Morphological processes in Sanzari Boro

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Abstract

This paper is an attempt to present the morphological processes that have been observed in Sanzari Boro, an eastern variety of the Boro language. Boro belongs to the Tibeto-Burman language family. The Standard variety of Boro is primarily spoken in the present Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR) of Assam, India but Sanzari Boro speakers primarily reside outside and eastern part of the BTR. For this research data have been collected from native Sanzari Boro speakers of the Nagaon district of Assam. After examining the data, it has been noticed that affixation, mainly suffixation and prefixation, plays important role in the morphological processes in Sanzari Boro. The major morphological processes that have been observed in the language variety are inflection, derivation, compounding, and reduplication.

Keywords: Sanzari Boro; inflection; derivation; compounding; reduplication

1. Introduction

Sanzari Boro (henceforth SB) is one of the varieties of the Boro (also Bodo) language (Mahela & Sinha, 2018). The standard variety of Boro is primarily spoken in the present Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR), Assam, India. Boro is the second Tibeto-Burman (Grierson, 1903) language, after Manipuri, which is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. It is also an associate official language in the state of Assam, India. But SB is spoken outside and in the eastern part of the BTR, Assam. There is no official record of the SB speakers but unofficially more than 15000 speakers are residing in different villages under Nagaon district, Assam. Therefore, this research is done based on the data collected from the SB native speakers of the district.

1.1. Literature review

There is some previous literature available on the Standard variety of Boro which has highlighted the morphological processes of the language. Halvorsrud (1959) has written a short grammar of the Boro language. Bhat (1968) has provided a grammatical sketch of Boro. Endle (1884) has given an outline grammar of Kachari (Boro) based on the speaker of Darrang district of Assam. Bhattacharya (1977) and Brahma (2013b) have provided a descriptive analysis of Boro morphology. Basumatyary (2005) has also given descriptions of Boro morphology. Boro & Basumatyary (2015) have discussed
adverbial suffixes in Boro and DeLancey (2015) have described adjectival constructions in Boro and Tibeto-Burman languages. The Standard Boro has been studied by a number of researchers, however, no such specific literature is available in SB.

2. Method

For this research data have been gathered through interview method from the native SB speakers who reside in some villages in the Nagaon district of Assam. Moreover, being a native speaker of the language, the data have been partly designed and self-established. The collected data have been transcribed using Leipzig Glossing Rules to show the morpheme-by-morpheme analysis. This research follows the Basic Linguistic Theory (Dixon, 2010) and the gathered data have been used to form rules. In the following section, the morphological processes that have been observed in SB have been discussed as the result of the research.

3. Result and discussion

This section provides and discusses the major morphological processes like inflection, derivation, compounding, and reduplication that have been observed in SB. The languages of the world are classified morphologically in different types such as synthetic, agglutinating, isolating, and fusional. Abiog & David (2020) have highlighted different grammatical structures of indigenous languages. According to Brahma (2016), Boro is an agglutinating language. As a variety of Boro, SB also follows agglutinating nature. SB words tend to consist of multiple morphemes but their morpheme boundaries are usually clear. SB new words are mainly formed by adding affixes to the roots/words. The various morphological processes in SB have been discussed below.

3.1. Inflectional processes in SB

In SB, different grammatical categories that are inflected with comprise not less than a number, classifier, case, tense, aspect, mood, and degree. These inflection processes are discussed below.

