



A Comparative Linguistic View On Bodo, Garo And Rabha Verb

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Abstract:

The paper attempt to describe the comparative view on the Verb structure of the three languages – Bodo, Gara and Rabha. Morphologically verb in languages sound three types, i.e. simple Complex and Compound. Simple verbs are mainly monosyllabic in Bodo and Rabha but in Garo bisyllable and more than that due to Glottal stop. Complex Verbs are formed by adding prefixation and suffixation in all the three languages. Compounding are formed by consist of more than one verb in all the three languages.

The above points have been discussed in this paper on similarities and dissimilarities along with appropriate illustration.

Keywords: Garo, Rabha, Verb, Prefixation, Suffixation, Complex, Compound.

Introduction:

Linguistically Bodo, Garo and Rabha belongs to Bodo. Garo sub-grouped of Tibeto Burman sub family of language (Benedict, 1972). The languages is an ethnic group of North – East India and major tribes of Assam and Meghalaya. Bodo are the people who speak Bodo language calls Bodo language. The language closely connects with the Cognate language i.e. Dimasa, Kokborok, Garo, Rabha and Tiwa. It is a recognized language in the 8th schedule of the Indian constitution. The Bodo speakers are mainly sound in BTR areas of Assam as well as some adjacent areas of West Bengal, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Nepal and Bhutan. Based on the regions of concentration of the speakers Bodo language is divided into three main dialect areas:

1. Eastern
2. Western and
3. Southern Bodo dialect

Western areas dialect, that is standard Bodo Language.

‘Garo’ term stands for both the tribe and language. The Garo call themselves ‘Achik’ means ‘hillmen’ (Sangma, 1984). The Garos are mainly spoken in the Garo hills of Meghalaya, some districts of Assam such as Kamrup, Goalpara and Karbi Anglong. The Garos are also scattered in the states of Tripura, West Bengal and Bangladesh. A total number of eleven dialects of Garo are identified by Burling (2004). These are A’we, Am’beng, A’tong, chisak, Matchi, Dual, Garo Ganching, Chibok, Matabeng, Rega, and Me’gam. According to him A’we is accepted to be the standard dialect spoken in the northern and eastern part of Garo hills.

Rabha speaks Rabha language. They (natives) refer to themselves as ‘Rabatang’ and their language ‘Raba Khata’ (U.V. Joseph, 2007). Randani, Maitori and Koch are primary dialects of Rabha community. Apart from these, there are some other dialects like Pafi, Dahuri, Tofla, Bitalia, Hana etc. randani is recently codified as a standard language of Rabha as a whole (Phukan Basumatary, 2007). They concentrated most of the districts of Assam and North - eastern part of the Garo - Hills district of Meghalaya, a few areas of west Bengal and Bangladesh.

Verb Structure:

Verb in Bodo, Garo and Rabha can be defined as word which is used to say something about activity. In these language verbs can take affixes, tense and aspect markers. Every sentence must have a verb concerning with the action. Verbs are not marked for person, number and gender in Bodo, Garo and Rabha. In these three languages on the basis of the structure, verbs are classified into three sub – divisions. These are:

- a. Simple Verb
- b. Complex Verb
- c. Compound Verb.

- a. Simple Verb: In Bodo, Garo and Rabha are composed of a single root. In Bodo and Rabha, it is monosyllabic in nature, Polysyllabic root verbs are less but in Garo due to Glottal stop (?) most verbs are bisyllabic. Example:

Bodo	Rabha	Garo	
/Za/	/sa/	/cha ? a/	‘to eat’
/Kha/	/kha/	/ka ?a/	‘to pluck’
/nai/	/nuk/	/nwka/	‘to see’
/bar/	/bal/	/apr/	‘to bloom’
/mwn/	/man/	/man/	‘to ripe’
/bu/	/tuka/	/bo ?a/	‘to swell’
/thwi/	/si/	/sia/	‘to die’
/phan/	/phar/	/pal/	‘to sale’

