



DIPHTHONG OF NORTH CENTRAL DIALECT OF BODO: A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS

Dr. Rini Dehingia

Faculty at C.G. Purbanchal College

Dibrugarh , Assam

Abstract : Bodo is a Sino- Tibetan Language spoken primarily by the Bodo people of North-East India .It is an official language of the state of Assam and the Bodoland Territorial Region of India. Since 1975 the language has been written using Devanagari Script .The Bodo language has 16 consonants and there are 6 vowel. There are 8 diphthongs in north central dialect of bodo,/ai, ui, eu, wi, ao, iu, oi, wu/. All the diphthongs occur in initial, medial and final position except /oi/, which doesn't occur in initial position.

Keywords: vowel, diphthongs, phoneme.

1.Introduction:

Bodo is a Sino- Tibetan Language spoken primarily by the Bodo people of North- East India. The Boros are known by different names in some regions of Assam and its few adjacent areas. In this Brahmaputra valley, the Bodo native speakers identity themselves as Boro while the Hindu Asamiya Speakers and speakers of other linguistic communities address them as Kachari or Boro Kachari.

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2. Aims and Objective :

- Descriptive analysis of diphthongs of Bodo language.
- Use of diphthongs in words

3. Literature:

Here , the selected thesis , books and articles are considered for the purpose of view Pratima Brahma, Ph.D. thesis “phonology and Morphology of Bodo and Dimasa : A comparative study (2013)”, here she discusses shortly about Bodo phonological and morphological structure.

Phukan Basumatary , he has published many books on language . Among them “ A Introduction to the Boro Language (2005)”, here he discusses descriptively about Bodo phonology.

Swarna Prabha Chainary , She has published many books on language and literature. Among them Boro Raothanthi(2006), Tibeto- Burman language of North-East India (2014), she discusses shortly about Bodo Language.

4. Methods:

- In this research work Descriptive methods have been applied.
 - The data for the proposed study has been collected from both primary and secondary sources.
- For Primary data the researcher has visited different places of the Bodo Languagespeaking dominated areas . Secondary data has been gathered from various sources like the Bodo texts,lexicons, Bodo Dictionary , monthly and annual magazines , journal etc.

5. Discussion and Findings :

A diphthongs is a sound formed by combining two vowels in a single syllable. There are 8 diphthongs in north central dialect of bodo,/ai, ui, eu, wi, ao, iu, oi, wu/. All the diphthongs occur in initial, medial and final position except /oi/, which doesn't occur in initial position.

Diphthongs chart :

	i	e	a	o	u	w
i	.....	.....	.....	.....	iu	....
e		.....	.....	.....	eu	.....
a	ai	.....	.....	ao	.....	....
o	oi	.....	.....	.....	.....	....
u	ui	.....	.....	.....	.....	....
w	wi	.....	.....	.....	wu	....

The following examples show the occurrence of the three positions.

Initial position:

/ai/ mother

/ui/ white ant

/eu/ to fry

/wi/ a term of addressing someone

/ao/ a word of consoling the child

/iu/ here

/wu/ yes

/oi/

Medial positions

/ai/	thaizu	-mango
	haizeng	- ginger
	laizma	- letter
	haithu	- short woman
	mairong	- rice
	raizw	- people

/ui/	duisin	- very small
	ruisin	-to be very soft

/iu/	ziuma	- soul
	thiuria	- extremist
	ziusa	- germ

/eu/	leua	- creeper
	meua	– bamboo shoot
	geulang	– open
	theubw	– even then
/wi/	khwizema	- a bigger species of ant
	dwima	-big river
	nwizi	- twenty
	bwisw	– age
	phwisa	- paisa
/ao/	maothi	- active
	daokha	– crow
	daozw	-hen
/oi/	soiti	- truth
	goira	- bent
	soihanggar	- damage
/wu/	khwuse	– unity
	dwuri	– priest

Final position:

/ai/	mai	- paddy
	lai	– leaf
	phai	- to come
	gai	– cow
	rai	- to scold
	phongbai	- younger brother
/ui/	dui	- to be small
	Mui	- ladder

/eu/	seu	- to decay
	Kheu	- to open
	beu	- here
/wi/	thwi	- blood
	mwi	-deer
	gurwi	- soft
	dwi	-water
	mwdwi	-tears
/ao/	dao	- bird
	mao	- to do
	lao	- long gourd
	sao	- to burn
	hinzaο	- wife
	thao	- oil
/iu/	ziu	- life
	phiu	- in a hopping way
/oi/	goi	- areca nut
	khoi	- to copulate
	soi	- six
/wu/	swu	- to bite
	dwu	- to feed
	emphwu	- insect

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