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A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE USES OF PRONOUN BETWEEN THE BODO STANDARD LANGUAGE AND DIALECT OF UNDIVIDED KAMRUP DISTRICT OF ASSAM.

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Abstract: Dialect is a regional, temporal or social variety form of a natural language. It differs in pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary from the standard language. It is a spoken form of a language. A language may have many dialects. Likewise, Bodo language also has many varieties of dialect. The Bodo language is a Tibeto-Burman language. It is the 8th schedule language of the Indian Constitution of North East India. The Bodo speakers are settled in all over the North East India. They used the “Bodo” word to represent the community as well as the language. Bodo dialect of undivided Kamrup district of Assam is one of the regional Bodo dialect and it falls under the group of Eastern Bodo dialect. In this paper has discussed about the uses of pronoun between the standard Bodo language and dialect of undivided Kamrup district of Assam. This dialect is spoken in Barpeta, Nalbari, Kamrup (rural), Baksa, Kamrup (metro) district. The aims and objectives of this paper is to find out the similarities and dissimilarities of pronoun between the standard Bodo language and dialect of undivided Kamrup district of Assam.

Keywords: Bodo language, dialect, standard, undivided Kamrup district, pronoun.

1.1 Introduction:

A language is a system of communication which consists of a set of sounds and written symbols which are used by the people of a particular country or region for talking or writing.

The Bodo language belongs to the Bodo sub-section of Bodo-Naga section under the Assam Burmese group of the Sino-Tibetan language family. It is the 8th schedule language of the Indian Constitution of North East India. The Bodo people are the largest tribe of Assam settled in the northern part of the Brahmaputra river valley. The most concentrated areas of Bodos are found in BTR, Goalpara, Kamrup, Barpeta, Nalbari, Darrang, Nagaon, Sanitpur, Dhemaji, etc. they are also inhabited in the adjacent state like West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and Meghalaya and in some neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.

Dialect is the part of a language. The Bodo language has many dialects. Dialects is defined by A. Pie and Frank Gaynor as “Dialect is specific form of a given language, spoken in a certain locality or geographical areas, showing sufficient differences from the standard of literary forms of that language as to pronunciation, grammatical construction and idiomatic use of words, to be considered a distinct entity, yet not sufficiently distinct from other dialects of the language to be regarded as a different language.”¹ (A dictionary of Linguistic, 1954). It is used as spoken language by the people in a particular place or region. Different localities or geographical area have different types of cultures, traditions, customs etc. Likewise, language also has different forms of dialects. Dialects are formed because of lack of relationship and communication between the native. Isolation, lack of communication, cultural and political dominations is some of the reasons for which different dialects developed among the Bodo speaking community. Dialect is not a different language. It is only a changed form of standard

1. Varsheny, Late Dr. Radhey L., Seventeenth Edition (2008-09), An Introductory Textbook of Linguistic & Phonetics, Published by Student Store, 35 A-1, Civil Lines, Rampur Bagh, Bareilly-243001. Pages: 297-298.

language. The Bodos are accepted the western Bodo dialect as standard language. It is considered as an official language of the region as well as of the State. It is used in writing and publishing books, as a medium of instructions in schools etc.

However, the language spoken by the Bodo community is called the Bodo language. Many scholars have classified the Bodo dialect in different way. Promod Chandra Bhattacharya, in his Doctoral Thesis, "A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language"² says that there are at least four dialect areas of the Boro language of Assam. These are:

1. North-West dialect area. (Northern regions of Goalpara and Kamrup district).
2. South-west dialect area. (South Goalpara and Garo Hills districts and a few places of south Kamrup).
3. North Central Assam dialect area. (Darrang, Lakhimpur and a few places of NEFA). And
4. Southern Assam district area. (Nogaon, North Cachar, Mikir Hills and adjacent area.)

Scholar Phukan Basumatary classified the Bodo dialects spoken in Assam into three major group in his book "An Introduction to the Boro Language"³

1. The Western Bodo Dialect (WBD): The Western Bodo Dialects are spoken in the district of Kokrajhar, Bongaigaon, Chirang and Dhubri.
2. The Eastern Bodo Dialect (EBD): The Eastern Bodo Dialects are found mainly in the district of Barpeta, Nalbari, Baksa, Kamrup, and some parts of Darrang as well.
3. The Southern Bodo Dialect (SBD): The Southern Bodo Dialects are found mainly in the district of Goalpara including Rani and Krishnai the southern bank of the river Brahmaputra.

These all forms of dialect belong to the same root. Likewise, these are different branches of the same tree, the Bodo language. The variation of a language may be in the different linguistics levels like Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Semantics and Vocabulary. Thereby, a comparative study on the uses of pronoun and differences between the Bodo standard language and dialect of undivided Kamrup district of Assam has been discussed as follows:

1.2 Aims and Objectives: The main aims and objectives of this paper are-

- (a) To study the Bodo Dialects.
- (b) To find out the differences between the standard language and dialects.
- (c) To analyse the similarities and dissimilarities of pronoun between the Bodo standard language and the dialect of undivided Kamrup district of Assam.