- b. Complex Verb: Complex verb is composed of different morphological segments. Bodo, Garo and Rabha Complex Verb can be formed –
 - i. By adding negative and Causative prefix
 - ii. By adding negative and tense marker

- b. i. Complex verb by adding negative and Causative prefix:

In Bodo, Grao and rabha negative prefix is only one. The prefix {da} is in Bodo and Grao and {ta} in Rabha. Examples are stated below –

Bodo: {da}	da – V. za > v. daza	do not eat
	da – v. ttang > v. dathang	do not go
Garo: {da}	da – v. cha?a > da?cha	do not eat
	da – v. re?angbo > v. da?reng	do not go

Rabha: {ta}	ta – v. sa > v. dasa	do not eat
	Ta – v. rang > v. tareng	do not go

The Prefixes like { bi -, be -, pho -, phi -, phw -, si -, sw -, se -, ho - } etc. are added with root verb to create new words and these prefixes are class maintaining but meanings are not remain same in case of Bodo. Like Bodo, in Garo and Rabha also formed the same. The Prefixes {pi -, pe -, so -, ba - } etc. added with root verb and the prefixes like {ko -, ku -, kw -, khu -, to -, tw - } etc. are added with root verbs in case of Garo and Rabha. The following examples are given to show these.

Bodo:

{bi -}:	bi – v. zir > v. bizir (to analyze)
{be -}:	be – v. kheo > v. bekheo (to open widely)
{phi -}:	phi – v. si > v. phisi (to wet)
{phe -}:	phe – v. seo > v. pheseo (to rotten)
{phu -}:	phu – v. sung > v. phusung (to short)
{si -}:	si – v. gi > v. sigi (to frighten)
{ho -}:	ho – v. gar > v. hogar (to let free)

Garo:

{pi -}:	pi – v. opha > v. piopha (to make suck)
{pe -}:	pe – v. dema > v. pe?dema (to make slow)
{so -}:	so – v. kea > v. sokea (to make give)
{pa -}:	pa – v. dal?a > v. padal?a (to make expand)
{prw -}:	prw – v. rwpā > v. prwpa (to over slow)

Rabha:

{ko -}:	ko – v. toi > v. kotoi (to offer)
{ku -}:	ku – v. tung > v. kutung (to make hot)
{kw -}:	kw – v. trwng > v. kwtrwng (to teach)
{khu -}:	khu – v. sa > v. kusa (to feed)
{to -}:	to – v. koi > v. tokoi (to bend)
{tw -}:	tw – v. ran > v. twran (to dry) etc.

b. ii. Complex Verb adding by negative and tense – maker:

This type of complex verb formation is found in Bodo, Garo and Rabha. According to the speaker's mood it can be imperative, advice and negative.

Negative formation suffix: In Bodo { - a }, { - za } in Garo and { - sa } in Rabha is negative suffix. Examples:

Bodo:

- {- a}: v. za - a > v. zaa (do not eat)
v. mao - a > v. maoa (do not do)

Garo:

- {- za}: v. cha?a - za > v. cha?za (do not eat)
v. daka -za > v. dakza (do not do)

Rabha:

- {- sa}: v. sa - sa > v. sasa (do not eat)
v. khar - sa > kharsa (do no do)

Imperative and advice suffix:

Suffixes like {- dw}, {- thwng} in Bodo, {- bo}, {- kan} in Garo and {- chong}, {- khan} in Rabha.

