

Personal Pronoun in Bodo

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ABSTRACT

The word 'Bodo' which is also pronounced as 'Boro' denotes both the language and community, which have basic concentration in the northern part of the Brahmaputra valley of Assam. They have also thin concentration in the southern part of the Brahmaputra valley, North Bengal, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Bangladesh and Nepal. The pronoun is an important morphological part of the Bodo linguistic structure. In Bodo, Pronouns are classified into seven classes e.g. Personal, Relative, Reciprocal, Reflexive, Interrogative, Indefinite and Demonstrative. This research paper aims to describe and highlight only the personal pronouns in Bodo. The Bodo personal pronouns have three folds of person distinction. The first person is {aŋ}, second person is {nwaŋ}, and third person is {bi}. All personal pronouns are morphologically inflected with Number, Case marker, Inclusive, Exclusive, Emphatic, Topic, and subjunctive. The special characteristic of personal pronouns in Bodo is that Kinship terms are derived with the pronominal prefixes.

1. Introduction

The Bodo is a developing language of North east India belongs to the Sino-Tibetan Language family. This language is recognized as an Associate State Language of Assam in 1985 and it has got recognized one of the Indian Languages in 2003. According to the Linguistic Census Report, Census of India, 2011 released in June, 2018, the population of Bodo speakers are total 14,82,929 in India.

2. Personal pronoun:

Personal pronoun is a type of Pronoun which is used instead of a noun to express a distinction of person. In Bodo language, personal pronoun has no gender agreement. It has a three-fold of person distinctions, the first fold is the first person 'aŋ', the second fold is the second person 'nwaŋ' or 'nwaŋt^haŋ' (HON), and the third fold is the third person 'bi' or 'bit^haŋ' (HON). The 'nwaŋt^haŋ' of second person and 'bit^haŋ' of third person are in honorific form.

In Bodo, the personal pronoun has some elements, i.e. Number, Case marker, Inclusive, Exclusive, Emphatic, Topic, and subjunctive. All elements are morphologically inflected as suffix form in personal pronoun.

2.1 Number in Personal pronoun:

Personal pronoun has singular and plural number distinctions in Bodo language. The singular personal pronoun is lexical in nature which is morphologically unmarked and plural indicating personal pronouns are morphologically marked except the first person plural lexical item {zwaŋ}. The plural suffixes used in personal pronouns are {-swr} and {-mwun}. The {-swr} plural suffix is used with second person and third person in non-honorific form and plural suffix {-mwun} is used with the second and third person of personal pronoun only in honorific form. Some examples are as follows:

Person	Singular	Plural
1st person	'aŋ'	'zwaŋ'
	I	we

2nd person

'nwaŋ'

You

'nwaŋt^haŋ' (HON)

You (HON)

3rd Person

'bi'

He/she

'bit^haŋ' (HON)

He/she (HON)

'nwaŋswr'

You (plural)

'nwaŋt^haŋmwun' (HON)

You (HON Plural)

'biswr'

he/she (plural)

'bit^haŋmwun' (HON)

He/she (HON plural)

2.2 Case-markers in personal pronoun:

There are ten case markers in Bodo. These are Nominative, Accusative, Genitive, Possessive, Sociative, Dative, Ablative, Locative, Instrumental, and Illative. Except Instrumental all case markers are morphologically inflected as a suffix form in Personal pronoun. Some examples are as follows:

- *bi-w* *aŋ-k^huwu* *liŋhorduw*
He/she-NOM I-ACC call-PROG
'He/she is calling me.'
- *nwaŋ-w aŋ-nw ma labuduw?*
You-NOM I-DAT what bring-PROG
'What do you bring for me?'
- *bi-ni* *bizab-k^huwu* *aŋ-nw labu*
He/she-GEN book-ACC I-DAT bring
'Please bring his/her book to me.'
- *aŋ-ha nwaŋ-nip^hrai bizab gaŋse labwanŋwun*
I-POSS you-ABL book CL-one bring-FUT
'I have to bring a book from you.'
- *nwaŋ-zwaŋ* *sur* *taŋ-gwun?*
You-SOC who go-FUT
'Who will go with you?'

The Locative case marker {-ao} and Illative case marker {-sim} are directly not suffixed in personal pronoun. The Locative and Illative case markers are morphologically marked followed by genitive case marker. This dual case marking system is morphologically present in Bodo language while a noun is covert or drop in the sentence.

Examples are as follows:

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| <i>aŋ-ni-ao</i> | <i>gubəŋ</i> | <i>raŋ</i> | <i>doŋ</i> |
| I-GEN-LOC | more | money | have |

'I have a lot of money.'
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| <i>bik^hwu</i> | <i>aŋnisim</i> | <i>p^hwi-nw</i> | <i>hw</i> |
| he/she-ACC | I-GEN-ILL | come-INF | give |

'Let him/her to come to me.'