1.3 Methodology and Data Collection:

In this study, the researcher has applied a comparative and a descriptive analysis method to explore more clearly the uses of pronoun between the Bodo standard language and dialect of undivided Kamrup district of Assam. The source for this research paper has been collected from the both primary and secondary sources. The primary data has been collected by the researcher herself/himself by using the interview and observation methods by visiting the places where the related sources are available. On the other hand, secondary data has been collected by visiting different libraries i.e. Krishna Kanta Handiqui Library, Gauhati University, Department of Bodo Library of the Gauhati University and from the different written materials, documents such as books, newspapers, published papers, magazines, journals, thesis etc.

1.4 Discussion: The study of the topic is a comparative study on the uses of pronoun between the Bodo standard and dialect of undivided Kamrup district of Assam. The undivided Kamrup district covers Barpeta, Nalbari, Kamrup rural, Baksa, Kamrup metro districts. If many of the scholars keep an eye towards the distribution of Bodo dialects into different parts, it can be noticed that the dialect of undivided Kamrup district of Assam falls under the eastern Bodo dialect.

Pronoun: The pronoun is one of the sub-classes of the nominal group. It is used instead of a noun in a phrase, a clause or a sentence. In the Bodo language the pronoun is classified into five types as given below.

1. Personal Pronoun.
2. Demonstrative Pronoun.
3. Interrogative Pronoun.

2. Bhattacharya, Promod Chandra, Second Edition (2007), A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language, University Publication Department, Gauhati University. Pages: 11-12.

3. Basumatary, Phukan (2005), An Introduction to the Boro Language, Mittal Publications, New Delhi (India), pages:10-11.

4. Indefinite Pronoun.

5. Reflexive Pronoun.

These five types of pronoun are same in the Bodo dialect of undivided Kamrup district of Assam.

1. Personal Pronoun:

A personal pronoun is a pronoun that is associated primarily with a particular person in the grammatical sense. Depending on numbers and persons, Personal pronoun in Bodo language is divided into singular and plural and first, second and third respectively. The differences of using personal pronoun in the standard Bodo language and dialect of undivided Kamrup district is shown in the tables given below-

Table No.1 Personal pronoun of standard Bodo language:

| Person | Number | |
|--------|---|---|
| | Singular | Plural |
| First | aŋ (I) | zuŋ (we) |
| Second | nuŋ (you) | nuŋ-sur (you) |
| | nuŋ - t ^h aŋ (you) (honorific form) | nuŋ- t ^h aŋ-mun (you) (honorific form) |
| Third | bi (he/she) | bi-sur (they) |
| | bi- t ^h aŋ (he/she) (honorific form) | bi- t ^h aŋ-mun (they) (honorific form) |

Table No.2 Personal pronoun of Dialect of undivided Kamrup district of Assam:

| Person | Number | |
|--------|---|--|
| | Singular | Plural |
| First | aŋ (I) | zuŋ (we) |
| Second | nuŋ (you) | nuŋ-sur (you) |
| | nuŋ-t ^h aŋ (you) (honorific form) | nuŋ- t ^h aŋ-mu (you) (honorific form) |
| Third | i (he/she) | i-sur (they) |
| | bi- t ^h aŋ (he/she) (honorific form) | bi- t ^h aŋ-mu (they) (honorific form) |

In the above examples, there is no difference in first person singular number and plural number between the standard Bodo language and dialect of undivided Kamrup district. It has been found in free form. In case of second and third person, only singular number non-honorific form is found in free form. In the dialect of undivided Kamrup district third person non-honorific form is */i/*. During pluralisation of second and third person suffixes like *{-sur}* and *{-mun}* are added to the pronoun in the standard Bodo language. On the other hand, instead of *{-mun}*, *{-mu}* is added to the pronoun in dialect of undivided Kamrup district. In the honorific form of second and third person suffix *{- t^haŋ}* is used viz. *nuŋ-t^haŋ (you)*, *bi- t^haŋ (he/she)*.

2. Demonstrative Pronoun: A demonstrative pronoun is a pronoun that is used to point to something specific within a sentence. These pronouns indicate items in space or time and they can be either singular or plural. In Bodo language there are two types of demonstrative pronoun, these are: */be/ (this)* and */bui/ (that)*. In dialect of undivided Kamrup district demonstrative pronoun */i/* is used in the place of */be/* and */ui/* is used in the place of */bui/*. The examples are given in the following tables:

Table No.3 Demonstrative pronoun of standard Bodo language:

| | Singular | Plural |
|------|------------|--|
| Near | be (this) | be-sur (these) (human) be-p ^h ur (these) (non-human) |
| Far | bui (that) | bui-sur (those) (human) bui-p ^h ur (those) (non-human) |

Table No.4 Demonstrative pronoun of dialect of undivided Kamrup district of Assam:

| | Singular | Plural |
|------|-----------|--|
| Near | i (this) | i-sur (these) (human) i-p ^h ur (these) (non-human) |
| Far | ui (that) | ui-sur (those) (human) ui-p ^h ur (those) (non-human) |

Demonstrative pronouns are usually used to describe person, animals, place and things. Demonstrative pronoun /be/ (this) is used to describe near in time or distance. And /bui/ (that) is used to describe far in time or distance. In dialect of undivided Kamrup district demonstrative pronoun /i/ (this) is used to describe near in time or distance in place of /be/ (this) of standard language and /ui/ (that) is used to describe far in time or distance in place of /bui/ (that) of standard language. Demonstrative pronouns are pluralised by adding suffixes {-sur} and {-p^hur}.

