

Negative Forms of Verbs in Bodo and Assamese Language: A Comparative Study

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Abstract: Assam is an unique region of North- East India; diversity of casts, tribes are living together with their distinctive language and culture. Bodo and Assamese, these two languages are spoken in same area by the speakers of these two languages. They are living just like good neighbor and influenced each other especially in phonology, morphology and other socio-cultural habits. These two languages genealogically belong to two different linguistic groups. Assamese is Indo-Iranian language family group, on the other hand, Bodo is Sino-Tibetan language family group. Assamese is developed language but the Bodo language is developing language. Like other language, both languages are negative forms of verbs. There are two distinct processes of negative formation in Bodo language. These are -(a) By Pre-fixation and (b) By Suffixation. In Assamese language, there is only one distinct process of negative formation. It is by pre-fixation. The negativization process of both Boro and Assamese language by pre-fixation is same.

Keywords : Bodo and Assamese language; its negative forms of verbs, Similarity and Dissimilarity.

Introduction: Assam is an unique region of North- East India; has a unique variety of peoples of different races and tribes. Every tribes and races have their own language, Culture. Both Bodo and Assamese are the languages of the state of Assam. The language which is spoken by the Assamese people is called Assamese language and The language which is spoken by the Boro people is called themselves Bodo language. Assamese is the state official language, on the other hand, Bodo is the associate official language of Assam. Both languages are included under eight scheduled of the Indian constitution. According to 2011 census, the total population of Assam is 31,20,5,576. Out of that 15,09,5,797 are Assamese language speaker and 14,16,125 are Bodo language speaker.

The Assamese is originated from Sanskrit derived from Indo-Iranian branch of Indo-European language family ; spoken by the Assamese people. It is major language of Assam and also link language for the people living in Assam. It is used as lingua-franca too among the speech communities in the whole of the North Eastern region of India.

Most of the tribes of Assam belong to Mongolian race. Each tribe has own language and culture. The Boro constitute a very important tribe of the different ethnic groups and races settling in North-East India, particularly Assam; with their distinctive culture and linguistic traits. Among the plains tribal communities of Assam, the Boros are numerically the largest. The Bodo speech community is now well spread all over Assam and its neighboring state like Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, North and West Bengal etc. The Bodo language originated from Sino-Tibetan language family which is spoken by the Mongolian Boros.

According to use in educational institutions as medium of instruction Assamese occupies the first place, Boro the second place.

Aims and Objectives:

- a) Aims at to study how the negative forms of verbs in the Bodo and Assamese language is formed ?
- b) To study of usage of negative forms of verbs in both the Bodo and Assamese language.
- c) To find out the similarity and dissimilarity of negative forms of verbs in both the languages

Significance:

Boro language is developing language. So, comparative study is necessary for the development of Bodo language. Negative forms of verbs are also a part of Bodo language. So, it is necessary to do compare to other developed language like Assamese.

The importance and usefulness of the study of the negative forms of verbs cannot be left behind. Besides that it has a high academic value as well. So, it is the call of the time to do a systematic study on this topic.

Negative forms of verbs of the Boro language:

There is negative form of verbs in every language of the world. In Boro language, there is also negative form of verbs. There are two distinct processes of negative formation in Boro language. These are -(a) By Pre-fixation and

(b) By Suffixation

(a) *By pre-fixation :*

The role negative forming prefix of Boro language is (da-). But one of the most interesting character of this prefix is that it is only prefixed to the verbs. e.g.

v. za- (to eat)	da + za	=	daza (don't eat)
v. phwi-(to come)	da + phwi	=	daphwi(don't come)
v. mao- (to do)	da + mao	=	damao (don't do) etc.

(b) *By suffixation:*

The negative forming suffix in Boro language is (-a). This suffix is also always added to verbs as the prefix mentioned above.e.g.

v. undu (to sleep)	undu + a	=	undua (will not sleep)
v. gele (to play)	gele + a	=	gelea (will not play)
v. hab (to enter)	hab + a	=	haba (will not enter)etc.

Negative forms of verbs of the Assamese language:

In Assamese language, there is only one distinct process of negative formation. It is by pre-fixation. The negative forming prefixes are – (no-, na-, nu-, ni-)e.g.

v. kow(to say)	no + kow	=	nokow (do not say)
v. khaow (to eat)	na + khaow	=	nakhaow (do not eat)
v. sowa(to touch)	nu + sowa	=	nusowa (do not touch)
v. deu (to give)	ni + deu	=	nideu (do not give)

Sometimes, nai, naikora, naikia etc. are also used to denote the negative form.

e.g. teu ghorot nai (He is not at home)

Conclusion :

The negativization process of both Boro and Assamese language by pre-fixation is almost same.As forexample-

In Boro Language, if prefix “da” is added with a morpheme “za”(eat), it becomes negative form of word “daza” means donot eat. It is also same in Assamese Language too, if prifix “na” is added with a morpheme “Khaou”(eat) it becomes negative form of word “nakhaou” means do not eat.

The commonness of negative formation of verbs by pre-fixation is influenced each other because Boro and Assamese peoples have been living together in the state of Assam.

In Boro, there is one more process of negativization of the verb i.e. (-a). but it is not practice in the Assamese language.

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