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## NEGATION IN KARBI LANGUAGE



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### ABSTRACT:

Negation is an important aspect of verb-system. All languages have a system of negation and have a system of affirmative. The verb system of Karbi language is very simple. The negative verb is another interesting feature of the language. There are three different ways to express negation in Karbi language.

### KEYWORDS

*Negation , Karbi Language , multilinguistics.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Assam is a multiethnic, multicultural and multilingual state of North-East India. Geographically Assam is situated between 90°-96' E Longitude and 24° - 28' N Longitude. Assam is the gateway to the North-Eastern states. It is surrounded by six states of the North-Eastern India. Assam also shares international borders with Bhutan and Bangladesh. It is bounded on the North by Bhutan and Arunachal Pradesh. Nagaland and Manipur in the East. Mizoram, Tripura, Bangladesh and Meghalaya in the South and South-West. West Bengal is in the West. The Karbis are prominent hill tribes among the tribal communities of Assam. The term Karbi stands for the meaning of both the tribe and the language. Racially the Karbis belong to the Indo-Mongoloid group and linguistically they belong to the Tibeto-Burman linguistic group of the Sino-Tibetan family of languages. Geographically the Karbis are found mainly in Karbi Anglong district of Assam. Besides Karbi Anglong district, the Karbis inhabit areas such as North Cachar Hill District, Kamrup, Nagaon, Morigaon, Golaghat, Lakhimpur and Sonitpur district of Assam; Balijan Circle of Papumpare district in Arunachal Pradesh; Jaintia hills, Ri Bhai and East Khasi Hill District in Meghalaya and Foothills around Dimapur district in Nagaland. Apart from Assam, the Karbis are also recognised as scheduled tribes in Meghalaya, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh.

## 2. LAND AND PEOPLE

Karbi Anglong, a district administered as per the provisions of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution of India, having an autonomous district of their own since 17 November, 1951. The district is situated in the central part of Assam. It is bounded by Golaghat district in the east, Meghalaya and Morigaon district in the west, Nagaon and Golaghat district in the north and N.C. Hills district and Nagaland in the south. The district with dense tropical forest covered hills and flat plains. It lies between 25° 33' N to 26° 35' N Latitude and 92° 10' to 93° 05' E Longitude. The total geographical area of Assam is 78,438 sq. Km. and the area of Karbi Anglong district is 10,434 sq. kilometers. It is the largest district of Assam on the basis of area.

As per the census of India 2011 the total population of Assam is 31,169,272 of which male and female are 15,954,927 and 15,214,345. On the other hand, as per 1961 Census the total population of the Karbi Anglong district 2,25,407 and this had gone up to 9,65,280 (4,93,482 male and 4,71,798 females) in 2011 Census of India. According to the Census of India 2011 the population density (person per sq. km.) of Karbi Anglong district are 93. This district is the second lowest district in Assam from the view point of density of population. On the other hand the density of population of the state of Assam is 397 (2011 Census). The literacy rate in this district as per census 2011 is 73.52% (male-82.12% and female-64.62%) as against 73.18% for Assam state.

The population of the district is predominantly tribal. The major tribal ethnic groups of this district are namely Karbis, Bodos, Kukis, Dimasas, Hmars, Garos, Rengma Nagas, Tiwas, Man (Tai language speaking), Mizo, Monipuri, Khasi etc. Besides, a large number of non-tribals also live together in this hill region. With the variety of communities, language, culture, religious and customs of different hues intermingle freely in Karbi Anglong to constitute a homogenous blend.

The Karbis constituted 10.7% of the total tribal population (33,08,570) in the state of Assam in 2001 Year. As per 1961 census the total population of the Karbis was 1,16,887 and this had gone up to 4,60,000 in 2001 census. With this population the Karbis constituted the third largest tribal community in Assam after the Bodos and Mishings. Their percentage of literacy as per 2001 census 53.7% (64.1% male and 43% female). The percentage of literacy among the Karbis must have also gone up along with

the state percentage.

### 3. CULTURE AND SOCIETY

The Settlement pattern of the Karbis is in the form of a village .Each revenue village has a headman called Kang Bura or Sarthe who is appointed by the District Autonomous Council Authority. Each Karbi village is named by the village's headman's name. Like the other hill tribe ,the karbis have a tendency to live on the hill top. In the plain portion of the district where the karbi people practise permanent cultivation called panikhethi. But the interior areas of the district where traditional Jhum or shifting cultivation method is practise.

The Karbis have five clans namely INGTI, TERANG, INGLE, TIMUNG and TERON. Moreover each clan is divided into a number of sub-clans. All of the clans are socially established on an equality. But even in the cremation ground area is kept demarcation for each clan.