2.3 Inclusive and exclusive suffix in Personal Pronoun:

In Bodo, {-bw} is inclusive and {-sw}, {-lo} are exclusive suffixes. These inclusive and exclusive denoting suffixes are expressed inclusiveness and exclusiveness while suffixed with personal pronoun. Some examples are as follows:

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| <i>nwŋ-zwŋ</i> | <i>aŋ-bw</i> | <i>ta-gwŋ</i> |
| You-SOC | I-INC | stay-FUT |

'I will stay with you.'
- | | | | |
|-----------|---|--------------|---------------|
| <i>be</i> | <i>k^hamani-k^hwu</i> | <i>bi-sw</i> | <i>ha-gwŋ</i> |
| this | work-ACC | he/she-EXCL | can-FUT |

'Only he/she can do this work.'
- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <i>gabwŋ</i> | <i>aŋ-lo</i> | <i>təŋwŋ</i> |
| tomorrow | I-EXCL | go-FUT |

'Only I will go by tomorrow.'

2.4 Emphatic, Topic, and subjunctive in Personal Pronoun:

In Bodo, Emphatic, Topic, and subjunctive are {-nw}, {-t^ho}, {-bla}. These all are inflected in personal pronoun as suffix form in the sentence. Some examples are as follows:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|------------|
| <i>guwahati-ao</i> | <i>nwŋ-nw</i> | <i>taŋ</i> |
| guwahati-LOC | you-EMP | go |

'you go to at guwahati.'
- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
| <i>bi-t^ho</i> | <i>mwia</i> | <i>p^hwidwŋmwŋ</i> |
| He/she-TOP | yesterday | come-PROG-PAST |

'He/she came yesterday.'
- | | | |
|------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| <i>aŋ-ni-bla</i> | <i>bi-w</i> | <i>p^hwi-gwŋ</i> |
| I-GEN-SUB | he/she-NOM | come-FUT |

'According to me he/she will come.'

3. Personal pronoun as pronominal prefix:

In Bodo, all kinship terms are preceded by the personal pronouns which are form with the combination of a personal pronoun and a noun. The three fold of personal pronouns are first person {aŋ}, second person {nwŋ}, and third person {bi}. These personal pronouns are used as pronominal prefixes with the kinship term nouns in Bodo. Some examples of kinship term formation processes with pronominal prefixes are as follows:

First person {aŋ}:

- {aŋ-} + {p^ha} > ap^ha (My Father)*
- {aŋ-} + {da} > ada (My elder brother)*
- {aŋ-} + {bazwi} > bazwi (My elder brother's wife)*

{aŋ-} + {bo} > abo (My elder sister)

{aŋ-} + {gumwi} > gumwi (brother in-law/ my elder sister's husband)

{aŋ-} + {mai} > amai (My maternal uncle/ my father's sisters husband)

Second person {nwŋ}:

{nwŋ-} + {p^ha} > nwmp^ha (Your Father)

{nwŋ-}+ {da} > nwŋda (your elder brother)

{nwŋ-} + {bazwi} > nwmbazwi (Your sister in-law/your elder brother's wife)

{nwŋ-} + {bo} > nwmba (Your elder sister)

{nwŋ-}+ {mai} > nwmai (Your maternal uncle/ Your father's sisters husband))

Third person {bi}:

{bi-} + {p^ha} > bip^ha (His/Her Father)

{bi-} + {da} > bida (His/her elder brother)

{bi-} + {bazwi} > bibazwi (His/her sister in-law or His/her elder brother's wife)

{bi-} + {bo} > bibo (His/her elder sister)

{bi-} + {gumwi} > bigumwi (His/her brother in-law or his/her elder sister's husband)

{bi-} + {mai} > bimai (His/her maternal uncle/ His/her father's sisters husband)

From the above examples it is clear that all personal pronouns are inflected as a prefix in kinship term nouns. In some kinship terms the pronominal prefix of first person {aŋ} is found in hiding form but second person {nwŋ} and third person {bi} pronominal prefixes are morphologically marked as a prefix in kinship terms.

4. Conclusion

From the above descriptive analysis it is clear that personal pronouns have three fold of person distinction and it has honorific and non-honorific form which is applicable only in second and third person. In Bodo, the personal pronouns have Number, Case marker, Inclusive, Exclusive, Emphatic, Topic, and subjunctive attributes. All are morphologically marked in personal pronouns as a suffixed form. Another important characteristic of personal pronoun is that it plays a vital role in kinship term formations in Bodo. All personal pronouns are function as a pronominal prefix to form a kinship term in Bodo.

Abbreviations

HON	:	honorific
NOM	:	Nominative
ACC	:	Accusative
GEN	:	Genitive
DAT	:	Dative
POSS	:	Possesive
ABL	:	Ablative
LOC	:	Locative
ILL	:	Illative
SOC	:	Sociative
PROG	:	Progressive
INF	:	Infinitive
FUT	:	Future

PAST	:	Past tense	EMP	:	Emphatic
CL	:	Classifier	TOP	:	Topic
EXCL	:	Exclusive	SUB	:	Subjunctive
INC	:	Inclusive			

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