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## A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF NUMERAL USED IN BORO AND KOKBOROK LANGUAGES.



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### ABSTRACT :

The Boro and the Kok Borok people are the two prominent schedule tribes of India especially from the state of Assam and Tripura. Originally they belong to Mongoloid and Linguistically to Boro Garo sub group of Tibeto-Barman group within the Sino Tibetan language family. They all have cognate language to each other. These are Boro, Dimasa, Rabha, Kokborok, Garo, Tiwa, Deuri, Chutia and Hazong all belong to the Tibeto-Burman Group. These languages have more or less common Linguistic features. That is why Linguistics affinities and genetic relationship are found closely among them.

**KEY WORDS:** Boro and Kokborok Languages, Tibeto-Barman group , genetic relationship .

### INTRODUCTION:

The Boro is most prominent tribe of Assam. They live throughout the North eastern part of

India and mainly in the river valley of the Brahmaputra. The Boro reside mainly in the districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Baksa and Udalguri and sparsely in the district of Dhubri, Barpeta, Nalbari, Goalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, Sonitpur, Morigaon, Nagaon, North-Kachar, Dhemaji and Lakhimpur. The Boro people are also found in neighbouring state in North Bengal, Nepal and in border area of Meghalaya, Bhutan, Arunachal and Nagaland.

Kokborok also Tripuri, is language of the Bodo branch of the Tibeto-Burman language family. The Kokborok language has common features to Boro language. There are many kokborok-Speaking tribes in the Indian state of Tripura, Assam, Mizoram and the neighbouring provinces of the country Bangladesh mainly in Chittagong Hill Tracts. The word Kokborok is a compound of Kok 'language' and Borok 'people', which is used specifically of the Tripuri people. The Kokborok people are also found sparsely in some states of India.

The comparative study of Numeral in Boro and Kok borok languages are as follows. There are basically two types of numeral in these two languages

1. Basic Cardinal numeral.
2. Derived Cardinal numeral.

1. Basic Cardinal numeral: Both languages have free word for Basic cardinal numeral.

For example:

<b>Boro</b>	<b>Kok borok</b>	<b>English</b>
Se	cha	one
Nwi	nui	two
Tham	tham	three
Brwi	brui	four
Ba	ba	five
Dho	dhok	six
Sni	chhini	seven
Dain	char	eight
Gu	chukka	nine
Zi	chi	ten
	Kholpe	twenty

The examples above shows that maximum numeral words are same in both languages. It is also found that in Kok borok language the word twenty is free word.

**2. Derived Cardinal numeral:** Derived Cardinal numerals are not free word and they come from Basic cardinal numerals with some rules. There are three rules in Boro and in Kok borok there are five rules of ordinal numeral.

These are as follows.

In Boro:	1. Addition.	In Kok borok:	1. Addition.
	2. Multiplication.		2. Addition-Addition.
	3. Multiplication – Addition.		3. Multiplication.
	4. Multiplication – Addition.		

## 5. Multiplication-Addition-Addition.

The comparative studies of ordinal numerals with examples are:

### 1. Addition:

In Boro language the numeral from eleven to nineteen are in addition rule.

For example:

Zi - se	(10+1=11)
Zi - tham	(10+3= 13)
Zi - dain	(10+8=18)

In Kok borok language the numeral from eleven to nineteen and from twenty-one to twenty-nine and thirty are in this rule.

For example:

Chi- nui	(10+2=12)
Chi – char	(10+8=18)
Kholpe – brui	(20+4=24)
Kholpe – nui	(20+2=22)
Kholpe-chi	(20+10=30)

### 2. Addition-Addition:

This rule is found in numeral of Kok borok language but not in Boro language, Numerals from thirty-one to thirty-nine are in this rule.

For example:

Kholpe-chi- cha	(20+10+1=31)
Kholpe- chi- ba	(20+10+5= 35)
Kholpe-chi- chuk	(20+10+9=39)

### 3. Multiplication:

These rules are found in both languages. In Boro the numeral from twenty, thirty, forty are in this rule. Where the first numerals are two to nine and second numeral is only ten.

For example:

Nwi - Zi	(2 X 10=20)
Tham - Zi	(3 X 10=30)
Dain - Zi	(8x10=80)

In Kok borok the numeral forty, sixty, eighty are in this rule.

For Example:

Khol-nui	(20 X 2 = 40)
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Khol – tham	(20 X 3 = 60)
Khol – brui	(20 X 4 = 80)

#### 4. Multiplication – Addition:

These rule are in both languages, In Boro language the numeral from twenty one to twenty nine, thirty one to thirty nine are in these rule

For example:

Nwi-Zi-nwi	(2 X 10 + 2 = 22)
Tham – Zi – brwi	(3 x 10 + 4 = 34)
Brwi – Zi – ba	(4 X 10 + 5 = 45)
Ba – Zi – ba	(5 X 10 + 5 = 55)
Do – Zi – dain	(6 X 10 + 8 = 68)
Sni – Zi – gu	(7 X 10 + 9 = 79)
Dain – Zi – dain	(8 X 10 + 8 = 88)
Gu – Zi – sni	(9 X 10 + 7 = 97)

In Boro languages the counting of hundred to above are also in these rule.

For example:

Nwi – jwu – ba – zi	(2 X 100 + 5 X 10 = 250)
Tham – jwu – brwi – zi- se	(3 X 100 + 4 X 10 + 1 = 341)

In Kok Borok language the numeral from forty one to forty nine, sixty one to sixty nine and eighty one to eighty nine are in these rules.

For Example:

Khol- nui- cha	(20 X 2 + 1 = 41)
Khol – brui -chukku	(20 X 4 + 9 = 89)
Khol – tham- dhok	(20 X 3 + 6 = 66)

#### 5. Multiplication – Addition – Addition:

These rule are only in Kok Borok language, the numeral from fifty one to fifty nine, seventy one to seventy nine and ninety one to ninety nine are in this rules.

For examples:

Khol – nui – chi- nui	(20 X 2 + 10 + 2 = 52)
Khol – tham – chi – Ba	(20 X 3 + 10 + 5 = 75)
Khol – brui – chi – char	(20 X 4 + 10 + 8 = 98)

Therefore the comparative study of numeral in these languages has many similarities and some dis similarities since these languages are derived from same language family. The time has come for in depth study of this two language to explore such similarities and dissimilarities in these languages.

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