

**Partial Reduplication of Bodo and Assamese Languages: A Comparative Study**

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**2.1 Introduction:**Reduplication is a process of word formation which meansrepetition of all or part of a word. In linguistic studies, Reduplication generally means the repetition of any linguistic unit such as a phoneme, morpheme, Word, phrase, clause or the utterance as a whole. Reduplication is also used in inflections to convey a grammatical function, such as plurality, intensification etc. and in lexical derivation to create new words. Partial reduplication occurs only with bases (root words) which begin with a consonant.

- a. David Crystal describes the reduplication as– **‘A term in MORPHOLOGY reflex certain PHONOLOGICAL characteristics of the ROOT.’**<sup>1</sup>
- b. Anvita Abbi defines – **“Reduplication in general stands for repetition of all or part of a lexical item carrying a semantic modification.”**<sup>2</sup>
- c. A. Parimalagantham stated- **“Reduplication is the process of all or part of the lexical item repeated as a syllable morpheme or word within a large syntactic unit carrying a semantic modification.”**<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Crystal, David. 2008. A Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics. Blackwell Publishing, U.S.A. p.407.

<sup>2</sup> Abbi, A. “Reduplication in Tibeto-Burman Language of South Asian Studies, VOL.28,No.-2, September, 1990, p. 171

<sup>3</sup>Parimalagantham, A.A Study of Structural Reduplication in Tamil and Telugu. Thesis submitted for the Award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics at P.S. Telugu University, Hyderabad, December, 2008, pp.22-23, <http://www.Languageinindia.com>.

Reduplication is principally of two types. These are – Complete reduplication and Partial reduplication. This study investigates the partial reduplication of Bodo and Assamese languages.

**2.1 Aims and objectives of the Study:**

- a. To identify the types of partial reduplication of Bodo and Assamese languages.
- b. To know the structure of partial reduplication of Bodo and Assamese languages.
- c. To point out the similarities and dissimilarities of partial reduplication of Bodo and Assamese languages.

**1.2 Hypotheses:**

- a. Partial reduplication may be divided into two types both in Bodo and Assamese languages.
- b. Partial reduplication may occur in the phonological level in both of languages.
- c. In Bodo and Assamese languages partial reduplication are highly productive.

**1.3 Methodology:** In this study descriptive and comparative method will be applied.

**1.4 Source of the Study:** To discuss the proposed study the necessary data will be collected from the secondary sources.

**2.0 Partial Reduplication:** Partial reduplication involves the reduplication of only a part of a word. Several words are partially reduplicated in Bodo and Assamese languages as shown in the following example.

**Bodo:**

- muḡa-muḡi (face to face)
- heṅ<sup>h</sup>a-heṅsi (opposition, obstruction)

**Assamese:**

- ok<sup>h</sup>ona-ok<sup>h</sup>oni (a dispute; an altercation)
- kila-kili (mutual beating)

In Bodo and Assamese languages partial reduplication may be divided into two types. These are –

- a. Prefixal reduplication and

b. Suffixal reduplication.

**2.1 Prefixal reduplication:** The prefixal reduplication is also known as initial reduplication. Initial syllable or morpheme is reduplicated in prefixal reduplication. These are given below:

**Bodo:** dujilau-dujisau (liquid, watery)

k<sup>h</sup>araŋ-k<sup>h</sup>at<sup>h</sup>aŋ (hard after having dried)

k<sup>h</sup>urk<sup>h</sup>au-k<sup>h</sup>ursi (recklessly)

**Assamese:** kera-keri (learning in opposite ways; not parallel)

gɔla-gɔli (an embrace)

g<sup>h</sup>ura-g<sup>h</sup>uri (moving hither or thither)

siŋa-siŋi (separation from each other)

**2.2 Suffixal reduplication:** This is also called final reduplication. Here the reduplicants is added after the root word as a suffix. This type of reduplication is also common in Bodo and Assamese languages. The following are examples of suffixal reduplication in the classes of adjectives and verbs.

**Bodo:** usau-badau (impatient)

zak<sup>h</sup>aŋ-luŋk<sup>h</sup>aŋ (after finishing eating and drinking)

t<sup>h</sup>aŋhaŋ-p<sup>h</sup>uŋihaŋ (in a dwindling manner)

bedeŋ-buduŋ(indistinctly)etc.

**Assamese:** ɔ<sup>h</sup>ɔle-bip<sup>h</sup>ɔle (an unfit or improper place)

ɔ<sup>h</sup>ali-pɔ<sup>h</sup>ali (running length wise and cross wise or confusedly)

age-b<sup>h</sup>age (in advance)

zɔte-tɔte (abundantly)etc.

However, the partial reduplication may also occur in the phonological (either it is vowel or consonant) level where the other position is retained same, e.g.-

**Reduplication with change in the vowels:**The vowel forms may change in Reduplication. In Bodo language the changed vowel form are - / a / for / i /, / i / for / ɔ / and / ɔ / for / a / etc. And in Assamese / a / for / i /, / o / for / a /, / a / for / u /, / u / for / a / etc. The examples are as the following:

- Bodo:** k<sup>h</sup>ana-k<sup>h</sup>ani  
k<sup>h</sup>ak<sup>h</sup>reb-k<sup>h</sup>uk<sup>h</sup>reb  
zab-zub (carelessly)  
zalu-zala (frequent petty happenings, frequent petty ailments) etc.
- Assamese:** zonok-zanak (a tinkling sound)  
taŋ-tiŋ (an imitative word used to express the ring of an anvil)  
tani-tuni (dragging with difficulty)  
d<sup>h</sup>um-d<sup>h</sup>am (ado; pomp) etc.

