestern China long ago. The chapter also highlights that both languages belong linguistically to the Bodo sub-division of the Bodo-Naga section within the Assam-Burmese group of the larger Sino-Tibetan language family. Additionally, it is important to note that the Bodo language discussed in this research is the standard language of the Bodo community, while the Koch Rabha language is a dialect of the Rabha community.

In chapter II and III, the morphological word structure of Bodo and Koch Rabha has been discussed separately. These two chapters are discussed comparatively in chapter IV, whose research findings are given below.

The findings of the nominal group in Chapter IV can be summarized as follows

1)   The basic noun roots in both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages exhibit a syllabic structure that includes monosyllabic, disyllabic, and trisyllabic forms. Nouns in both languages are created through processes of affixation, compounding, and reduplication. Notably, when forming nouns through affixation in both languages, infixes are not used.

2)   Pronouns in both languages can take plural suffixes and case markers. However, for the first-person plural, no plural suffix is used; instead, the plural is indicated by the form itself. In Bodo, the second and third person pronouns are found in both honorific and non-honorific forms, while in Koch Rabha, honorific forms are absent.

3)   In the Bodo language, plural forms are marked using three different suffixes: *{-pʰɯr}, {-mɯn}* and *{-sɯr},* while the Koch Rabha language employs two suffixes *{-dɔ}* and *{-rɔŋ}* for the same purpose.

4)   Gender distinction in both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages is achieved through the use of distinct words for kinship terms and nouns. To express gender, either a male- or female-indicating word is placed before or after a common noun. When suffixes are used to mark gender, masculine forms typically end with the phoneme */a/.* In Bodo, this */a/* is replaced with gender markers such as *{-i}, {-e},* or *{-u}* to form the feminine counterpart. In Koch Rabha, however, the marker *{-i}* alone replaces */a/* to

indicate feminine gender. Additionally, Bodo uses specific verbal suffixes namely *{-sula}, {-suli}, {-tʰa},* and *{-tʰu}* to denote gender in verbs, a feature not observed in Koch Rabha.

5)   In both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages, case markers are affixed to nouns, pronouns, and numerals. When these words are followed by other suffixes, the case markers are attached only after those suffixes. In terms of ablative case formation, neither language uses a standalone marker. Instead, Bodo expresses the ablative case through a combination of the genitive marker *{-ni}* and the postposition marker *{-pʰraj},* resulting in the form *{-ni-pʰraj}.* In Koch Rabha, this function is carried out by combining the locative case marker *{-naŋaj}* with the postposition marker *{-pʰriŋ},* forming *{-naŋaj-pʰriŋ}.* Additionally, in both languages, the locative case marker cannot be directly attached to personal pronouns, kinship terms, or animate nouns (such as humans and animals) unless it is preceded by the genitive marker *{-ni}.*

6)   The analysis reveals that in both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages, the numbers from 1 to 10 function as cardinal numerals. Numerals beyond this range are constructed through various methods such as addition, multiplication, or a combination of both. In both languages, multiples of ten namely 20, 30, 40, up to 90 are formed using multiplication. Specifically, the numerals from 2 to 9 are multiplied by the base numeral for ten: 'zi' in Bodo and 'si' in Koch Rabha. For example, $2 \times 10 = 20$, $3 \times 10 = 30$, and so on up to $9 \times 10 = 90$.

7)   In both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages, kinship relations are defined through either blood ties or marriage. The kinship terms in these languages are typically bound forms, meaning they require the use of singular personal pronouns along with the genitive case marker to convey complete meanings such as 'my', 'your' or 'his/her'. However, in Koch Rabha, kinship terms are not used with second- and third-person pronouns. This analysis also shows that when the first-person pronoun *'aŋ'* is used with kinship terms, it reduces to *'a-'* in both languages. Additionally, the terms for 'brother-in-law' and 'sister-in-law' vary based on the speaker's gender. If the speaker is male, 'brother-in-law' is referred to as *'unuuŋ'*, while a female speaker uses *'kʰabɔkʰ'*. Conversely, for 'sister-in-law' a male speaker uses *'zabɔkʰ'*, and a female speaker uses *'unuuŋ'*. Thus, the kinship term *'unuuŋ'* carries dual meanings, determined by the speaker's gender in Koch Rabha language.

