The Noun Word Formation Of Lisu Language

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Abstract: Arunachal Pradesh is a hub of many ethnic languages. Many communities of Arunachal Pradesh are anthropologically belong to the greater Mongoloid group, and in linguistic evidence these languages belong to the Sino-Tibetan language family. Changlang is a Major District of Arunachal Pradesh. It is the homeland of interesting tribes such as the Tangsa, Singpho, Tutsa, Lisu, Deori, Chakma and a few Adibasi Tribe also co-exists.

Lisu is a Minor tribe of Arunachal Pradesh. It is mainly found in Vijay Nagar, Miao and Kharsang Circle. The Lisu Language is in the endangered level. No study is found in a systematic way till now about the language. So, in this prospect I select the Topic The Noun word formation of Lisu Language. In this paper I applied Field linguistics approach and Field Study method for Data collection and Descriptive, historical and analytical methods are used for data analysis. The scope of this article is limited. In this article I discuss only about the process of Noun word formation and types of Noun in Lisu language.

Keywords: Word Formation, Morphology, Word Formation and Derivation, Noun Word Formation.

I. INTRODUCTION

Comparing the other states of India Arunachal Pradesh presents a mixed and varied population of diverse ethnic groups and linguistic families. Arunachal Pradesh is a multi-lingual State. Many communities of Arunachal Pradesh are anthropologically belong to the greater Mongoloid group, and in linguistic evidence these languages belong to the Sino-Tibetan language family. More than 50 languages are found in Arunachal Pradesh. Every community have different clans. And each clans have their own languages which have differences and dissimilarities, in both phonologically and morphologically. Many languages of Arunachal Pradesh have in endangered level. Gradually the speaker of many languages leave to speak their mother tongue.

Changlang is a Major District of Arunachal Pradesh. It is situated in the South-east corner of Arunachal Pradesh. This district came into being on 14th November 1987 with an area 4662sq km. Changlang District is attraction for many anthropologists and linguists as it is homeland and fascinating for interesting tribes such as the Tangsa, Singpho, Tutsa, Lisu, Deori, Chakma and a few Adibasi Tribe also co-exists.

Lisu is a Minor tribe of Arunachal Pradesh. The Lisu people are mainly inhabited at the Vijay Nagar, Miao and Kharsang circle of Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh. Linguistically the Lisu language belongs to the Tibeto-Burman of the Sino-Tibetan Speech family and anthropologically it is an offshoot of the Mongoloid stock. The Lisu people use their language at their home. But to communicate with others they use English, Hindi and Assamese. No study has found till now in a scientific way. So in this prospect, as an effective effort the Lisu language is taken to study. Scientific study is needed to develop their language. And it will help to prepare a language guide, grammar book and to standardized the language.

OBJECTIVES

The topic is *The Noun word formation of Lisu language.* The objectives of this article is as follows:
- ✓ To enlighten the Noun word formation of the language.
- ✓ To discuss the types of Noun in Lisu Language.
- ✓ To enlighten the word structure of Lisu Language.

METHODOLOGY

In this paper for the main chapter I have applied field linguistics approach and field study method for Data

collection and Descriptive, historical and analytical methods are used for data analysis.

II. METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

A. PRIMARY SOURCE

Data have been collected with prepared questionnaire for the topic. Sometime informal questionnaire is also used. In this article Descriptive interview method is used. To collect topic related data I used interview method. I selected two villages for field study- Upper Injan and Lower Injan of Kharsang circle in Arunachal Pradesh. In formal situations, questions have been asked from the prepared questionnaire and in the informal situation general conversation has been recorded. The informants are selected from the cited areas by taking interview.

SECONDARY SOURCE

Data are collected from the written documents viz. books, journals, project reports, government records, internet etc.

B. METHODS OF DATA ANALYSIS

I have applied Descriptive, historical and analytical methods for data analysis. While discussing about the migration of Lisu language I used historical method. I used International Phonetic Alphabet to show the examples of Lisu Language.

C. SCOPE

The scope of this article is limited. In this article I discuss only about the process of Noun word formation and the types of Noun in Lisu language.

D. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LISU LANGUAGE

The tribe Lisu is mainly found in Southwest China, Northeast India, Myanmar and Thailand. The Lisu language has mainly three dialects- Northern, Central and Southern. The Northern Lisu is mainly in North-west China, North Myanmar and in North-East India, Central Lisu is in Western Yunnan province and the north area of Myanmar and the Southern Lisu dialect is found South-west Yunnan and in Thailand. In India the Northern dialect is found.

