CHAPTER-4

4.0 SYNTAX OF BORO AND GARO

4.1 Morphology and syntax are the two most important parts of grammar as the main business of the grammar is to analyse a language fully depending on these two aspects of a language. So it is said that "morphology syntax and lexicology interpenetrate because every synchronic fact is identical and no line of demarcation can be drawn in advance". Syntax is the grammar of sentences of a language and includes the ways in which the systematic and meaningful analysis of words and morphemic elements are done. It also deals with the ways in which words are combined to form sentences. Ferdinand de Saussure considered morphology as a part of syntax. Morphology has no autonomous existence, because syntactic analysis itself includes morphological processes. "Syntax may be roughly defined as the principles of arrangement of the constructions formed by the processes of derivation and inflection (words) into larger constructions of various kinds. The distinction between morphology and syntax is not always sharp."

4.2 The syntactic structure of Boro and Garo appears as SOV pattern, which means, subject-object-verb. Sentences always have a subject and predicate in these

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1 Rajimwale, Dr. Sharad: Elements of General Linguistics, Vol-1, p.182
2 Ibid,p.182
3 Gleason, Jr. H.A: An Introduction to Descriptive Linguistics, p.128
languages. That is the characteristics of each sentence in Boro and Garo. Some exceptions are observed only on the spoken variety of these two languages. A sentence always begins with the subject which is either a noun or a noun phrase in Boro and Garo. Sometimes in imperative or commanding sentences, subject invariably remains absent in both the languages. For example:

a) Boro

an----nwy hor

I case m. to give
‘Give to me’

b) Garo

an----na on?a

I case m. to give
‘Give to me’

In the above sentences, subject is always understood as second person singular or plural number. Sometimes, a sentence is also formed without any verb in Boro and Garo.

a) Boro

bi swyr

he/she who
‘Who is he/she’
b) Garo

ua sawa

/ / 

he/she who

‘Who is he/she’

In the above two sentences of Boro and Garo languages, verbs are absent. But such sentences formed without having any verbs are very limited in both the languages.

4.3 Types of phrases:

Phrase is a combination of **two or more words, usually not containing a FINITE VERB**, **that form a complete expression by themselves or constitute a portion of a sentence**. Phrases don’t have a subject or a predicate. Phrases are basically divided into two categories in Boro and Garo. These are:

i) Noun phrase and

ii) Verb phrase

4.3.1 Noun phrase:

A noun phrase is always composed of a group of words containing a noun as its main word and functioning like a noun in a sentence. Thus it can function as the subject, object or complement of a sentence. For example:

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4 Dictionary of Grammar, p. 189
5 Ibid, p.181
a) Boro

svima mase svn[dvi
/ / /

dog a is barking

'A dog is barking'

be noa gtyzam
/ / /

this house is old

'This house is old'

b) Garo

achak man$a svn[ena
/ / /

dog a is barking

'A dog is barking'

ia nok gw$tcham
/ / /

this house old

'This house is old'

In the above given sentences, svima mase and achak man$a and noa gtyzam and nok gw$tcham are the noun phrases used in Boro and Garo.
4.3.2 Verb phrase:

Like noun phrases, a verb phrase also consists of a group of verb forms which have the same function as a single verb. In a verb phrase a verb is considered as the nucleus.

a) Boro

\[
\text{bi } \text{ŋk}^\text{h} \text{am} \quad \text{zabaj}
\]

\[
/ \quad / \quad / \quad /
\]

he/she rice has eaten

'He/she has eaten rice'

\[
\text{aŋ} \quad \text{bek}^\text{h} \text{wu} \quad \text{bajgyn}
\]

/ / / /

I this one will buy

'I will buy it'

b) Garo

\[
\text{ua mi cha?zok}
\]

/ / / /

he/she rice has eaten

'He/she has eaten rice'

\[
\text{aŋa iak}^\text{h} \text{o} \quad \text{bregen}
\]

/ / / /

I this one will buy

'I will buy it'
In the above given sentences, \( \eta^{h}k^{h}am \) zabaj and \( mi \) cha\( ? \)zok and \( bek^{h}yu \) bajgyn and \( iak^{h}o \) bregen are the verb phrases used in Boro and Garo.

