5.1. Word Order

Word order refers to the linear sequence in which words occur in a sentence. The normal word order of Tibeto-Burman languages is SOV. Like other Tibeto-Burman languages, the Southern dialect of Bodo shares the syntactic feature of the family i.e., the normal order of words in an unmarked sentence is S (subject), O (object), and V (verb):

Subject (S) occurs in the sentence initial position.
Object (O) follows the subject and precedes the verb.
Verb (V) occurs in the sentence final position.

The following sentences show the order of words in the Southern dialect of Bodo:

i. /aŋ eŋhâm za-yu/
   S O V
   I rice eat-Hab.
   ‘I eat rice.’
ii. /nuŋ aŋ-kʰɔ nu-du-mun/

S O V

you I-Acc. see-Past.

‘You saw me.’

iii. /binoy-a kʰamani-kʰɔ maŋ-gun/

S O V

binoy-Nom. work-Acc.do-Fut.

‘Binoy will do (the) work.’

iv. /bi gidu razab-ga-siŋ daŋ/

S O V

He/she song sing-Prog. be

‘He/she is singing (a) song.’

v. /bisur aŋ-kʰɔ mazaŋ mun- yu/

S O V

they I-Acc. love get -Pre.

‘They love me.’

vi. /mukʰ-u-wa gaŋsu za-yu/

S O V

cow-Acc. grass eat-Hab.

‘Cow eats grass.’
vii. /zuŋ masə-kʰɔ butʰar-gun/

S O V

we tiger-Acc. kill- Fut.

‘We will kill (a) tiger.’

From the above sentences, we can state that the **SOV** is the most common type of order in Southern dialect of Bodo. But other than **SOV**, there are alternative orders as well, we can have the following sentences that exhibit the flexibility of word order like:-

(a) /eŋkʰam za-yu aŋ/ (OVS)
   
   rice eat-Hab.I

   ‘I eat rice’

(b) /aŋ za-yu eŋkʰam/ (SVO)
   
   I eat-Hab. rice

   ‘I eat rice’

In the above examples, the same sentence is given with a considerable amount of word order variation illustrating that the Southern dialect of Bodo is one of the moderately free word order languages, but the **OVS** and **SVO** sentences are rarely used for the reason of being unsystematic. However, the normal order is **SOV**. Thus, the Southern dialect of Bodo, as a Tibeto-Burman language representing the above word order pattern conforms to the characteristic features of the Tibeto-Burman family as discussed by Zograph (1982) which states that: “The normal order of words in the Tibeto-Burman sentence is **SOV**-Subject, Object, Predicate, though this is not always and everywhere rigorously observed.”
It is to be mentioned here that in case of the verbs which do not take an object: i.e. intransitive, the order of the sentences is S+V as exemplified in the following sentences.

(S+V)

i. /aŋ tʰaŋ-gasĩɔ/  
   S  V  
   I  go-Prog.  
   ‘I am going.’

ii. /nuŋ mini-gasĩɔ/  
    S  V  
    you  laugh-Prog.  
    ‘You are laughing.’

iii. /bisur tʰaŋ-bai/  
     S  V  
     they  go-P.Perf.  
     ‘They have gone.’

iv. /bi buru-bai/  
    S  V  
    he/she sleep-P.Perf.  
    ‘He/She has slept.’

v. /zuŋ pʰai-gun/
We come-Fut.

‘We will come.’

vi. /daə-a urai-duu/

bird-Nom.fly-P.Con.

‘Bird is flying.’

It is noteworthy that the Southern dialect of Bodo has a sentence with only Verb where subject and object is not necessary which are as follows:

/zɔ/ Sit down!

V

/lit/ write!

V

/kʰat/ ran!

V

/kʰau/ burn!

V

The interrogative pronoun occurs in initial position of the subject in the interrogative sentences. That means the interrogative sentences are formed in Southern dialect of Bodo by the interrogative pronoun placed before the subject. Consider the following examples:
i. /sur pʰai-yu/

Int.Pro. V.

who come

‘Who comes?’

ii. /bebau tʰa-yu/

Int.Pro.V

where live

‘Where do you live?’

iii. /mano tʰaŋ-gun/

Int.Pro. V Fut.

Why go

‘Why will you go?’

However, it is found that the interrogative pronoun is occurred in the final position of the interrogative sentences in this dialect which is used in their everyday conversations.

The following example can be mentioned:

v. /nuŋni nam-a ma/

S V Int.Pro.

your name what

‘What is your name?’

vi. /be mansini nama ma/
This man name what

‘What is the name of this man?’

Another type of interrogative sentence is found in Southern dialect of Bodo which is varying from the above mentioned statement. These types of interrogative sentence place the subject before the interrogative pronoun. Consider the following examples:

vii. /nuŋ bebau tʰan-duหมน/

S Int.Pro V Past.

you where went

‘Where did you go?’

viii. /zuŋ mɔkʰalɪ razab-gun/

S Int.Pro V Fut.

we when sing

‘When shall we sing?’

ix. /nuŋ maŋ kʰat -duหมน/

S Int.Pro V Past.

you why run

‘Why did you run?’

