

# Negation in the Bwrdown dialect of the Bodo

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**Abstract-** Bwrdown is one of the most important and unique differences from the other dialects of Bodo. The Bodo's are one of the ethnic and linguistic communities and early settlers of Assam in Northeast India. In this dialect of Negation can be observed among the Bodo speakers of different geographical areas. As such there is Negation in the Bwrdown dialect of the Bodo. In this paper presents an analysis of negation used in the Bwrdown dialect of Bodo.

**Key Words:** Bwrdown, Boro, dialect, Negation.

## INTRODUCTION

The word Bodo denotes both the language as well as the community, whereas Boro or Baro is used as one of the surnames of the Bodos. "The Bodos belong to a larger group of ethnicity called the Bodo-Kachari. Racially they belong to Mongloid stock of the Indo-Mongloids or Indo-Tibetans.<sup>1</sup> The Bodo is the term which denotes the name of people and the language. Though, the Bodo word is known by other ethnic group in various names like Bodo, Mech, Meche, Mlessah, Kirata, Kachari in different times of different places. According to Sailen Debnath, "the Bodos are largest in the Thista-Brahmaputra valley comprising western Assam and a pervasive tract of North Bengal specially the doors of Jalpaiguri, Northern part of Cooch Behar and the plains of Darjeeling districts."<sup>2</sup> E.T. Dalton, exclaimed in the light of Boro saying 'Boro hari geder hari, Bodo people great people'<sup>3</sup>.

The generic term 'Boro' was first applied by Hodgson.<sup>4</sup> The Boro or Bodos are concentrated in the vast area of the Brahmaputra valley of the state of Assam of North East India. It is an official language of B.T.A.D But nearest B.T.R and associate state language of Assam. This language was included in the eight schedule of the constitution of India in the year 2003.

## POPULATION

The Bodos constitute the highest scheduled tribe population of Assam. According to the based on Census Report of India 2001,(in India) the total numbers of population of Boro speech community are estimated as 13,50,478. As per 2001 Census Report the total Boro speakers in Assam is 12,96,162. The native speakers of Bwrdown dialect of Bodo is concentrations of the Bwrdown populations are found throughout the mainly state of Assam, besides its adjoining states like North Bengal under the state of West Bengal, in the adjacent area of the Chirang district Bengtol area another district Kokrajhar, western part speakers of this dialect estimate their population to be more than one lakh (non official).

<sup>1</sup> Baro, Madhu, Ram :The Historical Development of the Boro Language. (New Edition-2007), p. 28

<sup>2</sup> Debnath, Sailen : The Doars in Historical Transition. West Bengal. (2010), p. 81.

<sup>3</sup> Dalton, E. T : Tribal History of Eastern India. 1973, p.69

<sup>4</sup> Chatterji, Suniti Kumar: Linguistic Survey of India. Vol. iii, part- ii, 1903, p-1.

## LANGUAGE OVERVIEW

Boro is a scheduled language, recognized by the constitution of India in 2003. This language is not only the means day-to-day communication but also a language of literature and education. It has been taught up to university level of education as a subject language in some universities of India, particularly in the state of Assam. Written Boro literature is now flourishing in various genres. Language and linguistic study has been attempted since last few years back by fibody The Bodo Sahitya Sabha is taking outstanding effort for development of the language linguistic community.

The Boro phonemic system is comparable to Bwrdsn dialect. The vowel system of Boro is made up of six phonemes, / i, u, ʊ, e, ɔ, a/, which occur in all position of word. On the one hand 16 consonants phonemes are used in /, b, d, g, p<sup>h</sup>, t<sup>h</sup>, k<sup>h</sup>, s, z, h, m, n, ŋ, r, l, w, j, / Some of them occur only in medial and final position .

## OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

In this paper presents an analysis of negation used in the Bwrdsn dialect of the Bodos. Bwrdsn areas include like Bentol of chirang district, North Western part of Kokrajhar district and the indigenous people who are residing in the state of West Bengal. The main objective of this paper is to value adition and highlight the negation of Bwrdsn dialect used by the Bodo speakers of some other geographical areas,i.e.

