NEGATION IN NORTH CENTRAL DIALECT OF THE BODO LANGUAGE

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ABSTRACT

As stated by David Crystal (1980), "Negation (Negative) is a process or construction in GRAMMATICAL and SEMANTIC analysis which typically expresses the contradiction of some or all of a sentence's meaning." It plays a very important role in the system of language communication. Negation may be expressed through the 'Negative particles', 'Negative markers', 'Prefixes' or 'Suffixes'. The present study tries to analyze the construction of negative sentences in North Central Dialect of Bodo language. It is observed that in North Central Dialect of Bodo, negation is express by three ways first is by using **Negative markers,** second is by using **Negative copula** and third is by using **Negative morpheme**. Proposed topic is analyzed from Synchronic point of view.

KEYWORDS: *North Central Dialect, Negation, Types of Negation.*

1.0. INTRODUCTION:

The Dialect which is mainly spoken at Odalguri district is the North Central dialect of Bodo. Odalguri district is one of the 27 districts of Assam in North-eastern India. Odalguri town is the head quarter of the district. This district is bounded by Bhutan and West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh in the north, Sonitpur district in the east, Darrang district in the south and Baska district in the west. The area of the district is 1852.16km. The total population of the district is 832,769, according to 2011 census. The name of the district is derived from its headquarters, Odalguri. There are three traditions regarding the etymology of Odalguri. According to one tradition, the name is derived from Odal (a kind of tree) and Guri (roots or surrounding) and it was named because originally the town developed around an Odal tree. According to another tradition, this town derived its name because this place was originally a hermitage of sage Uddalaka. According to the third tradition, the name is derived from the two Bodo words Ordla (wide and spacious) and Gundri (powdered object). The present study aims to analyze the construction of negative sentences in North Central Dialect of Bodo language.

2.0. NEGATION IN NORTH CENTRAL DIALECT OF BODO:

In North Central Dialect of Bodo, Negation is express by three ways first is by using **Negative markers,** second is by using **Negative copula** and third is by using **Negative morpheme**.

2.0.1. Negative markers:

Negative markers are some of the affixes, which are used to mark as negative meanings. Four types of negative markers are used in this dialect, i.e. /-la/, /-a/, /-ya/ and /da-/. Uses of these negative markers are analyzed below with proper example.

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(i) /-la/ & /-a/:
/-la/ is occur when preceded by the verb that ends in a vowel phoneme and /**-a**/ is occur when preceded by the verb that ends in a consonantal phoneme.

1. /bi-ɯ buŋ-a/   'He/she do not speak'
        he/she-Nom. speak-Neg.
2. /aŋ pʰai-la/   'I cannot come'
            i come-Neg.
3. /aŋ iskul-ao tʰaŋ-a/ 'I do not go to the school'
            i school-Loc. go-Neg.
4. /aŋ hɯ-la/   'I do not give'
            i   give-Neg.

(ii)   /-ya/:
        It is occur when preceded by a verb ending in vowel phoneme /**a**/.
1. /aŋ bedor za-ya/   'I don't eat meat'
    i meat eat-Neg.
2. /aŋ mɯsa-ya/   'I do no dance'
    i dance-Neg.

(iii)   /da-/:
        /da-/ is used to denote objection or obstruction. It occurs before verbs. For example:
1. /sanduŋ-ao da-kʰar/ 'Don't run in the sunshine'
        sunshine-Nom. Neg.-run
2. /dɯi-ao da-gele/   'Don't play in the water'
        water-Nom. Neg.-play
3. /da za/   'Do not eat'
        Neg. eat
4. /da mao/   'Don't do'
            Neg. do

2.0.2. Negative copula:
        In this dialect, the negative copula **/gɯia/** or **/gɯila/** is used to express negation in existential constructions, locative predicates and possessive sentences. Both are in free variation. For example:
1. /no-ao mansɯi gɯia/   'There is no man in the house'
        house-Nom. man   Neg.cop.
2. /dɯ-ao kʰam gɯia/   'There is no rice in the cooking utensil'
        cooking utensil-Nom. rice Neg.cop.
3. /pʰɯtʰar-ao mansɯi gɯila/ 'There is no man in the field'
        field-Nom. man Neg.cop.

2.0.3. Negative morpheme:
Negative morpheme **/noŋa/** is used to negate a statement. Some of the examples are given below:
1. /aŋ somaina noŋa/   'I am not beautiful'
            i beautiful Neg.
2. /nɯŋ bɯrai noŋa/   'You are not old'
            you old Neg.
3. /aŋ dahɯna noŋa/   'I am not servant(male)'
    i servant (male) Neg.

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3.0. CONCLUSION:

From a Synchronic study, it has been observed that in North Central Dialect of Bodo, Negation is express by three ways i.e. by using **Negative markers, Negative copula** and **Negative morpheme**. It is observed that, in North Central Dialect, negation is done mostly by affixes and typologically this negation is similar to negative construction of T.B. languages. Four kinds of negative markers, i.e. suffix negative markers /-**la**/, /-**a**/, /-**ya**/ and prefix negative marker /**da**-/ are occur in this dialect. It is also observed that negative copula /**gɯia**/ or /**gɯila**/ is used to express negation in existential constructions and to negate a statement /**noŋa**/ Negative morpheme is used in this dialect.

Abbreviations:

Neg.= Negative, Nom.= Nominative, Neg.cop.= Negative Copula, T.B. = Tibeto-Burman

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