It is clear from the above that the consistency of verb in the word in final position is noticed in most of the sentences in the Southern dialect of Bodo.
5.2. Constituents

A simple sentence in the Southern dialect of Bodo consists of a noun phrase (NP) and a verb phrase (VP). The following can be exemplified as:

i. /gətʰɔ gab-yu/
   NP   VP
   ‘The boy cries’

ii. /kitab ɡɔɡlaibai/
   NP   VP
   ‘The book has fallen’

5.2.1. Noun Phrase:

In the Southern dialect of Bodo, noun phrase consists of the head noun which may be preceding by one or more modifiers. Basically, modifiers may be an adjective, a possessive, a numeral or a quantifier. Consider the following examples-

i. /bulugura mansi/
   Adj. + N
   strong man
   ‘(a) strong man.’

ii. /gedet nɔ/
   Adj. + N.
   big house
   ‘(a) big house.’
iii. {numeral quantifier}

/kʰʌnui pʰisazu-pʰur/

numeral + N +Pl.

two daughter-Pl.

‘two daughters.’

iv. /ɡoŋtʰam lati-pʰur/

Quantifier + N

three stick-Pl.

‘three sticks’

In the simple sentence of the Southern dialect of Bodo, the head noun is preceded by the demonstrative, numeral and adjective as in the following examples:

i. / be sase mazaŋ mansi/

Dem.+Nu + Adj. +N

This one good man

‘This is a good man’

ii. / be ese gaza dui/

Dem.+ Qu +Adj. +N

‘this is a little red water’

When the head noun is modified by an adjective and a classifier/quantifier, word order is that the head noun followed by the adjective, and the classifier as exemplified below-
iii. /mansi gedet sanui/
    N + Adj. + Class.
    man big two
    ‘two big men.’

iv. /no mudui gɔŋnu/
    N + Adj. + Class.
    house small two
    ‘two small houses.’

If the noun followed by postposition to express the case, the modifier gets pre-posed as shown below:-

i. /gazau mansi-nɔ/
   Adj. + N+ Case
   tall man- Dat.
   ‘to (a) tall man.’

ii. /gazau mansi-nipʰara/
   Adj. + N + Case
   tall man- Abl.
   ‘from (a) tall man.’

iii. /gazau mansi-pʰur-ni/
    Adj. + N + Pl +Case
    Tall man-Pl.-Gen.
‘of (a) tall man.’

iv.  /gazau hazuu-yɔ/
Adj. + N + Case
high hill-Loc.
‘in (a) high hill.’

v.  /galaɔ silai-duw/
Adj. + N + Case
long gun-Inst.
‘with (a) long gun.

Likewise in the case of the possessive also, the modifier precedes the head noun.

The order is possessive + noun phrase, as shown in the following examples-

vi.  /aŋni kitab/
Poss. + N
my book
‘my book.’

vii. /bini bipʰa/
Poss. + N
His/her father
‘his/her father.’

viii. /zuŋni iskul/
Poss. + N
our school

‘Our school.’

Co-ordinate noun phrase is formed by joining two or more noun phrases. These head nouns are linked by a coordinator which may be a connective or a disjunctive. /aru/ ‘and’ functions as a connective and /ŋablə/ ‘or’ as a disjunctive, consider the following examples:

(a) /aru/ ‘and’

i. /huwa aru henzau/

man and woman

‘man and woman’

ii. /bi aru nuŋ/

he/she andyou

‘he/she and you’

iii. /aŋni aba aru ai/

my father and mother

‘my father and mother’

(b) /ŋablə/ :

i. /bi ŋablə nuŋ/

He/she or you

‘he/she or you’
ii. /mukʰu-zla nɔŋablə mukʰu-zu/

    cow- male or cow- female

    ‘bull or cow.’

iii. /ram nɔŋablə shyam/

    Ram or Shyam

    ‘Ram or Shyam’

From the aforesaid mentioned examples, we can state the structure of a noun phrase in Southern dialect of Bodo as:

\[ \text{NP} \rightarrow \pm \text{Dem.} \pm \text{Numeral} \pm \text{Quantifier} \pm \text{Adj.} \pm \text{N} \pm \text{Case} \]

5.2.2 Verb Phrase:

Verb phrase in the Southern dialect of Bodo may consist of a lexical verb, which must obligatory be present, and some other optional elements (verbs and adverbs) which the VP consists of as in the following examples-

i. /za/ eat!

   V

ii. /buru/ sleep!

   V

iii. /muru/ die!

   V

iv. /makʰa/ dance!