3.1.1. Number inflections

SB nouns get inflected for plural suffixes {-pʰɯɾ}, {-mu} and {-sɯɾ}. These suffixes are shown below with their usages and examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plural suffix and usage</th>
<th>Singular {-Ø}</th>
<th>Plural suffix</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>{-pʰɯɾ} ‘animals/objects’</td>
<td>mosa ‘tiger’</td>
<td>{-pʰɯɾ}</td>
<td>mosapʰɯɾ ‘tigers’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>gon ‘stick’</td>
<td>{-pʰɯɾ}</td>
<td>gonpʰɯɾ ‘sticks’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{-mu} ‘personal name/kinship terms/ second and third-person singular honorific pronouns’</td>
<td>bina ‘Bina’</td>
<td>{-mu}</td>
<td>binamu ‘Bina and others’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>adui ‘aunt’</td>
<td>{-mu}</td>
<td>aduimu ‘aunt and others’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>bitʰaŋ ‘s/he(HON)’</td>
<td>{-mu}</td>
<td>bitʰaŋmu ‘they (HON)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{-sɯɾ} ‘second and third person non-honorific personal pronoun’</td>
<td>bi ‘s/he’</td>
<td>{-sɯɾ}</td>
<td>bisuɾ ‘they’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>nuŋ ‘you’</td>
<td>{-sɯɾ}</td>
<td>nuŋsɯɾ ‘you (PL)’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.2. Classifiers

SB numerals are inflected for classifiers. In SB, classifiers precede the numerals. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classifiers</th>
<th>Prefixed with</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>{kʰa-}</td>
<td>person and God</td>
<td>kʰa-se ‘one person’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{ma-}</td>
<td>animal</td>
<td>ma-tʰam ‘three animals’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{ba-ɾ}</td>
<td>flower</td>
<td>bar-nui ‘two flowers’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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3.1.3. Case inflections

SB nouns are also inflected for case markers. There are at least ten cases in SB (Mahela & Sinha, 2018). The case inflections have been shown with examples in the table (Table 1) below.

Table 1. SB case inflections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cases</th>
<th>Markers</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nominative</td>
<td>Ø/optional ‘if personal pronoun’/</td>
<td>bi ‘s/he’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>{-a} ‘if noun ends with consonant and /u/ sound’/</td>
<td>sidum-a ‘Sidwm (NOM)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>{-ja} ‘if noun ends with front vowel’/</td>
<td>abui-ja ‘grandmother (NOM)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>{-wa} ‘if noun ends with back vowel’/</td>
<td>mainao-wa ‘Mainao (NOM)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>{-u} ‘if pronoun ends with consonant’ and</td>
<td>anj-u ‘I (NOM)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>{-ju} ‘if pronoun ends with vowel’</td>
<td>bi-ju ‘s/he (NOM)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accusative</td>
<td>{-kʰɯ}</td>
<td>oma-kʰɯ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instrumental</td>
<td>{-zɯ}</td>
<td>silai-zu ‘with gun’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comitative</td>
<td>{-zɯ}</td>
<td>siri-zu ‘with Siri’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dative</td>
<td>{-nɯ}</td>
<td>bipʰon-nɯ ‘to brother’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ablative</td>
<td>{-nipʰrai}</td>
<td>no-nipʰrai ‘from home’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genitive</td>
<td>{-ni}/</td>
<td>guqium-ni ‘Gwgwm’s’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>{-ha} ‘family members as a whole’</td>
<td>simaŋ-ha ‘Simang’s’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locative</td>
<td>{-ou ~ -uɯ }</td>
<td>dʰiŋ-ou ‘at Dhing’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allative</td>
<td>{-tʰi} ‘with objects’/</td>
<td>dubul-tʰi ‘towards field’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>{-nitʰi} ‘with human and animals’</td>
<td>sona-nitʰi ‘towards Sona’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illative</td>
<td>{-halaqui}</td>
<td>tʰana-halaqui ‘up to the police station’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.4. Tense inflections

SB has three tenses - present, past, and future. The present tense is generally unmarked whereas past tense and future tense are marked with {-mɯn} and {-ɡɯn} respectively. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tense</th>
<th>Markers</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Present Tense</td>
<td>Ø</td>
<td>za ‘eat’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Past Tense</td>
<td>{-mɯn}</td>
<td>zadu-mɯn ‘ate’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future Tense</td>
<td>{-ɡɯn}</td>
<td>za-ɡɯn ‘will eat’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.1.5. Aspect inflections

