

A Study On Compounds Of Bodo And Assamese Languages

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ABSTRACT

Linguistically, the Bodo belongs to the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibetan language family. It is a major language of the Bodo group under the Assam Burmese group of language. The speakers of Bodo language scattered all over the Assam, North Bengal and East Bengal in some part of Nepal, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland. This language is linguistically connected with Bodo, Garo, Rabha, Dimasa, Kokborok, Tiwa, Deuri etc. On the other hand, Assamese is an Eastern Indo-Aryan language spoken mainly in the Indian state of Assam. It is an official language of Assam. The Assamese language is belonging to the Indo-European group of the Indo-Aryan family of language. This paper attempts to analyze the compound reduplication of Bodo and Assamese languages. Compound is a word formation process. In Bodo and Assamese languages compound reduplication is very productive process of word formation.

Keywords: Compound reduplication, noun, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, Idiomatic words.

Introduction:

Compound is a type of Lexical reduplication. It is the second type of Lexical reduplication. In Linguistics, a compound is a lexeme that consists of more than one stem. Compounding is a process of word formation that creates compound lexemes. In simple words the term Compounding means combining of two or more words together. In Bodo and Assamese languages compounds are formed with two different lexical items having independent meanings.

Ramakrishna Reddy described compound as Binominal or Lexical Doublets. He defines the binominal as “a set of two words in a certain constrained order, whose members are of an identical syntactic category, (i.e. parts of speech), pertaining to a particular semantic field (or conceptual field), exhibit a specific sense relation between them and (they) may sometimes be connected by a lexical conjunction.”

Abbi explains compounds as “each constituent word of a compound has a meaning of its own and hence can be used independently in a sentence. When combined they retain their original meaning to some extent.” (Atreya)

Compound Nouns:

Compounding is a very productive process of Noun word formation in Bodo and Assamese languages. In this type of compound Reduplication, two nouns can be used as compound words in both the Bodo and Assamese languages. The combining of two or more words or free forms into one is called compounding. The constituency of Compound Nouns may N+N, N+A and N+V, N+A and N+V may in reverse order too i.e. A+N and V+N.

Bodo:

Word

gəi-p^hat^huɪ

zib-zunar

na-bedər

p^hərajsula-p^hərajsuli

buɾma-ɔma

Meaning

betel-nut

animals

fillet

students

all kinds of domestic animals

Assamese:

Word

b^hat-pani

Meaning

rice and other edibles

kahi-bati	utensils
d ^h on-xompotti	property
xona-rupa	jewellery
goru-sagoli	all kinds of domestic animals
mas-man ^h k ^h	fillet
satro-satri	students
d ^h an-saol	food grains
k ^h eti-pot ^h ar	farming field

Compound Verbs:

In Bodo and Assamese languages Compound Verbs are very limited. These compound verbs are representing the meaning of request or order used in both the Bodo and Assamese languages.

Bodo:

Word	Meaning
p ^h ui-t ^h an	come and go
lu ^h η-za	drink and eat
p ^h ui ^h a-t ^h anp ^h a	moving together

Assamese:

Word	Meaning
afia-zowa	come and go
p ^h ora-xuna	read and listen
pr ^h asn ^h -utt ^h or	question and answer
zani-xuni	by knowing properly

Compound Adjectives:

In Bodo and Assamese languages two Adjectives having different meanings are combined and form compound adjectives are slight modifications in the meaning, For example:

Bodo:

Word	Meaning
gu ^h law-gusu ^h	dissimilar
gidir-gu ^h law	big and long
gu ^h m ^h u-gu ^h t ^h an	multicolored

Assamese:

Word	Meaning
dig ^h ol-dan ^h or	big and long
b ^h al-m ^h ond ^h	good and bad
b ^h al-beja	good and bad
xad ^h u-x ^h ont ^h	saint

Compound Adverbs:

In Bodo and Assamese languages, the compound adverbs are formed with two different nouns having independent meaning. This compounding functions as adverbs but in isolation functions as noun in both the Bodo and Assamese languages. For example,

Bodo:

n. san (day) –n. h^hor (night) >adv. san-h^hor (day and night)
 n. p^hu^hη (morning) –n. bela (evening) > adv. p^hu^hη-bela (morning and evening)

In sentence-

bij^hu san^hor lek^ha p^horaju^h

(He/she read day and night.)

raju^ha din^hu^hi p^hu^hηbela n^haw k^hamani mawdu^hη

(Raju has working in morning and evening at home today.)