The Lisu Tribe of Arunachal Pradesh is rich in cultural heritage. The Lisu are known as Lisao, Yobin, Khinu etc. Linguistically the Lisu language belongs to the Lolo-Burmese group of Sino-Tibetan language family.

Many linguists noted that the Lisu language is an offshoot of the Assam-Burmese group. G.A Grierson noted five sub-groups of North-Assam group. He noted the Lisu language is an offshoot to the Lolo group of the Sino-Tibetan Speech family. Robins Burling has divided the Sino-Tibetan Languages in two groups- Tibeto-Burman and Thai-Chin. He divided the Sino-Tibetan group into five sub groups. Like-Tibeto-Himalaya, North-Assam, Mid & South Assam, Proto-Lolo-Burmese and Arakan Burmese. Burling divided the Proto-Lolo-Burmese in two groups- Proto-Burmese and Proto loloish. He shows six representative languages- Burmese, Ata, Maru, Lisu, Lahu and Akha fall into this sub-groups.

E. THE NAME AS AN IDENTITY

The Lisu were first sighted by Major Sumer Singh of Assam Rifles on 7th May, 1961 at the present Vijay Nagar circle. Then after in November 1961, Major General A.S Guraya visited Vijaynagar. The word 'Lisu' has different meaning. These are like:

According to their myth- 'Li' means four and 'Su' means person gossiping or quarreling. This indicates that the Lisu had the inherent tendency to gossiping or quarreling.

The Lisu used to wear leather belt prepared by themselves, and as a result of which they have got the name Lisu.

The word Lisu is articulated with two syllables-'Li' and 'Su', 'Li' means-four, it also means to wrap the waist with a piece of long cloth prepared specially having four folds and 'Su' means person. Hence, literally, Lisu means the group of people who customarily wrap or tie their waist with a long piece of cloth having four folds just like a big belt.

F. MIGRATION

According to their faith- the Lisu lived in the East of Tibet. In the end of eighteen century they migrated to the Yunnan province of China and in the earlier nineteen century they entered North-Myanmar and North Thailand through the Salwin River. Then after they entered 'Mollosidi' valley of Arunachal Pradesh through China-Myanmar border. Another faith, the Lisu were traditionally lived in Yunnan Province of China and in North Myanmar. The Lisu who lived in the mountain areas they were known as 'Nomipha' and who lived in North-Myanmar they known as 'Chomipha'. According to their traditional belief- 'This Chomipha entered in the Molloshidi valley of Arunachal Pradesh through China-Myanmar Border.

According to a Lisu Respondent, the area Molloshidi was filled with wild animals. So, they entered from Putao to this area for hunting

According to the Book *Profile of a Little - known Tribe: An Ethnographic Study of Lisus of Arunachal Pradesh* by Ashim Maitra –A large Migration from there took place towards the Putao plain of Burma in the third decade of 20th century during the struggle between the Chinese communists and the nationalist forces. Putao lies about 1200km. north of Rangoon and 100km. away from India border. Although the Lisu were the last batch of Mongoloid people who entered this part of India through Chaukham pass during the time of Second World War.

G. STATUS OF THE LISU LANGUAGE

Lisu is a language which is spoken by a group of people bearing a name which is the same as that of the language. Though the Lisu are rich in traditional culture, religion and language of their own, they have not recorded them in writing.

The Lisu were converted into Christianity by the American Missionaries. Due to the conversion causes lack of sincerity for the use of their language in a united form. Now-a-days the new generation are attracted for using English, Hindi. The English language has fallen a bad impact on their language. The Missionary established many English medium Schools and it decreases the consciousness among the youth to preserve their language. In India, Lisu Population is about 6000. The Lisu language of India is in spoken form. The Lisu language is in endangered position. A few Books are published about their language and culture but it is not written in a scientific way. Scientific Study is so much important to develop the language.

H. SCRIPT

The Lisu people used two kinds of script earlier. These were- Pinying and old Lisu Alphabet. But in 1907 James Outram Fraser arrange the Lisu Alphabet with Roman Script. The old Lisu Alphabet couldn't write in the computer. So, Fraser made a Lisu Alphabet by mixing Roman letters that they could use it in the computer.

III. CONCEPT OF WORD FORMATION AND DERIVATION

Morphology is a branch of Linguistics. Morphology studies about the internal structure of words. Morphology includes both derivational and inflectional aspects of words. Morpheme is the basic unit of Morphology. How a word is constructed by adding morpheme and how these words create a new inflectional word- All these are included in Morphological study. After all, how the prefix, infix and suffix help in the process of both derivation and inflection- all these grammatical aspects are discussed detail in Morphology.

