

Word-Order in Boro Language

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Abstract: The present study attempts to analysis and to discuss about the word-order of the Boro language. The Boro language is originated from the Tibeto-Burman group of Sino-Tibetan language family. The language is mainly spoken in Assam and its adjacent areas or countries of India. Like Nepal, Meghalaya, Bangladesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, West Bengal etc. The Boro language has some special features in terms of using word-order pattern and it found in different types. The Boro language is found in SOV word-order pattern mainly and along with this pattern there are different types of word-orders in that language. The Tibeto-Burman languages are found in verb-final position. The Boro language is same in such feature.

Keywords: Word-order, Boro, Language, SOV, OSV

1. Introduction

Boro is the name of the community as well as the language. The Boro language belongs to Sino-Tibetan language family. This stock originated in the plain areas of Yang-Tsze-Kiang and Huang-ho rivers in China. Now, this language family is well spread throughout the eastern and south-eastern parts of Asia including Burma and North eastern parts of India including Assam (MR Baro, 2007:1). The Boro language originated from the Tibeto-Burman sub family of Sino-Tibetan language family. Its well spread throughout the Assam specially in the northern parts of Assam and its adjacent areas. In present the Boro language is recognized as a 8th schedule language of India as well as state language of Assam. The language is developing in the field of linguistic as well as literature. They used the Devanagari script as the medium of instruction.

2. Objectives

The specific objectives of the present study are as follows:

- (i) to study about the word-order of the Boro language.
- (ii) to learn about the sentence structures of the Boro language.
- (iii) to develop the linguistically study on Boro language.
- (iv) to promote the Boro Language in the world.

3. Discussion

Tibeto-Burman languages have normally OV type of word order except Karen and Bai groups (Dryer, 2008, p-1). So, the Bodo has also OV type of word order. Generally, Bodo is a verb-final language. The normal word order of Bodo language is SOV. Bodo has nominative accusative cases marking system; the nominative case follows the subject and accusative case follows the object in the language. Tenses, aspects and moods follow the verbs in Bodo. The word order of the language has discussed below in details.

3.1 SOV order

Most of the transitive verbs' simple sentences in Bodo language follow the SOV word order. For example:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Object</u>	<u>Verb</u>
ram-a	uŋk ^h am	za-juu
ram-NOM	rice	eat-HAB

(Ram eats rice.)

In the above example, /ram/ is the subject /uŋk^ham/ is the object and /za/ is the verb. The above three sentences have constructed in the form of SOV order.

3.2 SV order

The intransitive verbs' simple sentences are formed by SV type of word order in Bodo language. For example:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Verb</u>
aŋ	sansri-juu
I	swim-HAB
(I swims)	

In the above example, /aŋ/ is the subject /sansri/ is the verb.

3.3 OSV order

The OSV word order also permits in Bodo language. When a speaker want to more focus the object at that time OSV order is used by the speaker. The OSV order is found in affirmative, negative and interrogative sentences in Bodo while object is more focused. While the object occurs in OSV order in that case the accusative case marker obligatorily suffixes to the object. For example:

Affirmative sentence

<u>Object</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Verb</u>
uŋk ^h ri-k ^h uu	aŋ	ran-guun
curry-ACC	I	distribute-FUT
(I will distribute the curry.)		

Object=/uŋk^hri/ subject=/aŋ/ verb=/ran/

Negative sentence

<u>Object</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Verb</u>
omabedor-k ^h uu	rina-ja	za-ja
pork-ACC	rina-NOM	eat-NEG
(Rina doesn't eat the pork.)		

Object=/omabedor/ subject=/rina/ verb=/za/

3.4 OV order

OV order also permits in Bodo language. Most of the Subjects are hided in imperative, prohibitive and interrogative sentences in Bodo. The OV orders of the Bodo sentences are given below.

The imperative sentences are formed by OV order in Bodo, for example:

<u>Object</u>	<u>Verb</u>
uŋk ^h am-k ^h uu	za-duu
rice-ACC	eat-IMP
(Eat the rice.)	

Object=/uŋk^ham/ verb=/za/

3.5 OVS order

When a speaker suddenly expresses or strongly expresses about the object in this case OVS word order is formed in Bodo sentences. Both the affirmative and negative sentences can follow OVS word order. When a speaker strongly asks the question face to face in this case also OVS order is formed in Bodo. These sentences examples are given below.

