

DERIVATION OF QUANTITATIVE WORDS IN ASSAMESE LANGUAGE: A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

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Abstract:

In the group of prevailing language families' Indo-European language family is the largest. A notable Indo-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). his paper aims at discussing the quantitative words derivation in Assamese language.

Key Words:

Nominal term, Quantitative words, noun, adjective, enclitic definitive, noun, adjective, multiplicative, partial.

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 Thakur, "Bhaxa Aru Bhaxasinta", 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).

Study contents:

We have chosen derivation of quantitative 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 quantitative words.

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.

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 quantitative words in the paper. With this research paper we have tried to take the readers' one step closer towards the derivatives of quantitative words.

Methodology and Resource:

The research paper titled "Derivation of Quantitative Words in Assamese Language: A descriptive study" is mainly illustrative. Since we have discussed the derivatives of quantitative words therefore this paper also have an explanation on morphology, theology and syntax.

In order to prepare the research work titled "Derivation of Quantitative Words in Assamese Language: A descriptive study", helps from different language related books of intellectuals are being taken. In this context George Abraham Grayson's 'Linguistic Survey of India', Suniti kumar Chattopadhyaya'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.

Quantitative words in Assamese language:

An important division included in nominal term is quantitative word. The words after which numbers and gender affix can be added are called as Quantitative words. Quantitative words usually denote person or animals or measurement of things or amount. (Upendra Nath Goswami, *Pra: U: Grantha*, P.69) Example- Ek, Dui, Tini, Cari, Panch etc. and their origin is noticeable. With the addition of affix quantitative words are formed. In most of the words enclitic definitives are added. Examples- ek-ar, dui-r, ek-ar-pora, paanc-aloi, 'dahjonar kotha'(opinion of group of people), 'tar gaa xatkhan-aathkhan' etc.

Again if enclitic definitives are added then pronunciations of 'ek', 'dui' and 'soi' changed.

- i) ek-ta>eta; dui-ta>duta
- ii) ek-jon>ejon; dui-jon>dujon
- iii) soi-ta>sota; soi-jon>sojon
- iv) ek-khan>ekhan; dui-khan>dukhon; soi-khan>sakhan

Addition of quantitative words 'ek', 'dui' and 'soi' with affix changes its utterance. Examples-

- i) ek-toka>etoka; ek-xo>exo

- ii) dui-toka>dutoka; dui-xo>duxo
- iii) soi-toka>sotoka; soi-xo>soxo

Similarly /saat/ also changes its sounds. Example- saat-diniya>sadiniya. In similar manner if the added word to /dui/ starts with 'o-karr' then it changes its utterance. Example- dui-mon>du-mon; dui-sowa>dusowa etc. Moreover /ek/ word also have different forms. Like-ek-axa, ek-aongso, ek-axar>exar etc.

Classification of Quantitative words:

Quantitative words can be classified in four major groups. (Upendra Nath Goswami, *Pra: U: Grantha*, P.69-70)

- i) Quantitative noun
- ii) Quantitative adjective
- iii) Multiplicative quantitative term
- iv) Partial quantitative term

Quantitative noun term:

In Assamese quantitative noun terms are found abundantly. These words are used in daily life predominantly. For example-

1-ek	5-paanch	9-no
2-dui	6-soi	10-doh
3-tini	7-saat	11-egharo
4-chari	8-aath	12-baro

100-ek-xo, xo

1000-hazar (thousand)

10000-ajut (ten thousand)

10,0000-laakh (1 million)

10,00000-nijut (10 million)

100,00000-koti (1crore)

Quantitative adjective:

There are few quantitative adjective terms in Assamese. Normally they are not used in Assamese. Apart from /pohila, dusora, chotha/ no other quantitative adjectives are found in Assamese. Bur Sanskrit originated quantitative adjectives are used. For examples- pratham, prathama, dwitiya, etc. From 'ek'(one) to 'doh' (ten), addition of 'tha', 'ma', 'ya', 'iya' gives adjectives. Example- pratham, dwitiya, tritiyo, choturtha, pancham, sostha, saptam, astam, nabam, doxom. From 'eghara' (eleven) to 'unois' (nineteen) nouns are formed through Sanskrit rule. Example-'ekadox', 'dwadox', 'nabadox' or 'unobingsho'. (Upendra Nath Goswami, *Pra: U: Grantha*, P.184)

Again noun terms 'bis', 'tris' etc can form quantitative adjective with Sanskrit affix {-tam}.

Example-

binsho, bingshotitam

tringsho, tringshotitam

chottabingsho, chottabingshatam

panchas, panchastam

Multiplicative quantitative term:

Application of multiplicative quantitative terms is not found in different manner in Assamese. To express the multiplicative meaning /bar/ or /gun/ terms are added to noun terms to get multiplicative quantitative words. Like mentioned above second letter get vanished in case of /ek/ and /dui/. Example-

- i) ek-bar, e-bar; dui-bar, du-bar
ek-hazar-bar, e-hazar-bar; ek-xo-bar; exo-bar
- ii) ek-gun, e-gun; dui-gun, du-gun
doh-xo-gun; doxo gun etc.

Partial Quantitative words:

Some quantitative words are found in partial form. (Upendra Nath Goswami, *Pra: U: Grantha*, P.71).

Example-

powa-

adha-

sowa-

der-

arhoi-

sare-

poune-

Conclusion:

From the above discussion it can be seen that quantitative words play an important role in Assamese language. In Assamese addition of numbers and gender affix give quantitative word. Quantitative words are divided in four groups. Thus quantitative words hold a special position in Assamese language.

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