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Kokborok Compounding

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Abstract

Kokborok is the ethnic language of the borok people, the people of Tripura. Kokborok is an old language. It has been spoken since ancient times. . Kokborok did not vanish despite having no original scripture or writers in the present time. Kokborok birthed from very old community which happens to be sino-Tibetan lingual community. We can say that, it originates from Bodo-garo branches of Tibeto-Burman lingual community. Kokborok language is spoken in Tripura, which is a small state of North-East India. It is also spoken in some parts of Bangladesh. According to 2011 census, about 8,80,537 (23.97%) people speak kokborok. Kokborok speaking people are more found in village areas such as Khumulwng, Mandwi, Bishramganj, Kamalpur, Mungiakami etc. We have our own culture, tradition, literature and grammar just like any other communities. That is why, few kokborok compounding is being shown below.

Keywords: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Bodo_garo, North-East.

Introduction: Compounding is a process of forming a new word by joining two or more than two words together. For example- mung (noun) and goron (adjective), mung(noun) and mung(noun) , mung (noun)and khwlai (verb) etc. Compounding plays an important role in forming new words in kokborok. It is a source of developing new words in kokborok. Sometimes, a compound is written in a single word such as - naithok, and sometimes written with a hyphen (-) in between the words such as - (mai-mui). Sometimes, compound is also written together without using hyphen (-). There are no hard and fast rule while using a compound. Basically, a compound is written in three ways.

Here are some examples of forming new words in kokborok using compounding technique-

Mung+mung (noun+noun), mung+goron (noun+adjective) , mung+khwlai (noun+verb), khwlai+mung (verb+noun), khwlai+goron (verb+adjective), goron+goron (adjective+adjective).

Literature review: If we research about kokborok language, we learn that there are not many who write about compounding. Only a few, use this technique. We can see few compounding techniques in Anglo Kokborok Bengali dictionary (1996) written by Binoy Debbarma. Other books in which compounding were seen are kokborok vyakaran (1987) by Nitai Acharya, in the thesis paper 'the structure of kokborok' written by Dr. Samir Debbarma and in Kokborok Learning Course (2016) written by Binoy Debbarma where compounding of kokborok has been clearly explained. Compounding of kokborok are useful in various areas, which is why, it is crucial to preserve through writing rather than letting it slowly vanish.

Data and methodology: Data is a source of collecting information. To know about a community or its scripture, we need to meet the writer to collect data or information. When we can provide more data, the information becomes more reliable and trustworthy. There can be many ways to collecting data.

Primary and secondary data has to be collected in two ways. Primary data is collecting true information or getting it from someone. Data collector must go to the area and mingle with the environment and collect primary data by asking several questions. Primary data can be collected in 4 methods- direct observation, questionnaire, schedule and interviews etc.

Secondary data is the data which is preserved by own self Or through schools, libraries and offices. Useful words can be found from these preserved data. Some of the books are 'sara Kokborok vyakaran (1987) and 'Anglo Kokborok Bangla Abhidhan' (1996) written by Nitai Acharya

I would like to share that I used pen, paper, mobile phone, laptop and books to complete my work,

Kokborok Compounding Words :-

1. **Mung + mung (noun + noun) = compound word.**

		English
Mai + mui =	maimui.	Meal
Tok + khi. =	Tokhi.	Bird dung
Nok+ sip. =	Noksip.	Broom
Nok + Thai =	nokthai.	Residence

Aming	Bolong	Amingbolong	Forest cat
Tok	Twai	Toktwai	Egg
Kerang	Kothoma	Kerangkothoma	Folktale
Sam	Thai	Samthai	Love thorn
Mung	Swlai	Mungswlai	Pronoun
Kok	Elem	Kokelem	Linguistics
Kok	Mang	Kokmang	Meaning
Kok	Ma	Kokma	Grammar
Wak	Bolong	Wakbolong	wild pig
Tokha	Rung	Tokharung	Boat shape fruit tree
Beng	Swnal	Bengswnal	Spider net
Swi	Khitung	Swikhitung	Dog tail

2. **Mung+Goron (noun+adjective)** : In this, the head is mung (noun) and goron (adjective) is added next to it to form kokborok words.

For example:

Mung	Goron	Compound word	Gloss
Kha	Kaham	Khakaham	Good mine
Ha	Kwtwi	Hakwtwi	
Ha	kwchak	Hakwchak	Reddish soil
Kha	Kwthang	Khakwthang	Brave
Lam	Kwtal	Lamkwtal	
Wa	Kosom	Wakosom	One kind of fruit
Bisi	kwtal	Bisikwtal	New year
Tal	Kwran	Talkwran	May
Ok	gwnang	Ogwnang	Pregnant
Tha	Kwtwi	Thaktwi	One kind of potato
Thai	chuk	Thaichuk	Mango
Mui	Sele	Muisele	Python

3. **Mung+khwlai (noun+verb)** : In order to form meaningful kokborok words, mung (noun) is used as the head and khwlai (verb) is the modifier.

