



Dual case marking system in Bodo

Bridul Basumatary

Research Scholar, Dept. of Bodo, Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, Assam, India

Abstract

The Study aims to highlight the Case markers in Bodo specially the dual case marking system. The Bodo is a Tribal language of north east India which belongs to the Tibeto-Burman branch of the greater Sino-Tibetan language family. The Bodo has eight main case markers. These case markers are morphologically marked as a suffix form with Nouns or pronouns. It is important to know that in Bodo, the genitive case marker can accommodate almost all other case markers along with it, except the ablative case marker. This duality case marking system is a special character of the Bodo language.

Keywords: case, case markers, dual case marking

1. Introduction

The Bodos of Assam belong to the Tibeto-Burman branch of the sino-Tibetan Language family. The word 'Bodo' denotes both the Language as well as the community. This 'Bodo' term was firstly used by the B.H. Hodgson for this community. The Bodo Language was recognised as the medium of instruction in the school level from 1963 and it was recognised as the Associate State Language of Assam in 1985. At present it has got recognised as an Indian Languages in the 8th scheduled of the Indian constitution in the year of 2003.

1.1 Methodology

The present data is collected from both the Primary and secondary sources. The primary data is collected through the questionnaire and personal observations at field work and the

secondary data are collected from the different books, Novel, short stories and Journals.

1.2 Objectives of the study

- To explore the dual case-marking system in Bodo.
- To explore why the genitive case-marker accommodates the other case markers.
- Try to find out some more characters of case marking system in Bodo.

1.3 Case and case-markers

The Bodo language has eight main case markers. These case markers are morphologically marked as suffix form with Nouns or pronouns. These case and case-markers are as given below:

Table 1

Case	Case-markers
Nominative	-a, u
Accusative	-k ^h uo
Instrumental	-zuŋ
Dative	-nu
Ablative	-nip ^h raj
Genitive	-ni
Locative	-ao
Possessive	-ha

1.4 Dual Case marking system

The Bodo has duality characters in case marking system. It is important to know that the genitive case marker can accommodate all the other case markers along with it, except the ablative case-marker. This duality Case marking character is mostly seen on the conversation between two or more person. It is a special character of the Bodo Language. These case marking processes are as discussed below-

1.4.1 Genitive+Nominative

The Genitive case marker in Bodo is {-ni} which is used with the Nouns or Pronouns and the Nominative case indicate the subject of verb and its Case marker in Bodo is {-a}, and {-u}. The Nominative case marker {-a} has its allomorphs {-ja}, and {-wa}. The {-a} is used with the consonant ending nouns and its allomorph {-ja} and {-wa} is used with the vowel ending nouns. The {-w} is used with the consonant

ending Pronouns and {-ju} is used with the vowel ending pronouns as a suffix form. These Nominative case markers are attached with the genitive case marker. For example-

nuŋ-ni	k ^h olom-a	muzaŋ	Noŋa
You-GEN	pen-NOM	good	Not
nat ^h ai	aŋ-ni-ja	muzaŋ	
but	I-GEN-NOM	good	

‘Yours pen is not good but my pen is good.’

aŋ-ni	bizab-a	gu-ja	nuŋ-ni-ja	Doŋ
I-GEN	book-NOM	have-NEG	you-GEN-NOM	have

‘My book is not there but yours book is there’

From the above example we come to know that the Noun ‘k^holom’ (pen) is drop out in the first sentence and the Noun ‘bizab’ (book) is drop out in the second sentence in the second clause of the sentence and the Nominative case marker of this noun is attached with the genitive case marker {-ni} of the pronoun ‘nuŋ’ (You).

1.4.2 Genitive-Accusative

The accusative case marker in Bodo is {-k^huo} which is used to mark the direct object of a verb. The Genitive case marker takes the Accusative case marker along with it. For Example

nuŋ-ni	bizab-k ^h uo	labu	naŋa	aŋ-ni	bizab-k ^h uo	labu
you-GEN	book-ACC	bring	not	I-GEN	book-ACC	bring

‘Don’t bring yours book, bring my book.’

nuŋ-ni	bizab-k ^h uo	labu	naŋa	aŋ-ni-k^huo	labu
You-GEN	book-ACC	bring	not	I-GEN-ACC	bring

‘Don’t bring yours book, bring mine one.’

From the above two example we have seen that in the first sentence the noun ‘bizab’ (book) is not drop out and its accusative case marker is attached with it. But in the second sentence we have seen that the noun ‘bizab’ (book) is drop out and the genitive case marker {-ni} of personal pronoun ‘aŋ’ is accommodate the accusative case marker {-k^huo} of the drop out noun along with it.

1.4.3. Genitive+Instrumental

The instrumental case is used to mark the action of a verb which is the case of instrument. The Instrumental case marker in Bodo is {-zuŋ}. This case marker also cleave attached with the Genitive case marker. For Example

nuŋ-ni	daba-zuŋ	hanaŋ-a	aŋ-ni	daba-zuŋ	Ha
you-GEN	knife-INS	cut-NEG	I-GEN	knife-INS	cut

‘Don’t cut with yours knife, cut with my knife.’

nuŋ-ni	daba-zuŋ	hanaŋ-a	aŋ-ni-zuŋ	ha
you-GEN	knife-INS	cut-NEG	I-GEN-INS	cut

‘Don’t cut with yours knife, cut with mine.’

