

The Karbi Language: A Linguistic Study

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Abstract:

Linguistically, Assam is very diverse in nature with various ethnic communities having close affinities in the field of linguistic traits have been dwelling together since time immemorial. It is a home to many languages belonging to the four language families viz. Indo-Aryan, Tibeto-Burman, Asia-Austroic and Dravidians. The Karbi language belongs to the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibetan family. This tribe has its own language. The study of the languages of these ethnic groups in Assam clarifies the linguistic characteristics of Assam and enriches the scientific field. In that regard, the study of the subject is important.

Keyword-Karbi language, Phonology, Morphology, Word formation.

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I. Introduction

Language is the best medium for people to express themselves. Society and language are closely related. Sociolinguistics is the study of language in the context of society. A language can take different forms according to society, place or ethnicity. Ethnic dialects, regional dialects, etc. are formed according to the place, time, and changing forms of the language. All these subjects belong to sociolinguistics.

The People of Assam inhabit a multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic and multi-religious society. They speak languages that belong to four main language groups: Tibeto-Burman, Indo-Aryan, Tai-Kadai, and Austroasiatic. The large number of ethnic and linguistic groups, the population composition, and the peopling process in the state has led to it being called an "India in miniature". The linguistic landscape of the state of Assam, located in the northeastern part of India, is very diverse. Assam is home of various linguistic families like Indo-European, Chinese-Tibetan, Dravidian etc. The Karbi are the oldest ethnic group in Assam. The linguistic characteristics of this ethnic group will be studied in the paper.

Objectives

The main objectives of this paper given below :

- a) Judge the phonetic characteristics of Karbi language.
- b) Judge the morphological characteristics of Karbi language.
- c) Study the vocabulary and syntactic characteristics of the Karbi language.

Methodology of the study:

In this study, the researcher has applied a Data analytic methods and comparative analysis method. The source of the research paper is based on-

(i) primary source

And (ii) secondary source

(i) primary source – As a part of our field study for the research paper we have considered the Ronglangbung gaon, West Karbi anglong District, Assam. The primary data was collected in the form of conversation and questionnaire with the informants of the language. Telephonic conversation was also made to obtain the valuable information from speakers of the language.

(ii) secondary source- The secondary data information is being gathered from different printed materials- books, research paper etc. In this Arpana Konwar's 'Karbi: The People and the Language', 'Karbi Bhasar Ruptattivik Bishleasan', Dipti Fukan Patgiri's (ed.) 'upabhaxa aru axomor upabhaxa', Nandeshwar Kachari's 'Sonwal Kachari xomaj-xɔɣxkriti' are being used in the study.

1.00 History of Karbi Literature

The Karbi people are ethnically Mongolian. The Karbi people are bilingual. They use the Karbi language to communicate with each other. There are many ways in which you can improve your self-confidence. There are many ways in which you can improve your self-confidence. The spoken language of the Diphu region of Karbi

Anglong district has been recognized as a written language Grierson in his Linguistic Survey of India shows that the Karbi language is more closely related to the Naga and Kuki-Chinese branches of the Tibetan-Burmese language family G.D. Walker suggests that Karbi is similar to the Kuki-Chinese and Boro languages of the Tibetan-Burmese branch. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee describes the Karbi language as belonging to the Naga and Kuki-Chinese branches.2 Linguist Upendra Nath Goswami describes the Karbi language as a sub-branch of the Boro language. Karbi is one of the major languages of the Assam-Burmese unclassified language family of the Sino-Tibetan language family. Fukan Chandra Fang's notable opinion on the origin of the Karbi language is as follows: "The Karbi language was born from a mixture of Naga and Kuki Chinese languages 5 Therefore, it can be said that the Karbi language belongs to the Tibetan-Burmese language family and to the Kuki-Chinese and Boro-Naga language groups Linguistic similarities exist.

