

Noun Formation in Karbi Language: An Analysis

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Introduction:

Assam one of the North-Eastern states of India has widely been considered as an ethno-cultural mosaic comprising different enteric and linguistic group belonging to different races such as Dravidians, Austroloid, Caucasian and Mongoloid from the time immemorial. Importantly, this region along with its linguistic pattern has been a major area of attraction for the researcher of linguistic, culture and folk-lore and different studies have been made to unveil different dynamics of the lingual scenario of the region.

Karbi people belonging to the Tibeto-Burman linguistic group mostly reside in the Karbi Anglong district of the State of Assam. However, their settlement can also be seen in other districts such as Sivasagar, Golaghat, Nagaon, Darang, Silchar as well. According to the census of 2011, the total population of Karbi Anglong is 956,313 comprising of 4,90,169 and 4,66,146 women [https://www.censusindia.co.in>distric] respectively. Similarly, the said census 2001 depicts that the total number of people speaking Karbi language has been 8,419,534 [https://www.censusindia.co.in>district]¹/₄

Objectives:

The present paper is of following objectives:

- To specify different types of noun word formation in Karbi language along with providing a brief discussion of the process of noun structure in Karbi language.

Importance of the study:

The importance of the study is that it aims to shed some lights on the process of the noun structure in Karbi language. Moreover, the importance of the existing study can also be

justified as it aims to unveil the proper pronunciation pattern of Karbi language in order to preserve and protect the uniqueness of the language for the generations to come.

Types of method used: The present study is qualitative in nature along with using historical method. The present paper is based on field survey made by the researcher in the Diphu region of Karbi Anglong. Moreover different books, journals and articles have been consulted for the preparation of the paper.

Discussion:

Word formation, in general sense, means to form different words from the very roots of the word through different rules and norms. Word formation in karbi language is mainly of two categories:

- **Basic word**
- **Derivational word**

Noun word structure:

Noun words of Karbi language are one of the major parts of the nominal words of the basic words. Noun word describing names of different animals, things, plants, their state of mind and works have been called nominal words. Most nouns in Karbi language are of one or two characters although words with three characters can also be seen. Based on noun composition in Karbi language, we can depict them as follows –

- **Simple/basic noun**
- **Compounded noun –**
 1. **compound with bound morpheme**
 2. **compound with two or more meaningful word**
 3. **derived noun with habitation or reduplication word**

Basic Noun:

The basic nouns in Karbi language characterized with from one to three syllables. They can't be sub divided into minute parts and thus no derivation process can be seen. The basic words alone have meaning and therefore such words cannot be fragmental meaningful manner. Karbi language is enriched with a significant numbers of independent and basic nouns. For example:

Karbi	English
p ^o	father
s ^o	teeth
chain ^g	cow
l ^o sei	horse
m ^o nit	human
hem	house
T ^o	bird

Importantly, based on numbers the basic syllable. The nouns of Karbi language can be classified into three categories

- **Monosyllabic**
- **Disyllabic**
- **Polysyllabic**

Monosyllabic Example:

Karbi	English
s ^o k	paddy
^o k	fish
chu	hair
be	goat
an	rice
Ach ^o	child

Disyllabic example:

Karbi	English
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me-hip	fireplace
keʃ-p/ʌ	knee
pʰ -t/ɛ	banana
han-parbʰ	vegetables
pe-un	blanket

Polysyllabic example:

Pijʰ -aham	honeyhive
t/ɛʃpi-arʰ	tree branch
ri-simun	finger

In Karbi language, some noun word forms along with adjective words In such derived word, the objective precedes the noun. For instance,:

Noun	adjective	derived noun
mʰnit(human)	henʰ (bad)	mʰnit-henʰ (bad human)
thesʰ (fruit)	ka ʃei(raw)	thesʰ-ka ʃei (raw fruit)
Arʰʃ(stone)	ardik (heavy)	arʰʃ-ardik (heavy stone)

The derived noun of karbi language can be compose in several ways, as –

- Amalgamation of two or more free form.
- Amalgamation of basic form and bound forms.
- Through habit or repetition known as Re-duplication.

