



Bodonization of Some Non-Bodo Words

Phukan Chandra Basumatary¹, Swarna Prabha Chainary²

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ABSTRACT: No language is independent in its own and for fulfilling its various needs it has to borrow some words or structure of words from other languages. Bodo language is also not an exception to that. To fulfill its various needs this language has borrowed words from various languages. However, during borrowing the language speakers have tried to adjust it with their proper articulation systems so that the speakers can accept it easily taking these words as its own. The target of this paper is to show this adjustment system in articulation mentioned here as Bodonisation following the language name Bodo.

Keywords: articulation, aspirated, assamese, bodonisation, unaspirated

I. INTRODUCTION

It is a known fact to all of us that no language is complete in its own and to fulfill its various linguistic and cultural needs it is to rely on one language or the other. Bodo language is also not an exception to that. This language belonging to Tibeto-Burman group of the Sino-Tibetan speech family has more than 13 lakhs speakers in Assam. Its speakers are known as Mech and Meche in North Bengal area of the state of West Bengal and in neighboring Nepal respectively are sharing the same code with the Bodos of Assam developing a limited number of regional variations. In the socially recognized standard dictionary Bodo-English-Hindi Dictionary, a total of 10000 words have been shown as head word of the language mentioning The present dictionary entails...10,000 head-words,...2,100 suffixes and some thousands of explanatory words which have not been occurred as headwords unfortunately.¹ It is found that 10,000 words are very meager for running a language in a complete way therefore, to run their language smoothly they borrowed words from different languages and sources from time to time either knowingly or unknowingly and in most of the times tried to adjust its articulation with their articulation system.

No one whether native speakers or others have never tried to write something on this topic. So, the researchers have tried to bring some light how the words have been borrowed from different languages and accordingly adjusted with their articulation system. Hope, this paper will encourage the future researchers in this little known language of the north-eastern part of India.

II. DESCRIPTION ON BODONISATION

In going to discuss about Bodonisation of words the first thing to be mention about is its phonemes. Bodo language has six number of vowel phonemes /i u e o a/ and sixteen number of consonant phonemes including two semi-vowels. These are- /p^h t^h k^h b d g m n ŋ s z h r l w y/. Barring these phonemes, other sounds are very difficult to be uttered by the general mass. Therefore, in borrowing from other languages most of the native speakers as well as some educated polyglots get it difficult to utter those sounds that are not available in their language. Therefore, to adjust with their articulation system they are Bodonising it. One more reason of Bodonisation is that by mixing the loan words with their articulation system they are thinking it as their own and accepting in a more rigid way.

2.1 Bodonisation from Assamese

In Bodonisation process the first language to be mention about is Assamese language, a neighboring language to Bodo. Bodo peoples are generally bilingual having knowledge of Bodo and little or more knowledge of Assamese. It will be good to mention here that Bodo language has so many words having close resemblance to neighboring Assamese language. In the words having close resemblances to Assamese language, the Bodo native speakers have always tried and are trying to adjust it with their articulation system and in going to do so the original form of the word has sometimes changed a little and sometimes to a more higher level, e.g. Ass. kopal> Bd. k^hap^hal (luck), i.e. unaspirated k and p has been changed to aspirated k^h and p^h respectively during Bodonisation because as mentioned above Bodo language has not the unaspirated sounds k and p. Like

*Corresponding Author: Phukan Chandra Basumatary¹

this, the word for place used in Hindi and Assamese is st^hal². Bodo language has not the use of st^h cluster in the initial position of word. Therefore, when using this word in Bodo the initial sound /s/ has temporarily been dropped and one most important vowel phoneme i.e. high back unrounded vowel of the language has been incorporated in forming the word in Bodo, keeping the meaning same, i.e. the word st^hal has been changed to t^hulur in Bodo. However, this word is not used in standard form but is used only in some dialect areas of the language. Another such word used in Assamese language is tɔlpɔra (a kind of cloth prepared from rags). It is composed of two words tol (below) and pora (to spread). In Bodo language, during Bodonisation it has been changed to t^hɔlp^hɔra as the language has not the use of unaspirated stops t and p. One more Bodonised word having resemblance to Assamese language is Ass. pɔrhashali>Bd.p^hɔraisali (school). Here also, Assamese p and sh has respectively been changed to p^h and s in Bodo making it equivalent with their articulation system as the language has only one sibilant /s/ articulated as voicelessalveolar fricative.

