



## Process of echo word formation in bodo

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### Abstract

Echo Word formation is one of the Productive processes of word formation in Bodo. In Bodo echo word formation process, two types of base word – free form base word or stem and bound form base words are found. The free form base word sometime changed their class. The echo word of the language is formed by replacing of phoneme or syllable or adding a phoneme in the initial position in the reduplicated word. The replacing phoneme may be vowel phoneme or consonant phoneme. The echo words in this language represent the meaning of plurality, and the like and sometime form to represent a new concept.

**Keywords:** bodo, base word, phoneme, reduplication and stem

### 1. Introduction

Bodo also well known as Boro (Pronounced by the native speaker) is one of the developing language among various languages of the North East India. This language is a major language of the Bodo group which comes under the Assam Burmese group of the Sino-Tibetan language Family. The Bodo speaker community has basic concentration in the northern part of the Brahmaputra valley of Assam. Beside this they have also thin concentration in the southern part of the Brahmaputra valley, Meghalaya, Nagaland, North Bengal and adjoining areas of Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. According to the population census report of Assam 2001, this language speaker has 1296162.<sup>1</sup> This language has its written record from the last part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and also got Indian govt. recognition as schedule language from 2003.

### 2. Aim and Objective of the study

The main aims and objective of the study is

- To have the comprehensive study of the echo word of the language.
- To explore the formation process of echo word of the language.

### 3. Methodology

The methodology adopted in this paper is analysis method. For this analysis the data have been collected from the primary and secondary sources. The primary data have been collected from self-information sources as being a native speaker of Bodo. The secondary data have been collected from some existing published material available in the form of text books, articles, fictions and Ph.D. thesis and a few data are also collected from internet browsers.

### 4. Discussion

Eco word formation is a sub type of partial reduplication, where a phoneme or syllable of the base word is partially repeated. "If the initial phoneme or syllable of the base word

is replaced by another phoneme or syllable which has neither any individual occurrence nor any meaning of its own this replacement may be called as echo formation."<sup>2</sup> So it can be said that the Echo word is a partial repetition of a phoneme or a syllable of the base word.

The Eco word formation is an important phenomenon of Bodo language. At the time of partial repetition of the base word initial, middle and final position phoneme or syllable is replaced by other phoneme or syllable and the replacing phoneme may be vowel phoneme or consonant phoneme. Sometime when the base words begin with a vowel phoneme the echo words are formed by adding a consonant phoneme of the base word when it is reduplicated. In Bodo, the reduplicated echo word has neither any individual occurrence nor any meaning of its own. This echo word is meaningful only after it is added to a base word or a stem. For example-

#### Bw + red

zabur + zibur

dak<sup>h</sup>ur + dala

bizab + t<sup>h</sup>izab/sizab

zalu + zala

#### Gloss

waste material

waste material

books and the like

various eatable things

#### 4.1 Base Word or Stem of Echo Word

In echo formation system, two types of stem or base words are found in Bodo. One which has their own meaning and grammatical category and the other is which has no such meaning or grammatical category. This kind of base word can only be identified after adding the reduplicated word or replacing a part. These two kinds of base word is given below with examples-

(a) Example of free form base word

#### BW + RED

uŋk<sup>h</sup>am (CAT N) + t<sup>h</sup>uŋk<sup>h</sup>am

bibu (CAT N) + bila

zamba (CAT ADJ) + zam<sup>h</sup>a

#### GLOSS

rice and such things

intestines etc.

simple and witless

(b) Example of bound form base word

<b>BW + RED</b>	<b>GLOSS</b>
<i>Udaj + mudaj</i>	random
<i>ɔgra + ɔgri</i>	rough
<i>uraj + p<sup>h</sup>araj</i>	the state of a unsettled mind

Sometime, the free form base echo words are changed their class. From this point of view, the free form base echo words can be divided in to two categories- class maintaining and class changing. As for example –

(a) Example of class maintaining echo word

<b>BW + RED</b>	<b>GLOSS</b>	<b>CAT</b>
<i>k<sup>h</sup>ɔrɔ (N) + mɔrɔ</i>	head and other	N
<i>git<sup>h</sup>aw (ADJ) + bat<sup>h</sup>aw</i>	dreadful	ADJ
<i>gusum(ADJ) + gup<sup>h</sup>a</i>	black	ADJ

