3. **Verbs in Assamese and Boro.**

3.1 **Verbs in Assamese.**

Verbs in Assamese contribute an important class of content words. They carry clear information regarding the action or state or condition involved in a particular discourse. The verbs in Assamese obviously carry information regarding the person of the subject and the time and the manner of accomplishment of action.

Morphologically, Assamese verbs could be divided into transitive and intransitive; /kʰaːʔ/ ‘(I) eat’ is a transitive verb which demands an object like /bʰat/ ‘rice’ /pʰɔlmul/ ‘fruits’ etc. and /kand/ ‘cry’ is an intransitive verb which calls for no object. There could be detransitive verbs also, such as /dilɔ/ ‘gave’. Which can take /tak/ ‘him’ and /kapor/ ‘cloth’ as indirect and direct object respectively.

Syntactically Assamese verbs could be classified as finite and non-finite. The finite verbs necessarily carry person and tense, while non-finite verbs are neutral to person and tense. /khalɔ/ ‘(I) ate’ in /mɔi bʰat kʰalɔ/ ‘I have eaten rice’ the verb underlined is a finite verb, and /kʰai/ ‘eat’ in /mɔi bʰat kʰai ɔzɔɾɔlɔi ɡɔlɔ/ ‘I went to market after eating rice’ is non-finite.

3.2 **Adverbs in Assamese**

Adverbs in Assamese are those words that modify the action of the verb in terms of *time, manner* and *place of accomplishment of the action of*
Adverbs in Assamese generally occurs at the beginning of the sentence but could be moved to non-initial position other than the final position. The following example could be seen

*Adverb of time:*

/ kailɔj mɔi naho / 'I won’t come tomorrow'

/ xonk hale ahiba / ‘please, come early’

*Adverb of manner:*

/ lahe lale zoa / ‘please, go slow’

/ begai kʰoz dia / ‘please, walk fast’

*Adverb of place:*

/ tat kɔlɔmtɔ nai / ‘the pen is not there’

/ ijat ɛkʰon nɔdi asil / ‘there was a river in this place’.

### 3.3 Verb in Boro

Verb in Boro constitute an improtant class of content words. They carry clear information regarding the action or state or condition involved in a particular discourse. The verbs in Boro carry information regarding the subject and the manner of the accomplishment of action.

Morphologically Boro verbs could be devided into transitive and intransitive; /zanaj/ ‘eat’ is a transitive verb which demands an object like /wŋkʰam/ ‘rice’ /pʰitʰaj/ ‘fruits’ etc. and /gabnaj/ ‘cry’ is an intransitive verb which calls for no object. There could be transitive verbs also such as /hornaj/ ‘give’ which can take /wŋkʰam/, /bizab/ ‘book’ etc. as indirect and direct
Syntactically Boro verb could be classified as finite and non-finite. The finite verbs necessarily carry tense while non-finite verbs are neutral to tense. /zad$a / 'ate' in /a$ $\eta k^b am zada$ / 'I ate rice' is a finite verb and /zanam$ / 'eating' in /a$ $\eta k^b am zanam$ / p$oraj$aliao t$a$ / 'I went to school after eating rice', is a non-finite verb.

Boro verbal group consist of verbs, adjectives and adverbs. Verb bases may be simple or monomorphemic; and the number of simple verb bases forms a considerable portion of the Boro vocabulary. A morpheme may be assigned to the class of verb base if it can take at least one of the principal verbal suffixes. On the other hand, verb bases may be complex or derived having more than one morpheme as their components. There is no limitation of combining morphemes to from derived verb bases. Normally, a derived verb base may take two or three morphemes.

There is no limit in the phonemic form of the verb base, except in the fact that the suprasegmental feature of tone is regarded as basic to the verb and the suffixes are regarded to have neutral tones being subordinate to the verb base. The affixation to the verb bases presents the tonemic changes on morpho-phonemic levels.

A common set of verb bases may participate in verbal, adjectival and adverbial formations; i.e. the same verb base with different affixes may function as the nucleus of a verb, or an adjective or an adverb as the case may be; e.g /ham/ 'be good', ‘come around’ /gaham/ ‘good’, /gaham$ / ‘well’.

Like Assamese, a small number of verb bases may be reduplicated
to give generally distributive or plural or continuous sense. Example could be seen as follows:

/thərətərəi/ ‘going and going’
/thərəθərəi/ ‘about to go, about to go’
/phətiərəi/ ‘about to come, about to come’

There are a few verb bases which show irregularity in respect of taking principal verbal suffixes and other verbal affixes. These may be called irregular verbs. The Boro irregular verbs are (i) /gəiə/ ‘is not’ (ii) /doη/ ‘is’ or ‘are’ (iii) /θυ/ ‘proceed’, ‘let (us) go’

3.4 Adverbs in Boro.

Adverbs in Boro are those words that modify the action of verb in terms of time, manner and place of accomplishment of the action of the verb. Adverbs in Boro generally occur in the beginning of the sentence but could be moved to non-initial positions after then the final position. The following examples could be seen.