Assamese:

n. dine (day) –n. ratie (night) > adv. din-rati (day and night)

n. puwa (morning) –n. g^hod^huli (evening) > adv. puwa-g^hod^huli (morning and evening)

In sentence-

tai dine ratie kitap p^hor^hie

(She read day and night.)

azi m^hor puwa g^hod^huli p^horixja ase

(Today I have examination in morning and evening.)

Idiomatic Words:

The Idiomatic words are also compounding in Bodo and Assamese languages with the two nouns; one noun with one verb and some are one noun and one adjective and while compounding it denote the idiomatic sense.

In Idiomatic words two nouns are combined to form compound word in Bodo and Assamese languages. These nouns have different meaning. These idioms are used only in case of human beings. These are given below:

Bodo:

mɯkʰra asi
'Unsteady'
ɔntʰai bikʰa
'Hard-hearted'
ɔntʰai ziu
'Long life'

Assamese:

akalɔr bʰat
'Relief obtained in great necessity'
sokɔr bʰekuli
a part of a village frog
bʰat gʰɔr
'A house of growing intimacy'
alaxɔr ladu
'Anything fondly kept or brought up'
sɔkur mɔni
'Highly valuable'
xatam puruxija
'Very old/ ancestral'

One Noun and one Verb also combined to form a compound word in both the Bodo and Assamese languages to denote the Idiomatic meaning.

Bodo:

megɔn kʰeb
'To have a liking for'
kʰapʰal gew
'To be lucky'
kʰuga kʰew
'To talk'
gɔntʰɔŋ zɔ
'Be shy'
gɔntʰɔŋ ner
'To be very angry'
gɯdɯna man
'To wish to die'
megɔn bisi
'To give attention'
megɔn naŋ
'To attract'
gustʰi ran
'To be anxious'

Assamese:

kɔpal pʰuta
'To have good fortune destroyed'
kɔpal pʰula
'To have good luck or fortune'
fiat pat
'To ask for/to beg'
gʰɔr pat
'To cause to be married'
nam kɔr
'To become famous'

ga ut^h

'To be enthusiastic'

One Noun and one Adjective word are also combined together for forming compounding to imply the 'Idiomatic' meaning in Bodo and Assamese languages.

Bodo:

ak^hai guwar

'Extravagant'

mɔdɔm gilir

'Lazy'

bik^hlɔ guɔba

'Timid'

bik^hlɔ ruɔza

'Courageous'

k^huga guwar

'Gluttonous'

k^huga guɔra

'Talkative'

k^hap^hal guɔzuɔ

'Lucky'

Assamese:

ɦat dig^hɔl

'Powerful/influential'

sɔku sɔɦa

'Envious'

pet kuli

'Cherishing ill-will secretly'

ga teɦa

'Unpleasant'

buku dat^h

'Courageous'

buku patɔl

'Timid'

muk^h agɔlika

'sharp tongued/quarrelsome'

muk^h sɔtur

'Eloquent/persuasive'

Conclusion:

Reduplication is a significant linguistic phenomenon leading to word formation. It is prevalent in almost all languages of the world. It exists at the level of phonology and morphology and has syntactic and semantic implications. Compound is also one of the major processes of the word formation. A compound has several characteristics in its spelling, stress, morphology etc. In Bodo and Assamese languages compounds are formed with two different lexical items having independent meanings. Compounding is a very productive process of word formation in Bodo and Assamese languages.

From the above contrastive point of view some points are found in compound reduplication of Bodo and Assamese languages:

- In Compound Noun reduplication two nouns can use as compound words in both the Bodo and Assamese languages.
- Compound verbs are very limited in both the Bodo and Assamese languages.
- Compound verbs are representing the meaning of request or order used in both the Bodo and Assamese languages.
- In Idiomatic words two nouns are combined to form compound word in both the Bodo and Assamese languages.
- Idioms are used only in case of human beings in both the Bodo and Assamese languages. e.g.:

Bodo: muk^hra asi

'Unsteady'

Assamese: akalɔr b^hat

- In both the Bodo and Assamese languages one noun and verb is combined to form a compound word. For Example:

Bodo: k^huga k^hew
'To talk'

Assamese: kəpal p^hula
'To have good luck or fortune'

- One noun and one adjective word are also combined for forming compound in both the two languages

For Example:

Bodo: ak^hai guwar
'Extravagant'

Assamese: fiat dig^hol
'Powerful/influential'.

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