(b) Example of class changing echo word

<b>B W + RED</b>	<b>GLOSS</b>	<b>CAT</b>
<i>rank<sup>h</sup>aw (V) + sik<sup>h</sup>aw</i>	dried fully	ADV
<i>buzaj (V) + azaj</i>	to give advice by giving advised	ADV
<i>riŋgaw (ADJ) + riŋsi</i>	rising sound with heavy echo	ADV

#### 4.2 Types of Echo Formation in Bodo

The types of echo formation in Bodo can be categorized into two head. These are -

- a. Replacing or addition of phoneme and
- b. Replacing of syllable.

##### 4.2.1 Replacing or addition of phoneme

In this process of echo word formation phoneme or syllable is replaced by other phoneme in initial, middle and final position of the echo word and the replacing phoneme may be vowel phoneme or consonant phoneme. This process has following sub categories:

- 1) Replacing of a phoneme in the initial position.
- 2) Addition of consonant phoneme in the initial position.
- 3) Replacing of a phoneme in the middle position.
- 4) Replacing of a phoneme in the final position.

##### Replacing of a phoneme in the initial position

Echo words in Bodo are mainly formed by replacing the initial phoneme of the base word. As for Example-

<b>BW + RED</b>	<b>GLOSS</b>
<i>zerui + merui</i>	indiscriminately
<i>zanla + munla</i>	reluctantly
<i>k<sup>h</sup>alou + bilo</i>	in an abusive manner
<i>ulut<sup>h</sup>ur + p<sup>h</sup>utur</i>	bonny

The above given examples are meaningful while both the base word and echo word are combined together. Both the base word and echo words don't have their own meaning. So it is mandatory to combine together both the words to express a sense. From this point of view it can be said that some Bodo echo words are fixed in nature.

If the base word has their own grammatical category and meaning and the echo word conveys the sense of etc. and the

like then at the time of reduplication the initial consonant phoneme of the base word is replaced by /t<sup>h</sup>/ or /s/ in the echo word as in the example given below-

<b>BW + RED</b>	<b>GLOSS</b>
<i>gesaw + t<sup>h</sup>esaw/sesaw</i>	rotten and the like
<i>zi + t<sup>h</sup>i/si</i>	cloth and such thing
<i>gut<sup>h</sup>aj + t<sup>h</sup>ut<sup>h</sup>aj/sut<sup>h</sup>aj</i>	green and such thing
<i>bizab + t<sup>h</sup>izab/sizab</i>	book etc

##### Addition of consonant phoneme in the initial position

There is a little different in addition phoneme system form alteration initial phoneme. If the base word is fixed in nature and started with vowel phoneme, the echo words are added in front of a phoneme to the echo word and other are occurred as same form and position. For examples-

<b>BW + RED</b>	<b>GLOSS</b>
<i>aik<sup>h</sup>aj + baik<sup>h</sup>aj</i>	restless due to extreme pain
<i>awnia + bawnia</i>	nonsensically
<i>ak<sup>h</sup>a + p<sup>h</sup>ak<sup>h</sup>a</i>	expert
<i>ubur + zubur</i>	disorderly

But, if the base word has their own grammatical category and meaning and the base word is comprised of initial vowel phoneme, consonant phoneme /t<sup>h</sup>/ and /s/ comes before the echo-words and the vowel phoneme comes in secondary form. As for example-

<b>BW + RED</b>	<b>GLOSS</b>
<i>ɔma + t<sup>h</sup>ɔma/sɔma</i>	pig and the like
<i>embu + t<sup>h</sup>embu/sembu</i>	forg and the like
<i>inzur + t<sup>h</sup>inzur/sinzur</i>	wall and etc
<i>emp<sup>h</sup>ou + t<sup>h</sup>emp<sup>h</sup>ou/semph<sup>h</sup>ou</i>	worm and the like
<i>uŋk<sup>h</sup>ri + t<sup>h</sup>uŋk<sup>h</sup>ri/suŋk<sup>h</sup>ri</i>	Curry and etc

##### Replacing of a phoneme in the middle position:

In this process of echo word formation, one of the middle phonemes is replaced by other phoneme in the reduplication of a stem. This process has two types- one is replacing of a consonant phoneme in the middle position and the other is replacing of a vowel phoneme in the middle position.