## METHODOLOGY

The mainly based on Methodology data collection, primary and secondary source. The primary data were mostly collected from various places of Bengtol of chirang district, North Western part of Kokrajhar district another state West Bengal concentrated by the Bwrdsn people. Then with the field work, interview and observation methods. For secondary sources are different books written on Bwrdsn dialect and standard Bodo language was collected.

## NEGATION

According to David Crystal (1992-4<sup>th</sup> edition), “Negation is a process or construction in GRAMMATICAL and SEMANTIC analysis which typically expresses the contradicition of someor all of asentences meaning.”<sup>5</sup> Thus negation is expressed by the presence of the negative particle or other possible means such as ‘prifixes’ or ‘suffixes’ or words such as ‘deny’ in English.

Negative markers of Bwrdsn dialect of Bodos are /-le/, /-k<sup>h</sup>ɔ/, is negative suffix of this dialect. The negative marker /da-/ is prefix negative marker and /-uŋa/ is also used to express negative markers in Bwrdsn dialect of Bodo which is the most frequently used form occurring in the post verbal position,i.e. The use of /-da/ is restricted to imperative and it is prefixed to the verb root. Example—

- (i) aŋ t<sup>h</sup>aŋ -le

<sup>5</sup> Crystal, David :A Dictionary of Linguistic s and Phonetics. (Fourth Edition, 1992).

- I go NEG  
I do not go.
- (ii) aŋ maɔ -le  
I work NEG  
I do not work.
- (iii) biyu p<sup>h</sup>ui – le  
He/She come – NEG  
He/She does not come.
- (iv) biyu t<sup>h</sup>aŋ –le  
He/She go – NEG  
He/She does not go
- (v) eyu eŋk<sup>h</sup>am za-le  
He/She rice eat NEG  
He/She does not eat rice
- (vi) aŋ lira-k<sup>h</sup>ɔ  
I writing- NEG  
I am not writing
- (vii) aŋ t<sup>h</sup>aŋya-k<sup>h</sup>ɔ  
I go NEG  
I do not go.
- (viii) aŋ zaya-k<sup>h</sup>ɔ  
I eat – NEG  
I am not eating.

The negative marker /da-/ is only one use of negative marker prefix in Bwrwn dialect. For example –

- (ix) Haba-yak<sup>h</sup>uu da-maɔ  
Work – Acc, Neg do  
Do not do the work.
- (x) bit<sup>h</sup>ai-yak<sup>h</sup>uu da- za  
Fruit- Acc, Neg eat

Do not eat the fruit.

The negative marker /uŋa/ is used to express negative imperative or prohibited and occupies a pre-verbal position, i.e. For example –

- (xi) eyu sa se muzaŋ masui- uŋa  
 He/She CLE-one good person not  
 He/She is not a good person.

It is also mentionable that sometimes positive sentence is expressed like a negative sentence. Such type of sentence also depends upon the mood of the speaker. For example –

- (xii) samp<sup>h</sup>rambuu p<sup>h</sup>uibaɪ t<sup>h</sup>a  
 Come every day, i.e.  
 do not come every day.

This example is a positive sentence and two meanings can be interpreted from it one is positive and the other one is negative. One is ‘come every day’ and the other is ‘do not come every day’ and in both subject is hidden.

## CONCLUSION

Above discussion notices it can be concluded that the Bwrwn dialect of Bodo has a typologically similar negative construction with most of the languages of Tibeto- Burman family, where negative sentence signify negativity is mainly formed by affixes, i. e. pre –fixation or by suffixation. In this dialect Bodo, negations are expressed in two ways. It is expressed by using negative markers and the other mood of expression. There are fourth negative markers in the Bwrwn dialect of Bodo. These are suffix negative markers /-le/, /k<sup>h</sup>ɔ /, /uŋa/ and the prefix negative marker /da-/ .

## ABBREVIATION

NEG.- Negative

ACC.- Accusative,

CLF.- Classifier

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