4.4 Clause:

Clause is a term used in some models of GRAMMAR to refer to a UNIT of grammatical organisation smaller than the SENTENCE, but larger than PHRASES, WORDS or MORPHEMES.\(^6\) Clause is divided into two categories in Boro and Garo. These are:

i) Principal or main or independent clause and

ii) Subordinate or dependent clause

4.4.1 Principal clause:

Principal clause is considered as an independent one and it always stands by itself.

a) Boro

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
\text{beramia} & t^{h}w\check{\iota}k^{h}\eta^\eta\eta^j\iota n\iota \iota & \text{unaosw} & \text{dak}^{h}t^{h}a\iota & \text{sop}^{h}w\check{\iota}d\check{\eta}m\eta^\eta n \\
\end{array}
\]

the patient after death later the doctor arrived

'The doctor arrived after the patient had died'

\[
\begin{array}{cccccc}
\text{be} & \text{bip}^{h}a\check{\eta} & \text{zw}\check{\iota}b\check{\iota}d & \text{gesrem} & \text{m\v\w\y}z\check{a}n\check{\iota}i & \text{gak}^{h}w \\
\end{array}
\]

this tree is very brittle carefully climb up

'This tree is very brittle, climb carefully'

\(^6\) Crystal, David: A First Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics, p.61
4.4.2 Subordinate clause:

Subordinate clauses are not independent as they always depend on some other clauses. Subordinate clauses have not the capacity to stand alone in Boro and Garo e.g.

**a) Boro**

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bi dat'hwa ni ya t'ah
```

he/she not to live you to live

‘You live but he/she is not to live’

**b) Garo**

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sagipani sian za?manosa doctor sokbaha
```

the patient after death later doctor arrived

‘The doctor arrived after the patient had died.

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ia bol namen srama simsake gabo
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this tree very brittle carefully climb up

‘This tree is very brittle, climb carefully’.

In the above sentences, \( \text{dak}^h\text{ara sop}^h\text{widw}^m\text{yn} \) and \( \text{m}^w\text{zan}^w\text{yi gak}^h\text{y} \);

\( \text{doctor sokbaha} \) and \( \text{simsake gabo} \) are principal clauses respectively in Boro and Garo.
In the above sentences, *bi dai1 ai1 yytj* and *mytj ma hmjd^rfm^n*; *ua dorizakan* and *na?a maikh oba aganachýym* are the subordinate clauses respectively in Boro and Garo. Because these two clauses are dependent on the principal clauses *nýn th^a* and *an bawgardým*; *na?a donbo* and *anade gualzok* respectively in Boro and Garo.

**4.5 Kinds of sentences:**

Sentences are divided into two different types based on the nature of use and appearance. These two types are categorised as functional and structural.
4.5.1 **Functional division of sentence:**

From the functional viewpoints sentences are sub-divided into four different types as below:

i) Indicative sentence

ii) Imperative sentence

iii) Interrogative sentence and

iv) Negative sentence

4.5.1.1 **Indicative sentence:**

In both the languages, there is no specific form for marking words or other affixes to indicate this type of sentences. Only the simple declarative sentences indicate this mood.

a) Boro

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>aŋ</th>
<th>dinwi</th>
<th>tʰaŋɡwɑŋ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I today will go

'I will go on today'

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bi</th>
<th>Ḑam</th>
<th>zajw</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
<td>/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

he/she rice eats

'He/she eats rice'
b) Garo

aŋa daʔalo reʔaŋgen

I today will go
‘I will go on today’

ua mi chaʔa

he/she rice eats
‘He/she eats rice’

4.5.1.2 Imperative sentence:

An imperative sentence is generally used to express request, command and wishes etc. Therefore in such sentences subject is always absent. But it is understood that the subject is a second person personal pronoun. Moreover an imperative sentence is always considered as a sentence of predicate based one.

a) Boro

dwi lwη

water to drink
‘(please/you) drink water’
bik\(^{h}\)\(\nu\) on

/ / /

him love

'(Please/you) love him/her'

b) Garo

chi \(r\wp\eta\)

/ / /

water to drink

'(please/you) drink water'

uk\(^{b}\)\(o\) k\(^{h}\)a?sa a

/ / /

him to love

'(please/you) love him'

4.5.1.3 Interrogative sentence:

An interrogative sentence always expresses a mood of question. In Boro and Garo, interrogative sentences are expressed in three different ways as shown below:

i) By using intonation

ii) By using interrogative word before the verb and

iii) By using interrogative word after the noun
i) By using intonation:

In Boro and Garo, interrogative sentences are formed from indicative sentences by using intonation e.g.

a) Boro

daua bir\y
/    /  
the bird flies
‘The bird flies’

\it

daua bir\y
/    /  
the bird flies
‘Is the bird flies?’
be no
/    /  
this house
‘This house’

\it

be no
/    /  
this house
‘Is this house?’
b) Garo

do?o bila
\/
/

bird flies
‘The bird flies’

but

do?o bila
\/
/

bird flies
‘Is the bird flies?’

ia nok
\/
/

this house
‘This house’

but

ia nok
\/
/

this house
‘Is this house?’