In replacing of a consonant phoneme in the middle position, basically the second syllable first phoneme is replaced by the other phoneme. The changing of consonant phoneme in the middle position does not affect the other phonemes of the syllable or word. As for example-

<b>BW + RED</b>	<b>GLOSS</b>
<i>gulai + guzai</i>	topsy-turvy
<i>zasab + zarab</i>	eating without tendency to eat
<i>zabur + zut<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	waste material
<i>zuluj + zut<sup>h</sup>uj</i>	in a disorderly manner

In replacing of a vowel phoneme in the middle position, any one of the first syllable or second syllable vowel phoneme is replaced by other vowel phoneme in the reduplication of the stem. The changing of vowel phoneme in the middle position does not affect the other phonemes of the syllable or stem. As for example-

<b>BW + RED</b>	<b>GLOSS</b>
zaldab + zuldab	without formally
zadla + zudla	indiscriminate eating
p <sup>h</sup> rat <sup>h</sup> + p <sup>h</sup> rit <sup>h</sup>	tip top
but <sup>h</sup> um + but <sup>h</sup> am	gather from here and there

### 3. Replacing of a phoneme in the final position:

This process of echo word formation is useful only when the base word or stem is end with a vowel phoneme. In this process the final vowel phoneme in last syllable is replaced by the other vowel phoneme in the reduplicated stem word. As for example-

<b>BW + RED</b>	<b>GLOSS</b>
zalu + zala	to eat this and that frequently
zak <sup>h</sup> ru + zak <sup>h</sup> ra	to suffer from illness frequently
zabra + zabri	rubbish
t <sup>h</sup> ubra + t <sup>h</sup> ubri	clustered etc.
duma + dumi	abnormally big etcetera
lauga + laugi	uneven in length
simbri + simbra	in a whirling manner

#### 4.2.2 Replacing of syllable

Replacing syllable in the reduplication of the base word is another type of echo formation in Bodo. This type of echo formation may be discussed into two ways-

- i) Replacing of syllable in initial position.
- ii) Replacing of syllable in final position.

### 3. Replacing of syllable in initial position

In this process of echo formation, the initial syllable of the base word replaces to another syllable in the reduplication of the stem. The replacing syllable of initial position of a stem doesn't affect the other syllables in the repetition of the stem. The replacing syllable may not be same in structure with the previous one and this may perform as a V, CV, and CVC etc. Following are the some example

<b>BW + RED</b>	<b>GLOSS</b>
rank <sup>h</sup> ai + sik <sup>h</sup> ai	insufficient due to much disbursement
zuru <sup>h</sup> i + mat <sup>h</sup> i	glamour
p <sup>h</sup> it <sup>h</sup> ai + sam <sup>h</sup> ai	fruits and the like
noŋk <sup>h</sup> ai + bak <sup>h</sup> ai	for nothing

### 4. Replacing of syllable in final position

In this process of echo formation, the final or last syllable of the base or stem word replaced by another syllable in the reduplication of the base. It does not affect the other syllable of the word. As for example-

<b>BW + RED</b>	<b>GLOSS</b>
geolaŋ + geot <sup>h</sup> aŋ	fully blooming
k <sup>h</sup> uumsi + k <sup>h</sup> uomla	covered with darkness
dawraw + daws	odd problem
p <sup>h</sup> urlab + p <sup>h</sup> urthab	about to be torn off

### 5. Conclusion

From the above discussion of this paper it is extracted that the

echo word is very productive process at both the grammatical as well as the semantic level in Bodo. The echo word in this language has two types of base word or stem – free form base word or stem and bound form base word or stem. It seems that at the time of partial duplication, the initial, middle and final position phonemes are replaced by other phonemes and the syllable is replaced by other syllable in initial and final position and the replacing phoneme or syllable does not affect the other phoneme or syllable in the word. The echo word in this language represents the meaning of plurality and the like etc. e.g. mansi dumsi 'man and the like' mansi 'man' and dumsi 'RED', bilaj t<sup>h</sup>ilaj 'leaf and others bilaj 'leaf' t<sup>h</sup>ilaj 'RED' sometimes to represents a new concept e.g. daorao daosi 'odd problem'. Here, daorao means noise and daosi is 'RED'.

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