



Verb phrase in Bodo language

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Abstract

The paper attempts to study base on the different kinds or structures of the verb phrase used in the Bodo language. In the verb phrase the verb is the head word and other phrase or words are depended on it. The verb phrase is a phrasal constituent, composed of at least one verb and its dependents, complements and modifiers. There is not only verbal words in a verb phrase, sometimes noun or phrase words are attached along with the verb but all are depend on verb head-word. The Verb phrase may be a single word or combination of a group of words and they appear within a clause in the sentence. In social environment the verb phrase are also found as idiomatic and non-idiomatic in Bodo language.

Keywords: verb phrase, linguistic, Bodo, language, idiomatic etc.

1. Introduction

Bodo is the name of the community as well as the language. Linguistically, the Bodo language belongs to Sino-Tibetan language family. 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 and the 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 more or less in all the districts of Assam and some adjacent areas of Meghalaya, Arunachal-Pradesh, Nagaland, West-Bengal and adjoining country as Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan etc.

This paper attempts to analyze and to discuss about the verb phrase of Bodo language with base on types or structures. The phrase is a group of words or a single words possibly that forms a constituent and it's discussed under syntax. In addition, phrase is defined as a small group of words standing together as a conceptual unit, typically forming a component of a clause. A phrase is placed its place within a clause or a sentence. The Phrase is function as a constituent in the syntax of a sentence and it is found within a clause. Traditionally, the formation of a sentence through syntactic units are as word>phrase>clause>sentence. It is mentionable that the verb phrases also found in Idiomatic and non-idiomatic form. Verb Phrases are found in some different types.

1.1 Definition and Meaning

A phrase means a sequence of two or more words that can be used in the same constructions as one of its constituent words^[1]. The term 'phrase' is used as 'Bat^hra K^hundtub' in Bodo. Verb phrase is a syntactic unit composed of at least one verb and its dependents, objects, complements and other modifiers but not always including the subject. Sometimes more than one verb is also found in a verb phrase. Generally, verb phrase

Are function like a predicate in the sentence? Verb is the head word in a verb phrase and other words are the modifiers and determiners which are appear at the initial or final position of the head-word and depend on it.

It is important to mention that in a verb phrase there is not only verbal words, sometimes, there may be some noun or other words or phrase are attached but that all are depend on head-word. For example:

uŋk^ham zaduŋ
(eating rice)
Bibar k^haduŋ
(plucking the flower)

The above examples are shown as tree diagrammatically as follows-



2. Method

In this research I used descriptive method to find out the features as well as structures of verb phrase of the Bodo language. The data were collected from secondary sources mainly. First of all, I began to gather all the data or reference books, journal 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.

e.g.:

3. Results and Discussion

3.1 Heads in verb phrase

The role of a 'head' is the main in all phrases. On the other hand, the role of modifiers or dependents is also unavoidable in verb phrase. We can consider the head as conveying a central piece of information and the modifiers as conveying extra information ^[2]. In a phrase, there is one word of supreme importance and some others are adjoined as subordinates and that denoted supreme importance word is known as head in phrase. All phrases are containing a head word and that head word identifies the type and linguistic features of a phrase. In phrase construction the head word is used to name the different types of the phrases. Suppose, when the head word of a phrase is verb then it's called a verb phrase. And the remaining words of a phrase are known as the dependents of the head word. At the following two examples are given herewith to recognize the head word.

e.g.

Saot^hun *naidwng* (VP)
(Watching movie)
zubuud *k^husi* (AP)
(So happy)

At the above examples, there are shown two italic words which are the head words of the phrase. And that head words are identifies the name of different phrases.

3.2 Types of Verb Phrase

With base on structure and meaning, the verb phrase can divided into different types in Bodo.

3.2.1 Structurally

Linguistically, verb phrase can differentiate into two types based on sentence structure. In such verb phrase the head word verb is function the main role of a phrase.

3.2.1.1 Finite Verb Phrase

Finite verb phrase is nothing but a finite verb. It is a complete meaning of a verb phrase within a sentence. In a finite verb phrase a verb that has a tense and has also a subject. The head word of a verb phrase is appears in the final position and express the complete meaning of the sentence.

e.g.

anari-ja *uŋk^ham zabai*.
(Anari has eaten rice)
biyu *nəsim p^huigun*.
(He will come to home)

Italic words of the above two examples are the finite verb phrase. These two examples of verb phrase are completed their full meaning.