Adverb of Time:
/aη ɡabən pʰəiə/ ‘I won’t come tomorrow’
/onnaxi gəkəpəi pʰəiə/ ‘please come early’.

Adverb of Manner:
/onnaxi lasəi lasəi thanə/ ‘please go slowly’.

Adverb of place:
/bəjiəo kəoloma ɡəiə/ ‘the pen is not there’.
/beohaj dəjibanə zəjə/ ‘flood affects this place’.
3.5. Derivational morphemes in Boro.

All the five form classes have their own derivational morphemes. While most of them are suffixes, there are some prefixes too. Some nouns are complex forms derived from verb and adjectives. Let's look at the following paradigms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>{za}</td>
<td>'eat'</td>
<td>{-jq}</td>
<td>/zajq/</td>
<td>'one who eats'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{za}</td>
<td>'eat too much'</td>
<td>{-sula}</td>
<td>/zasula/</td>
<td>'glutton, verocious eater'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Here, some nouns are derived by suffixing {-sula} and {-jq} to verb roots.

Boro also has some derivational suffixes that produce new words with slightly different meaning without changing the class-membership. In other words, the derived form also belongs to the same class to which the stem belongs. A few examples are given below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>{owa}</td>
<td>'bamboo'</td>
<td>{-bari}</td>
<td>/owabaribari/</td>
<td>'the area of bamboo only'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{besor}</td>
<td>'mustard'</td>
<td>{-bari}</td>
<td>/besorbaribari/</td>
<td>'the area of only mustard trees'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.6 Inflectional Suffixes in Boro.

The other characteristics of Nouns that distinguish them from adjectives, verbs etc. are a set of inflectional suffixes. Boro Nouns show
information Number, sometimes for Gender and Definitives and regularity for case. The inflections that mark a noun in Boro could be seen from the following examples:

**Number:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/mansi/</td>
<td>‘man’</td>
<td>/mansi-phər/</td>
<td>‘men’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/mosou/</td>
<td>‘cow’</td>
<td>/mosou-phər/</td>
<td>‘cows’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Gender:**

----------|-------------|----------|-------------|
/bərm-phanta/ | ‘he goat’ | /bərma-phanthi/ | ‘she goat’ |
/mosou-dambra/ | ‘ox’ | /mosou-dambri/ | ‘Cow’ |

**Case:**

Nome : /ram- a bɔŋdaŋmeŋ/ ‘Ram told’
Accusative : /ram-khou najdaŋmeŋ/ ‘I saw Ram’
Ablative : /ram-niphraj labaŋmeŋ/ ‘(I) brought from Ram’.

3.7 **Inflectinal Suffixes in Assamese**

The other characteristics of Nouns that distinguish them from adjectives verbs etc. are a set of inflectional suffixes. Assamese Nouns show inflection for Number, sometimes for Gender and definitives and regularity for case. The inflections that mark a noun in Assamese could be seen from the following examples:
### Number:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/manuh/</td>
<td>'man'</td>
<td>/manuh-bor/</td>
<td>'men'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/gõru/</td>
<td>'cow'</td>
<td>/gõru-bor/</td>
<td>'cows'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gender:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Eng. Gloss</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
<th>Eng. Gloss</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/pøtha/</td>
<td>'he goat'</td>
<td>/pathi/</td>
<td>'she goat'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/kõna/</td>
<td>'bling man'</td>
<td>/kani/</td>
<td>'blind woman'</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Case:

- **Nominative**: /ram-e kɔisil/ 'Ram told'
- **Accusative**: /teõ-k dekʰisilo/ '(I) saw him'
- **Ablative**: /ram-ɔr-ɔra anisilo/ '(I) brought from Ram'.

### 3.8 Concluding Remarks

In both the languages the structural classes known as verbal group consist of verbs, adverbs and adjectives. The verbal group differs from the nominal group in respect of the characteristic sets of verb bases and verbal affixes. In respect of verbal formations both the languages have finite and non-finite as their primary categorisation. Both of them transitive and intransitive forms also as well.

#### 3.8.1 Unlike Assamese a considerable number of Boro verb bases are monosyllabic and monomorphemic. Only a small number of verb bases are
disyllabic. Unlike Assamese each and every Boro verb bases bear a feature of tone.

3.8.2 Unlike Assamese the same Boro verb base with different affixes may function as the nucleus of a verb or an adjective or an adverb as the case may be; example could be seen as follows -

/ham/ ‘be good’
/gaham/ ‘good’
/gahamolj/ ‘well’

3.8.3 In Assamese there are four irregular verbs vide -

i) /nai/ ‘is not’
ii) /as/ ‘has/have’
iii) /thak/ ‘stay’
iv) /b̌l/ ‘let us proceed’.

But in Boro there are three irregular verbs (see 3.3).
3.9 Note and Explanation

   Sec. 4.2.1.2 discussed about irregular verbs.