The family of the Karbis are follow the patriarchal system of family structure. Monogamy is the general practice in the Karbi society. Traditionally the practice of polygamy is not favoured. Marriage by negotiation Adam Achar is the common practice of the Karbi. The karbis are exogamous at the community level and marriage among the persons of the same clan is strictly prohibited. Asymmetrical Cross-Cousin marriage is a preferential system among the Karbis. The marriage between a boy and his maternal uncles daughter is a widely recognised convention in the Karbi society.

The Karbi have unique folk literature .They are rich in folk tales and folk songs .The folk songs relate to the various aspects of social life such as origin of the human being, birth, death, marriage, love stories ect. The Karbis have a rich oral tradition. One such example the Mosera (recalling the past), a lengthy folk narrative that describes the origin and migration story of the Karbis.

### 4. THE KARBI LANGUAGE

Like most languages of the hill tribes of the North-east, Karbi does not have its own script and is written in the Roman alphabet, occasionally in Assamese script. The Karbi language shows affinity with the various language belonging to the Bodo- Naga sub-group and the Kuki-Chin language. The Karbis are bilingual, they speak in Karbi language to their own community in their domestic life. But they speak state language Assamese in their social life. They have also adopted Assamese as their first language for educational purpose. So, the Karbi language is highly influenced by Assamese language. The Karbi language has taken quite a good number of vocables from the Assamese.

The present paper attempts to investigate or analyse the negative sentences in Karbi language spoken in Karbi Anglong district of Assam. It examines the types and structure of negation available in the language.

### 6. METHODOLOGY:

The present investigation is based on a field survey undertaken in different location of Karbi Anglong district of Assam. The survey was undertaken among the respondents randomly selected from different locations. The data required for the study based predominantly on Interview and structured

Interview schedule.

## 7.NEGATIVE IN KARBI :

David Crystal says 'Negative or Negation is a process or construction in grammatical and semantics analysis which typically expresses the contradiction of some or all sentence's meaning'. The negative verb is an interesting feature of the Karbi language. There are three different ways to express negation in Karbi language e.g.

### 7.1.Use of awe and Kali :

Karbi negative sentence is formed with two particles - awe and Kali. These two words are used to express negation in existential and possessive sentences. Awe is the opposite form of the verb do (be/have). e.g.

1. Hadak hem awe 'There is no home'  
There home neg.

2. Ne riden tangka awe 'no money in my hand'  
my hand money neg.

3. Ladak baduta awe 'No one is here'  
Here anyone neg.

Kali is used to form negation in descriptive sentences and is added after the nominal predicates. It can also occur after verbal nouns functioning as predicate. e.g.

1. Lake ne kitap kali 'This is not my book'  
This my book neg.

2. La ne nudeng kali 'This is not my umbrella'  
This my umbrella neg.

### 7.2.Use of -Ri :

Sometime '-ri' suffix is used to express prohibition in Karbi. It is used in imperative sentences as follow :

1. Methan pen celem-ri 'Don't play with dog'  
Dog with play-neg.

2. Jirpo pen carwo-ri 'Don't quarrel with friend'  
Friend with quarrel-neg.

3. Keduk aphan hijim-ri 'Don't hate the poor'  
Poor acc. hate-neg.

### 7.3. Use of '-e' after Vowels or Consonants:

Usually negative marker occurs before the tense marker in Karbi language. e.g.

1. Ne an so-s-e et lo  
I rice eat-neg. past tense marker  
'I did not eat rice'

Negative marker –e is added to the verb or verb-root to express negation in active sentences. When the verb or verb-root begins with a vowel then negative sentence is formed by suffixing '-e' to the verb. For example:-

2. Alang pe lak i-e  
He cloth white wear-neg.  
'He don't wear white cloth'

3. La akam ne klem un-e  
This work I do can-neg.  
'I can not do this work'

Negation is also formed by repeating the initial single or double consonant of the verb at the end of it. . when suffix '-e' is added to the root, the initial consonant is repeated at the end of the root. e.g.

1. Ne lang zun-z-e  
I water drink-initial consonant of verb-neg.  
'I do not drink water'

2. Ne dam-d-e  
I go-initial consonant of verb-neg  
'I do not go'

3. Lason ne klem thek-th-e  
As such I do can-initial consonant of verb-neg.  
'I can not do as such'

4. Ne an so-s-e  
I rice eat-initial consonant of verb-neg.  
'I don't eat rice'

### 8. CONCLUSION

From above discussion it becomes clear that Karbi has a simple system of making the negative sentences. The negative markers are used as suffix to the verb and verb-root. so, it appears that the verb+neg. and verb-root+neg. order has been used in Karbi language. Karbi negation preserves one peculiarity that is reduplication or repetition of consonants which are generally absent in other Tibeto-

Burman languages of Assam.

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