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The particle in Bodo language: A brief study

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Abstract
The Bodo language is originated from the Tibeto-Burman group of Sino-Tibetan language family. The language is quite extensive and mainly spoken in Assam and its adjacent areas. The Bodo language has some characteristics in terms of using particles. There are different types of particles in Bodo language. This paper attempts to discuss about the types, usages and structures of particle used in the language. The different types of particles are interrogative particle, negative particle, conjunction particle, emphatic particle, exclusive particle, inclusive particle etc. Particles are discussed under the syntactic structure or in the syntax.

Keywords: Bodo, language, particle, types, usages

1. Introduction
Bodo is the name of the community as well as the language. Linguistically, the Bodo language belongs to Sino-Tibetan language family. This language family has two main branches such as Sino-Tibetan proper and probably early modification of Sino-Tibetan. The sub-branches of Sino-Tibetan proper are the Tibeto-Burman and Siamese-Chinese. The Tibeto-Burman group has four major branches which are– Himalayan, Tibetan, North-Assam, and Assam-Burmese. Bodo language is found under the Bodo group which is the sub-group of Bodo-Naga that belongs to the Assam-Burmese branch. The speakers of the Bodo language are found mainly in BTC area and can also be found more or less in all the districts of Assam and some adjacent areas of Meghalaya, Arunachal-Pradesh, Nagaland, West-Bengal and adjoining areas of Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan etc.

1.1 Definition and Meaning
A particle is a function word that must be associated with any words or phrases to impart meaning. In Bodo, the Particles are found as word base or free form and bound or suffix form. Following are the different kinds of particle which are based on bound morpheme. The particles express their individual meaning in syntactic constructions.
As far as the data concern, the particle of Bodo language can grouped in two parts i.e. Word base or free morpheme particle and Bound morpheme or suffix base particle. Free form of particle can stand alone. Such particles no need to take any affixes. The free form of particle is based on modality and connection. The modality expresses about the emphasis, negation, interrogation, exclamation and the connection expresses about to connect between the clauses or sentence.

2. Method
In this research paper I used the descriptive method to find out the structures and types of particle of the Bodo language. The data were collected mainly from secondary sources. Firstly I began to gather various data or reference books etc. After the collection of sufficient data I started to write my research paper. Sometimes I used observation method when it was needed. It was helpful for me to write this research paper that myself a native speaker of the said language. During the writing of this research paper I studied many relevant reference books and articles and I was started my writing. In this paper I included the entire topic related points as well as sub-headings. Lastly I was explained them properly along with examples

3. Result and Discussion
3.1 Interrogative Particle: (INTP)
An interrogative particle is that where the speaker wants to know based on the different question particles in the sentence or a clause. There are different types of question particles in Bodo i.e. *ma, sɯr, bɔbe, bɯrɯ, bɔha* etc. These all particles can add any case marker in the sentence and also occur as a head word in the sentence. They are discussed as below: for example;

ma:	ma	za-dɯŋ?	
	INTP	happen-RLS	
	(What are you eating?)		
sɯr:	nɯŋ-zɯŋ	sɯr	$t^haŋ$-gɯn?
	you-INST	INTP	go-FUT
	(Who will go with you?)		
bɔbe:	sik^hla-ja	bɔbe	zaiga-ni?
	girl-NOM	INTP	place-GEN
	(Where is the girl from?)		

3.2 Conjunction Particle: (CP)
There are different types of conjunctional particles in Bodo. Such particles make a conjunction between the two or more clauses, phrases or any sentences. The conjunctional particles of the Bodo language are as follow- *arɯ, eba* etc. for example;

arɯ:	ada arɯ abɔ-wa	$p^hɔraisali$-jao	$t^haŋ$-bai
	Brother CP	sister-NOM	school-LOC go-PERF
	(Brother and sister had gone to the school)		

eba: aŋ eba ada-ja pʰɔraisali-jao tʰaŋ-gɯn
I CP brother-NOM school-LOC go-FUT
(either I or elder brother will go to school)

3.3 Disjunction Particle: (DISP)
There are some connective particles found in Bodo. But their functions are seems as disjunction between the two phrases or clauses or sentences. So it can be named as disjunction particle. Such particles are *natʰai, teobɯ, obla*. Some of the examples are given below along with descriptions. For example;

natʰai: gɔbla-ja tʰaŋ-gɯn natʰai aŋ tʰaŋ-a
gɔbla-NOM go-FUT DISP I go-NEG
(Gobla will go but I'm not)

obla: bi-kʰɯu-bɯ mao-nɯ hɯ obla aŋ-bɯ mao-gɯn
S/he-ACC-INCL do-NF give DISP I-INCL do-FUT
(Let him to do then I'll be do (it))

3.4 Interjectional Particle: (INTP)
The main concept of the interjectional particle is surprise, pain, appreciation, assent, and diverse feelings as well as reaction of the human beings and nature. Such particles are also found as reduplication and sometimes in exclamation word too. For example:

ajɔ! dukʰutʰija gɔtʰɔ
INTJP poor child
(Ah! what a poor boy)

Such particle are expresses the sympathy of someone in a painful condition.

ayɯu! mansi-ja gitʰao-batʰao-tʰar
INTJP person-NOM danger-RED-INTENS
(Ah! The person is so danger)

The *ayɯu* particle denotes the terror or fearful expression.

