



THE NOUNS OF WANCHO: AN INFLECTIONAL PROCESS

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ABSTRACT:

The Wancho is one of the major tribe of Longding district of Arunachal Pradesh. They are also living in five villages adjacent areas of Sivasagar District of Assam. The Wancho community their own language i.e Wancho. In this language there are mainly two dialectal variations viz. Nimu(Lower Wancho) and Nianu(Upper Wancho). In the context there are a little differences in phonological and morphological and lexical variations. In the context of the wancho language the Nimu dialect is used in all social and public works. The Bible also translated to Nimu dialect of Wancho language.

Every language has its own grammatical categories such as noun, pronoun, adjectives, verbs, number, gender, person, case and numerical also. The Longchang dialect also follows own grammatical peculiarities in respect to morphological features. The morphology of this language is mostly agglutinative. Affixes are used with the nouns for inflection in number, gender and case. This article aims at analyzing the inflection of noun words of Wancho.

KEYWORDS: Sino-Tibetan, Tibeto-Burman, Wancho language, Inflection, Noun, Gender, Number and Case.

1.0 INTRODUCTION :

1.1 An Introductory Note on the Subject

Arunachal Pradesh is a multi tribal and multi cultural state. Various Linguistic tribes are living in various places of Arunachal Pradesh. The state is with a population numbering 1,38,2611 (census,2011), and the people speak more than 50 languages. The people of the states are popularly considered as tribal. Every tribe has their own dialectal variations. This variations are

found according to their place of inhabitant. So, the variety of languages may not be called as dialect. The contend sociolectal and ethnolectal varieties. There are quite a good number of varieties among the people and they took their dwelling areas in the state chiefly on the river banks and in the interior areas of the dense forests of the territory. Linguistically the state shows the maximum diversity, with nearly hundred languages altogether. The indigenous inhabitants of this region are mostly tribal and since prehistoric time they are

continuing their own tribal customs and tradition.

1.2 The Wancho Community and their linguistic area

The work wancho means hill people. The Story of migrations of the wanchos alludes to the fact that search for cultivable land and inter tribal feuds impelled them to migrate from their abode across the Patkai and settle in Tirap a few centuries ago. It is certain that the Wanchos came before the arrival of Ahoms of Assam. The Wancho language as well as the Wancho Community is



dominant in the Longding district of Arunachal Pradesh. The Wanchos are living in 68 villages of Longding District. The Wancho is an endangered language and undeveloped also. Linguistically the Wanchos are belongs from Tibeto burman branch of Sino-Tibetan language family and mongoloid group anthropologically. Wancho language has no any Traditional script. Now they use Roman script universally.

1.3 Scope of The Study

To get a clear picture of the Wancho Language the various aspects of every linguistics variety within the language must be studied. Till today not a proper study of the Wancho has been studied in proper scientific way. The Study will be attempt an important in developing the education in primary level of the state. Further it will help in preparing a grammar in standard form of the Wancho Language. In this paper only gender and number of the Wancho language are discussed briefly.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

The main objectives of the study of The Nouns of Wancho: An Inflectional Process is given below

- In Wancho how the words are formed by inflectional process would be revealed.
- In Inflectional process will signify the different vocabulary of nominals in Wancho.
- By the study the formation of parts like gender and number of the nouns could be observed.
- The study will highlight the vocabulary of wancho and how they are interchanged with addition of morphemes.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The method adopted in this study the descriptive analytical method. The data have been collected by field study from some dwelling parts of the speech community. The study attempts to find out basic inflection of the noun words of the Wancho language. The Collection of procedure of required for the structural and non-structural analysis is broadly divided into two categories i.e primary and secondary. The primary data have been collected from the native speakers of Wancho in different localities of Longding district of Arunachal Pradesh in three forms.

- Supplied Vocabulary
- Sentences
- Information Conversation

Most of data were recorded using a digital voice recorder. The dataset is prepared that contain isolated words in monosyllabic and disyllabic forms. Keeping view to the goal, some of the words are selected in controlled minimal pair.

2.1 Methods of Data Collection

i) Primary Source: Primary Data have been collected from various conversation with the people in both formal and informal situations. In formal situations, question have been asked from the prepared questionnaire and in the informal situation, general conversation has been recorded. The informants are selected from the different dialect areas of this language. For this purpose, I have visited various places of Kanubari, Russa and Rangluwa.

ii) Secondary Sources: Data are collected from the written documents viz. books, journals, project reports, government records, internet etc.

3.0 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A few books presented the Wancho Community have been taken to mention as foreworks in the study. *The wanchos* written by Parul Dutta published in 1990 is a Description of socio cultural life of speakers of this language.

To study in an analytical view a work is *A Note on Wancho Language* (1977) author K.Dasgupta analyzed scientifically the phonologically and vocabulary of different dialects of the Wanchos. In Grierson's Linguistic Survey of India and Robins Burling's *The Tibeto-Burman languages* some aspects of Wancho language as discussed.

Fr. Francis T.J.sdb's *First Ever Wancho Grammar cum English-Wancho Tutor* is a very important book for the study. It has a very high academic value and linguistic value.

An article entitled *Wancho Phonology and Word list* published in *Linguistics of Tibeto-Burman Area*, Vol-21, No.02 is a very high standard article which is scientific and linguistically prepared. It helps to the study.

