

Derivation of Conjoint words and its Types: A Descriptive Study

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Abstract: In the group of prevailing language families Indo-European language family is the largest. A notable Indio-Aryan language included in this family Assamese is originated and evolved through different settlement and social and religious civilization. As a New Indo-Aryan language Assamese is rich with its own separate characteristics. On the basis of theories of origin, evolution and abundance proposed by former linguist Banikanta Kakoti, Kaliram Medhi, Dimbeswar Neog etc., Upendra Nath Goswami has partitioned Assamese language from 7th century to 10th century as Old Assamese, Middle Assamese and Modern Assamese depending on their evolution which reflects the image of development of the language from days after days. (Upendra Nath Goswami, “*Axomiya Bhaxar Udbhab, Xomriddhi Aru Bikax*”, P.1, 1991). The paper aims at describing derivations of words in the Assamese language.

Key words: Reduplication, Onomatopoeic, Sonorous words, Sonorous words, Similar words, Coherent words, Affixed words.

Introduction: Human are social creature. All people in a society exchange their emotions through language. Language is the only component which reflects the mental and social entity. The range of this language is wide and deep. Linguists are conducting research on origin of language, its constituents and structure from old age. Two sides of this mouth secreted language can be observed. One is external and the other is internal. Phonetic and the structure of language expressed through this are called external side. In this external side a meaningful side is hidden which can express the thoughts of the speaker, this is called as the internal side of language. (Nagen Borthakur, “*Bhaxa Aru Bhaxa-sinta*”, P.4, 2003). In the second phase of 20th century due to these kind of characteristics renowned linguist Noam Chomsky coined language as ‘Mirror to Mind’ and gave preference to the thought process or meaning related side of a language. (Noam Chomsky, “*Reflection of Language*”, P.4, 1976).

0.1 Study contents: We have chosen derivation of conjoint words in Assamese language as our discussion content for the paper. Study range for Assamese language is widespread. Phonetic, morphology, theology, semantics all are included. It is difficult to cover all the aspects in this research paper. This paper is focused in discussing the derivation of Conjoint words.

0.2 Field of study and People: As a part of our field study for the research paper we have considered the North-eastern state of India, Assam. Assam is located in between 24°N to 28°N latitude and 90°E to 97°E longitude. People from different tribes live in the area. According to the 2001 census population of Assam is 2, 66,55,528. Data of 2001 shows that there are 1, 30,10,478 Assamese speaking people in Assam.

0.3 Importance of study: Different languages has been originated or used by different people to express their emotions or thinking in this huge world. Observing their nature linguist divided those languages into some language families. Out of those families, four families are being used in India preferably. In case of Assamese language of Assam cooperation and mutual exchange of cultural and social aspects can be seen. With the language centric study of the Assamese language we have tried to discuss the derivation of Conjoint words in the paper. With this research paper we have tried to take the readers' one step closer towards the derivatives of Conjoint words.

04. Methodology and Resource: The research paper titled "Derivation of Conjoint Word and its Types: A descriptive study" is mainly illustrative. Since we have discussed the derivatives of Conjoint words therefore this paper also have an explanation on morphology, theology and semantics.

In order to prepare the research work helps from different language related books of intellectuals are being taken. In this context George Abraham Grayson's 'Linguistic Survey of India', Suniti kumar Chattopadhyya's 'Kirat Jana-Kriti', Banikanta Kakoti's 'Axomiya Bhaxar Gothon Aru Bikash', 'Axomiya Bhaxar Byakoron', 'Bohol Byakoron' and for words and syntax 'Hemkox Abhidhan' and 'Adhunik Axomiya Abhidhan' are used as resource books.

1.1 Introduction to Reduplication: Reduplication is an important part of word derivation. Presence of reduplication can be found both in Aryan and Tribal language families. Usually repeated application of some meaningful or meaningless words can be called as reduplication. It is called reduplication just because the word is repeated twice. In Sanskrit

it is called 'Obhyax' (reduplication). (Golak Chandra Goswami, *Axomiya Byakaranar Maulik Bisar*, P.165). In reduplication same word is used without any modification or sometimes with little modification to derive new words. These words are used in paired and thus they are called Conjoint words. Reduplication is found predominantly in Assamese language. (Golak Chandra Goswami, *Axomiya Byakaranar Maulik Bisar*, P.153).