According to the 1991 census, the number of Karbi speakers in Assam is 3,55,0 According to the 2001 census, the Karbi people live in India at 4,19,5 According to the 2011 census, the number of Karbi speakers in Karbi Anglong district is 4,30,4 The Karbi people are mostly found in the Karbi Anglong district of Assam, but a small number live in the plain districts of Nagaon, Morigaon, Kamrup, Darang and others. The EGDIS has designated Karbi as a Level 5 language based on the number of speakers, abundance of written literature and recent progress of the language The Karbi language has been included as a subject of study in government schools from primary to higher secondary schools in Karbi Anglong district There are many different types of characters in the film. There are many different types of characters in the film. lifted Among these, the Karbi Lammet Amei (Karbi Sahitya Sabha) has enriched their linguistic field by writing various books He was a member of the Indian National Congress (INC) and was a member of the Indian National Congress (INC). He was a member of the Indian National Congress (INC). The Karbi people are very rich in oral literature There are many different types of characters in the film. There are many different types of characters in the film. The three main dialects of the Karbi language are -Bhaiyamar Bhui, Rangkhang and Amri They use both Roman and Assamese scripts to write the Karbi language as they do not have their own script.

Christian missionaries focused on the study of the Karbi language to spread Christianity The first book in Karbi language in Assamese script, Dharam Arnam Afrang Ikethan, was published in 1875 for the spread of Christianity 1898 Roman script by Rev P.E. Moore, Sir J.M. Carwell and Rev W.R. Hutton- wrote two books, 'Plipli' and 'Kalikha' Some of the most notable works in the Karbi language written by Christian missionaries in Roman script are Sardoka Perrin Kay's English-Mikir Dictionary (1904), Charles Lyall Edward's Stack The Mikirs (1908), and G.D. Walker's A Dictionary of the Mikir Language '(1925) Rev. Fr. Rap Hutton's 'Birta'(1937) , V.V. Jaypal's 'Karbi Grammar' (1987). In the third decade of the twentieth century, many Karbi speakers started writing books in Roman and Assamese scripts Thelu Alun (1937) by Banglong Terang. Some of the most notable books on the Karbi language are Lankam Teron and Rangbang Terang's Karbi Lamkuru (1967), Rangbang Terang's Karbi Assamese Lesson (1980), Karbi Lamkuru Lamseng (2004), Lankam Teron's Karbi Lamkuru Lamseng. (1987), 'Karbi Lamtasam' (2004), 'A Brief Introduction to the Karbi Language'(1964)ᵝ, 'Primary Karbi Education'(1977), 'Introduction to the Karbi Language'(1994), 'Karbi Lamseng Kacharli' by Ratikant Teron, (1985) and so on.

II. Linguistic Characteristics of the Karbi Language:

Let us study the linguistics of any language. The four components of language are discussed: sound, form, sentence and semantic characteristics. The linguistic characteristics of the Karbi language are discussed below:

2.01 .Phonology

V.Y.Jaypaul in Karbi Grammar (1987) mentions the use of seven distinct vowel sounds (including 3 tones) and 24 distinct consonant sounds There are 7 vowel sounds (including two tones) and 19 consonant sounds in Karbi language. Rangbang Terang, Karbi Lamtasam (1974), Basanta Das in Characteristics of Karbi Language, Echerenga of Karbi Anglong Literature and Culture (1991) have high central vowels and absence of 'c' consonant sound , vowel length, nasalization etc. are not distinctive sounds of the meaning of There are many reasons why you shouldn't buy these products For example-

Lang = water or tea

Lang Lang = Let's see

Lang Lang Lang = Let's look at the water

Lang lang lang lang = let's see the water or not

Lang Lang Lang Lang Lang = Come and see the water yourself

There are seven vowels in the Karbi language They are - /E,A,A',A,O,U/ The phonemes of Karbi language can be divided according to the different parts of the tongue, the height of the tongue and the shape of the lips ie pronunciation and position as follows –

In Karbi, vowels are used in all three places - the beginning, middle and end of words

For example-

Sound beginning middle end

/e/ ing(do) right(decision) fi(old grandmother)
 /a/ ek(fuck with ball) cap(ten) arwe(rain)
 /aʔ/ et(yellow) fueʔ (stripping everything aʔ (disgusting)
 throw away)
 /a/ an(rice) lang(water) ora(updal)
 /o/ oso(boy) losei(horse) wo(bird) one
 /u/ un(from) chimun(finger) pinu(uncle)
 /o/ ak(fish) sak(rice) f(five)

There are many examples of two and three vowels pronounced together in Karbi words For example –
 Two-vowel combinations: oich (scattered), chailin (robe), choh (shave), oia (not upset), injuiaʔt (all fall off) and so on. There are seven vowels in the initial stage, six in the middle stage and five characters in the final-stage.