3.5 Comparative particle: (COP)
Comparative particle are occurred between the two different clauses or sentences to show the comparison of the clauses or phrases. These particles are viz. *zerɯi erɯi* and *badi*. The particle *zerɯi* and *erɯi* are found in the two different clauses or sentences, but these two particles are occurred in the initial part of the two different clauses and even in sentences. One interesting point is that the two different particles *zerɯi* and *erɯi* are never changed their places. *zerɯi* always occurs initial word of the first clause and *erɯi* always occurs in initial word of the next clause. That means *zerɯi* always precedes the *erɯi*. The particle *badi* occurs in phrase level to compare a noun. For example:

(i) zerɯi bipʰa erɯi pʰisala
COP father COP son
(Like father like son)

(ii) zerɯi məhɔr erɯi akɔl
COP shape COP manner
(Like shape like manner)

3.6 Negative Particle: (NEGP)
Negative particle is an important particle among the particles. There are two kinds of negative particles found in Bodo. But the important point is that all negative particles are found in the form of affixes i.e. prefix *da-* and suffix *-a* or *-ja*. *da-* is a prefix particle and it express the meaning of protection. *-ja* is a negative suffix particle. The particle does not have an independent meaning as well as never stand alone. It completes its meaning after accompanied along with the verb. It is attached with the verb as a suffix. These are given below:

(i) aŋ kʰamani mao-wa
I work do-NEGP
(I don't do the work)

(ii) bi-jɯ pʰɔraisali-jao tʰaŋ-a
s/he-NOM school-LOC go-NEGP
(S/He doesn't go to the school)

3.7 Emphatic Particle: (EMP)
The emphatic Particles are arranged morphologically in the sentence where the sentences are given emphasis on it. There is large number of emphatic particles in Bodo. Among them some of the particles are used as frequently and some are not. Following are the examples of emphatic Particles in Bodo. The Bodo imphatic particles are; /-nɯ/-di/-hai/-sɯ/ etc.

/-nɯ/ : aŋ mansi-kʰɯ-nɯnua-kʰɯi.
I person–ACC-EMP see-PERF
(I have not seen the person)

/-di/ : aŋ-dinɯŋ-kʰɯu naigir-dɯŋ-mɯn
I-EMP you-ACC search-RLS-PST
(I was searching for you)

3.8 Inclusive Particle: (INCL)
The term of inclusive means an inclusion. In Bodo, inclusive particle denotes with the bound morpheme of *-bɯ*. This inclusive particle is added along with different words (noun, pronoun, adjective etc.). So, such inclusive particles are expressing the purposes of inclusion in a sentence. The inclusive particle is few in numbers in comparison to other particles of the language. Following are the example of inclusive particle:

dinɯi aŋ-bɯ maokɔ-wao tʰaŋ-dɯŋ-mɯn
Today I-INCL office-LOC go-RLS-PST
(I also went to the office today)

3.9 Exclusive Particle: (EXCL)
The Exclusive Particle is the opposite of inclusive particle. Exclusive particle describes or means of exclusion. Such types of particles are denotes the exclusive meaning of a sentence. The exclusive particle is /-lɔ/. For the Example:

gɔtʰɔ-wa gele-nai-kʰɯu-lɔ mitʰi-jɯ
child-NOM play-NMLZ-ACC-EXCL know-HAB
(The boy only knows how to play)

3.10 Confirmative Particle: (CONF)
The confirmative particle is equal to interrogative particle. The confirmative particle confirms the target or meaning of speakers by based on its particle in the sentence. So, it is called confirmative particle because this type of particle functions to confirm the sentence. In Bodo, the confirmative particles are used as optionally interrogative in the sentence but it is not used as a direct interrogative marker. The

different types of confirmative particles in Bodo are given below:

/-da/: nɯŋ kʰamani-kʰɯu mao-gɯn-da?
You work-ACC do-FUT-CONF?
(Will you do the work?)

/-na/: nɯŋ hatʰai-aotʰaŋ-gɯn-na?
You market-LOC go-FUT-CONF
(Will you go to market?)

3.11 Topic Particle: (TOP)
Topic particle is nothing but the focuses of past statement or any information. Besides this, to stress or focus on the main topic at conversation is also meant a topic particle in the sentence. The morpheme of topic particle is *-tɔ* and it is mainly attached along with the noun or pronoun words. For example:

(i) nɯŋ-tʰɔ zɯŋ-nao pʰɯi-kʰaŋ-bai
You-TOP we-LOC come-past-PERF
(You have already come at our home)

(iii) aŋ-tɔ guɯahati-jao tʰaŋ-kʰaŋ-bai
I-TOP guɯahati-LOC go-advance-PERF
(I have already gone to the Guwahati)

3.12 Comparative Particle: (COP)
The comparative particle is found in the word base particle which is already described at the above analysis. But the same particle is also found in the bound morpheme base particle. Such particle is */-kʰrui/* and such particles are attached along with noun or pronoun word. For example:

(i) hazeo-ni-kʰrui purnima-ja sab-sin
hazeo-GEN-COP purnima-NOM best-ADJLZ
(Purnima is better than Hazeo)

(ii) dɔdere-ja bibari-ni-kʰui der-sin
dɔdere-NOM bibari-GEN-COP big-ADJLZ
(Dodere is bigger than Bibari)

4. Conclusion
From the above analysis it is clear that there are various types of particle in the Bodo language. As per the study, the Bodo particles are found in two types, i.e. word base particle and bound morpheme base particle in the Bodo language. Because there are some particles which are their own independent meaning and such particle are grouped into the word base particle. Such particles are- *bɔbe, sɯr, ma tʰeobɯ, natʰai, and arɯ* etc. have their own meaning. So, these all are word base particle. On the hand, there are also various types of bound morpheme base particle in the Bodo language and such particles have not their independent meaning itself. So, such particles have needed to add along with the free morpheme or any root words. Such particles are- *nɯ, sɯ, tʰɔ, kʰrui, da, lɔ, bɯ and sɯ* etc.
Finally, it is also clear that by using the different particles can expresses various types of meaning in the said language.

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