Morphology also includes the discussions of word formation. A word is a smallest meaningful unit of a Language. When a word is constructed by adding morpheme to the stem it is called Word formation. Derivation is the process of word formation.

Structurally words can divided into two types. These are
✓ Primary word and
✓ Derived word

The word with a single root morpheme only and which can express a meaning independently it is called primary word. The words that are formed by adding affixes to the root morpheme that are called derived words.

Here in this article the noun word formation of Lisu language is discussed.

IV. THE FORMATION OF NOUN WORD

In Lisu Language we found two kinds of Noun. Structurally we can divided Noun in two ways:
✓ Basic Noun and
✓ Derived Noun

BASIC NOUN: The Basic Noun of Lisu language are not derived from another noun or any other word class. It consists

of only one root morpheme, which is free form and such type of root is capable of containing more than one free or bound morpheme. The Basic Noun of Lisu can divided into three types- Mono-syllabic, Bi-syllabic and Tri-syllabic. Examples are given below-

Mono-syllabic:

Lisu	Meaning
bja	Honey
bi	Silk
si	wood

Bi-syllabic:

Lisu	Meaning
agɔ	Hen
alɔ	Buffalo
napɔ	Ear
lebi	Neck
tsi tse	Teeth

Tri-syllabic:

Lisu	Meaning
njebikʰu	Owl
nje tse le	Sparrow
Si ne li	Forest

DERIVED NOUN: Derived Noun of Lisu Language are formed in three ways. By these process a new word is constructed. But the meaning of the root word rest the same. Derived Nouns of Lisu language are derived by adding derivational affix. Three types of derivational processes are as follows.

By adding derivational affix.

By adding two or more meaningful free morpheme or Compound Noun Reduplication

✓ BY ADDING DERIVATIONAL AFFIX

In Lisu language derived Nouns are derived by adding a bound morpheme after the Basic Noun. Examples-

Noun	+	Bound morpheme	Noun
ninu 'love'		{-su}	ninusu 'lover'
za 'boy'		{-kʰa}	zakʰa 'Brave'

Derived Nouns are also derived by adding a bound morpheme to the verb. Examples are given bellow:

Verb/root	Bound Morpheme	Noun
lɔgua 'cry'	{-su}	lɔguasu 'player'
ngu 'cry'	{-su}	ngusu 'crier'

A bound morpheme add after a Noun word and a root word. Example:

Noun	Verb/Root	Bound Morpheme	Drv. Noun
Za 'meal'	tsa 'to cook'	{-pʰa}	zatsapʰa 'Cook'
Hami 'field'	ji 'do'	{-pʰa}	hamijipʰa 'farmer'

✓ BY ADDING TWO OR MORE MEANINGFUL FREE MORPHEME/ COMPOUND NOUN

Compounding is a process in which stem is formed with more than one root morpheme. In Lisu language most of the noun words are formed by adding two or more word. Examples are given below:

TWO ROOT MORPHEME
Example:

Noun	Noun	Derived Noun
zɔ 'read'	hi 'house'	zɔhi 'school'
mu 'earth'	du 'tremble'	mudu 'earthquake'
natse 'medicine'	hi 'house'	natsehi 'hospital'
natse 'medicine'	mapʰa 'master'	natsemapʰa 'doctor'
mja 'eye'	tu 'blind'	mjatu 'blind'

THREE ROOT MORPHEME

Example:

Noun	Noun	Noun	Derived Noun
bjɔ 'flite'	hi 'house'	natu 'parking area'	bjɔhinatu 'airport'
ngua 'fish'	tse 'catch'	su 'man'	nguatsesu 'fisherman'
nje 'bird'	bi 'beauty'	kʰu 'round'	njebikʰu 'owl'

✓ REDUPLICATION

Reduplication is also a derivational process. Derived Nouns are formed by repeating a noun word. Sometime the noun word fully repeated or sometime it derived by repeating partially. Examples are given below:

Lisu	Meaning
Kʰu kʰu	Whisper
tsɔ hi tsɔ hi	hundred hundred
tʰa tʰa	murmur

V. TYPES OF NOUN IN LISU LANGUAGE

The noun words of Lisu language can be divided into three types:
✓ Basic Noun
✓ Kinship Noun
✓ Numerical Noun

BASIC NOUN: The Basic Noun of Lisu language can be divided into four types. These are given with example below.

