ECHO-WORDS OF BODO AND GARO: A BRIEF STUDY

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Abstract

The echo words are discussed under the reduplication head of morphology. The echo words are formed by replacing a part of the base form. Both the languages, the replacement is occur in initial part, last part and some time phoneme is added to the reduplication form. Sometime, the base form of the echo words is occur as free base for and bound base form. The main objectives of this paper find out the feature and function on echo words. It also tries to drown on similarities and dissimilarities of Bodo and Garo languages.

Keywords: Echo words, syllable, base form, derivational, plurality

1. Introduction:

Bodo and Garo language belong to the Bodo-Garo sub-section under of the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibetan family. The word 'Bodo~Boro' and 'Garo' denotes both the language as well as the community. Both the languages are one of the major languages of North-East India. The Bodo speech community is now well-spread throughout the north-east India including Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, northern part of West Bengal, and adjoining areas of Nepal and Bhutan. As well, Garo language is mainly spoken in Meghalaya state of North-East India. The speakers of Garo language are found in Assam (Kamrup, Goalpara, Karbi Anglong and Dhubri districts and sporadically limited number found in the Udalguri, Morigaon districts), Tripura (South Tripura District, Udaipur Sub division, North Tripura District, Kamalpur, Kailasahar sub divisions, West Tripura District, Sadar Sub division), and West Bengal (Jalpaiguri and Koch Bihar districts).

2. Aims and Objectives of the Study:

The main aims and objectives of this paper are exploring the features and functions of echo words in Bodo and Garo languages. This entire feature will be study in a comparative manner and trying to find out the common characteristics in the field on echo words in both the languages. Therefore, a good study and necessary observation is required.

3.0 Methodology

For the proposed topic, the analysis method is adopted. For the proposed study the data would be collected from the primary and secondary sources. The primary data has been collected from field work, while the secondary data has been collected from some text books, fictions and PhD theses and few data are also collected from internet browsers.
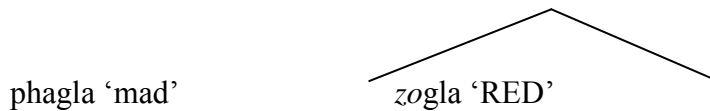
4. Results and Discussions

4.1 Echo-Words

The echo word is formed by replacing the initial syllable of the word in question by another syllable (this syllable varies from language to language) keeping intact the canonical shape of the word. (Anvita Abbi 1994)
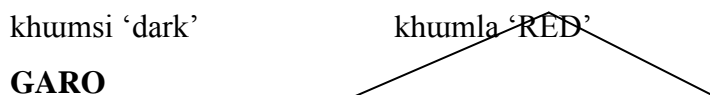
The echo words are discuses under the sub head reduplication under the morphology. In both the languages have lot of echo word, it are use in certain of base situations. But both the languages not only initial but also last syllable is replacing and sometime in the reduplicating words are added in front a phoneme to denote echo-words. Such as-

    BODO

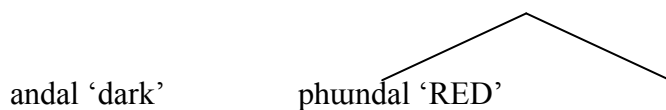   a. *pha*gla *zo*gla 'foolish and ignorant'

phagla 'mad'   *zo*gla 'RED'

    b. Khɯm*si* khɯm*la* 'covered with darkness all round'

khɯmsi 'dark'   khɯmla 'RED'

    GARO

aa. *a*ndal- *phɯ*ndal 'in darkness'

andal 'dark'   phɯndal 'RED'

bb. roŋ*kol* roŋ*dea* (to pick up and take a way)

      roŋkol 'to pick up'   roŋ*dea* 'RED'

The echo words may discuss into three categories on the basis of the place of replacing or reduplicating system -

    a) Replacing initial syllable and

    b) Replacing last syllable

    c) Addition phoneme

4.1.1 Replacing initial syllable

In the case of initial syllable replacing, the first syllables or parts are replacing to another syllable. But when the first parts are replacing than other syllable are occur as same form and same position in reduplication form. The replacing syllables are perform as a V, , CV, CVC etc. and in the reduplication form it may not be occur as same syllable. Such examples are given in below-

BODO	GARO
a) *noŋ*khaj *ba*khaj 'for nothing' b) *u*ltha *pha*ltha 'topsy-turvy' c) *gi*thaw *ba*thaw 'dreadful'	a) a·khuɪthuɪk-*song*khuɪthuɪk 'widespread' b) *zu*maŋ-*me·*maŋ 'wonder' c) a·khuɪthuɪk *sal*khu·thuɪk 'the end of the earth'

4.1.2 Replacing last syllable

The replacing last syllable is replacing the last part or syllable of the base form. The replacements are also replacing the last part, but other syllable or first and middle syllables are occurred as same form and same position. In both the languages, the last syllable replacement has limited number. Among them some examples are given below-

BODO	GARO
a) khuɪm*si* khuɪm*la* 'covered with darkness all round' b) dau*raw* dau*si* 'odd problems' c) khur*khaw* khur*si* 'recklessly'	a) roŋ·*ra* roŋ·*thekha* 'to barricade with stone' b) roŋ*kol* roŋ*dea* 'to pick up and take a way' c) ruɪm*ra* ruɪm*tak* 'sparsely, thinly scattered'

4.1.3 Addition phoneme

The addition phoneme system is different form replacing initial and last syllable. The echo words are change neither initial nor last syllable, it is adding by phoneme to the reduplication form. The echo words are added in front a phoneme to the reduplication form and other are occurred as same form and position. For examples-