3. Interrogative Pronoun:

An interrogative pronoun is a pronoun which is used to make asking questions easy. In Bodo language there are three kinds of interrogative pronoun, these are – ‘sur’ (who), ‘ma’(what) and ‘bobe’(which). Interrogative pronoun ‘sur’(who) and ‘ma’(what) is used similarly in both standard language and dialect of undivided Kamrup district. Standard language ‘bobe’ is used as ‘mobe’ or ‘mabe’ in dialect of undivided Kamrup district. Interrogative pronouns are pluralised by reduplicating. The examples are given in the following tables:

Table No.5 Interrogative pronoun of standard Bodo language:

| SN | Singular | Plural |
|----|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | ma (what) | ma ma (what are...) |
| 2 | sur (who) | sur sur (who are...) |
| 3 | bobe/obe (which) | bobe bobe/ obe obe (which are...) |

Table No.6 Interrogative pronoun of dialect of undivided Kamrup district of Assam:

| SN | Singular | Plural |
|----|------------|---|
| 1 | ma (what) | ma ma (what are...) |
| 2 | sur (who) | sur sur (who are...) |
| 3 | mobe/ mabe | mobe mobe/ mabe mabe (what are.../which are...) |

4. Indefinite pronoun:

Indefinite pronouns are those referring to one or more unspecified objects, beings, or places. They are called in ‘indefinite’ simply because they do not indicate exact object, being or place to which they refer. Indefinite pronouns of standard Bodo language are- raɔbu (nobody, anybody), surba (someone/somebody), k^haise (somebody), bobeɔba/bɔhaba (somewhere) etc. Use of Indefinite pronoun raɔbu (nobody, anybody) and surba (anyone), is same in dialect of undivided Kamrup district. But instead of k^haise (somebody) and bobeɔba/bɔhaba (somewhere) use k^haip^ha, mɔhaba, mabeɔba and muɔba. Indefinite pronouns are pluralised by reduplicating as following given tables:

Table No.7 Indefinite pronoun of standard Bodo language:

| SN | Singular | Plural |
|----|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | raɔbu (nobody, anybody) | |
| 2 | surba (someone/somebody) | surba surba (somebodies) |
| 3 | k ^h aise (somebody) | k ^h aise k ^h aise (somebodies) |
| 4 | bobeɔba/ bɔhaba (somewhere) | bobeɔba bobeɔba/ bɔhaba bɔhaba (somewhere) |

Table No.8 Indefinite pronoun of dialect of undivided Kamrup district of Assam:

| SN | Singular | Plural |
|----|--|--|
| 1 | raɔbu (nobody, anybody) | |
| 2 | surba (someone/somebody) | surba surba (somebodies) |
| 3 | k ^h aip ^h a (somebody) | k ^h aip ^h a k ^h aip ^h a (somebodies) |
| 4 | mɔhaba/ mabeɔba / and muɔba (somewhere) | mɔhaba mɔhaba/ mabeɔba mabeɔba/ muɔba muɔba (somewhere) |

5. Reflexive pronoun:

The reflexive pronoun of standard Bodo language is only one. It is *gaɔ* (*self*). In dialect of undivided Kamrup district *gagai* (*self*) is used in the place of *gaɔ* (*self*). It is used to indicating a person. Reflexive pronoun is pluralised by reduplicating and adding *{-sur}* suffix. The examples are in following tables:

Table No.9 Reflexive pronoun of standard Bodo language:

| SN | Singular | Plural |
|----|------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | gaɔ (self) | gaɔ gaɔ/ gaɔ-sur (selves) |

Table No.10 Reflexive pronoun of dialect of undivided Kamrup district of Assam:

| SN | Singular | Plural |
|----|--------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 | gagai (self) | gagai gagai/ gagai-sur (selves) |

1.5 Conclusion: Dialect is not another language, it is a part of a language. It is used as spoken language by the people in a particular place or region. It is a little changed form of a standard language. The differences of a standard language and dialects are seen in different aspects of linguistic like Phonology, Morphology, Syntax, Semantic and Vocabulary. Bodo dialects are classified by many scholars in a different way. Undivided Kamrup district's Bodo dialect is a regional dialect it falls under the Eastern Bodo dialect. The findings of this paper are similarities and dissimilarities in uses of pronoun of the standard Bodo language and dialect of undivided Kamrup district of Assam. Similarities have found both the language for belongingness of same language family. On the other hand, dissimilarities are found for the characteristics of dialect which are kept by Bodo dialect of undivided Kamrup district of Assam.

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