The Assamese and Bodo words for jackfruit are kɔt^hal and k^hant^hal respectively and have very close resemblances to each other. Though second syllable is same in both the languages, first syllable varies a little from one language to the other. Here, unaspirated k of Assamese language has been changed to aspirated k^h in Bodo language and the /o/ accompanying k in Assamese language has been changed to /a/ in Bodo language due to distant regressive vowel assimilation of the second syllable. A nasal /n/ has also been inserted after vowel /a/ to change the first syllable in Assamese kɔ- to k^han- in Bodo. It is important to note here that the original Bodo names of fruits start with t^hai (fruit), e.g. t^haigir (dillenis indica), t^haizuu (mango), t^hailir (banana) etc. The other word that we get in Bodonised form is t^huluṅsi (holy basil plant) having resemblance to Assamese tulɔsi and Hindi tulsi. In this word also the initial unaspirated t of Assamese and Hindi language are changed to aspirated t^h in Bodo. Likewise, Assamese words kɔt^hia and talim have also been Bodonised as k^hut^hia and t^halim in Bodo following the system as mentioned above.

2.2 Bodonisation from Hindi

Like Bodonisation of words having resemblance to Assamese language, many words having resemblance to Hindi language are also found in Bodonised form, e.g. Hi. waqt> Bd. bɔk^hɔ, meaning in both the languages remaining the same, i.e. time. Why the w and qt of the word waqt in Hindi has been changed to b and k^h in Bodo is easily explainable from phonological point of view. Bodo language has not the initial use of the semi-vowel /w/ though it occurs word medially and finally. Likewise, unaspirated k and t are not used in the language. In addition, final consonant cluster of the phonemes are also not available in the language. Therefore, going through all these phonological features of the language, the native speakers have turned the word from Hi. waqt>Bd. bɔk^hɔ. Of course, the important point to mention about the word bɔk^hɔ in Bodo language is that it is used in some areas of Eastern Bodo Dialect and is used to represent negative meaning than positive, e.g. aṅha (I have) bɔk^hɔ (time) guiya (have not). The meaning of this sentence is *I have no time*, which the person uttering this sentence is uttering in negative and not in positive.

The Hindi word dag (the mark of burning/a mark/spot/stain), origin Persian dag has also been Bodonised as dagu, keeping the meaning intact. The high back unrounded vowel phoneme u has been included here in the final position of the word during Bodonisation to adjust the word with their structure. Because, Bodo language has not the words ending with voiced g except few loan words but have available words ending with u. Therefore, to adjust with their language structure and articulation system, vowel u has been added in the final position of the word. The Persian origin word halat entering through Hindi into Bodo language and becoming halud in Bodo after Bodonisation is also one notable example in this regard. The first syllable in both the languages have been kept similar whether in second syllable some minor variations are found, i.e. the last two phonemes of the Hindi word /a/ and /t/ have been changed in Bodo to /u/ and /d/. The reason being that Bodo language has not the words ending with t and therefore it has been replaced with the voiced alveolar /d/.

2.3 Bodonisation from English

Like Bodonisation of Assamese and Hindi words, many English words are also found Bodonised, e.g. the words like chair, kettle, table, tennis, cartoon etc. are articulated in native Bodo as siar, t^hek^hla, t^hebul, t^henis, k^hart^hun respectively adjusting these with their articulatory system. Under this process, the non-aspirated sounds have been aspirated in Bodo language in maximum examples given above and in some displacement of phonemes have taken place. The number of Bodonised words from English language may be increase to more.

III. CONCLUSION

It is a known fact every language has its own character and its language speakers feel proud of it. That is why the Bodo speakers when borrowing words from other languages whether it is from its country or from foreign soil have always tried to find their language smell in it and this is the basic reason behind Bodonisation of non-native language words. This impact of Bodonisation in some words have become so strong that they can't even imagine it as borrowing from other languages. Even a common people cannot tolerate it when said

that it is a borrowed word. However, it is very much necessary from linguistic and sociological point of view to study the structures of words of a particular language so that its originality can be recognized and appreciated by all. Therefore, the proper study and examination on Bodonisation of words has become very much necessary.

Abbreviations

Ass.	Assamese
Bd.	Bodo
Hi.	Hindi

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