The nineteen consonants pronounced in the Karbi language are /p,f,b,t,th,d,k,b,ch,s,j,h,m,n,ng,l,r,y,w/ The use of semi-vowels y and w is assumed A list of consonants in Karbi language is given below:

There are many different types of consonants in the Karbi language There is no contradiction between these two consonants Below are the contradictory judgments in the initial, middle and final states in the same environment:

In the beginning, the contradiction

/a/ kak(dam)	/t/ tak(buy)	/p/ pak(stomach)
/r/ rak(cut with a knife)	/b/ khak(clear throat)	/th/ thak(give)
/f/ fak(obscene words)	/l/ lak(peha)	/f/ chak(correct)
/d/ dak(sweet)	/b/ bak(give)	/h/ hak(true)
/s/ sak(rice)	/n/ nak(corn)	/m/ mak(breast)
/w/ wak(hole)	/j/ jock(to be added)	

Conflict in the middle stage

/n/ lime(head tick)	/f/ richim(fingernail)
/r/ lakru(pakhara colour)	/a/ tirk(to be unable to rise)
/b/ chubi(hair cap)	/g/ rishim(handbag)
/h/ lakhu(smoky)	/y/ tiray(throw away)
/p/ chipong(turban)	/th/ hithi(market)
/t/ phutang(section)	/l/ tharle(rolled)
/F/ Sifang(village)	/D/ Hidi(field)
/m/ phumang(charia)	/w/ tharv(am)

Contradiction in the final stage

/t/ kat(paper)	/p/ kap(shakat-awat)
/r/ kar(bite blow)	/a/ chak(enough or correct)
/n/ con(adjective prefix or declension)	/y/ says(to root)
/l/ banana(factory-factory)	/m/ cham(tree,plant)

Karbi words have two and a maximum of three consonants pronounced simultaneously Two-consonant combinations are found at the beginning and middle of words and three-consonant combinations are found in the middle of words For example-

In the early stages: Pl- plang(support or rich) ,pra- preng(borrow), kr- krangnang(throw), kl- klan(spread) and so on.

In the middle stage: pl- aplut(shooting in the fleshy part) , mba-hambang(worm nest), tva-chatvat(truth), nch-lamsanchepo(literary) etc

The combination of three consonants:

Kkr- arnukkruti (deep),kpar- rikpran(slightly sprinkled),ngbr- chengbrup(small sleeve),nkr- chungkreg(thin) etc.

There are many different types of characters in the Karbi language For example-

- a) dd-i(sleeping), u(smoking), a(planting)
- b) VV- Oi(being upset), Oi(finishing things), OA(not finishing)
- c) CV- Fly (four), Me (fire), Fu (grandfather), Po (father)
- D) VC- Ok(fish), Ak(wound), Ik(uncle)
- e) VCV- Ocha(oja), Athu(fat), Akri(thumb)
- f) CCdd- Drave (female)

- g) CVtr- frat(verb adjective suffix),nep(hand-held)
- h) VCVTr- Arang (tree trunk), Ark (a skin disease), Ingtam (holding by the lips)
- i) CVCV- Pish (Woman), Pinp (Karbi Officer)

One of the characteristics of the languages of the Tibeto-Boml language group is the predominance of tone In 'Karbi Lamtachim', Rangbang Terang does not show the use of any melodic words in Karbi language However, Upendra Nath Goswami shows the use of three main tones in Karbi language: low, high and war. shows For example, so (disease), so (pain), so (a suffix), bi (bill), bi (small), bi (pain), etc For example, phi (past), phi (grandmother), ik (uncle), ik (decrease), ik (black color) etc.

There are many different types of languages, but the most important one is the Karbi language Languages are influenced by various factors such as interaction, co-location or spatial proximity, close social ties, trade, education, migration, transportation, etc The Karbi language is influenced by the sounds of the Assamese language in terms of phonetic pronunciation.

For example, the Karbi language does not use the consonant mahaprana d,dh,bh but the sound bh is used such as Wilasa(Ajla),Bhamta (Friday) etc.