From the above example we come to know that the Noun ‘daba’ (knife) is not drop out in the first sentence and The Noun ‘daba’ (knife) is drop out in the second sentence and its Instrumental case marker {-zuŋ} is cleave attached with the genitive case marker {-ni} of the Personal pronoun ‘aŋ’.

1.4.4 Genitive+Dative

The Dative case marker in Bodo is {-nu} which is used to mark the indirect object of a verb. This case marker also cleave attached with the Genitive case marker. For Example

be	bizab-k ^h uo	nuŋ-ni	muzaŋmunnai-nu	hor
This	book-ACC	you-GEN	Lover-DAT	give

‘Give this book to yours lover.’

be	bizab-k ^h uo	nuŋ-ni-nu	hor
This	book-ACC	you-GEN-DAT	give

‘Give this book to yours one.’

From the above two example we come to know that in the first sentence the noun ‘muzaŋmunnai’ is not drop out but in the second sentence that noun is drop out and its Dative case marker {-nu} is cleave together with the genitive case marker {-ni} of the Personal pronoun ‘nuŋ’ (you).

1.4.5 Genitive+Locative

The locative case marker in Bodo is {-ao}. It has allomorphs {-jao} and {-wao}. The {-ao} is used with consonant ending nouns as a suffix form while the {-jao} and {-wao} are used with the front vowel ending nouns and back vowel ending nouns as a suffix form respectively. The Genitive case marker takes the locative case marker along with it. For Example.

nuŋ-ni	ak ^h aj-ao	besebaŋ	raŋ	doŋ?
You-GEN	hand-LOC	howmuch	money	have?

‘How much money do you have on your hand?’

nuŋ-ni-ao	besebaŋ	raŋ	doŋ?
You-GEN-LOC	howmuch	money	have?

‘How much money do you have on your hand?’

From the above two example we come to know that in the first sentence the noun ‘ak^haj’ is not drop out but in the second sentence that noun is drop out and its Locative case marker {-ao} is cleave together with the genitive case marker {-ni} of the Personal pronoun ‘nuŋ’ (you).

1.4.6 Genitive+Possessive

The Possessive case is that case which expressed the possession of something. The possessive case marker in Bodo is {-ha} which is used with the nouns or pronouns. The Genitive case marker takes the Possessive case marker also along with it. For Example.

aŋ-ni	muzaŋmunnai-ha	Sona-ni	mala	doŋ
I-GEN	Lover-POSS	Gold-GEN	chain	have
nat ^h ai	nuŋ-ni	muzaŋmunnai-ha	guija	
but	you-GEN	Lover-POSS	have-NEG	

‘My lover has a Gold chain but yours lover doesn’t have gold chain.’

aŋ-ni	muzaŋmunnaj-ha	Sona-ni	mala	doŋ
I-GEN	Lover-POSS	Gold-GEN	chain	have
nat ^h ai	nuŋ-ni-ha	guuija		
but	you-GEN-POSS	have-NEG		

‘My lover has a Gold chain but yours lover doesn’t have gold chain.’

From the above example we come to know that in the first sentence the verbal noun ‘muzaŋmunnajha’ is not drop out but in the second sentence that verbal noun is drop out and its Possessive case marker is cleave together with the genitive case marker of the Personal pronoun.

1.4.7 Instrumental-Accusative

This Instrumental and Accusative case marker combination also rarely seen in Bodo. For Example-

at ^h iŋ-zuŋ	t ^h abajnanui	t ^h aŋnaŋguo-k ^h uo	t ^h aŋa
Foot-INS	walking	go-ACC (verbal Noun)	go-NEG

‘Walking by foot won’t go.’

at^hiŋ-zuŋ-k^huo	t ^h aŋa
Foot-INS-ACC	go-NEG

‘By foot won’t go.’

1.5 Conclusion

This article has discussed the dual case marking system in Bodo. From the discussion of this paper it is extracted that apart from generally used case markers some most interesting dual case marker also used in many occasion in Bodo language and it can be said that this dual case marking system is a special character of the Bodo Language. The uses of dual case marking are mostly seen in the conversation of two person or dialogues of dramas or novels. From discussion it is clear that the noun uses in the second clouse of a sentence is always drop out and the case marker of this noun is always come attached with the subject pronouns or nouns followed by the genitive case marker. This type of pattern is very much prevalent in Bodo Language.

2. References

1. Brahma Aleendra. Modern Bodo Grammar. N.L. Publications, Panbazar, Guwahati, 2013.
2. Basumatary Phukan. An Introduction to the Boro Language. New Delhi: Mittal publications, 2005.
3. Bhattacharya, Pramod Chandra. A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language. Gauhati University publication, 1977.
4. Boro, Madhu Ram. The Historical Development of Boro Language. N.L. publication, New ed., 2007.
5. Boro, Madhu Ram. Gwjwo Raokhanthi. N.L. Publication, 3rd ed., 2005.
6. Chainary, Swarna Prabha. Boro Raokhanti. Guwahati-35: Gumur Punlication, 2nd ed., 2008.