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Gender distinction on Bodo and Hajong: A comparative study

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Abstract

The Bodo and Hajong both the tribal ethnic communities of Assam. Which falls under the Bodo group of Assam Burmese of the language of Sino-Tibetan language family, Gender is a part of Morphology, Bodo and Hajong languages of such kind that have natural gender. Former scholars who have works a lot on the grammatical structure in accordance with traditional notions basically in Bodo and Hajong classified in to three categories including Masculine and Feminine gender and unique. The data is future collected from different written documents like books, magazine, newspaper, thesis and research journals which are given lots of idea of Bodo and Hajong gender distinction. For lots of words collected from Native speakers of Bodo and Hajong.

Keywords: Parental attitude, participation, sports, girls

Introduction

The Bodo and Hajong both are tribal ethnic communities of Assam Racially both the languages anthropologically and linguistically belongs to the Mongoloid Tibeto- Chinese (Sino- Tibetan) language family. The original homeland of this is the North Western China between the head of the Huang ho and Yang-tse-kiang river area.

Now a days the bodo people are found in every district of Assam among them are kokrajhar, Baksa, Chirang, Udalguri Goalpara, Karbialong, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur and Dima Hasao. Moreover they are also found in Arunachal Pradesh Nagaland M heghalaya Tripura and west Bengal and neighdoring countries of Assam like Nepal and Bangladish. On the other hand, the Hajong people are found in Assam Meghalaya, Tripura Arunachal Pradesh and neighbouring country Bangladesh.

Methodology

The data collection of information from necessary survey in the respective areas by observation questionnaire, tap recording, group discussion and Interview. For secondary data collection, already collected materials.

Discussion

Gender is a part of morphology. David crystal discussed gender as “A grammatical category used for the analyses as masculine, feminine and neture, animate and inanimate etc” (crystal 2008:206). In Bodo, naturally gender is seen (masculine and feminine), where sex can be distinguished by real-world. The noun inanimate objects have no gender in both Bodo and Hajong language.

In between Bodo and Hajong languages, there are some similarties and among the principles of gender formation. The principles of gender formation in Bodo and Hajong languages are described broadly.

In Bodo and Hajong languages, there are three types of principles to change the form of Gender. These are given below-

- i) Using free words.
- ii) Adding different types of words which indicates the masculine and feminine before or after noun words
- iii) Adding the suffix that denotes the feminine gender.

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Using free words

The gender can be changed by using different types of free words for feminine and masculine gender.

Bodo

Masculine	Meaning	Feminine	Meaning
ap ^h a	'my father'	ai/yai	'my mother'
abuu	'my grandmother'	abuui	'my grandmother'
gumui	'elder sisters husband'	abɔ	'my elder sister'
Ada	'my elder brother'	bazui	'elder brother wife'
p ^h onbai	'younger brother'	binanau	'younger sister'
p ^h isai	'Husband'	Bhisi	'wife'
Chengra	'young man'	Chikhla	'young women'
adui	'uncle(father yonger brother)'	madui	'uncle wife'
burai	'old man'	burui	'old women'

Hajong

Masculine	Meaning	Faminine	Meaning
baba	'my father'	Aaiya	'my mother'
ajo	'my grandfather'	Abu	'my grandmother'
morod	'man'	Timat	'women'
nunu	'younger brother'	buiny	'younger sister'

Adding different words before or after noun

There are some words in Bodo that express the feminine and Masculine for men, birds and animals. In this case gender is changed by using independent words- zu-zuula, (phanthi-phantha, ban̄gri-ban̄gra, dondi-dondha before and after the noun to represent female & male respectively.e.g.-

Bodo:

-zuula meaning 'cock' and -zu meaning 'hen' e.g.-
 daɔ-zuula (cock) daɔ-zu (hen)
 daɔ^hu-zuula (dove) daɔ^hu-zu (female dove)

In case of male and female person indicating-

P^hisa-zuula (son) p^hisa-zu (dauther)
 p^hisuu-zuula (grandson) p^hisuu-zuula (grand dauther)

bunda meaning male of cate, pig and dog and bundi, meaning female of cat, pig and dog, e.g.-

mauzi bunda 'male cat' mauzi bundi 'female cat'
 ɔma bunda 'male pig' ɔma bundi 'female pig'
 suima bunda 'male dog' suima bundi 'female dog'

p^hant^ha meaning male of cat, pig and bundi, meaning female of cat, pig and dog, e.g.-
 buirma p^hant^ha 'he goat' buirma p^hant^hi 'she goat'

ban̄gra meaning 'male dog' ban̄gri meaning of female dog, e.g.-
 suima ban̄gra 'male dog' suima ban̄gri meaning of 'female dog' etc

donda meaning 'male of crow' and dondi 'female crow' e.g.-
 Dakh^ha donda 'male crow' daɔk^ha dondi 'female crow'

bun̄ga meaning male of rate and bun̄gi female of rate, e.g.
 enzur bun̄ga 'male of rate' enzur bun̄gi 'female rat'

Hajong

In Hajong languages 'morod' means male and maiya or timat means female and in case of non-human they use 'makta' male and makti 'female' before the noun represent.