8)   In both the languages the classifiers are found in two different types- general and noun classifiers. In both the languages the classifiers are used as prefix because all the

classifiers are attached before the numerals. But it can be used either before or after the noun in both the languages.

The findings related to the verbal group can be summarized as follows:

1) In both the languages the syllabic structure of the verb roots is found in monosyllabic and disyllabic form such as CV.CV, CV.CVV, CV.CVC. The formation of verb also found in two processes (i) by affixation and (ii) by compounding. Formation of verbs by affixation is found only prefix and suffix; the infix is not available in both the languages. In both the languages it is seen that a verb can be formed by combining Verb + Verb, Verb + Verb + Verb.

2) In both the languages adjectives is capable of taking the case, tense and aspect markers and it can be used both before and after the noun. In both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages adjective can be formed in four categories- (i) simple, (ii) by affixation, (iii) by compounding and (iv)by reduplication. In case of formation of adjectives by affixation, only prefix and suffix are found in both the languages. By compounding process of verb formation in both languages the following structures are found (i) noun + noun, (ii) noun + adjective and (iii) verb + adjective. In the process of reduplication to forming the adjective words; when a noun, verb bound base and even adjective also repeated, it can be turned or converted in to the adjective. The adjective can be found in three different types in both the languages, these are (i) adjective denoting quality, (ii) adjective denoting quantity and (iii) adjective of comparison.

3) In both the languages the formation of adverb is found in four different types- (i) simple, (ii) by affixation, (iii) by compounding and (iv) by reduplication. In the process of formation of adverb by affixation, only the suffix is found available in both the languages; the prefix and infix are not applicable. By compounding process the (i) noun + noun, (ii) noun + adjective, (iii) adverb + noun structure is found in both the languages but (iv) noun + verb + noun + verb structure of adverb is not found in Koch Rabha language. On the other hand (v) adjective + verb structure of adverb is not found in Bodo language. In the process of reduplication when a noun, verb, adjective and bound base are repeated they are turned in the adverb words in both the languages. The adverb is also found in different types in both the languages, these are

(i) adverb of manner, (ii) adverb of location, (iii) adverb of temporal and adverb of interrogation.

4)   Tenses in both Bodo and Koch Rabha languages are categorized into present, past, and future. Specific suffixes are used in each language to indicate these tenses. Notably, tense and aspect markers are often combined, with a single suffix typically serving to express both the tense and aspect in context. In Bodo, the past tense is marked by *{-baj}* and *{-baj-mun}*, while Koch Rabha uses *{-mun}* and *{-uu}* to convey the perfective aspect. For the simple present tense, Bodo uses the suffix {-ɯ}, and Koch Rabha uses *{-uu}*, both of which also indicate the habitual aspect. Regarding the future tense, Bodo employs *{-gun}* and *{-nusui}*, while Koch Rabha uses *{-bɔi}*, *{-a}*, and *{-nat^ha}*.

Potential Areas for Future Research:

This thesis extensively explores the **Morphology of Bodo and Koch Rabha** through a comparative analysis, focusing on the various morphological structures and word-formation processes. The study reveals that the two languages share many similarities, with only a few differences in the structure of their morphological elements. These minor differences, it is suggested, have emerged due to the languages' geographical separation. Currently, Bodo, which is compared with Koch Rabha in this study, is a more standardized language spoken by the larger Bodo community. In contrast, Koch Rabha is considered a dialect within the broader Rabha community. It is recommended that future research should focus on the historical development of both languages. Additionally, further studies could explore the reconstruction of words from both languages, tracing their origins to Tibeto-Burman roots.