PART - II

Morphology
Chapter VIII.
The Enclitic Definitives

100. The Kaarupi dialect presents a number of "post-positional affixes or words" which are added to nouns, adjectives and numerals. Pronouns other than those of the first and second persons also take on these post-positions. They carry the value of the definite article 'the'. They become the part of the words to which they are attached to and the case affixes come after them. Where the numeral-cum-enclitic precedes the noun, it becomes an attributive adjective, and does not take the case affixes. For example: māhnu 'man'; māhnu-tu 'the man'; etā māhnu 'one man'; māhnu-tu-k 'to the man'; māhnu-etā-k or etā māhnu-k 'to one man'. Though some of the definitives are added only after a particular type of words, yet in general it is difficult to say which form will take which affix. For example: xāp-khor 'the snake'; but sethi-tu 'the lizard'; pensul-dāl 'the pencil'; but pākhi-tu 'the quill'; lem-tu 'the lamp; but sāti-khor 'the earthen lamp' etc.

To express the force of the indefinite article "a" the same post-positional words and affixes are used with ā-, āk- (< eka) prefixed; e.g. kāpur-khān 'the piece of cloth'; but ākhān kāpur 'a piece of cloth'; iskel-pāt 'the scale'; but āk-pāt iskel 'one scale'.

Of the affixes -khān and -tu are more productive.

101. The following are the principal definitives in Kaarupi:

- kurā :< kunda -. Used only with fire, e.g. sui-kurā 'the fire'.

- khān : < khanda . Used after nouns, adjectives and pronouns, e.g.

   kitāp-khān 'the book'
   mukh-khān 'the mouth'
   hāṭ-khān 'the hand'
   bēṭ-khān 'the wall'
duār - khan
kh kirki - khan
katri - khan
kāxe - khan
parbat - khan
rel - khan
i - khan
xi - khan
i - glā - khan
xi - glā - khan
xoru - khan
dāgār - khan
iskul - khan
nalbāri - khan
guāhāti - khan

- kheni: Used after material nouns to indicate a small quantity, e.g.

run - kheni
pāni - kheni
gākhir - kheni
seni - kheni
mithe - kheni

- khor: Used after nouns, e.g.

zok - khor
bisā - khor
kese - khor
kunseulkā - khor
turi - khor
darākh - khor
pāghā - khor

'the door'
'the window'
'the knife'
'the comb'
'the mountain'
'the train'
'this'
'that'
'these'
'those'
'the little one'
'the big one'
'the school'
'the Nalbari town'
'the Gauhati town'
'the small quantity of salt'.
'the small quantity of water'.
'the small quantity of milk'.
'the small quantity of sugar'.
'the small quantity of raw sugar'
'the leech'.
'the scorpion'.
'the earth-worm'.
'the land molluse'
'the turi fish'.
'the tether'
'the rope for tying cattle'
- khilla / khilā : Used only after betel leaf to mean a piece of it, e.g.
pān - khilla / khilā 'the piece of betel leaf'.

- saklā : < cakrala -. It indicates a slice of some fruits, e.g.
ām - saklā 'the slice of mango'
ālō - saklā 'the slice of potato'
tīāh - saklā 'the slice of cucumber'

- satā / phāā : Used after nouns indicating something long and flat, especially that has been split and made into strips, e.g.
bāh - satā 'the split bamboo strip'.
khori - satā 'the split strip of fuel'.
taktā - satā 'the plank'.

- soiḥā : Used to indicate a thin and long piece of some fruits, e.g.
lāu - soiḥā 'the piece of a gourd'.
kumarā - soiḥā 'the piece of pumpkin'.

- tapā : Used to indicate a drop or a small quantity of liquid things, e.g.
pān - tapā 'the drop of water'
gākhir - tapā 'the small quantity of milk'
sāh - tapā 'the small quantity of tea'.

- tā : Used after numerals and pronominal adjectives, e.g.
e - tā 'definitely one'.
du - tā 'definitely two'.
tin - tā 'definitely three'.
xalla - tā 'definitely sixteen'.
kisān - tā 'definitely how much'.
sisān - tā 'definitely what much'.
xisān - tā 'definitely that much'.
- tār: bāhnnī - tār 'the broom-stick'.

