

The Adjectives of Lisu Language: A Structural analysis

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Abstract: *Lisu in a minor tribe of Arunachal Pradesh. The tribe has their own language and culture. They are rich in cultural heritage. But due to lack of scientific research they have not come out yet. A few books have been published about the language but it is not enough and scientific. In this prospect I wrote the paper about the language. In this paper I discussed about the Adjective word formation of Lisu language. For this paper I collected data through field study. For data analysis descriptive, historical, analytical has been used.*

Key words: *Word formation, types of Adjectives, formation of Adjective words, Derivation, Morphology*

1. Introduction:

India is so diverse in both linguistically and culturally. Arunachal Pradesh is a multilingual state of India. That's why it has so much heritage. Many tribes of Arunachal Pradesh are belong to the greater Mongoloid group and linguistically many languages are belong to the Sino-Tibetan language family. Many communities are found in Arunachal Pradesh. Within the community they have different groups. And each group has different language. Changlang is a Major District of Arunachal Pradesh. Fascinating tribes like: Tangsa, Apatani, Nishi, Tutsa, Memba, khamba, Adi, Tagin, Lisu etc. are co-exists in the district.

Lisu is a Minor tribe of Arunachal Pradesh. Lisu Language is found mainly in Vijay Nagar, Miao and Kharsang Circle of Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh. The population of Lisus in India near 6000. Though they have lots of cultural heritage but no study have done scientifically till now. So, in this prospect I selected the language for study.

2. Objectives:

This topic has been selected for focusing some objectives. These are as follows:

- i) To enlighten the formation of Adjective words of Lisu language.
- ii) To discuss the types of Adjective words in Lisu language.
- iii) To enlighten the types of Adjective of Lisu language.
- iv) To discuss about the Structure of Lisu language.

3. Importance of Study:

- i) Scientific study can establish or document a language which will be a future document for the tribe that would help them in making grammar, language guide book, etc. So, it is important to study in a scientific way.
- ii) The Lisu language is an offshoot to the Lolo-Burmese sub group of Tibeto-Burman language and it will help to further study about these languages.
- iii) It is important to enlighten the characteristics of Lisu language as a Tibeto-Burman language.

4. Methodology :

In this paper field study method is taken for data collection and Descriptive, Historical and Analytical method is taken for data analysis.

4.1 Methods of Data Collection:

For this article field study has been done. I used the following methods in field study:

- i) **Sampling Method:** Data were collected with prepared questionnaire for the topic. And so some prepared words and sentences are taken as sample. Informal questionnaire is also used.
- ii) **Interview Method:** To collect topic related Data descriptive interview method is used. To collect data I went to the Lisu residential area and I collected data from Lisu respondent through interview.
- iii) **Observation:** In collecting data- Observation method is also used. I observed them and I physically attended the field and talked to them before collecting the data.

4.2 Methods of Data analysis:

Descriptive, analytical and historical methods are used for data analysis. While discussing about the origin of the Lisu language historical method has used. International Phonetic Alphabet is used to show the examples of Lisu language.

5. Sphere of the study: The sphere of the paper is limited. Only the formation of adjectives words are discussed in this article.

6. An Introduction to the Lisu Language: The tribe Lisu is mainly found in Southwest China, Northeast India, Myanmar and Thailand. It has mainly three dialects- Southern, Northern and Central. The northern dialects are found in North-east China and North Myanmar and in North-East India, the Central dialect is found in West Yunan and the North area of Myanmar and the South dialect is found in South-West Yunan and in Thailand. (Bradely, 2006: p.15) The northern dialect is spoken in India. They have different names like: Lisu, Lisaw, Yobin, Lishifa and Khinu (Maitra, 1987: p.9)

6.1 The meaning of the word Lisu:

The Lisu were first sighted by Major Sumer Singh of Assam Rifles on 7th May, 1961 at the present Vijay Nagar Circle. Then after in November 1961, Major General A.S Guraya visited Vijaynagar. The word 'Lisu' has different meaning. These are-

According to their myth-‘Li’ means four and ‘Su’ means person gossiping or quarreling. This indicates that the Lisu had the inherent tendency to gossiping or quarreling. (Maitra, 1993: p.7)

The Lisu use to wear leather belt prepared by themselves, and as a result of which they have got the name. (Maitra, 1993: p.7)

Though it has different meaning literally, Lisu means the group of people who customarily wrap or tie their waist with a long piece of cloth having four folds like a big belt.

6.2 Script:

The Lisu people used two kinds of Script. They were ‘pinying’ and ancient Lisu Script. (Bradely, 2006: p.15). In 1907 James Outram Fraser arrange the Lisu alphabet with Roman Script.