Hajong

Masculine Meaning	Feminine Meaning
morot maan 'male person'	maiya/timat man 'female person'
morot saoa 'son'	maiya/timat maan 'femal person'
morot goru 'bull'	maiya/timat goru 'cow'

Noun relating to non-humans

Masculine Meaning	Faminine Meaning
makta chare 'cock'	makti chare 'hen'
makta kuyuu 'male crow'	makti kuyuu 'female crow'
makta huyur 'male pig'	makti huyur 'female pig'

Adding suffix

According to many linguistics the third principal of changing gender is not found in sino-Tibetan Language family. Generally the use of this principal belongs to the Indo-Aryan language family. Therefore it can be said that it's the influenced by Indo-Aryan language in bodo. There are three suffixes-i-u and {-e} which can be added to male denoting animates ending with vowel / {-a} and change the gender from male or female. There suffix also.

{-i}: The suffix-I can be added to masculine indicating words ended with[a] and change the gender from masculine to feminine.it has rare occurrence in the language. E. g-

Bodo

Masculine Meaning	Feminine Meaning
zamba 'fool man'	zamb-i 'fool women'
p ^h agla 'mad man'	p ^h agl-i 'made woman'
benga 'deaf man'	beng-i 'deaf women'
k ^h ana 'blind man'	k ^h an-i 'blind women'
balonda 'windower'	balond-i 'window'
gendra 'pot bellied man'	gendr-i 'polt bellied woman'
k ^h anda 'flat nosed man'	k ^h and-i 'flat nosed woman'

{-u}: The suffix -u can added to few nouns ended with {-a} to change the gender from Masculine to feminine e.g.-

Masculine Meaning	Feminine Meaning
hait ^h a 'short man'	hait ^h -u 'short lady'
gait ^h a 'short man'	gait ^h -u 'short lady'

{-e}: the suffix {-e} can also be added to few numbers of nouns ended with vowel {-a} and change the gender from masculine to feminine e.g.-

Masculine meaning	Feminine meaning
nabla 'flat nose man'	nabl-e 'flat nose woman'
hoŋla 'ugly faced man'	hoŋl-e 'ugly faced woman'

In Hajong language also gender can be changed by adding suffixes to the words that ended with vowel {-a}. There are suffixes like {-i}, {-oni}, {-ni} {-ini}, {-ri} and other feminine denoting suffixes.

{-i}: the suffixes {-i} added to those nouns ending with vowel {-a} to change masculine to feminine gender. E.g.-

Hajong

Masculine meaning	Feminine meaning
genda 'boy'	gend-i 'girl'
seŋgra 'man'	seŋgr-i 'girl'
bura 'old man'	bur-i 'old women'
mama 'uncle'	mam-i 'aunty'
pagol 'mad man'	pagl-i 'mad woman'

The suffix {-i} can also be added to the nouns to indicate female without changing the {-a} vowel ending male denoting words e.g.-

Masculine meaning	Feminine meaning
harin 'male deer'	harin-I 'female deer'
bandor 'male monkey'	bandorn-I 'female monkey'

{-oni}: the feminine suffix {-oni} is added to the professional indicating nouns in Hajong Language. e.g.-

Masculine Meaning	Feminine meaning
master 'male teacher'	master-oni 'female gender'
chor 'male thief'	chor-oni 'female thif'
doctor 'male doctor'	doctor-oni 'female doctor'

{-ni}: The {-ni} feminine suffix can be added to male denoting nouns to derive feminine gender. E.g.-

Masculine meaning	Feminine Meaning
nati 'grand son'	nati-ni 'grand daughter'

{-ini}: The suffix {-ini} can be added to male denoting nouns to derive female in hajong language. E.g.-

Masculine meaning	Feminine meaning
bak 'tiger'	bak-ini 'tigeress'
singho 'lion'	singh-ini 'lioness'

Unique gender

In addition to all these Bodo has certain nouns which are uniquely masculine and feminine. For example-

(a) **Unique Masculine:** In Bodo languages there are some masculine nouns which are always masculine and do not have corresponding feminine nouns. For example-

Bodo

badari 'wood cutter'

barlampha 'a traditional folk dancer of Bodo who participates marriage ceremony'

duuri 'priest'

lauk^har 'cowboy'

(b) **Unique feminine:** The following nouns are always feminine and do have corresponding masculine nouns. for example-

Bodo

aduŋgari 'an aged unmarried lady'

bok^hali 'a babys nurse'

duudini 'a woman folk dancer who participates in kherain puja'

sundaari 'a naughty girl'

randi 'widow'

There are some nouns in Hajong which always indicate feminine gender; they have no masculine forms in opposition. For example-

aduŋgiri 'an aged unmarried lady'

Conclusions

From the above discussion it is seen that thought Bodo and Hajong languages are originated from same source. Though originated from same source maximum gender indicated words and suffixes in Hajong. But those words which have been borrowed from other languages into Hajong language is borrowed from Aryan languages, basically from Assamese and Bangla language. So it is seen that gender distinction in somewhat a little.

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