Two or more forms:

Noun	noun	derived noun
Hile (gun)	amu (bullet)	hileamu (gun's bullet)
Laʃ(water)	tuk (down)	laʃtuk (a well)

Mir (flower) abiri (garden) mir-abiri (flower garden)

- Some nouns are generally derived from adjectives. In such derived words, the adjective is placed after the noun. For Example :

Noun	adjective	derived noun
P/armi (rope)	kidi ^h (long)	p/armikidi ^h (long rope)
Sin ^h (sky)	kilir (blue)	sin ^h ikilir (blue sky)

Words again through practice or repetition:

Based on practice or repetition the derived nouns of karbi language can be classified as :

- Meaningful word repetition or complete practice.
- Meaningful words partial repetition or partial practice.
- Noun word accomplishment meaningful word repetition or complete practice-
In karbi language noun, adjective, pronoun, verb, numerical helps in noun formation.

Example:

Karbi	English
Arni-arni	day by day
C/eklo-c/eklo	month by month
Lapu-lapu	somehow

- Meaningful words partial repetition and partial practice :

Karbi	English
La ^h -lu ^h	water
MOnit-mOnur	human
Sa ^h -su ^h	rice

Derivation in Noun:

Word derivation means the creation of new word and words are formed in most of the pragmatic languages through such process. Through this process, it can be decided that whether there is any changes in the specific class or not. Generally, the process of word Derivation is done through two ways such as-

- Class Maintaining Derivation
- Class Changing Derivation

In simple sense, Class Maintaining Derivation implies the process in which there are no changes in class. On the other hand, Class Changing Derivation implies the process where in changes occurred in a particular class.

So far as the Karbi Language is concerned, noun word formation in this language can be discussed through both derivations such as Class Maintaining Derivation and Class Changing Derivation.

Class Changing Derivation:

- New noun words are derived in Karbi language by adding a noun to another one.

For example:

Noun	noun	derived noun
Mek(eye)	C ^h u ^h (hair)	mek-chu ^h (eye lash)
I ^h han (earth)	tibuk (put)	i ^h han-tibuk (earthen put)

- Similarly, various words are formed by amalgamation of three basic words with a basic word. For instance:

Noun	noun	noun	derived noun
cikl ^o (month)	mala ^h (sun)	s ^o (child)	chikl ^o ngs ^o (star)
arni (sun)	ch ^o ^h ho(frog)	kej ^o i(dowerless)	arnich ^o ^h kej ^o i(solar eclips)

- karbi noun derivation is done through amalgamation of a noun with an adjective.

Here, we can cite the following examples:

Noun	adjective	derived noun
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T/ɛsɔ̃ (small fruit)	kedɔ̃k(sweet)	T/ɛsɔ̃-kedɔ̃k(orange)
Laŋ̃(water)	ket/ɛ (big)	laŋ̃ke/te (flood)

- noun word derivation through Class Maintaining Derivation in Karbi language can also be seen when a basic word is amalgamated with bound form. For example:

Noun	Bound form	Noun	Derived noun
Nɔ̃ (nose)	{-kan}	aŋ̃mi(body hair)	nɔ̃kanaŋ̃mi (nasal hair)
Habit (forest)	{-a}	cheŋ̃(buffalo)	habitacheŋ̃(wild buffalo)
Sɔ̃k(cultivation)	{-ke}	abaŋ̃(man)	sɔ̃kkeabaŋ̃(harvestar)

Class Changing Derivation:

The very title Class Changing Derivation suggests that changes in the class occurred in word formation. In this process, changes in adjective or verbe root widely occurs.

- Nouns explaining quality in Karbi language are formed when a basic noun joins to a adjective. For example:

Noun	Adjective	Abstract noun
Laŋ̃(to see)	mesen(beautiful)	laŋ̃mesen(fascinating)
Arni(sky)	klarcheŋ̃(bright)	arniklarcheŋ̃(bright sky)

- Similarly, amalgamation of two noun results in creation of a pronoun.

Noun	Noun	Pronoun nouns
Arni(month)	isi(one)	arni-isi (every month)
Niŋ̃kan(year)	isi(one)	niŋ̃kan-isi(every year)

Findings of the Study: The major findings of the study are as follows

- In karbi language derivational words are formed making amalgamation of basic words with prefix, suffix, adjective, root word.

2. It has often been seen that most of the noun words are basic in nature. Moreover, these basic nouns can be of different syllables such as monomorpheme, dymorpheme and polymorpheme.
3. New words in Karbi Language are formed the derivational processes such as class changing and class maintaining derivation. Here, it is seen that nouns are formed through combination of nouns nouns with noun, nouns with adjective.
4. Some derivational words in Karbi Language are formed taking a basic word as their roots.

Conclusion: In conclusion, it can be said that the Karbi language is a language enriched with different linguistic norms and rules. In the present era, it should be our duty specially to the new generations belonging to Karbi tribe to preserve and protect this unique language and introduce its beauty to the world community at large.

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