1.2 Reduplication in Assamese language and its Types: In the process of word inflection in Assamese reduplication plays a vital role. By reduplication a root word is repeated in same manner or with partial modification and presented together with that root word. In reduplication next word follows the previous root word.

From the structural orientation reduplication in Assamese language can be divided in three groups- Sonorous or Onomatopoeic words, Similar words and coherent or meaningful or joint words. (Upendra Nath Goswami, *Axomiya Bhaxar Byakaran*, P.136-137).

1.3 Onomatopoeic in Assamese language: Onomatopoeic is used abundantly in Assamese. When words are derived following sounds then it is called onomatopoeic. (Upendra Nath Goswami, *Axomiya Bhaxar Byakaran*, P.136). Which means a word originated by following other sound is called onomatopoeic. 'Cah cah' of Crow, 'meow meow' of Cat 'maa maa' of Goat, 'huwa huwa' of Wolf, 'bhuk bhuk' of Dog etc. are some of the example of Sonorous words. It is noticeable that above mentioned words do not have the ability to show meaning alone. They can express a meaning together. Basically these are words are derived from some sounds around the nature, and thus they are also called Sonorous words. These words are assumed to be derived from natural sounds of animals, birds, insects, wind, river, vehicle etc.

Assamese language: aha-aha, cah-cah, kin-kin, gop-gop, jhir-jhir, ting-ting, thol-thol, phir-phir, bhuk-bhuk, meow-meow, riniki-riniki, hir-hir etc.

Some onomatopoeia are used to describe the sound of materials or as description to a work or color, used to describe silence or depth of emotions etc. (Upendra Nath Goswami, *Axomiya Bhaxar Byakaran*, P.136). As an example we can mention 'kin-kiniya boroxun', 'ghit-mitya ondhokar', 'fir-firya kapur' etc.

Lilabati Saikia Bora has divided onomatopoeic in two types in her book '*Axomiya Bhaxar Rupatatwa*'. (Lilabati Saikia Bora, *Axomiya Bhaxar Rupatatwa*, P.21). Those are-

i) Sonorous word (ধ্বন্যাত্মক)

ii) Asonorous word (অধ্বন্যাত্মক)

1.3.1 Sonorous Word: Words derived from following sounds are called Sonorous words. Example- 'khat-khat', 'tak-tak', 'dhum-dhum', 'tong-tong', 'kul-kul', 'phus'phus', 'khit-khit', 'moch-moch', 'gun-gun' etc.

1.3.2 Asonorous Word: Words used to describe sounds of material, work or colors, depth of emotions are called Asonorous words. Affix is added to these words as per requirement. Example- 'kin-kiniya', 'kis-kisiya', 'dhak-dhakiya', 'fir-firiya', 'mol-moliya' etc.

In both type of onomatopoeic one the repeated words does not show any meaning. These words cannot be used without pairing. But after repetition they became meaningful and can be used in a language. (Lilabati Saikia Bora, *Axomiya Bhaxar Rupatatwa*, P.21).

1.4 Classification of Onomatopoeic: On the basis of type of reduplication onomatopoeic are classified in two categories-

i) Completely repeated Sonorous and Asonorous words.

ii) Partially repeated Sonorous and Asonorous words.

1.4.1 Completely repeated Sonorous and Asonorous words:

These types of words are mainly used as noun, verb, adverb and root in Assamese language.

Example-

Noun- 'kul-kuloni', 'keng-kengoni', 'phus-phusoni', 'gun-gunoni', 'khat-khati', 'har-harani', 'dhop-dhoponi', 'ham-hamani', 'tang-tangoni'.

Adverb- 'kul-kulkoi', 'keng-kengkoi', 'phus-phuskoi', 'gun-gunkoi', 'khat-khatkoi', 'har-harkoi', 'dhap-dhapkoi', 'ham-hamkoi', 'tang-tangkoi'.

Root- 'kul-kula', 'keng-kenga', 'phus-phusa', 'gun-guna', 'khat-khata', 'har-hara', 'dhap-dhapa', 'ham-hama', 'tang-tanga'.

Again completely repeated Aphonetic words can be categorized as noun, adverb and adjectival adverb .

Noun- ‘kis-kis (kola)’, ‘dhak-dhak (boga)’, ‘mol-mol (gundho)’, ‘fir-fir (botah)’, ‘gam-gam (bix)’.