**Reduplication with change in the consonants:**The consonant phonemes may also be changed in the reduplicated word of Bodo and Assamese language. Sometimes two consonants are replaced by two other consonants without changing the vowel position in Assamese language. And also second consonant is replaced by some other consonant.e.g.-

- Bodo:** k<sup>h</sup>araw-maraw (appealingly)  
k<sup>h</sup>alaw-k<sup>h</sup>asau (without peace)  
gilu-balu (fearful, terrible)

zak<sup>h</sup>ɔ - luŋk<sup>h</sup>ɔ (various items of foods and drinks) etc.

**Assamese:** tɔgɔr – bɔgɔr (shifting from one statement to another)

tani – mani (with difficulty)

dɔg - mɔg (a sparkle)

d<sup>h</sup>uuɔli - kuuɔli (misty; hazy)

t<sup>h</sup>ɔrɔk - bɔrɔk (unsteady; tremulous)

As seen above examples it may be seen that some consonant phonemes are changed in the initial and some are middle positions in the reduplicated form of both Bodo and Assamese languages. e.g. - / k<sup>h</sup> / for / m /, / g / for / p<sup>h</sup> /, / z / for / m / and / l / for / s / etc. And in Assamese / t / for / b /, / t / for / m /, / d / for / m /, / d<sup>h</sup> / for / k / and / t<sup>h</sup> / for / b / etc.

In Assamese language another peculiar type of reduplication with change in the consonant. There are a few repeated consonant forms in Assamese language which forms are replaced by two other consonants and some forms are with more than one syllable, the second consonant is replaced by some other consonant. These are given below:

**Assamese:**

**Change in two consonant:**

k<sup>h</sup>ɔlɔu - zɔpɔu (state of helplessness)

tuluŋ - b<sup>h</sup>utuŋ (state of being unsteady)

**Change in the second consonant:**

tuluŋ – tupuŋ (unsteady)

kelɔu - kesɔu (big noise due to shouting and quarreling) etc.

In Assamese language addition of - a prefixed is another peculiar type of partial reduplication. e.g.-

xa - xubid<sup>h</sup>a (facility and the like)

sa – sinaki (acquaintance and the like) etc.

Moreover, there are some kinds of partial reduplication words in Bodo and Assamese languages. These words are found only in the adjectives. Syllable units or phonological pattern can be found in partial reduplication of both the languages, which may be the reduplication of the last or final syllable consonant-vowel (CV), Consonant-vowel-vowel (CVV), consonant-consonant-vowel (CCV), consonant-vowel-consonant (CVC), consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant (CCVC) etc. These types of partial reduplication structures are possible in Bodo and Assamese languages, as shown in the following examples -

**Pattern1: CV**

**Bodo:** hait<sup>h</sup>a-t<sup>h</sup>a (short)

zabt<sup>h</sup>u-t<sup>h</sup>u (gathered considerably) etc.

**Pattern2: CVV**

**Bodo:** babsiu – siu (slightly salted)

**Assamese:** nimau-mau (lonely, lonesome, silent) etc.

**Pattern 3: CCV**

**Bodo:** k<sup>h</sup>ait<sup>h</sup>ra-t<sup>h</sup>ra (obliquely, slantingly)

sumzruꞑ - zruꞑ (slightly black) etc.

**Pattern 4: CVC**

**Bodo:** p<sup>h</sup>audur-dur (having a red and bulky cheek)

rap<sup>h</sup>ʉd - p<sup>h</sup>ʉd (tight, fairly hard)

**Assamese:** alek<sup>h</sup>-lek<sup>h</sup> (behavior, movements)

atɔl-tɔl (highly loved)

amɔl-mɔl (highly fragrant)

**Pattern 5: CCVC**

**Bodo:** sʉmbɾuɾm - ɾuɾm (slightly black)

From the comparative point of view we have found some similarities and dissimilarities of partial reduplication in Bodo and Assamese languages. These similarities and dissimilarities are given below:

**Similarities:**

1. Partial reduplication may be divided into two types- prefixal and suffixal both in Bodo and Assamese languages.
2. Partial reduplication may occur in the phonological level in both the languages.
3. The final vowel of the suffixed copied part is altered with the vowel in both the languages. e.g. -mʉga - mʉgi (face to face) in Bodo, ok<sup>h</sup>ɔna - ok<sup>h</sup>ɔni in Assamese etc.
4. In partial reduplication when consonants are replaced other consonants the vowel position is remain the same in both of languages.

**Dissimilarities:**

1. Assamese has addition of – a prefixed to the original word. But in Bodo there is no addition of - a prefixed.
2. Sometimes two consonants changed during reduplication in Assamese language. But it may change single in Bodo language.
3. Reduplication with change in the consonant is classified in two types in Assamese language. But there is no classification in reduplication with change in the consonant of language.

### **3.0 Conclusion:**

From the above discussion we can see that how the partial reduplication is used in Bodo and Assamese languages. In Bodo and Assamese languages, we find partial reduplication as prefixal and suffixal type. All the types of partial reduplication such as vowel alternation, onset alternation and rhyming words are found in Bodo and Assamese languages. In the phenomenon of vowel alternation, the vowel of the base word gets changed to another vowel in reduplication and in the process of change of the consonants; the first consonant of the base word gets changed to another consonant in the reduplicated word. In this study we can also observe how the structures of partial reduplication are used in both Bodo and Assamese languages. We have found some similarities and dissimilarities of partial reduplication in Bodo and Assamese languages. In partial reduplication the first part of the words carries meaning and used separately; while the second part has no meaning independently in both the languages. Thus, partial reduplication is a significant linguistic phenomenon leading to word formation. It is prevalent in almost all languages of the world.

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