7.0 Concept of Word formation and derivation:

Morphology is a branch of Linguistics. Morphology studies about the internal structure of words. Morphology includes both derivational and inflectional aspects of words. Morpheme is the basic unit of Morphology. How a word is constructed by adding morpheme and how these words create a new inflectional word- All these are included in Morphological study. After all, how the prefix, infix and suffix help in the process of both derivation and inflection- all these grammatical aspects are discussed detail in Morphology.

Morphology also includes the discussions of word formation. A word is a smallest meaningful unit of a Language. When a word is constructed by adding morpheme to the stem it is called Word formation. Derivation is the process of word formation.

Structurally words can divided into two types. These are

7.0.1 Primary word and

7.0.2 Derived word

The word with a single root morpheme only and which can express a meaning independently it is called primary word. The words that are formed by adding affixes to the root morpheme that are called derived words.

Here in this paper the adjective word formation of Lisu language is discussed.

ADJECTIVE WORDS OF LISU LANGUAGE

8.0 Formation of Adjective words:

Adjective is an attribute of a Noun. An Adjective describing word, the main syntactic role of which is to qualify a noun or noun phrase. It indicates the quality, quantity, shape, color of a Noun or Pronoun. Basically in Lisu Language there are two types of Noun. These are as follows:

8.1 Primary Adjectives.

8.2 Derived Adjectives.

8.1 Primary Adjectives: In Lisu Language the Primary adjectives are with mono-morphemic structure. And these adjectives are both mono-syllabic and Di-syllabic. Example:

Lisu	Meaning	Lisu	Meaning
tsə bə	Rich	tsələ	Young
tsə tsa	Poor	tsəmə	Old

8.2 Derived Adjectives: The derived adjectives of Lisu Language are formed in three ways. These are as follows-

8.2.1 In addition of suffix to the root

8.2.1 Addition of two or more words.

8.2.2 Reduplication.

8.2.1 In addition of suffix to the root: In Lisu Language adjectives words are formed by suffixing (-kva) to the root. Examples:

Root	Suffix	Meaning
t ^h i	{-kva}	t ^h ikva ‘Love’
gə	{-kva}	gəkva ‘those’
mit ^h e	{-kva}	mit ^h ekva

The Negative marker {-ma} is used before the adjective word in Lisu Language. Examples:

Prefix	Adjective	Meaning
ma ‘no’	zia ‘good’	mazia ‘bad’
ma ‘no’	zə ‘correct’	mazə ‘wrong’
ma ‘no’	sise ‘clean’	masise ‘dirty’

8.2.2 In Addition of two or more words:

In Lisu Language some adjectives words are formed by adding two or more primary words. Examples:

8.2.2.1.1 In addition of two words :

Free form	Free form	Derived Adjective
nje ‘eye’	pə ‘blind’	nje pə ‘blind’
t ^h u ‘man’	mə ‘mad’	t ^h umə ‘mad’
t ^h u ‘man’	na ‘disease’	t ^h una ‘patient’

8.2.2.1.2 In addition of three or more words:

Free form	Free form	Free form	Derived Adj.	
hi ‘house’	k ^h u ‘inside’	kva	zəama	‘Domestic’
t ^h i ‘One’	nje ‘day’	zəat ^h e	t ^h injezəat ^h e	‘once upon a time’

8.2.3 Reduplication :

Reduplication is a process of word formation. In Lisu language the Adjectives words are formed by the full repetition of the adjective word or sometime it formed by half repetition. Example:

Lisu	Meaning
Zi zia	good-good

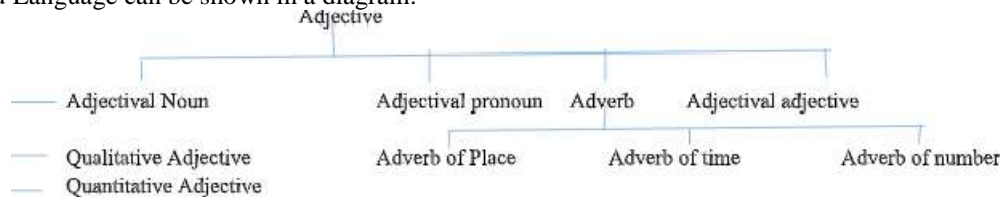
Si sia red-red
 P^hu tsa tsa White-White

9.0 Types of Adjectives in Live language:

According to the morphemic and use we can divide the adjectives of Lisu Language as follows:

- 9.1 Adjectival Noun
- 9.2 Adjectival pronoun (Nominalized pronoun)
- 9.3 Adjectival adjective
- 9.4 Adverb

The adjectives of Lisu Language can be shown in a diagram:



9.1 Adjectival Noun: These adjectives indicates the quality, color, shape and quantity of a noun. In Lisu Language these kind of adjectives follow the noun and sometime it place before the noun. We can divide Adjectival Noun of Lisu Language in three types:

9.1.1 Qualitative Adjective: In Lisu Language these kind of adjectives indicates only the quality of a Noun. Examples:

Adjectives	Noun	Adjectival Noun
Ziama 'good'	zanu 'boy'	good boy
lobja ma 'beautiful'	zamanu 'girl'	beautiful girl
jilu 'old'	modo 'vehicle'	old vehicle

9.1.2 Quantitative Adjectives: In Lisu Language numerical number is used before the Noun then after the quantitative adjectives follow the Noun. Examples:

Numerical	Noun	Adjectives	Meaning
T ^h i 'One'	Pe 'feet'	Si 'Long'	One feet long
T ^h i 'one'	le tsi 'hand'	to 'long'	one hand long

9.2 Adjectival pronoun (Nominalized pronoun): Adjectives which are used to indicate the quality, quantity, color of a pronoun is called adjectival Pronoun. The examples of Adjectival Pronoun in Lisu Language are as follows:

Sentences:

lua	nje	xua xua	lo	I am fine
I	be. Verb	good	Tense marker	
Ji	nje	tsobo	lo	You are thin
You	Be. Verb	rich	Tense Marker	

9.3 Adjectival adjective: An adjective that qualifying an another adjective that is called Adjectival adjective. In Lisu Language the form {-akhu} is used to qualifying an adjective. Examples:

Ji	nje	ak ^h u	zakha	lo	He is so intelligent
He	be.verb	so	intelligent	Tense marker	
Njimi	nje	ak ^h u	tsa		Today is so hot
Today	Be. Verb	so	hot		

9.4 Adverb: The word that modifies the meaning of a verb, adjective is called adverb. Adverb express manner, time, place of a verb. The Adverbs of Lisu can be divided as follows:

9.4.1 Adverb of time: These qualify the time of verb. We found two kind of Adverb in Lisu Language. These are:

- Primary Adverb
- Compound Adverb

Primary Adverb: These words are primary. These words are independent. These words can express meaning without having any affix.

Examples:	Lisu	Meaning
	Nji mi	Today
	Tsa go	tomorrow

Compound Adverbs: Compound Adverbs of Lisu Language are formed in two ways:

- By adding a suffix to the adjective word
- By Adding two words

By adding a suffix to the adjective word:

In Lisu Language words are formed by adding a suffix-like {-ma}, {-si}, {-t^hali} etc. to the adjective.

Adjective	Bound form	Compound Adverb
go 'that'	{-ma}	goma 'then'
kane 'Back'	{-si}	kanesi 'after'

By adding two words

Free form	free form	compound Adverb
kh ^o 'year'	lu 'old'	kh ^o lu 'last year'
la nama 'coming'	k ^h o 'year'	la namakh ^o 'next year'

9.4.2 Adverb of Place:

It qualifies the place of verb. In Lisu Language an affix is added after the adjective. Examples:

Adjective	Bound form	Adverb of place
T ^h i 'this'	{-kva}	t ^h i kva 'here'
gɔ 'that'	{-kva}	gɔkva 'there'
k ^h ui 'front'	{-t ^h e}	k ^h uit ^h e 'before'

9.4.3 Numerical Adverb:

This numerical adverbs are formed with a prefix to the word, a word that indicates day, year and month. Examples:

Noun	Numeral	Bound form	Numerical	Adverb
Haba 'month'	t ^h i 'one'	{-ma}	habat ^h ima	'monthly'
k ^h ɔ 'year'	t ^h i 'one'	{-ma}	k ^h ɔ t ^h ima	'yearly'

10. Comparison of Adjectives:

To compare between two or more adjectives we found three degrees Lisu Language:

- Positive Degree
- Comparative Degree
- Superlative Degree

Examples of Degrees in Lisu Language:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
mua 'high'	ak ^h u mua 'higher'	azit ^h esi mua 'highest'
mazi 'bad'	ak ^h u mazi 'worse'	azit ^h esimazi 'worst'

Lisu Language has separate suffix to indicate comparative and superlative degrees. The suffix {-ak^hv} is used to make compare between two variables and suffix {-si} is used in superlative degrees.

11. Conclusion: The Lisu language of India is in spoken form. Though the Lisu are rich in culture, religion, language of their own but they have not recorded them in writing. The Lisus are converted into Christianity. Due to the conversion causes lack of sincerity for the use of their language in a united form. The Language is in endangered level. According to the EGIDS scale of UNESCO the Language is in **EGIDS-04 level**. Now a days the new generation of Lisu are attracted for the English and Hindi Language. So a Planning or constructive consciousness is required to preserve the language.

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