Common Noun: In Lisu language the common noun is used to indicate the name of any animal, any nation. These words are primary words. It can't be divided into small unit. The examples are given below:

Lisu	Meaning	Lisu	Meaning
ani	cow	amɔ	horse
lama	tiger	si zi	tree
hi	house	za	meal

Proper Noun: In Lisu language proper noun is used to indicate a particular name of animals, things, name of particular person and so on. Examples are given bellow:

Lisu	Meaning	Lisu	Meaning
zetʰu	Eaggle	uatsɔ	Bamboo
nje bikʰu	owl	sizi	tree

Collective Noun: Collective nouns are used to indicate a group of things or people in Lisu language. Collective nouns are formed by adding two free forms. Examples:

Free Form	Free Form	Derived Form
tsɔkʰa 'village'	cɔ 'People'	tsɔkʰa cɔ 'villager'
ci 'nation'	zu 'live together'	cizu 'Society'

neu 'near'   cɔ 'live'   neu cɔ 'neighbor'

Material Noun: Material Nouns are used to indicate metal. Some examples of Material Noun in Lisu language are given below:

Lisu	Meaning
sala	table
sika cagu	stone
nja gu	bench
sika	box

KINSHIP NOUN

Structurally we can divided the kinship Noun of Lisu language into two types.
Primary kinship Noun
Derived kinship Noun

Primary Kinship Noun: The primary kinship Nouns of Lisu language have single morpheme only. These words are created by birth, marriage and social relationship.

Lisu	Meaning	Lisu	Meaning
aba	father	anji	father's sister
appa	grand father	zammu	daughter
ama	mother	njiza	son

DERIVED KINSHIP NOUN

Derived kinship Nouns of Lisu language are formed by two processes -
By adding one bound form to the free morpheme
By adding two free morpheme
By adding one bound form to the free morpheme:
The derived nouns are formed by adding suffix {-pʰa} and {-ma} to the Basic Morpheme.

Free + Bound	
li-pʰa	grandson
li-ma	grand daughter
ɔ-ma	mother's sister
ɔ-pʰa	mother sister's husband

By adding two free morpheme

Free form	Free form	Derived form
apa 'grand father'	phi 'elder'	apapʰi 'great grand father'

NUMERICAL NOUN

Numerical noun of Lisu language are chiefly classified into two types. They are:
Cardinal Numerals
Ordinal Numerals
Cardinal Numerals: Cardinal numbers are divided into two sub-divisions in Lisu. These are-
Basic Cardinal Numerals
Derived Cardinal Numerals
Basic Cardinal Numerals
The number system of Lisu language has a basic form and one to ten, twenty and hundred. Examples of basic numerals are given below:

Lisu	Meaning
thi	One
nji	two
tsa	three

li	four
ngua	five
tsɔ	Six

DERIVED CARDINAL NUMERAL

The derived cardinal numerals are formed by a combination of the basic numeral with or any combination marker. The derived cardinal numerals are formed by three processes. These processes are discussed below.

By addition
By multiplication
By multiplication plus addition

BY ADDITION

Numerals are formed by the process of addition in Lisu language. The numeral from eleven (11) to nineteen (19) are formed of process by addition. Some examples are given below:

tse 'ten' + thi 'one' = tset^{h}i 'eleven'
tse 'ten' + hi 'eight' = tsehi 'eighteen'
tse 'ten' + ku 'nine' = tseku 'nineteen'

BY MULTIPLICATION

Numerals are also formed by the process of multiplication. While counting twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, sixty, seventy, eighty, ninety are formed by multiplication of ten with the respective basic cardinal numeral. Examples:

nji 'two' tse 'ten' njitse 'twenty'

BY MULTIPLICATION PLUS ADDITION

While counting twenty one (21) to twenty nine (29), Thirty one (31) thirty one to thirty nine(39), forty one to (41) to forty nine(49), fifty one (51) to fifty nine(59), sixty one (61) to sixty nine(69), seventy one (71) to seventy nine (79), eighty one(81) to eighty nine (89), ninety one(91) to ninety nine(99), all these numerals are formed by multiplication plus addition process.

Examples:
nji 'two'× tse 'ten' + t^{h}i 'One' = njitset^{h}i 'twenty one'
li 'four' × tse 'ten' + nji 'two' = litsenji 'forty two'
hi 'eight'× tse 'ten' + ku 'nine' = hitseku eighty nine

Ordinal Numerals

An ordinal number is a number of defining a thing's position in a series such as 'first', 'second', 'third', 'fourth' etc. The ordinal numerals are formed by prefixing {-naba} to the cardinal numeral one, two, three, four etc. in Lisu. These ordinal numerals are given below-

t^{h}i 'one' + naba = t^{h}inaba 'Monday'
nji 'two' + naba = njinaba 'Tuesday'
tsa 'three' + naba = tsanaba 'wedneday'

These are the process of noun word formation in Lisu language. The language is in a spoken form. Scientific study is too much important to develop the language.

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