Adverb- ‘kis-kiskoi’, ‘chik-chikkoi’, ‘tik-tikkoi’, ‘fir-firkoi’, ‘khes-kheskoi’.

Adjectival adverb- ‘kis-kisiya’, ‘chik-chikiya’, ‘tik-tikiya’, ‘fir-firiya’, ‘khes-khesiya’.

1.4.2 Partially repeated Sonorous and Asonorous words:

Partially repeated words are mostly aphonetic. They may be of one or two letters. In these one or two letter words, first part of the second letter changes its form. This change can occur in different manners. Upendra Nath Goswami has mentioned different rules. There are many partially repeated words in Assamese. They are-

Assamese language: ‘alai-athani’, ‘abol-tabol’, ‘amon-jimon’, ‘aao-vao’, ‘ukhol-makhol’, ‘keo-meo’, ‘ker-mer’, ‘kao-bao’, ‘khadam-dam’, ‘khut-khat’, ‘susuk-samak’, ‘chik-mik’, ‘seleng-peteng’, ‘jotou-potou’, ‘jolou-jopou’, ‘tulung-vutung’, ‘theleng-theleng’, ‘dhalang-dhapang’, ‘tir-bir’, ‘dal dop-hendol dop’, ‘nadan-badna’, ‘ja-ta’, ‘latang-patang’, ‘xolok-dholok’.

1.5 Similar words in Assamese:

Like onomatopoeia, Similar words are also used predominantly in Assamese. It is noticeable that Similar words are not derived naturally. These words contain two parts. To emphasize the root word, a change is made to the phonetic and added to the root with process of repetition. The repetition in Similar word is partial. Similar words have two parts; past part has a meaning and is used independently. Second part does not have any meaning. But addition of the second part emphasizes the meaning of the first part. (Upendra Nath Goswami, *Axomiya Bhaxar Byakaran*, P.170). Some Assamese similar words are mentioned below-

Assamese language- ‘alu-salu’, ‘kalam-salam’, ‘kan-san’, ‘kukur-sukur’, ‘kola-sola’, ‘garu-saru’, ‘gakhir-sakhir’, ‘gahori-sahori’, ‘ghar-char’, ‘nimokh-simokh’, ‘nakh-chakh’, ‘pan-san’, ‘bhorisori’, ‘vat-sat’, ‘hati-sati’, ‘mukh-chuk’. Some alternate words are- ‘sola-

tola', 'seni-teni', 'suli-tuli', 'soku-toku', 'sagoli-tagoli', 'nej-tej', 'mas-tas', 'manuh-dunuh', 'kore-more', 'koste-moste', 'khatir-batir', 'sakor-bakor', 'mar-dhar', 'xokot-abot' etc.

1.6 Reduplication of Coherent Words in Assamese language:

Apart from the above two types, another type of reduplication or compound words is found in Assamese. Some simple are used repeatedly exactly in same morpheme to derive this type of words. After reduplication their meaning is slightly changed. This process of addition of meaningful words exactly in the same manner is called complete reduplication of words coherent words. (Golak Chandra Goswami, *Axomiya Byakaranar Maulik Bisar*, P.169). After complete reduplication they give a meaning of 'nisina' or 'dore'(like). ((Golak Chandra Goswami, *Axomiya Byakaranar Maulik Bisar*, P.169). Example-

i)mas mas gundhaise

ii) anjakhan pani pani lagise

iii)gato jor jor lagise

In the above sentences '*mas mas gundhaise*' means '*masor nisina gundhuwa*' (smell like fish); '*pani pani*' mean '*panir dore*'(tasteless like water) and '*jor jor*' mean '*jor huwar dore*' (feeling fever). These words are sometimes used to express wishes. Like-

Example of verb- i) teu jao jao korise

ii)xihotey khao khao korise

iii)ejak boroxun aho aho kore

In the above examples '*jao jao*', '*khao khao*' and '*aho aho*' actually indicate '*jaboloi*' (to go), '*khaboloi*' (to eat) and '*ahiboloi*' (to come) respectively.

1.7 Classification of Coherent Words in Assamese Language:

According the theology Coherent words is classified in two types. (Upendra Nath Goswami, *Axomiya Bhaxar Byakaran*, P.157).

i)Derivation of new words with Complete Reduplication of Coherent words.

ii) Derivation of new words with Partial Reduplication of Coherent words.