Affirmative sentence

<u>Object</u>	<u>Verb</u>	<u>Subject</u>
ʉŋk ^h ri	soŋ-duŋ ai-ja	
curry	cook-RLS	my mom-NOM
(My mom is cooking (a) curry.)		
Object=/ʉŋk ^h ri/	verb=/soŋ/	subject=/ai/

Negative sentence

<u>Object</u>	<u>Verb</u>	<u>Subject</u>
haba	ruŋ-a	hinzaŋ-wa
work	know-NEG	woman-NOM
(The woman doesn't know how to work.)		

3.6 Adjective precedes and follows the head noun

Dryer (2008) mentioned that some of the Tibeto-Burman languages allow AdjN/NAdj both the types of word order (that is in Themsen Amdo, Manange, Jugli, Lungchang, Chang etc.). Present data also shows that the AdjN/NAdj types of word order allow in Bodo language.

<u>Adjective</u>	<u>Noun</u>
səmaina sik ^h la-ja met ^h ai	k ^h ən-duŋ
beautifulgirl-NOM	song sing-RLS
(The beautiful girl is singing a song.)	
Adjective = /səmaina/	Noun = /sik ^h la/

<u>Noun</u>	<u>Adjective</u>
gət ^h ə	gurlui-ja undu-bai
child	small-NOM sleep-PERF
(A baby has slept.)	
Noun = /gət ^h ə/	Adjective = /gurlui/

3.7 Numeral classifier precedes and follows the head noun

Basic numerals are bound form in Bodo which occur by prefixing numeral classifiers. The numeral classifiers can occur in both the position i.e. by preceding head nouns or by following head nouns.

<u>Numeral classifier</u>	<u>Noun</u>
ma-ba	suima

CL-five	dog
(Five dogs)	
<u>Noun</u>	<u>Numeral classifier</u>
bibar	bar-ba
flower	CL-five
(Five flowers)	

3.8 Adverb precedes the adjective

The order of the adverb places before the adjective in Bodo. Adverb not only precedes the verbs but also precedes the adjective in the language. Some of the examples are given below to understand the order of the adverb and adjective.

	<u>Adverb</u>	<u>Adjective</u>	
onzalu-wa	zubuur	muzaj	seŋgra
onzalu-NOM	very	good	boy
(Onzalu is a very good boy.)			
Adverb	= /zubuur/	Adjective	= /muzaj/

3.9 Auxiliary verb followed the main verb:

It is also important to notice the order of the main verb and auxiliary verb in the sentence of Bodo language. If the sentence is constructed with the two verbs i.e. main and auxiliary verbs (be verbs), the main verb is preceded the auxiliary verb in Bodo language. Consider the following examples.

aŋ	t ^h aŋ-gasinu	dəŋ
I	go-PROG	be
(I am going.)		
Subject=/aŋ/	main verb=/t ^h aŋ/	be verb=/dəŋ/

4. Conclusion

The above discussion clearly shows that the basic word order of the Bodo language is SOV. The SOV type of word order is found in affirmative, negative, interrogative sentences. The other word orders of the language are OSV, OV and OVS. The OSV type of word order allows while a speaker wants to more focus the object. The OV types of word order allows in imperative, prohibitive and interrogative sentences. The OVS type of word order permits while a speaker suddenly expresses or strongly expresses about the object or strongly asks the question face to face. Bodo is a verb-final language. It has nominative accusative cases marking system; the nominative case marks with the subject and accusative case marks with the object.

The order of the adverb occurs before the verbs as well as before the adjectives in Bodo. Auxiliary verbs follow the main verbs. Adjectives can precede the head nouns and also it can follow the nouns. Both the type of orders AdjN/NAdj allow in Bodo. Relative clause precedes the head nouns in Bodo. It has RelN type of word order. Demonstrative pronoun precedes the head noun in Bodo. It has DemN type of word order; it doesn't allow NDem type of word order.

The order of the numeral classifier can occur in both the position i.e. by preceding head nouns or by following head nouns. Bodo has two types of negative affixes i.e. /da-/ and /-a/. /da-/ is a negative imperative marker which precedes the main verb and the /-a/ is a negative suffix which affixes after the main verbs.

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