BODO	GARO
a) *i*naj *bi*naj 'bewildered' **b)** *u*daj *mu*daj 'random' **c)** *a*kha *pha*kha 'expert'	a) a·*muɪk s*almuɪk 'gorgeous' b) *a*tchrak *m*atchrak 'in the likeness of'

4.4 In fact, the base forms of echo words are occurred as meaningful and meaningless form in both the languages. So, the base form of the echo words may be divided into two parts on the bases of meaning. Such as-

a) Free form base and
b) Bound base

4.4.1 Free form base

The free from base is a form which have own individual meaning, without reduplicate or replacing a part it can stand alone as meaningful. The examples are given below-

BODO	GARO
a) *u*ltha *pha*ltha 'topsy-turvy' *u*ltha 'opposite' *pha*ltha 'RED'	a) *zu*maŋ-*me*·maŋ 'wonder' *zu*maŋ 'dream' *me*·maŋ 'RED'
b) *gi*thaw *ba*thaw 'dreadful' *gi*thaw 'dangerous' *ba*thaw 'RED'	b) *a*·khɯthɯk *sal*khɯ·thɯk 'the end of the earth'
c) dau*raw* dau*si* 'odd problems' dau*raw* 'problem' dau*si* 'RED'	*a*·khɯthɯk 'corner' *sal*khɯ·thɯk 'RED'
d) *u*ltha *pha*ltha 'topsy-turvy' ultha 'opposite' phaltha 'RED'	c) rɔŋ*kɔl* rɔŋ*dea* 'to pick up and take a way' rɔŋkɔl 'to pick up' rɔŋdea 'RED'

4.4.2 Bound base

Bound base is a form which is meaningless without add affixes or reduplicate or replacing a part of base form. But the propose paper does not mention about the affixes. But, here is mentioned that however as a bound base is meaningless without affix like this some base form is meaningless without reduplicate or replacing a part. Some examples are given below-

BODO	GARO
a) *a*khɔ *pha*khɔ 'congested' *a*kho 'bound base' *pha*kho 'RED'	a) *a*·ograŋ *chi*ograŋ 'light-hearted' a·ograŋ 'bound base' *chi*ograŋ 'RED'
b) *u*raŋ *pha*raŋ 'the state of a unsettled mind' uraŋ 'bound base' *pha*raŋ 'RED'	b) rɯm*ra* rɯm*tak* 'sparsely, thinly scattered' rɯmra 'bound base' rɯmtak 'RED'
c) *san*thiŋ *ba*thiŋ 'in broad day light in the day time' santhiŋ bound base' *ba*thiŋ 'RED'	c) *chiph*ma *pheŋ*ma 'random' chiphma 'bound base' derɯtchu 'RED'

4.5 Function of echo words

In the case of semantic level, the echo words have done two functions. They are derivational and other one is inflectional. When a part or syllable of the base would be replace to another than it is changing the meaning. On the other hand when replacing a part of the base it is performance plurality.

4.5.1 Derivational

In this system of echo words are changing the grammatical class and formed new word, which is most useful in both the languages. The grammatical class are indicating as class maintaining and class changing. The examples are given below

Bodo	Garo
a) adj. *he*bre *ma*bre 'intertwined'	*a)* adv. *a*ndal-*phu*ndal 'in darkness'
v. hebre 'to interweave' mabre 'RED'	adj. andala 'dark' phuundal 'RED'
b) adj. *gi*thaw *ba*thaw 'dangerous'	*b)* adj. mutch*i* mutch*ok* 'disgusting'
adj. githaw 'dreadful' bathaw 'RED'	v. mutch*ia* 'to detest' mutch*ok* 'RED'
c) adj. khuum*si* khuum*la* 'covered with darkness all round'	*c)* adj. *ron*ret-*ga*ret 'vacillating'
adj. khuumsi 'dark' mabre 'RED'	adj. ronret 'contrary' garet 'RED'
d) adj. *i*naj *bi*naj 'bewildered'	*d)* man·duuk-man·si 'menacing'
n. inaj 'injustice' *bi*naj 'RED'	man·duuka 'uncomfortable' man·si 'RED'

4.5.2 Inflectional

In the case of inflectional, we can mention about the plurality. When the base form's a part is replacing than it is perform as plurality in both the languages. For examples-

Bodo	Garo
a) *man*si *dum*si 'man and others' mansi 'man' dumsi 'RED'	a) *me*·duuk-*sam*·duuk 'cooking utensils' me·duuk 'a cooking utensil' sam·duuk 'RED'
b) *phi*thaj *sam*thaj 'fruit and others phithaj 'fruit' samthaj 'RED'	b) *ma*·guutcham-*pha*guutcham 'ancestors' ma·guutcham 'ancestor' phaguutcham 'RED'

4.5 Conclusion

In this paper has discussed the features and functions of the echo-words in Bodo and Garo languages. From the above analysis we found that the echo words are mostly useful. The echo words are replacing in initial and last part of the base form in both the languages, and sometime a phoneme is attached to reduplication form. Though, the discussion has noticed that the base form of the echo words is performed as meaningful and meaningless. It also has discussed the semantic where we have been seen as grammatical changing and plurality. Actually, the similarities prove that both the languages are developing form one source and influenced by each other. So, similarities are more clear and abundant than dissimilarities.

Abbreviations and Symbols

RED	Reduplication
V	Vowel
C	Consonant
N	Noun
V	Verb
Adj	Adjective

Adv	Adverb
·	glottal stop or raka (used in Garo language)
ŋ	velar voiced nasal
ɯ	high-back unrounded vowel phoneme
J	palatal voiced semi-vowel

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