1.7.1 Derivation of new words with Complete Reduplication of Coherent words:

In many times to express the emotion of wholesome, statistics, depth, disconnection etc. words are used twice rather than once to derive a new pair words. (Upendra Nath Goswami, *Axomiya Bhaxar Byakaran*, P.111). These reduplicate words can be noun, adjectives, pronoun, verb, adverb, quantitative words, infinite verbs and affixed words. In Assamese language new words are derived in this manner of complete reduplication. Examples are given below.

1) Noun words:

Noun words are derived in two ways. Some words are derived with affix {-ae} and others without any affix. Words derived with affix also give an idea of group. Like-

a) Affixed words-(Lilabati Saikia Bora, *Axomiya Bhaxar Rupatatwa*, P.28)

Assamese language: 'jake-jake', 'dole-dole', 'poley-poley', 'bosorey-bosorey', 'yuge-yuge', 'ronge-ronge', 'xomoiye-xomoiye', 'habiye-habiye' etc.

From the above example it can be seen that in Assamese noun terms are being used as affixed words. Words with affixes are also available. Example-

b) Words without Affixes-

Assamese language: 'kha-kha', 'gorom-gorom', 'thanda-thanda', 'tho-tho', 'di-di', 'dour-dour', 'bhok-bhok', 'ja-ja', 'lo-lo', 'halodhiya halodhiya', 'hahi-hahi' etc.

2) Adjective: (Lilabati Saikia Bora, *Axomiya Bhaxar Rupatatwa*, P.28)

Assamese language: 'okha-okha', 'kecha-kecha', 'ghan-ghan'. 'kola-kola', 'dangor-dangor', 'tita-tita', 'neela-neela', 'patol-patol', 'pon-pon', 'poka-poka', 'boga-boga', 'vonga-vonga', 'mihi-mihi', 'mitha-mitha', 'ronga-ronga' et.

3) Pronoun terms:

Assamese language: 'ki-ki', 'kak-kak', 'kon-kon', 'niz-niz', 'ji-ji', 'jak-jak' etc.

4) Quantitative terms:

Assamese language: ‘eta-eta’, ‘kouti-kouti’, ‘duta-duta’, ‘dohta-dohta’, ‘lakh-lakh’, ‘xo-xo’, ‘hazar-hazar’.

5) Verb terms:

Assamese language: ‘kou-kou’, ‘kando-kando’, ‘karo-karo’, ‘khao-khao’, ‘gao-gao’, ‘chao-chao’, ‘diu-diu’, ‘niu-niu’, ‘naso-naso’, ‘parho-parho’, ‘paro-paro’, ‘jao-jao’, ‘lao-lao’.

6) Adverbs:

Assamese language: ‘ghoney-ghoney’, ‘tarapey-tarapey’, ‘diney-diney’, ‘dheerey-dheerey’, ‘pone-pone’, ‘bosorey-bosorey’, ‘barey-barey’, ‘vitorey-vitorey’, ‘bhaley-bhaley’, ‘money-money’, ‘majey-majey’, ‘muhurtey-muhurtey’, ‘khoney-khoney’.

7) Infinite Verb:

Assamese language: ‘koi-koi’, ‘kandi-kandi’, ‘khai-khai’, ‘goi-goi’, ‘nasi-nasi’, ‘bohi-bohi’, ‘roi-roi’, ‘xuni-xuni’, ‘hahi-hahi’.

8) Primary affix:

Assamese language: ‘saotey-saotey’, ‘bahotey-bahotey’, ‘jaotey-jaotey’, ‘xunotey-xunotey’, ‘hahotey-hahotey’, etc.