3.2.1.2 Infinitive verb phrase

Infinitive verb phrase is that where the meaning of a head word (verb) is not completed their meaning. Something error or absent meaning of head word (verb) is appears in such phrases.

amər-ja *uŋk^ham jana*....
 (After eating the meal Amar is)
 gətə-ja *raga juŋna*
 (With angry the boy is)
 fəraisa-ja *fərais^haliyao t^haŋna*
 (After went to the school the student is)

At the above three examples {-na} is added with head word of verb as suffix, there have seen the uncompleted meaning of verb and those combination of italic words are known as the infinite verb phrase.

3.2.2 Functionally

With base on the function, the verb can divided into three types in Bodo. Those types of verb phrases are different features and meanings with their self.

3.2.2.1 Transitive Verb Phrase

Generally, in those verb phrases where the object along with a head word (verb) is known as transitive verb phrase. And the transitive verb phrase can also divided into two types known as Monotransitive verb phrase and Ditransitive verb phrase. When there is only one direct object in a verb phrase is known as monotransitive verb phrase. On the other hand, where there are two object can add along with the verb is known as ditransitive verb phrase. Some examples are given in below-

- **Monotransitive verb phrase**

dui luŋduŋ.
 (Drinking the water)
hagra dandūŋ.
 (Cutting the grass)

- **Ditransitive verb phrase**

gətənw uŋk^ham duudūŋ.
 (Feeding the rice to child)
sik^hazūŋ muigəŋ hadūŋ.
 (Cutting vegetables by knife)

At the above examples of monotransitive verb phrase and ditransitive verb phrase, there have seen italic words with bold which are placed at the initial of the verb or head word. And it is clear that there is only one direct object with head word in monotransitive verb phrase whereas two objects are shown at the ditransitive verb phrase along with the main verb.

3.2.2.2 Intransitive Verb phrase

Intransitive verb phrase is that where the object is not appears with the verb and that is known as intransitive verb phrase. In such phrases the combination of noun, pronoun are shown as added with the verb. For example-

Afa-ja *undudūŋ*
 (father is sleeping)
 Gətə-ja *f^həraidūŋ*
 (the boy is reading)

At the above two examples there are shown the italic words of verbs (*undudūŋ and fəraidūŋ*) followed by noun. But they have no object with their self.

3.2.2.3 Causative Verb Phrase

When the action of a verb phrase is fulfilling by the help of someone or one another is known as causative verb phrase. There are two causative verb phrases in Bodo, mainly (i) Complex causative verb phrase and (ii) Compound causative verb phrase. The complex causative verb phrases are formed by adding the suffixes with the head word (verb). And the compound causative verb phrase is that where the head word (verb) is added more than one root verbs. And it is also noted that Compound causative verb phrase is formed by adding 'huu' simple verb at any position (initial, middle and final) with the other simple verbs. Some examples are given below.

- **Complex Causative Verb Phrase**

da- v. ja > v. daja (don't)
undui daza (don't be inferior)
 da- v. t^haŋ > v. dat^haŋ (don't go)
dui-jao dat^haŋ (don't go to the river)

- **Compound Causative Verb Phrase**

V. za + v. zwb + v. hw > v. zazubhu (Let to eat completely) *uŋk^hamkuu zazubhuudu*.
 (Let to eat the rice completely)
 V. t^haŋ + v. huu + v. p^hui > v. t^haŋhup^hui (let to go)
no-jao t^haŋhupui
 (Let to go home)

4. Idiomatic Verbal Phrase

In Bodo most of the uses of verbs are found in idiomatic form. Grammatically, the structures of these phrases are generally formed by Noun form plus Verb form (N+ V). And the combination of Noun and verb form functions as a verbal idiom. And that verbal idiom is nothing a verbal phrase. It is idiom; because of the meaning of this combined words are not deducible from the meaning of the each single lexical item. And in view of phrase, it is a verbal phrase, because of these words are formed by a main head word along with noun word. For example:

K^huga-dam (mouth-play=N+V)
 (The person who is only in comment but not in action)
 Hat^hərk^hi-t^huk^hlai (star-plucking=N+V)
 (A Bombastic statement)
 Gust^hi-p^hen (lips-push=N+V)
 (Neglecting)

The above examples are the combination of two words but the words are fixed, it can't fracture. The combination words are the noun added with the head word of verb.

5. Conclusion

From the above study it's proved the main concept of the verb phrase. At the above study, there discussed the different types of the verb phrases as well as structures. In verb phrase, the phrases are formed by adding suffixes with head words or some combination of words. But at all condition, the head word is the main in role. All relevant words are depended to head word of verb in verb phrase. It is important to note that the idiomatic verb phrase is forms by the combination with two or more fixed words.

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