Bodo:

- {- dw}: v. thang - dw > v. thangdw (cause to go)
{- thwng}: v. za - thwng > v. zathwng (cause to eat)

Garo:

- {- bo}: v. chong - bo > v. chongbo (cause to down)
{- kan}: v. dong - kan > v. dongkan (let be)

Rabha:

- {- chong}: v. rakhu - chong > v. rakhuchong (cause to give)
{- khan}: v. chang - khan > v. changkhan (to be healthy)

Tense indicate suffix:

Bodo:

- {- a, - w}: v. za - w > v. zayw (present indefined tense)
{- dwng}: v. za - dwng > v. zadwng (present progressive)
{- bai}: v. za - bai > v. zabai (Immediate past tense)
{- dwngmwn}: v. za - dwngmwn > v. zadwngmwn (Remote past tense)
{- gwn}: v. za - gwn > v. zagwn (indefinite future tense)

Garo:

- {- a}: v. ch?a - a > v. ch?a (indefinite present)
{- anga}: v. ch?a - anga > v. ch?anga (present progressive)
{- zok}: v. ch?a - zok > v. ch?zok (immediate past)
{- achwm}: v. ch?a - achwm > v. ch?achwm (remote past)
{- gen}: v. ch?a - gen > v. ch?gen (indefinite future tense)

Rabha:

{- a}:	v. sa - a > v. saa (indefinite present tense)
{- eta}:	v. sa - eta > v. saeta (present progressive tense)
{- zo}:	v. sa - zo > v. sazo (immediate past tense)
{- etamwn}:	v. sa - etamwn > v. saetamwn (remote past tense)
{- no}:	v. sa - no > v. sano (indefinite future tense)

c. Compound Verb:

It consists of more than one verb. It is formed by vr + vn and vn + vn +vr. Vn + vn compounding is very common in Bodo, Garo and Rabha languages.

Examples:

Bodo:

Za + zab > zazab (to dine together)

kha + zab > khazab (to bind together)

kha + thab > khathab (to wrap up)

hab + phwi > habphwi (come and enter)

Garo:

Cha?a + chapa > cha?chapa (to dine together)

kaa + chepa > kachepa (to bind together)

zaa + tepa > zatepa (to wrap up)

napa + re?baa > napare?baa (come and enter)

Rabha:

sa + riba > sariba (come and eat)

sa + reng > sareng (eat and go)

nuk + phai > nukphai (come and see)

reng + chong > rengchong (begin to go)

vr + vn + vn:

Bodo:

Za + phwi + zwb > zaphwizwb (come eat completely)

lang + phwi + zwb > langphwizwb (come take completely)

hw + lang + phwi > hwlangphwi (come and give)

dwng + phwi + zwb > zaphwizwb (come keep completely)

Garo:

rimma + ibaa + philla > rimbaphilla (bringing back)

to sieze to come to turn

raa + reang + philla > raangphilla (taking away again)

to take to go to return

Rabha:

kok + khwthak + chong > kokkhwthak (begin to pretend each often)

nukbar + khwthak + chong > nukbarkhwthakchong (begin to pretend to love each often)

badagur + khwthak + chong > badagurkhwthakchong (begin to pretend of fighting)

Conclusion:

On the basis of analysis undertaken the following conclusion on Bodo, Garo and Rabha verb structure can be drawn –

1. There are three types of verb structure i.e. Simple Verb, Complex Verb, and Compound Verb.
2. Simple Verb are monosyllabic in nature in all three languages. But due to Glottal stop (?) most verbs are bisyllabic in Garo.
3. Complex Verbs are formed by prefixation and suffixation in all the three languages.
{bi – be -, phi, pho, phe, si – sw -, se, ho -} etc. are prefixes of Bodo while {pi -, pe -, so -, ba -} etc. are in Garo and {ko -, ku -, khw -, to -, tw -} etc are Rabha prefixes.
4. Suffixes are formed by negative and tense marker. It shows the action is done by the subject itself. In case of Garo it is seen that the Glottal stop (?) always took its place in the first syllable often adding the prefix and suffixes also.
5. According to the compound verb formation there are vr + vn and vn + vn +vr compounding found in Bodo, Garo and Rabha language. It is seen that offer compounding the verbs become short in case of Garo.

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