   V
In the simple sentence, generally noun precedes the verb in Southern dialect of Bodo as the following:

i. /bi sarab luŋ-u/
   NP   VP
   s/he wine drink-Pre. ‘S/he drinks wine.’

ii. /kitab gɔglai-duumun/
    NP   VP
    book fall-Past. ‘The book fell down’

When the VP takes two Noun Phrases (NPs), the first NP₁ is the direct object and the NP₂ is indirect object i.e. the NPs function as direct object is the obligatory element as exemplified below.

i. /aŋ bi-nɔ kitab-kʰɔ hu-duumun/
   I he-Dat. book-Acc. give-Past.
   NP₁       NP₂
   ‘I gave him (a) book.’

ii. /aŋ kitab-kʰɔ bi-nɔ hu-duumun/
   I book-Acc. he-Dat. give-Past.
   NP₂       NP₁
   ‘I gave him (a) book.’

iii. /bi zuŋ-nɔ sima-kʰɔ kʰi-gun/
     he we-Dat. dog-Acc. show-Fut.
When an adverb occurs in a sentence, the adverb precedes the verb in the Southern dialect of Bodo as exemplified in the following sentences.

i. /bi lak^{h}uiyui ej^{h}am za-duumun/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NP</th>
<th>Adv.</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>V</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>he</td>
<td>slowly</td>
<td>rice</td>
<td>eat -Past.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘He ate rice slowly.’

ii. /bi gabun p^{h}ai- gun/

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NP</th>
<th>ADV.</th>
<th>V</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>He/she</td>
<td>tomorrow</td>
<td>come –Fut.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

‘He/she will come tomorrow.’

The structure of the verb phrase in the Southern dialect of Bodo may be formalized as follows:

\[
VP \rightarrow \pm (ADV) \pm (NP_{1}-Case) \pm (NP_{2}-Case) + V
\]
5.2.3. Adjective Phrase:

The adjective is the nucleus in an adjectival phrase. The adjective phrase consists of at least one adjective and it may or may not be followed by an intensifier. The adjective of the adjectival phrase either precedes or follows the noun in Southern dialect of Bodo.

i. /mazaŋ mansi/
   Adj. N
good man
   ‘good man’

ii. /zubut mazaŋ mansi/
   Inten. Adj. N
   very good man
   ‘(a) very good man’

iii. /gedet hati pʰai-duumun/
    Adj. N V
    big elephant come -Past.
    ‘Big elephant came.’

iv. /eselɔ mansi-pʰur-a mitʰiŋ-ɔ pʰai-duumun/
    Adj. N -Pl.- Case N -Case V -Past.
    ‘Few men came in the meeting.’

v. /masa gasam/
    N  Adj.
    tiger black
‘black tiger.’

The structure of the adjective phrase in Southern dialect of Bodo may be formalized as follows:

\[ \text{Adj. Phrase} \rightarrow \pm \text{Inten} \pm \text{Adj.} + \text{N} \pm \text{Adj.} \]

5.2.4. Adverb Phrase:

The adverb in an adverb phrase modifies the verb. An adverb always occurs before the verb in Southern dialect of Bodo. Hence, it can be called ‘sentential adverb’. Consider the following examples.

i. \(/k^h\text{anp}^h\text{rambu zayu}/\)
   
   Adv. V
everyday eat ‘eats everyday’

ii. \(/\text{lak}^h\text{uiyui za-dumun}/\)
    
    Adv. V
    slowly eat-Past ‘ate slowly’

iii. \(/\text{da p}^h\text{ai-gun}/\)
     
     Adv. V
     now come-Fut. ‘will come now’

The adverb of place always carries a case along with it. In fact, the case is suffixed to the adverb of place.

iv. \(/\text{bahera -yɔ dɔŋ}/\)
     
     Adv. -Case V
Outside be ‘is outside’

v. /gazum-ya deŋ/

Adv. -Case V

above be ‘is above’

From the above analysis, we can establish the structure of an adverb phrase in Southern dialect of Bodo as the following:

Adverb phrase → + Adverb ± Case + V

5.3. Clause:

Two types of clauses can be mentioned in the Southern dialect of Bodo. They are main clause and subordinate clause. The main or principal clause can occur independently in a sentence, but the subordinate clause is dependent on the main clause.

5.3.1. Main Clause:

The following are the examples of main clause in Southern dialect of Bodo. They are basically simple sentences.

i. /nuŋ za-gun/

you eat-Fut. ‘you will eat’

ii. /bi za -gun/

he/she eat-Fut. ‘he/she eats’

iii. /bi za-yu/

he/she eat-Pre. ‘He/ she eats’
5.3.2. Subordinate Clause:

The subordinate clause in the Southern dialect of Bodo is marked by either conjunction or particle and always precedes the main clause as exemplified below:

i. /aba-ya buŋ-dumun ze bi pʰai-gun/

\[
\begin{array}{c|c}
\text{Sub.Cla use} & \text{M.Cla use} \\
\hline
\text{father-Nom.say-Past.Conj.hecome-Fut.} & \text{‘Father said that he would come’}
\end{array}
\]

ii. /bi hu-bla aŋ za-gun/

\[
\begin{array}{c|c}
\text{Sub.Cla use} & \text{M.Cla use} \\
\hline
\text{He/She give-Parti. I eat-Fut.} & \text{‘If he/she gives, I will eat.’}
\end{array}
\]

iii. /bi pʰai-bla aŋ ne-gun/

\[
\begin{array}{c|c}
\text{Sub.Cla use} & \text{M.Cla use} \\
\hline
\text{He/She come-Parti. I wait-Fut.} & \text{‘If he/she comes, I will wait’}
\end{array}
\]