Turning of an indicative sentence into interrogative is only recognised from the intonation used by a speaker during the time of utterance. Otherwise it is
orthographically similar to the indicative sentence. In the above sentences of Boro and Garo, maximum stress has been given on \{bir\} and \{bila\} and \{no\} and \{nok\} to turn the indicative sentences into interrogative sentence.

ii) By using interrogative word before the verb:

a) Boro

\[ \text{mynnyf ma narjgvyu} \]

\[ / / / \]

to you what to need

'What do you need/want?'

\[ \text{swrk\^wu gijw} \]

\[ / / / \]

you whom to afraid of

'To whom do you afraid of?'

b) Garo

\[ \text{na?na mai nana} \]

\[ / / / \]

to you what to need

'What do you need/want?'

\[ \text{na?a sak\^o k\^ena} \]

\[ / / / \]

you whom to afraid
‘To whom do you afraid of?’

iii) By using interrogative word after the noun:

a) Boro

\[
\text{ny\text{\textae}ni bizaba bobo}
\]

/ / / 

your book is which

‘Which is your book?’

\[
\text{bwi mansija swr}
\]

/ / / 

that person is who

‘Who is that person?’

b) Garo

\[
\text{na\text{\textae}ni k\text{\textae}tap badia}
\]

/ / / 

your book is which

‘Which is your book?’

\[
\text{ua mande sawa}
\]

/ / / 

that person who

‘Who is that person?’
4.5.1.4 Negative sentence:

In Boro and Garo, negative sentences are formed by using negative markers. Negative markers are used either as prefix or suffix to the verbs in both the languages. The negative marker used as prefix in both the languages are \{da\}-, while the negative marker used as suffix are \{-a\} and \{-za\} respectively in Boro and Garo.

i) \{da\}- as prefix:

a) Boro

\[\text{nwa} \quad \text{da-gab}\]

\[\text{you} \quad \text{don’t cry}\]

‘You don’t cry’

\[\text{bekh} \quad \text{da-kh} \quad \text{wb}\]

\[\text{this/ it} \quad \text{don’t cover}\]

‘Don’t cover it’

b) Garo

\[\text{na?a} \quad \text{da-grapa}\]

\[\text{you} \quad \text{don’t cry}\]

‘You don’t cry’
ii) {-a} and {-za}:

a) Boro

əŋ bikh\r\wu mwzəməna-a

I him/her don’t like

‘I don’t like him/her’

mansip\ra tʰaw iyə-a

peoples oil don’t drink

‘Peoples don’t drink oil’

b) Garo

ə́ndə bina mwəkcha-zA

I him/her don’t like

“I don’t like him/her’
4.5.2 Structural division of sentence:

From the structural viewpoints sentences are divided into three more divisions in both the languages as mentioned below:

i) Simple sentence

ii) Complex sentence and

iii) Compound sentence

4.5.2.1 Simple sentence:

A simple sentence consists of one subject and one predicate that can not be broken down into other clauses. Such a sentence is always completed with one finite verb in both the languages e.g.

a) Boro

\[ \text{api} \quad \text{η}^{\text{h}} \text{am} \quad \text{zajw} \]

\[ / \quad / \quad / \]

I rice eat

'I eat rice'

\[ \text{api} \quad \text{k}^{\text{h}} \text{olom} \quad \text{dono} \]

\[ / \quad / \quad / \]

I pen have
‘I have pen’

b) Garo

\( \text{aŋa mi chaʔa} \)

‘I eat rice’

\( \text{aŋa pen doŋa} \)

‘I have a pen’

4.5.2.2 Complex sentence:

A complex sentence consists of one main clause with one or more subordinate clause e.g.

a) Boro

\( \text{nɔŋŋ yimarnw zəŋ be zəŋkəŋ wu nagargwə} \)

‘We will leave this place as soon as you arrive’

b) Garo

\( \text{nəŋnəi sokbasrapgizaon anʔɔŋəŋ ia biaponi reʔchakatgen} \)

‘We will leave this place as soon as you arrive.’
In the above given sentences ‘ automát be zaygak h wu nagargwy’ in Boro and ‘autom in biapn rechakatgen’ in Garo are the principal clauses and except them others are subordinate clauses in both the languages.

4.5.2.3 Compound sentence:

A compound sentence is made up of two or more principal clauses with the help of co-ordinating conjunctions e.g.

a) Boro

\[
\text{ano ada sase ar\textbf{y} binanaw sase do\textbf{y}}
\]

\[
\text{I have brother a and sister a have}
\]

‘I have a brother and a sister’

\[
\text{bijw \textbf{w}h\textbf{k}am zag\textbf{w}n ar\textbf{y} undug\textbf{w}n}
\]

\[
\text{he/she rice will eat and will sleep}
\]

‘He/she will take rice and go to sleep’

b) Garo

\[
\text{ano ada saksa aro no saksa do\textbf{y}}
\]

\[
\text{I elder brother a and younger sister a have}
\]

‘I have a brother and a sister’
ua mi cha?gen aro tʰusigen

he/she rice will eat and will sleep
‘He/she will take rice and go to sleep’