- The use of the short-voiced consonant c in Karbi For example, Kambura> Gambura(village headman), Kamcha> Gamcha(gamocho) etc
- Use of the consonant Mahaprana Dha sound in Karbi language For example, kadah or kad'>kadah or donkey(donkey), dahram>dharam, dahram(dharam) etc.
- Use of the consonant Mahaprana D sound in Karbi language For example, khiu> ghee or khiu, khadi> clock or khadi, etc
- There are many different types of characters in the Karbi language, such as alpha-animalization, aghosha-bhavan, introduction of consonants, simplification of consonants , changes in warm sounds, and loss of sounds.

III. Morphology

The Karbi language is a very rich language Morphology covers the discussion of the structure of words ,roots,verbs and the compound forms added to them According to the structure, the words of the Karbi language can be divided into two categories, namely basic and compound words. The basic words of the Karbi language are self-contained New words are formed by adding prefixes and suffixes to one-letter basic words The adjectives of the language can be divided into nouns, adjectives, pronouns , numerals , verbs and adjectives New words are also formed by the deletion of consonants in the language such as Arni Kechi Ni Chi Nichi (west side).

Words are also formed by adding consonants in Karbi,such as and e ari (to wish) , kaeng op kongop (shoe) , kaeng kok kaengkok (shoe) etc Nouns are divided into three types according to their vocabulary structure: basic, accomplished and derivative. For example, basic: with a form -kang (feet), chu (hair), etc Achieved:Two forms - Kong (feet), Fu (head), Kengfu (knee), Lanch (knee) etc Derivative: Nouns derived from verbs- ke- kekim (to make), kedam (to go) ka- kaparhe (to stand), kachari(to eat) etc Representative nouns - kidun abang (the eater) , kedun abang (the poor)etc.

There are four genders in Karbi: masculine, feminine, neuter and common.The following is how gender division is done in Karbi language:

Gender is distinguished by using different masculine and feminine words

such as-

masculine	feminine
Sarthe(village headman)	basapi(village headman's wife)
fu(uncle)	phi(grandmother)
ang(uncle)	ni(aunt)
pins'(man)	arlos'(woman)
zirp(friend)	zirpi(girlfriend)
ponu(uncle)	Pinu(Aunt)

The feminine suffix(-pi) is added after masculine words such as-

Masculine	feminine
Inti(Ingti clan people)	Inti-pi
Ahm(Assamese people)	Ahm-pi
Inhi(people of the Inhi tribe)	Inhi-pi
Hanse(people of the Hanse tribe)	Hanse-pi etc.

The suffixes (-p) (masculine) and (-pi) (feminine) are added after words of both genders to change the gender such as-

neuter	Masculine	feminine
Arleng(man)	Arlengpo	Arlengpi

So(child) Sopo Sopi etc.

Gender is determined by adding masculine (-al) and feminine suffixes (-pi) and (-api) to neuter words denoting other animals

Example-	neuter	masculine	feminine
Sainang(cow)	Sainang al'	Sainang api pi	
phak(pig)	phak al'	phak api	

However, in the case of domesticated birds, the sound (-a) is removed and only the suffixes (-l) and (-p) are added. Example-wolo(male chicken)- wopi(female chicken) etc.

Some words describing cleavage are found in the Karbi language Examples are lang(water),me(fire), pe(cloth), inglong(mountain) etc.

There are subject verbs, verb verbs, action verbs, cause verbs, element verbs, adjectives and a relative verb There are two types of verbs in Karbi, singular and plural The language uses plural forms like -tumi,-mar,-hor,-heihui,-makha,-chizm,-penang,-menang etc. with the singular For example-

Singular	Plural
Ne(I)	Netum(We)
Rangmar(Sister)	Rangmarli (Sisters)
Meng(cat)	Meng Heihui(the cats)
Monit Inuh(a man)	Monit Amkha(group of people) etc.

Like other Tibetan languages, Karbi has some specific forms such as (-jan,-bang,-pum,-hang,-flak, -pak, -jeng, -sang,-jir,-ham,-sikkim) and so on For example, Osmar Bang Hin (two boys), Janf Afak (five pigs), Bawe Epum (one coconut), Kakat Pakni (two pieces of paper), Chek Aflak (one bamboo), Han Jengtham (three strands of yarn), Lun Jirni(two-line song) etc. Some distinct features are seen in the case of numeral words Use of separate words - Numeral words are formed by positive and negative methods, positive method, complement method and complement and positive method In this language, the tense form is added after the verb root to form verbs according to tense.

Context Source:

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- 5.Pt. Fukan Chandra Fancho, Collection of Articles, pp. 53-5

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