5.3.3. Coordinative Clause:

The coordinative clause in Southern dialect of Bodo is marked by the presence of conjunctive particles. The primary function of conjunction is to connect words, phrases, clauses and sentences. The following are the examples:

(a) /aru/ ‘and’
i. /ram aru rømen-a bazar-ɔ tʰanŋ-bai/
   Ram and romen-Nom.market-Loc. go-P. Perf.
   ‘Ram and Romen has gone to the market’

ii. /nuŋŋi abi aru abuuu zuŋŋi nɔ-γɔ pʰai-du̱mun/
   Your grandma and grandfa our house-Loc. come-Past.
   ‘Your grand mother and grand father was came in our house’

iii. /ram-a kʰɔna aru rupa labu-gun/
   Ram-Nom.gold and silver bring-gun.
   ‘Ram will bring gold and silver’

If there are more than two objects, then the conjunctive particle is placed just before
the last object as in the following:

iv. /lina, bina aru mala tʰanŋ-bai/
   Lina, bina and mala go-P. Perf.
   Lina, Bina aru Mala has gone.’

(b) /kintʰu/  ‘but’

i. /bi sa luŋ-u kintʰu sarab luŋ-a/
   He/she drink-Pre. but wine drink-Neg.
   ‘he/She drinks tea but not wine.’

ii. /aŋ amol-kʰo liŋ-du̱mun kintʰu bi pʰai-nai nɔŋa/
   I amol-Acc.call-Past but he/she come NomLz-Neg.
   ‘I called up Amol but he would not come.’

iii. /reeta-ya za-gun kintʰu bi za-laya/
   Reeta-Nom.-Fut. But he/she eat-Neg.
‘Reeta will eat but she would not eat.’

(c) /ŋəbla/ ‘or’

i. /ram ŋəbla rahim tʰaŋ -gun/
   Ram or rahim go-Fut.
   ‘either ram or rahim will go’

ii. /kʰona ŋəbla rupa bai-gun/
   Gold or silver buy-Fut
   ‘either gold or silver will buy’

iii. /bi razab-gun ŋəbla makʰ-a-gun/
   He/she-Fut. or dance-Fut.
   ‘she will either sing or dance’

5.3.4. Conditional Clause:

   Conditional clause in Southern dialect of Bodo is introduced by prefixing conditional particle /zɔdi/ ‘if’ in the initial position of the subordinate clause and /-bu/ ‘also’ is added to the noun in the main clause. In case of showing conditional statements, the conditional clause precedes the conclusion without any exception. Thus, the use of conditional clauses in the southern dialect of Bodo is a characteristic feature of an SOV language as observed by Greenberg.

Language Universal no. 14: “In conditional statements, the conditional clause precedes the conclusion as the normal order in all language.”

Consider the following examples:

i. /zɔdi bi hu-yu ram-bu za-gun/
If (condl.) he give-Pre.Ram-also eat-Fut.

‘If he gives, Ram will also eat.’

ii. /zɔdĩ nuŋ tʰaŋ-yu bi-bu pʰai-gun/

If (condl.) you go-Pre. he-also come-Fut.

‘If you go he will also come.’

Again, in the conditional clause in southern dialect of Bodo, conditional particle /-bla/ added to the subordinate clause. The following can be exemplified as:

iii. /nuŋ pʰai-bla aŋ ne-gun/

You come-condl. I wait-Fut.

‘If you come I will wait’

iv. /nuŋ razab-bla aŋ makʰa-gun/

you sing-condl. I dance-Fut.

‘If you sing I will dance’

5.4.5. Relative Clause:

Relative clause in the Southern dialect of Bodo is introduced by the participle in which the relative clause always precedes the head noun with non relative pronoun. In other words, the southern dialect Bodo exhibits externally headed relative clauses where the relativized nouns occur to the right of the clause. The type of relative clause construction in this language has been shown in the following sentences. The participial forms have been shown as **bold**.

(a) The head NP which is relativized in the subject position:
i. /beyɔ ʰpʰai-nai-a əŋni lugu/

Here come-Partci-Nom. my friend

‘Who came here is my friend.’

ii. /nuŋ əŋɲo hu-nai-ya gama-bai/

You givePartci-Nom. lost –P.Perf.

‘I have lost which you gave me’

iii. /bi luŋ-nai-ya zuŋni dui/

He/she drink-Partci-Nom. our water

‘The water which he drinks is our.’

(b) The head NP which is relativised is in the object position:

i. /əŋ-ɲo siti hu-nai mansi-kʰɔ nu-duumun/

I-Dat. letter give-Partci.man-Acc. see-Past.

‘I saw the man who gave me (a) letter.’

ii. /nuŋ hu-nai ʰgʰɔri-kʰɔ kʰama-bai/

you give-Partci. watch-Acc. loss-P.Perf.

‘The watch has lost which you gave.’

iii. /beyɔ ʰtʰa-nai mansi-kʰɔ bi sinai-yu/

here stay-Partci. man-Acc. he know-Pre.

‘He knows the man who lives here.’