4.0 INFLECTIONAL PROCESS OF THE NOUNS OF WANCHO LANGUAGE

Wancho is a major tribe of Arunachal Pradesh. They are living in 68 villages of various areas of Longding district. The Language is an undeveloped and previously undescribed language. UNESCO recognized the Wancho language as an endangered language.

Inflection is a process which combines words and affixes to produce alternative grammatical forms of words. Inflection contributes a morpheme that required in order to ensure that the word has a form that is appropriate for the grammatical context. Noun words of Wancho Language show inflection for gender, number and case.

4.1 GENDER

Gender distinction in the Wancho Language is determined on the natural recognition of sex. Gender is not grammatically marked in this dialect. It has only natural genders. On the basis of semantical-morphological criteria, nouns are primarily classified into two classes; viz, i) animate, ii) inanimate. Both human and Non human nouns are considered nature.

Nouns in wancho do not show gender concord with the verbs. Secondly all the nouns in Wancho do not show morphological inflection for gender. Genders in Wancho are two-masculine and feminine. The distinction of gender observes the sex variation of human and non-human being.

4.1.1 Process of gender distinction

In Wancho, mainly two processes are followed to indicate the gender of nouns.

* By using different words in case of human being

* By using attributed words in human and non human being

By using different words in case of human being-

In case of kinship terms, gender is distinguished by using different noun words referring to masculine and feminine respectively. For example

Mas.	Fem.
apa 'father'	anu 'mother'
paup 'grand father'	tatai 'grand mother'
usa 'son'	namsa 'daughter in law'

a) Gender distinction of Human Noun

In some other kinship terms, gender is marked by adding the attributives {-pa} 'male', nu 'female'. For example;

Com.	Mas.	Fem.
mi 'man'	mi-pa	mi-nu
sa 'child'	sa-pa	sa-nu

b) Gender distinction of Non-Human Nouns

By using suffixes {-pong} 'male' and {-sa} 'female' to animate objects. For example

Com.	Mas.	Fem.
mahu 'cow'	hu-pong	hu-sa
ran 'goat'	ran-pong	ran-sa
hi 'dog'	hi-pong	hi-nu

On the other hand suffix {-pong} 'male' and {-nu} 'female' are used in case of domestic animals. For examples-

Com.	Mas.	Fem.
o' 'bird'	o'pang	o'nu
o'su 'dove'	o'su pang	o'su nu
o'nak 'crow'	o'nak pang	o'nak nu

Some words are traditionally masculine. These are based on traditional image. For example-rangham 'sun', phaukha 'hill', zawan 'God', wangham 'king'.

Some words are traditionally feminine. These are based on traditional image. For example-

Sa 'river', ti 'water', rangpham 'moon', wangsa 'queen'.

• Neuter gender

The inanimate nouns have no gender in Wancho. They are neither classified as masculine nor as feminine. These are treated as having neuter gender. Consider the following examples-paan 'wood', kha 'firewood', bitsa 'knife', ham 'house' etc.

4.2 NUMBER

Number is one of important morphological category in Wancho language. The Wancho language possesses two numbers- singular and plural. The plural is indicated by adding some plural suffixes, such as {-bu}, which are used after noun and pronoun.

Sing.	Pl.
{-bu} laka 'boy'	lakabu 'boys'
seko 'girl'	sekobu 'girls'
khohom 'umbrella'	khohombu 'umbrellas'
ham 'house'	hambu 'houses'

{-khanak} classifier plural suffix is added for human being. For example-

obikhanak 'a group of people'
sikozem 'a group of female people'
luakzem 'a group of elephant'
o'sazem 'a group of birds'

{-hurem}, {-horem}, are used with words to indicate only animated objects. For example-{-hurem} plural suffix is added for animated objects.

Sing.	Pl.
mahu	mahuhurem
lui	luihurem
lua	luahurem

{-horem} plural suffix is added for animated objects.

Sing.	Pl.
osa	osaharem
o'	o'harem
o'pak	o'pakharem

Besides these attributive words, sometimes the nouns are made plural by adding numerical words. The numerical words follow the noun words. For example-

Sing.	Pl.
mi huwak tuita 'one man'	mi huwak ani 'two men'
luwa tuita 'one elephant'	luwa ani 'two elephants'
ham tuita 'one house'	ham ani 'two houses'

Some words are universally singular. These words are based on traditional image. For example- jowam 'God', hawen nu 'earth', rangham 'sun', letnu 'moon', wangham 'king'.

5.0 CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, it may be summarized as stated below:

- Inflection affects nouns, with reference to the gender and number in Wancho.
- In wancho gender and number are not grammatical as found in the language like Sanskrit and the Hindi language.
- Inflection is motivated by syntax and this process assigns a noun stem certain grammatical properties so as to produce a grammatical word that can fit in a given syntactic slot.
- In Wancho, mainly two processes are followed to indicate the gender of nouns. These are- by using different words in case of human being and by using attributed words in human and non human being.
- Some noun words are traditionally masculine and feminine.
- In Wancho plural suffix is added in both human being and non human beings.
- Plural classifier suffix are added in both human and non human beings.
- In Wancho some nouns are traditionally singular.

Abbreviations: Com- Common, mas- masculine, fem- feminine, sing- singular, pl- plural.

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