

PART - II

Morphology

Chapter VIII.The Enclitic Definitives

100. The Kamrupi 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 Kamrupi :

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

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

kitāp-khān	'the book'
mukh-khān	'the mouth'
hāt-khān	'the hand'
berā-khān	'the wall'

duār - khān	'the door'
khirki - khān	'the window'
katri - khān	'the knife'
kāke - khān	'the comb'
parbat - khān	'the mountain'
rel - khān	'the train'
i - khān	'this'
xi - khān	'that'
i - glā - khān	'these'
xi - glā - khān	'those'
xoru - khān	'the little one'
dāyār - khān	'the big one'
iskul - khān	'the school'
nalbāri - khān	'the Malbari town'
guāhāti - khān	'the Gauhati town'

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

ran - kheni	'the small quantity of salt'.
pāni - kheni	'the small quantity of water'.
gākhir - kheni	'the small quantity of milk'.
seni - kheni	'the small quantity of sugar'.
mithe - kheni	'the small quantity of raw sugar'

- khor : Used after nouns, e.g.

sok - khor	'the leech'.
bisā - khor	'the scorpion'.
kese - khor	'the earth-worm'.
kunzeulkā - khor	'the land mollusc'
turi - khor	'the turi fish'.
darākh - khor	'the tether'
pāghā - khor	'the rope for tying cattle'

- khillā / khilā : Used only after betel leaf to mean a piece of it, e.g.
pān - khilā / khillā 'the piece of betel leaf'.

- saklā : < cakrala - . It indicates a slice of some fruits, e.g.

ān - saklā 'the slice of mango'
ālu - saklā 'the slice of potato'
tīāh - saklā 'the slice of cucumber'

- satā / phālā : 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'.

- sōihā : Used to indicate a thin and long piece of some fruits, e.g.

lāu - sōihā 'the piece of a gourd'.
kumrā - sōihā 'the piece of pumpkin'.

- tapā : Used to indicate a drop or a small quantity of liquid things, e.g.

pāin - 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'.
kimān - tā 'definitely how much'.
simān - tā 'definitely what much'.
ximān - tā 'definitely that much'.

- tār :	bāhnni - tār	'the broom-stick'.
- tu :	Used after nouns, pronouns and adjectives,	e.g.
	nāk - tu	'the nose'
	sokhu - tu	'the eye'
mohissugā /	dat - tu	'the ink-pot'
	hāthi - tu	'the elephant'
	goru - tu	'the cow'
	nodī - tu	'the river'
	pukhri - tu	'the tank'
	sātā - tu	'the umbrella'
	nakh - tu	'the nail'
	bāti - tu	'the cup'
	gulās - tu	'the glass'
	istisan - tu	'the station'
	āpā - tu	'the boy'
	āpi - tu	'the girl'
	em - tu	'the European lady'
	sāhāb - tu	'the European gentleman'
	āli - tu	'the road'
	bezi - tu	'the needle'
	tālā - tu	'the lock'
	i - tu	'this particular one'
	xi - tu	'that particular one'
	zun - tu	'that which is'
	bhāl - tu	'the good one'
	baiā - tu	'the bad one'
	xoru - tu	'the smaller one'
	xuzzu - tu	'the sun'
	sandro - tu	'the moon'

- dāl : It is used after nouns indicating something long but round and solid, e.g.

kalām - dāl	'the pen'
sulī - dāl	'the hair'
rosī - dāl	'the rope'
takan - dāl	'the stick'
tāyān - dāl	'the cudgel'
bāh - dāl	'the bamboo'
gās - dāl	'the tree'
khori - dāl	'the fuel wood'
xutā - dāl	'the thread'
surāth - dāl	'the cigarette'
pākā - dāl	'the jute-plant'

- dhor : mālā - dhor 'the garland'
galpātā - dhor 'the necklace'

- pāt : Used after nouns , e.g.

zakhlā - pāt	'the ladder'
sāmus - pāt	'the spoon'
taṣāl - pāt	'the bamboo withe'
kharām - pāt	'the sandal'
khāru - pāt	'the bracelet'
pān - pāt	'the betel leaf'
zatā - pāt	'the shoe'

- xut / xutā : < sūtra , e.g.

bet - xut / xutā	'the long piece of split and dressed cane'
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- ākhār : < akṣara - , e/g/.

māt - ākhār 'the word, the call'

kathā - ākhār 'the word, the statement'

102. A few other words having a collective sense also behave like the definitives after certain words. The following are some of them :

- āī / - bundā : khori - āī 'the bundle of fuel'

- ākhā : kal - ākhā 'the bunch of banana'

- kaśā < kūrca : khori - kaśā 'the bundle of fuel'

suli - kaśā 'the bunch of hair'

sābi - kaśā '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-cane'

- tāu : kāgāz - tāu 'the sheet of paper' cf. Bg. - tā < Pers. tah

- thān : kāpur - thān 'the big flat piece of cloth'

cf. Bg. thān < sthāna.

- thok < stavaka : kal - thok 'the cluster of banana'.

tāmul - thok 'the cluster of arecanut'.

- dāgrī : dhān - dāgrī '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 > - k̄ā after the addition of - kei . For example :

duār - kei - khān	'the doors'
mukh - kei - khān	'the mouths'
sok - kei - khor	'the leeches'
ālu - kei - saklā	'the slices of potato'
āpā - kei - tā	'the boys'
hāti - 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 - m̄an 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-m̄an kāpur / kāpur dukhān-m̄an	'two cloths or so'
	dutā-m̄an takā / takā dutā-m̄an	'two rupees or so'
	sāiddin-m̄an	'four days or so'

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

etti - m̄an	'this much'	(approximately)
xetti - m̄an	'that much'	(approximately)
ketti - m̄an	'how much'	(approximately)

keitā - mān	'how much or how many'	(approximately)
āphri - mān	'a little'	
ākkhud - mān	'a little'	
khānik - mān	'a few'	
alāp - mān	'a little'	

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 māhnu '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.

	tin din	'three days'	
but	tin - sāiddinote	'in three or four days'	cf. Bhoj. tīni - cāri 'about three'.
	dui - sāiddin	apeikkhā kar	'wait for two or four (i.e. a few) days'.
	āth - dah din	lāigbo	'(about) eight or ten days will be required'.

The words keibā and keibātā also are used to carry the indefinite sense, e.g.

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

Keibātāo māhnu āihsil 'many people (indefinite) came'.