It is clear from the above examples that the relative clauses never occur after the relativised noun in which the relativised noun is in object and subject position.
It can be stated that when the relativised noun is in the object position, the accusative marker /kʰɔ/ is added to the relativised noun. Consider the following examples:

i. /kɔlɔm mun-nai huwa-ya zuñi nɔ-yɔ pʰai-dumun/
   pen get-Partci. boy-Nom. our house-Loc.come-Past.
   ‘(The) boy who got the pen came to our house.’

ii. /bisur dilhi-nipʰara pʰai-nai satʰra-kʰɔ ᵇɔn-yu/
   they Delhi-Abl. Come-Partci. student-Acc. love-Pre.
   ‘They love (the) student who came from Delhi.’

iii. /kʰad-nai huwa-ya hɔm-zɑ-bai/
   run-Partci. boy-Nom. catch-Caus.-P.Perf.
   ‘(The) boy who runs away is caught.’

iv. /bi kalam-nai nau-kʰɔ aŋ-nɔ hɔt/
   he make-Partci. boat-Acc. I-Dat. give
   ‘Give me the boat which he made.’

In the Southern dialect of Bodo, the relativised NP or the embedded NP cannot be deleted, that both are used obligatory. Consider the following sentences:

i. /nuŋ hu-nai tʰaizu-kʰɔ aŋ kʰama-bai/
   ‘I have lost the mango which you gave.’
The sentence of this dialect does not allow internally relative clause construction which contains the relative nouns. Consider the following examples:

i. /kɔlɔm mun-nai huwa-ya zuŋni ɲɔ -yɔ pʰai-du-upun/
   pen get-Partci. boy-Nom. our house-Loc. come -Past.

‘(The) boy who got the pen came to our house.’

It is to be noted here that the relative particle and its relativised noun cannot be separated from each other as shown in the following examples:

i. /beyɔ pʰai-nai huwa-a aŋni lugu/
   here come-Partci. boy-Nom. my friend

‘(The) boy who came here is my friend.’

ii. /aŋ hu-nai gʰəri-kʰɔ nuŋ kʰama-bai/
   I give-Partci. watch-Acc. you loss-P. Perf.

‘You lost the watch which I gave’

From the above discussion, it is clear that the southern dialect of Bodo does follow the regular Tibeto-Burman relative clause construction in which relative phrase is expressed by the participial type but not by the relative pronoun. Being a Tibeto-Burman language, the southern dialect of Bodo has no relative pronoun. Thus, the relative clause construction in southern dialect of Bodo can be classified under the participial type.
5.3.6. **Complement Clause:**

The complement clause in Southern dialect of Bodo is introduced by complementizer /ze/ ‘that’ and the complementizer is associated along with the clauses. Consider the following examples:

i. /bi hɔi^h^yɔ ze bi zii^h^i-bai/

   She truth Comp. he win-P.Perf.

   ‘This is true that he has won’

ii. /aŋ mi^h^-dumun ze bi sima-k^h^ɔ but^h^-ar-bai/

   I know -Past Comp. he dog-Acc. kill-P. Perf.

   ‘I know that he has killed the dog.’

ii. /bi buŋ-dumun ze bi uk^h^-ui-bai-mun/

   he say -Past Comp.he hangry-P.Perf.

   ‘He said that he had hungry.’

iii. /bi mi^h^-yu ze rek^h^-ya lumza-gasino dố/

   he know-Pre.Comp.rekha-Nom. ill-Prog. be

   ‘He knows that Rekha is illing’

5.3.7. **Adverbial Clause:**

The adverbial clauses are introduced by subordinators and the subordinate clause precedes the main clause. The subordinators are obligatorily used in this language. The following are the types of adverbial clauses found in Southern dialect of Bodo.
(a) **Locative Adverb:**

The subordinator */bebau/ or */bɔha/ (which is roughly equivalent to English ‘where’) is used to introduce adverbial clause which denotes the adverb of place. The subordinator */bebau/ or */bɔha/ precedes the predicate of the dependant clause. Consider the following examples:

i. */bi bebau tʰa-yu nʊŋ mitʰi-yu/  
   s/he where live-Pre.you know-Pre.  
   ‘(Do) you know where he lives?’

ii. */nʊŋ be kitab-kʰ bebau bai-dumun aŋ-nɔ kʰ intʰ a/  
    you this book-Acc.where buy-Past I-Dat. tell  
    ‘Tell me where did you buy this book?’

iii. */nʊŋ bebau tʰaŋ-dumun aŋ mitʰi-ya/  
     you where go-Past I know-Neg.  
     ‘I don’t know where you went.’

iv. */nʊŋ bɔha dɔŋ/  
    You where be  
    ‘Where are you?’

(b) **Temporal Adverbs:**

The temporal adverbial clause is introduced by the following co-coordinators.
(1.) The subordinator /mɔkʰali/ (which is roughly equivalent to English ‘when’) is used to introduce the adverbial clause which functions as an adverb of time. Like /bebau/ or /bɔol/, /mɔkʰali/ precedes the predicate of the dependent clause. Consider the following examples:

i. /aŋ mɔkʰali pʰai-gun bi mitʰ-yu/

I when come-Fut. he know-Pre.