For example:

Mung	Khwlai	Compound word	Gloss
Sal	Thang	Salthang	West
Sal	ka	Salka	East
Sak	Thar	Sakthar	Self reliance
Mai	Chu	Maichu	Packed of rice
Mai	Kham	Maikham	Burn rice
Kok	Tun	Koktun	Letter
Ha	Chuk	Hachuk	Hill
Tal	Tung	Taltung	April

4. **Khwlai+Mung (verb+noun)** : By adding Khwlai (verb) with Mung (noun) where khwlai is the head and mung is added next to it, we can form meaningful compound word.

Khwlai	Mung	Compound word	Gloss
Nai	Thok	Naithok	Beautiful
Cha	Thai	Chathai	Hotel
Man	Thai	Manthai	Owing

Cha	Sal	Chasal	Saturday
Swi	Thai	Swithai	Letter
Swng	Mung	Swngmung	Question
Swng	Mari	Swngmari	Question mark
Rwng	Nok	Rwngnok	School
Thwng	Khola	Thwngkhola	Playground
Tang	Sal	Tangsal	Monday

5. **Khwlai+goron (verb+adjective)** : In making of new words, the technique of using khwlai (verb) and goron (adjective) is also seen where Khwlai is the head and goron is the modifier.

For example:

Khwlai	Goron	Compound word	Gloss
Tong	Kosong	Tongkosong	Normal life
Mwnwi	Kothok	Mwnwikothok	Comedy
Swi	Kwrwng	Swikwrwng	'A writer'
Tam	Kwrwng	Tamkwrwng	Drummer
Si	Kwrwng	Sikwrwng	'Writer'
Cha	Khwi	Chakhwi	'One kind of Tripuri curry'
Thwng	Kwrwng	Thwngkwrwng	'Sportman'

6. **Goron+goron (adjective+adjective)** : We can also see that goron and goron are used together to form new words in Kokborok. These kinds of words are often opposite words.

For example:

Goron	Goron	Compound word	Gloss
Kwkha	Kwtwi	Kwkhakwtwi	Bitter-sweet

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Kuchuk	Hache	Kuchuk-hache	Up down
Kaham	Hamya	Kahamhamya	-----
Kolok	Kiting	Kolok kiting	-----
Kotor	Chikon	Kotor chikon	-----
Bara	Baiching	Barabaiching	-----
Kwchak	Kosom	Kwchak kosom	-----
Naithok	Sitra	Naithok sitra	-----
Motom	Mwnam	Motom mwnam	-----

7. **Mungswlai+mung:** New words are also formed in kokborok adding Mungswlai (Possessive adjective) as head along with mung (noun) places next to it.

For example:

Mungswlai	+ Mung	Compound word	Gloss
Ani	Pha	Apha	My father
Ani	Ma	Ama	My Mother
Nini	Pha	Nwpha	your father
Bini	Pha	Bwpha	His Father
Bini	Phayung	Buphayung	His yonger brother
Ani	Hik	Anghik	My wife
Ani	Sai	Angsai	My Husband

8. **Khwlai+ khw lai (verb+verb)** : By attaching khw lai with another khw lai, we can form new compound words in kokborok, such as,

Khw lai	Khw lai	Compound word	Gloss
Thung	Nuk	Thungnuk	Drama
Twi	Tun	Twitun	Message/Letter

9. **Mung+mung+mung:** We can also form few compound words in kokborok by joining three nouns together, such as,

Mung	Mung	Mung	Compound word	Gloss
Tha	Mai	Twk	Thamaitwk	One kind of vegetable
Tok	khi	Seleng	Tokhiseleng	One kind of fruit tree
Boga	Rai	Thai	Bogaraithai	One kind of cock
Kosoi	Mayung	Khunju	Kosoimayungkhunju	One kind of bean
Khum	Tok	Twi	Khumtoktwi	One kind of flower
Kok	Lam	Bwtang	Koklambwtang	Agenda

10. **Mung+mung+goron:** Few compound words in kokborok are also formed attaching two noun to an adjective. Such words are however very few.

For example:

Mung	Mung	Goron	Compound word	Gloss
Langi	Thok	Motom	langithokmotom	Boroks scent

11. Khwlai+mung+mung: Compounding is also done using khwlai (verb) with two nouns next to it.

For example:

Khwlai	Mung	Mung	Compound word	Gloss
Swi	Thai	Bwt	Swithaibwtang	Alphabet
Swi	Thai	Raida	Swithairaida	Orthography

12. Mung+mung+mung+khwlai: Some new words are also formed using three nouns along with a verb. Such as,

Mung	Mung	Mung	Khwlai	Compound word	Gloss
Kerang	Mui	Tha	Pek	Kerangmuithapek	Vegetable

Mung	+ Khwlai	+ Mung	Compound word	Gloss
Puitu	Thang	Mung	Puituthangmung	Believe
Rang	Chong	Mung	Rangchongmung	Budget

Conclusion

We can learn that kokborok language speaking people came from Bodo-garo community of Tibeto-Burman descent. Like any other languages, kokborok also has compounding words. These have been shown above. Compounding is the biggest rule for forming words in kokborok. Kokborok word formation has been shown by adding noun+noun, noun+adjective, noun-verb, adjective +noun, adjective+adjective, pronoun+noun, verb+verb, verb+adjective, noun+noun+noun, noun+noun+adjective, verb+noun+noun, noun+noun+noun+verb etc.

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