- tu: Used after nouns, pronouns and adjectives, e.g.

nāk - tu 'the nose'
sokhu - tu 'the eye'
dat - tu 'the ink-pot'
hāṭhi - tu 'the elephant'
goru - tu 'the cow'
nodi - tu 'the river'
pukhrī - tu 'the tank'
sātā - tu 'the umbrella'
nakh - tu 'the nail'
bātī - tu 'the cup'
gulās - tu 'the glass'
istīsan - tu 'the station'
āpā - tu 'the boy'
āpi - tu 'the girl'
ṣām - tu 'the European lady'
sāhāb - tu 'the European gentleman'
āli - tu 'the read'
besī - tu 'the needle'
tālā - tu 'the lock'
i - tu 'this particular one'
xi - tu 'that particular one'
sun - tu 'that which is'
bhāl - tu 'the good one'
baīā - tu 'the bad one'
xorū - tu 'the smaller one'
xuzzu - tu 'the sun'
sandro - tu 'the moon'
- ḍāl : It is used after nouns indicating something long but round and solid, e.g.

kalān - ḍāl 'the pen'
suli - ḍāl 'the hair'
roṣi - ḍāl 'the rope'
takān - ḍāl 'the stick'
tājan - ḍāl 'the cudgel'
bān - ḍāl 'the bamboo'
gās - ḍāl 'the tree'
khori - ḍāl 'the fuel wood'
xutā - ḍāl 'the thread'
surāth - ḍāl 'the cigarette'
pāhā - ḍāl 'the jute-plant'

- ḍhor : mahā - ḍhor 'the garland'
galpāṭā - ḍhor 'the necklace'

- pāṭ : Used after nouns, e.g.

szakhlā - pāṭ 'the ladder'
sāmaus - pāṭ 'the spoon'
tajāl - pāṭ 'the bamboo with'
kharām - pāṭ 'the sandal'
kharū - pāṭ 'the bracelet'
pān - pāṭ 'the betel leaf'
satā - pāṭ 'the shoe'

- xut / xutā : < sūtra, e.g.

bēt - xut / xutā 'the long piece of split and dressed cane'
102. A few other words having a collective sense also behave like the definitives after certain words. The following are some of them:

- ākṣā / - bundā : khori - āti 'the bundle of fuel'
- ākhrā : kal - ākhrā 'the bunch of banana'
- kasā < kūrca : khori - kasā 'the bundle of fuel'
  sulī - kasā 'the bunch of hair'
  sābi - kasā 'the bunch of key'
- sarā ; satā - sarā 'the pair of shoes'
  āssi - kāke - sarā 'the mirror and the comb'
  kāpur - sarā 'the pair of cloth'
- tāgni : kūihār - tāgni 'the bundle of sugar-sane'
- tāu : kāgās - tāu 'the sheet of paper' cf. Bg. - tā < Pers. tah
- thān : kāpur - thān 'the big flat piece of cloth'
  cf. Bg. thān < sthāna.
- thok < stāvaka : kal - thok 'the cluster of banana'.
  tāmul - thok 'the cluster of arecanut'.
- dāgri : dhān - dāgri 'the big bundle of paddy'
- sop : bāh - sop 'the cluster of bamboo trees'
  kal - sop 'the cluster of plantain trees'
- lādā : gabār - lādā 'the lump of cow-dung'
103. In plural number the same definitives are used with - kei prefixed to them and the definitive - tu > - kā after the addition of - kei. For example:

- duār - kei - khan (the doors)
- mukh - kei - khan (the mouths)
- sok - kei - khor (the leeches)
- ālu - kei - saklā (the slices of potato)
- āpā - kei - tā (the boys)
- bāti - kei - tā (the cups)
- pensul - kei - dāl (the pencils)
- kathā - kei - ākhār (the statements)
- khori - kei - āti (the bundles of fuel)
- bāh - kei - sop (the clusters of bamboo-trees; etc.)

Indefinitives.

104. The sense of indefinitiveness is often expressed by putting - mān after the numeral-cum-enclitics or after the words expressing definitiveness, e.g.

- dukhān kāpur (two cloths)
- dutā takā (two rupees)
- sāiddin (four days)

But dukhān-mān kāpur / kāpur dukhān-mān (two cloths or so)
- dutā-mān takā / takā dutā-mān (two rupees or so)
- sāiddin-mān (four days or so)

-mān also may be added after a few words to indicate indefinitiveness, e.g.

- ētti - mān (this much) (approximately)
- xētti - mān (that much) (approximately)
- kētti - mān (how much) (approximately)
105. By prefixing āk- with the plural indicating words mākhā and xapā, indefinite sense is expressed: āk mākhā soli 'indefinite number of children i.e.; many children' āk xapā māhnū 'indefinite number of people, i.e. many people'

106. Generally with the numerals put before a noun definite sense is expressed. But putting two different numerals together the sense of "approximation" "about" or "a few" is indicated, e.g.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tin</td>
<td>'three days'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>but tin - sāiddinote</td>
<td>'in three or four days'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dui - sāiddin apeikkhā kar</td>
<td>'wait for two or four (i.e. a few) days'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>āth - dah din lāigbo</td>
<td>'(about) eight or ten days will be required'.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The words keiba and keibatā also are used to carry the indefinite sense, e.g.

Keiba dinor - pāi tāk koi āsu 'I am saying this to him from the last few days'.

Keibatāo māhnū āihsil 'many people (indefinite) came'.