‘He knows when I will come.’

ii. /zuŋ mɔkʰali ekʰeloge lugu mun-gun aŋ-nɔ kʰintʰa/

we when together meet get-Fut. I-Dat. tell

‘Tell me when we will meet together.’

(2.) The locative marker /-ɔ/ and /-yɔ/ is added to the nominalized form of verb to form an adverbial clause of time. Consider the following examples:

i. /bi tʰabai-nai-yɔ gab-duumun/

he/she walk-Nmlz.-Loc. cry -Past

‘she wept while she was walking’

ii. /zela bi bazar-ɔ pʰai-duumun bi aŋ-kʰ lugu mun-duumun/

when he market-Loc.come-Past. he I-Acc.meet get-Past

‘He met me while he was coming to the market.’

(3.) The subordinator /hugənɔ/ (which is composed of /hugən/ ‘ahead’ and dative case marker /-nɔ/)is used to introduce adverbial clause of time of the Southern dialect of
Bodo which denotes that the action of the main clause takes place before the action of the subordinate clause. Consider the following examples:

i. /bi station-ɔ munhwi-nai-ni hugaŋ-nɔ train-a tʰaŋ-bai-mun/
   He/she station-Loc. reach-Nmlz.-Gen. before-Dat.train-Nom.go-P.Perf.
   ‘The train had left before he reached the station’

ii. /bi beyɔ pʰai-nai - ni hugaŋ-nɔ bi aŋ-kʰɔ sinayu-mun/
   he here come-Nmlz.-Gen. before-Dat. he I-Acc. know –Past.
   ‘He had known me before he came here’

(4.) The subordinator /unɔ/ (which is composed of /un/ ‘behind’ and the locative marker /-ɔ/) is also used to introduce the adverbial clause of time which denotes that the action of the main clause takes place after the action of the subordinate clause. Consider the following examples:

i. /aŋ Delhi-nipʰara pʰainai-ni unɔ aŋ-kʰɔ lughɔm/
   I Delhi-Abl. come-Nmlz-Gen. after me-Acc. meet
   ‘Meet me after I come from Delhi.’

iii. /galau raizlai-nai-ni unɔ bi tʰaŋ-duumun/
   long discussion Nmlz-Gen. after he go -Past.
   ‘He went away after a long discussion.’
(c) **Causal Clause:**

The causal clause is prominent in the Southern dialect of Bodo. It is used to connect both the subordinate clause and the main clause by /karɔne/ ‘cause’ in the medial position of the sentence. The following can be exemplified as:

i. /lumza-nai-ni  karɔne bi ʰui-bai/
   ill -Inf. -Gen.cause he die-P.Perf.
   ‘He has died due to illness.’

ii. /bi mazanui  pʰɔrai-yui-ni  karɔne  pʰɔrikʰa-jɔ  pʰel za-bai/
   he well read-Neg.-Gen.for exam-Loc.fail happen-P.Perf.
   ‘He failed in the examination for not studying well’

5.4. **Nominalization:**

The way of expressing nominal construction in Southern dialect of Bodo is by suffixing nominalizer /-nai/ to the verb. Consider the following examples:

/lit-nai/  ‘writing’
/makʰa-nai/  ‘dancing’
/kʰat-nai/  ‘running’
/buru-nai/  ‘sleeping’
/razab-nai/  ‘singing’
/hɔ-nai/  ‘handicrafting’
/bu-nai/  ‘pulling’
5.4.1 Topicalization:

Topicalization in the southern dialect of Bodo is used for highlighting a particular constituent (subject, objects, etc.). Change of order, often in the initial position is a frequently used device in the southern dialect of Bodo for foregrounding constituents, or topicalization. Consider the following examples:

i. /aŋ eŋkʰam-ɸ za-duumun/

   I rice.Acc. eat -Past.

   ‘I ate rice.’

   /eŋkʰam-a an-du za-za-duumun/


   ‘(The) rice was eaten by me.’

ii. /Gandhiji-ya be kitab-kʰo lit-duumun/


   ‘Gandhiji wrote this book.’

   /be kitab-a Gandhiji-duu lit-za-duumun/

   this book-Nom.Gandhiji-Ag.M. write-Inten.-Past

   ‘This book was written by Gandhiji.’

5.4.2 Clefting:

There is no cleft construction in the Southern dialect of Bodo, i.e. Clefting is not prominent. Unlike English, cleft sentences in this language lack a dummy subject corresponding to English ‘it’, and require the main verb (copula) to be in the past tense.
Lack of clefting is one of the typological features of T.B. languages shared by the southern dialect of Bodo. Thus, the southern dialect of Bodo being a Tibeto-Burman language preserves the syntactic feature of the family. Consider the following examples:

i. /gaza səla gan –nai-ya ram-mun/
   red shirt  wear-NomLz-Nom.ram-Past.
   ‘It was Ram who wore a red shirt.’

ii. /bagan-ɔ tʰa -nai -ya -nɔ Nilut/
    garden-Loc. live-Partl.-Nom.-Emp. Nilut
    ‘It is Nilut who is in the garden.’

iii. /gudui gidu razab –nai -a -nɔ dilip-mun/
     Sweet song sing-Partl.-Nom.-Emp. Dilip-Past.
     ‘It was Dilip who sang a sweet song.’

