

**PART III.**  
**APPENDICES AND SPECIMEN.**

Appendix I\* Onomatopoeitic and Echo-words in Kaurpi.

1. In the development of languages linguists have put forward many theories. Amongst them the Bow-Now or onomatopoeitic theory supposes that objects are named after the sounds they produce. Thus "cuckoo in English, or miaou in Chinese, are clearly the sounds produced by the animals".<sup>1</sup> In Hindi cat is called *myāu* as it makes sounds like *myāu - myāu*. Similarly the horn of a motor car is called *bhōpū* as it produces a sound *pō - pō*.<sup>2</sup> In Kaurpi the cat is called *mēu*, *mekri* *mekri* [ *māekri* ]. The Kaurpi word for a musk rat is *sikā*, which seems to come from its sound *sik - sik*. Similarly the words *sek - seikā*, a kind of bird, or *huda*, a kind of bird, seem to be onomatopoeitic in origin. It is also to be noted that in calling or driving away different animals some onomatopoeitic words are used differently. For example *kur - kur* is used for calling the puppies. The word for dog is *kukur*. *Oh - Oh* is used for calling the dogs. In this way *hor - hor* and *suh - suh* are used to drive away cows and goats respectively.

Apart from these there are a large number of expressions used in day-to-day speech in which sound and sense are united 'in a marriage union'. These words present before us such a picture which no equivalent word can do. They may be used as a verb, adverb, noun or as an adjective. With the addition of suffixes - *ā*, - *nā* or - *iā*, the adjectival sense is indicated. With - *i* and - *ni* the sense of a noun is implied. With - *e* adverbial sense is indicated. With the verbal affixes the expressions may be used as verbs. For example :

*kin - kin - ā* *beihrān* 'a mild shower'.

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1. Elements of the Science of Language - by Dr. Taraporewala.
  2. Samanya Bhasa Vijnan - by Dr. B. R. Saksena.
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\* This paper has been published in Indian Linguistics, Vol. 17. (1957)

- kheṅ - kheṅ - iā > kheṅ - kheṅā 'peevish'.  
 s̄āp - sip - nā pāni 'very shallow level of water'.  
 dhar - phar - i > dhar - phori 'struggling in agony of mind or body'.  
 pīr - pīr - eni 'a slight tickling sensation'.  
 keṅ - keṅ - e nāthkibi 'do not be annoying like barking of a dog'.  
 xi mek khes - khesā - bā dhoissi 'he has begun to annoy me' ( by  
 repeatedly asking something).  
 bis - bisā - i > bis - bisai 'gives itching sensation'.

2. These onomatopoeic words also carry different sets of meaning :

- (i) the nature of an object, e.g.

phir - phirā kāpur 'thin cloth'.  
 meṭ - meṭā bhār 'a heavy load'.

- (ii) the nature of a colour, e.g.

tik - tikā rāṅā 'very red'  
 kis - kisā kalā 'very black'

- (iii) the different kinds of physical indisposition, e.g.

tiṅ - tiṅi 'feeling of headache'  
 sek - deki 'the burning sensation of a wound'.  
 xur - xuri 'the itching sensation of the nose'.

- (iv) loneliness, thickness etc, e.g.

xeṅ - xeṅā 'lonely'.  
 ghit - mitā āndhār 'thick darkness'.

3. The onomatopoeic words are formed in two ways. In one (A) the first element is repeated and in the second (B) in the second part the first consonant

is changed. But the change of the consonant is not predictable as in the case of echo words (cf. § 4). Again unlike the echo-words none of the elements or parts constituting the words carry any meaning independently. Below a list of such formation is given.

## (A)

- i :

keṅ - keṅi	'cry of a dog when beaten or cry of a child'.
kaḷ - keḷi	'sound of a current or of the belley'.
khas - khosi	'hastiness'.
khes - khesi	'annoyance'.
gir - giri	'sound of indigestion of the stomach'
ghar - ghorī	'sound of a wheel or of throat'.
ghur - ghuri	'conspiration'.
ghen - gheni	'teasing of a child for something'.
tah - tohi	'bursting pain of a boil'.
dap - dopi	'blustering'.
dham - dhomi	'blustering'.
phar - phori	'burning sensation as from friction'.
bis - bizi	'itching sensation'.
bhāt - bhutī	'sound of the stomach due to indigestion'.
rap - ropi	'keen feeling of hunger'.
hir - hiri	'the roaring sound of clouds'.

- iā :

gal - goilā	'loud as of voice'.
kou - kouīā	'very hot as of water'.
ghen - gheīnā	'very small as of fish'.
seṅ - seiṅā	'very hot, burning'.

sou - souiā	'liquid, watery'.
sar - zoirā > sazsoirā	'dry'.
theṅ - theiṅā	'tall as a tree with a few branches'.
tāl - tuilā	'ripen'.
dhak - dhoikā	'very white'.
pen - peina	'paste-like'
phur - phuirā	'light'.
bhak - bhoikā	'a man who speaks loudly'.
leṅ - leiṅā	'tall and thin'.
xut - xuitā	'restless'.
hal - heilā	'frank, cut-spoken'.

- ā :

sir - sirā > sissirā	'shallow water'.
sil - silā ≧	'cleansed'.
māi - muīā	'polite'.

- eni : pit - piteni 'jealousy'.

(B)

- i :

kai - moli	'feeling of hunger'.
dag - negi	'a sense of uneasiness due to extreme heat'.

- iā :

ghut - muitā	'dwarfish'.
sat - boitā	'restless, smart'.
sat - phoitā	'restless, smart'.
lar - pheirā	'unsteady, slack'.

4. The echo-words are those in which a word is 'repeated partially and the idea of et cetera and things similar to or assimilated with that, is expressed'. The first part of these words carries meaning and is used separately; while the second part has no meaning independently. Like the standard Assamese Kamrupi also substitutes the first consonant by s - in the second part in the formation of these echo-words. For example :

ghar - sar >	ghassar	'house and similar things'.
gharā - sarā		'horse and the like'.
mās - sās		'fish and the like'.
mad - sad		'wine and the like'.
mithe - sithe		'sweetmeat and the like'.
kāpur - sāpur >	kāpussāpur	'cloth and the like'.
khori - sori		'fuel and the like'.
gākhir - sākhir >	gākhissākhir	'milk and similar things'.
dāt - sāt		'teeth and the like'. cf. Bg. dāt - tāt.
sui - sui		'fire and the like'.
lem - sem		'lamp and the like'.
rod - sod		'sunshine and the like'.

If the original word begins with s - , the echo-word takes on t - , e.g.

sāti - tāti	'lamp and the like'.
sāh - tāh	'tea and the like'.
seni - teni	'sugar and the like'.

In this connection the following kãnnãdã formations may be seen :

han̄nu - han̄palu	'fruits and other things'.
anku - donku	'zig - zag'.
nelā - gilā	'floor and the like'.
tuppa - gippa	'ghee and the like'.