17.2 Derivation of new words with Partial Reduplication of Coherent words:

With partial derivation of meaningful words, new words are derived in Assamese language. These words are usually called Similar words. The repeated part of the word is a homophone to the root word and thus it is called Similar words. (Lilabati Saikia Bora, *Axomiya Bhaxar Rupatatwa*, P.36). Thus in this manner, pronunciation of beginning or middle part of the repeated word changes while deriving a new word. The modification are mentioned below-

- a) If the starting letter of a word is any letter except ‘sa’ (‘স’) then the first letter of the repeated word is usually ‘sa’ (‘স’). (Upendra Nath Goswami, *Axomiya Bhaxar Byakaran*, P.136) Example-

Assamese language: ‘alu-salu’, ‘aam-sam’, ‘kan-san’, ‘kukur-sukur’, ‘kalam-salam’, ‘karon-saron’, ‘kola-sola’, ‘cup-sup’, ‘genji-senji’, ‘ghar-sar’, ‘toka-soka’, ‘thela-sela’, ‘tel-sel’, ‘tarkari-sarkari’, ‘dhari-sari’, ‘narikol-sarikol’, ‘nimokh-simokh’, ‘pat-sat’, ‘pahar-sahar’, ‘boga-soga’, ‘bandhon-sandhon’, ‘bhaxa-saxa’, ‘mekuri-sekuri’, ‘ronga-songa’, ‘khin-sin’.

b) ‘sa’ in the beginning of a word changes to ‘ta’ (‘ত’) in the repeated words. Example-
Assamese language: ‘soki-toki’, ‘sor-tor’, ‘saru-taru’, ‘soku-toku’, ‘saal-taal’, ‘sintin’, ‘sithi-tithi’, ‘saki-taki’, ‘sah-tah’, ‘samus-tamus’, ‘sola-tola’, ‘sosma-tosma’, ‘sobi-tobi’, ‘sagoi-tagoli’.

c) Repeated words start with ‘ta’ irrespective of the starting letter of the root word in Assamese. Example-

Assamese language: ‘kharas-taras’, ‘gosa-tosa’, ‘sos-tos’, ‘mas-tas’, ‘xos-tas’, ‘bisa-tisa’, ‘phesa-tesa’, ‘bus-tus’, ‘gos-tos’.

d) Irrespective of vowels or consonant in the root words, the repeated word starts with ‘sa’. Example-

Assamese language: ‘topola-sopoa’, ‘tangon-sangon’, ‘tawoi-sawoi’, ‘tamul-samul’, ‘taal-saal’, ‘tola-sola’.

e) In Assamese language changes in some repeated words do not follow any specific rules. These words can be called as irregularly repeated. Example-

Assamese language: ‘aandhar-mundhar’, ‘aanja-sanja’, ‘uloh-maloh’, ‘udulimuduli’, ‘olot-palot’, ‘kola-mola’, ‘kandon-katon’, ‘khela-dhula’, ‘kheti-bati’, ‘gapa’, ‘jaal-taal’, ‘jakoi-takoi’, ‘nadan-badan’, ‘pani-duni’, ‘bandhi-kundhi’, ‘manuh-dunuh’.

f) In Assamese meaningless word is written before the meaningful one. For example- in the word ‘ahol-bohol’, /bohol/ word has meaning. But /ahol/ does not have any meaning. Similarly in the word /pokai-jokai/, /jokai/ word has meaning on the other hand /pokai/ word does not have any meaning.

Assamese language: ‘ahol-bohol’, ‘kekoni-gethoni’.

Again there is a class of words, where root word does not have any meaning and can become meaningful only with the repeated word. Thus in this way two meaningless words are combined together in Assamese. Example- In the word /isat-bisat/, /isat/ and /bisat/ both does not have any meaning. But can have a meaning together.

Assamese language: ‘aloi-athani’, ‘aloi-biloi’, ‘aal-jaal’, ‘isat-bisat’.

g) Sometimes in Assamese language a completely different meaningless word is joined with the root words. Example-

Assamese language: ‘ahila-pati’, ‘kajia-pesal’, ‘biya-baru’, ‘rup-ban’.

Conclusion:

From formation of conjoint words it can be concluded that in case of conjoint words if the starting letter of the first word is a vowel then repeated word starts with ‘ta’. Example- ‘saul-taul’. If the root word starts with any other letter except ‘sa’ then the repeated word starts with ‘sa’. In Assamese Similar words and Onomatopoeic are used predominantly. In partial reduplication the second word shows some modification. These words are abundant in Assamese. In Assamese addition of affix with the conjoint words derives new words. Reduplicated words in Assamese can be found in the form of- noun, pronoun, adjective, verb, adverb, quantitative word, infinite verb and primary affix. It is notable that only in Assamese new words can be inflected by complete reduplication of coherent words.