5.5. Sentence:

Sentences in the southern dialect of Bodo may be classified into three types, viz. (a) simple, (b) complex and (c) compound.

5.5.1. Simple sentence:

A sentence which consists of only one clause i.e. main clause is called simple sentence. Consider the following examples:

i. /i gaŋ-se kitab/
   It Class.one book
   ‘It is a book.’
ii. /nuŋ daktar/
you doctor
‘You are (a) doctor.’

iii. /bi tʰaŋ-dumun/
he go -Past.
‘He went.’

iv. /nuŋ-ni muƙʰu-wa gedet/
you-Gen. cow-Nom. big
‘Your buffalo is big.’

5.5.2 Complex Sentence:

A complex sentence in Southern dialect of Bodo consists of one main clause and one or more subordinate clauses. In the complex sentence, the subordinate clause is introduced by subordinators (particle) which usually precedes the main clause. For examples:

i. /bi pʰai-bla aŋ tʰa-gun/
s/he come-Partl. I stay-Fut.
‘If he comes I will stay.’

ii. /bi sa Ɂuŋ -bla aŋ eŋkʰam za-gun/
s/he tea drink-Partl. I rice eat-Fut.
‘If he drinks tea I will eat rice.’

iii. /bi hu -bla Ram-a bazaar-ɔ tʰaŋ-nai nɔŋa/

‘If he gives Ram will not go to the market’

iv. /nuŋ sɔhai hu -bla aŋ kʰamani-kʰɔ mau-nɔ ha-gun/
you help give-Partl. I work-Acc. do-Dat.can-Fut.

‘If you help I (will) can do the work.’

5.5.3 Compound Sentence:

In Southern dialect of Bodo, compound sentence is a sentence which consists of two main clauses conjoined either by the conjunctive coordinator /aru/ ‘and’ or by the disjunctive coordinator /nɔŋabla/ ‘or’. The following can be exemplified as:

i. /mary-a razab-gasinɔ dɔŋ aru radʰa-ya makʰa-gasinɔ dɔŋ/
Mary-Nom. sing-Prog. be and Radha-Nom. dance-Prog. be

‘Mary is singing and Radha is dancing.’

ii. /bi Kolkata-yo tʰaŋ –bai aru aŋ dilli-yo tʰaŋ-gun/
he Kolkata-Loc. go- P. Perf. and I Delhi-Loc. go-Fut.

‘He has gone to Kolkata and I will go to Delhi.’

iii. /zuŋ daktor-pʰur-mun aru bisur hadŋgra-pʰur-mun/
we doctor-Pl.-Past and they leader-Pl.-Past

‘We were doctors and they were leaders.’

iv. /aŋ shillong-ɔ tʰaŋ-gun nɔŋabla aŋ silchar-ɔ tʰa-γun/
I shillong-Loc. go-Fut. or I silchar-Loc. stay-Fut.

‘I will go to shillong or I will stay at Silchar’
v. /aŋ naŋablə bi nųŋ-nə zi raŋ hu-gun/

I or he/she you-Dat. ten rupee give-Fut.

‘Either he/she or I will give you ten rupees’

5.6. Negation:

There are two ways of expressing negation in the Southern dialect of Bodo, one is by using negative markers and the other is with the help of negative copula. The negative markers of Southern dialect of Bodo are: /da-/ /-a/ /-ya/ /-daya/ /-laya/ /nɔŋa/ and /giya/.

Among them, /da-/ is prefix negative marker and the /-a/ /-ya/ /daya/ and /laya/ are suffix negative markers in Southern dialect of Bodo which is the most frequently used form occurring in the post verbal position. The negative markers /-ya/ is used in equation constructions and nominal predicates. The /nɔŋa/ and /giya/ are the negative copula which is used to express negative in existential constructions, locative predicates, and possessive sentences. The marker /da-/ is used to express negative imperative or prohibited and occupies a pre-verbal position, i.e. the use of /da-/ is restricted to imperative and it is prefixed to the verb root. Consider the following examples:

i. /tʰaŋ/ ‘go’

/də tʰaŋ/

Neg.-go

‘Don’t go.’

ii. /mau/ ‘do’

/də-mau/

Neg.-do
‘Don’t do.’

iii. /hu/ ‘give’

/da-hu/

Neg.-give

‘Don’t give.’

iv. /labu/ ‘bring’

/da-labu/

Neg.-bring

‘Don’t bring.’

And the negative markers /-a/, /-ya/, /-daya/, /-laya/ are the suffixes in the Southern dialect of Bodo which is occur in the post verbal position. When the verb ends with a consonant, /a/ negative marker is used and if the verb ends with a vowel, /ya/ is added.

Let us consider the following examples:

viii. /aŋ khanzunŋ kʰan-a/

I comb comb-Neg.

‘I do not use the comb.’

ix. /be man-a/ 

It itch -Neg.

‘It does not itch.’

x. /aŋ makʰa-ya/

I dace-Neg.
‘I donot dance’

xi. /aŋ eŋkʰam hu-ya/

I rice give-Neg.

‘I do not give rice.’

xii. /bi urai -ya/

He/she fly-Neg.

‘He/she does not fly.’

As per data, the negative markers /-daya/ and /-laya/ occur only in future tense suffixed with the verb. Consider the following examples:

xiii. /abi -ya eŋkʰam za-daya/

grandma-Nom. rice eat- Neg.

‘Grand mother will not eat rice.’

xiv. /bi dui ɯŋ -daya/

He/she water drink-Neg.

‘He/she will not drink water.’

xv. /aŋ urai-daya/

I fly - Neg.

‘I shall not fly.’

xvi. /bi zakʰa eŋkʰam- kʰɔ za-laya/

He/she scented rice-Acc. eat- Neg.
‘He will not eat the scented rice.’

xvii. /masa pʰai-laya/

tiger come-Neg.

‘The tiger will not come.’

xviii. /bi tʰaŋ- laya/

He/she go-Neg.

‘He/She will not go.’

5.6.1 Negative Copula:

The negative copulas /nəŋa/ and /giya/ are used to express negative in existential constructions, locative predicates, and possessive sentences. Consider the following examples:

i. /be haŋkʰu  nəŋa/

This/it duck Neg.Cop.

‘This/It is not duck.’

ii. /aŋ tʰaŋ-nai  nəŋa/


‘I shall not go.’

iii. /Ram-a  kʰamu za-nai  nəŋa/


‘Ram will not eat snail.’
iv. /aŋni beda-ya razab-nai nɔŋa/


‘My brother will not sing.’

v. /dui-yɔ na - giya/

water-Loc. fish-Neg.Cop.

‘There is no fish in the water.’

vi. /hagra-yɔ masa - giya/

forest-Loc. tiger - Neg.Cop.

‘There is no tiger in the forest.’

5.7. **Interrogation:**

Interrogation in Southern dialect of Bodo can be classified into three types: **yes-no** questions, which asks for the confirmation or negation of a statement; **wh-** questions and alternative questions.

**5.7.1. Yes-No Questions:**

The **yes-no** question in the Southern dialect of Bodo is formed by adding the question particle /ₙa/ to the verb. An affirmative statement can be converted into an interrogative sentence without the question particle /ₙa/, but by means of rising intonation. The use of /ₙa/ is optional when the interrogative is expressed by the rising intonation. Examples are given below:

i. /kɔbɔr dɔŋ/

News Aux.
‘There is (a) news.’

/kɔbɔr  dɔŋ na/

news Aux. Q.P.

‘Is there a news?’

ii. /nuŋ tʰaŋ-gun na/

you go-Fut. Q.P.

‘Will you go?’

iii. /eŋkʰam  dɔŋ/

rice Aux.

‘Is there rice?’ (rising intonation)

iv /nuŋ tʰaŋ-gun/ (rising intonation)

you go-Fut.

‘Will you go?’

v. /nuŋ  Mary na/

you Mary Q.P.

‘Are you Mary?’

vi. /nuŋ  Mary/ (rising intonation)

you Mary

‘Are you Mary?’
The use of sentence final question particles is a characteristic of postpositional languages, as observed by Greenberg.

**Language Universal No. 9:** “With more than chance frequency, when question particles or affixes are specified in position by reference to the sentence as a whole, if initial, such elements are found in prepositional languages, and, if final in postpositional.”

5.7.2. **Wh- Questions:**

Wh- questions in southern dialect of Bodo are formed by substituting the constituent that is being questioned by the appropriate interrogative pronouns. Consider the following examples:

i. /aŋni nam -a Anil/

   my name-Nom.Anil

   ‘My name is Anil.’

ii. /nuŋni nam -a ma/

   Your name-Nom.what

   ‘What is your name?’

5.7.3. **Alternative Questions:**

The Southern dialect of Bodo forms another type of question which consists of two alternatives in which the question particle /na/ is posed at the end of the first alternative. There is no restriction that the alternatives must be positive or negative. Both the alternatives can be positive. However, it is also generally found that if one of the alternatives is positive then the other will be negative. Thus the two alternatives can be
conjoined with /na/ which is borrowed from the Indo-Aryan languages like Assamese and Bengali as exemplified below:

i. /bisur tʰaŋ-gun na  tʰaŋ-a/

   they go-Fut. or go-Neg.

   ‘Will they go or not?’

The alternatives question also can be formed by using rising intonation. Here, the question particle /na/ is optionally used as can be seen the following sentences.

i. /nuŋ master na  daktɔr/ (rising intonation).

   You teacher or doctor

   ‘Are you (a) teacher or (a) doctor?’

ii. /bi ram na shyam/ (rising intonation)

   He Ram or Shyam

   ‘Is he Ram or Shyam?’

iii. /nuŋ pʰai-gasinɔ ɖɔŋ na pʰai -yahay/ (rising intonation)

   You come-Prog. exist or come-Neg.

   ‘Are you coming or not?’

iv. /bisur za-gun na  za-ya/ (rising intonation)

   they eat-Fut. or eat-Neg.

   ‘Will they or not?’