As a grammatical category, aspect is related to verbs. It expresses the temporal view of the event or state expressed by the verb. In SB, four kinds of aspects have been observed which are shown below with examples.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aspect</th>
<th>Markers</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Habitual aspect</td>
<td>{-u}</td>
<td>sub-u ‘smokes’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>{-jut}</td>
<td>za-jut ‘eats’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>{-w}</td>
<td>sou-wu ‘grinds’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Progressive aspect</td>
<td>{-gasen}</td>
<td>sonj-gasen ‘cooking’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perfective aspect</td>
<td>{-du}</td>
<td>t'anj-du ‘started going’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perfect aspect</td>
<td>{-bai}</td>
<td>p'ai-bai ‘have come’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.6. Mood

SB has different types of moods. These are discussed along with examples below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mood</th>
<th>Markers and their usages</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Energetic</td>
<td>{-ka} ‘forcefully’</td>
<td>p'ai-ka ‘have to come’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>{-t'ar} ‘truly’/</td>
<td>p'ai-t'ar ‘truly come’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>{-mar} ‘definitely’/</td>
<td>p'ai-mar ‘definitely come’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>{-t'armar} ‘truly and definitely’/</td>
<td>t'anj-t'armar ‘truly and definitely go’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>{-mart'tar} ‘definitely and truly’/</td>
<td>p'ai-mart'tar ‘definitely and truly come’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imperative</td>
<td>{-du} ‘show the politeness’/</td>
<td>t'anj-du ‘go (IMP)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>{-nai} ‘to fulfil a purpose’/</td>
<td>p'ai-nai ‘come (IMP)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Optative</td>
<td>{-tu}</td>
<td>p'ai-tu ‘come (OPT)’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permissive</td>
<td>{-hui} ‘to someone’/</td>
<td>zo-hui ‘let someone sit’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>{-ni} ‘for self’</td>
<td>nai-ni ‘take permission to look’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conditional</td>
<td>{-ba} ‘if’</td>
<td>p'ai-ba ‘if someone comes’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.1.7. Degree inflections

SB adjectives are inflected for the degree. SB positive degree is unmarked whereas comparative and superlative are marked. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Markers</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>{Ø}</td>
<td>muzan ‘good’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comparative</td>
<td>{-sin}</td>
<td>muzan-sin ‘better’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superlative</td>
<td>{-sin'tar}/</td>
<td>muzan-sin'tar/ ‘best’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>{-t'arsin}</td>
<td>muzan-t'arsin ‘best’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2. Derivational processes in SB

Through the derivational process, a word is derived from another word or word elements. In SB, new words are derived by various processes. The processes are discussed below.

3.2.1. Derived nouns

There are some nominalizing affixes in SB which are added to different grammatical categories like noun, verb, and adjective to derive nouns. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Suffix</th>
<th>Derived nouns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>{gami} ‘village’</td>
<td>{-ari}</td>
<td>gamiari ‘villager’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{hal} ‘plough’</td>
<td>{-uwai}</td>
<td>haluawai ‘cultivator’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Verb Suffix Derived nouns
{ɾai} ‘scold’ {-nai} rainai ‘chanting’
{makʰa} ‘dance’ {-gra} makʰagra ‘a dancer’

Adjective Suffix Derived nouns
{ɡatʰaɾ} ‘pure’ {-tʰi} gatharʰi ‘pure’
{ɡɯtʰou} ‘deep’ {-tʰi} ɡɯtʰoutʰi ‘depth’

Categorical affixes

Free categorical prefix Suffix Derived nouns
{dao} ‘bird’ {-kʰrai} daokʰrai ‘house moina’
{-tʰub} daotʰub ‘dove’
{na} ‘fish’ {-srai} nasrai ‘snakehead fish’
{-tʰu} natʰu ‘prawn’
{mai} ‘paddy’ {-kʰali} maikʰali ‘type of a paddy’
{-bɾa} maibɾa ‘type of a paddy’

Bound categorical prefix Suffix Derived nouns
{mo-} ‘animal’ {-kʰou} mokʰou ‘cow’
{-sa} mosa ‘tiger’
{tʰai-} ‘fruit’ {-zou} tʰaizou ‘mango’
{-sumu} tʰaisumu ‘cucumber’
{bi-} ‘tree’ {-pʰaŋ} bipʰaŋ ‘tree’
{-lai} bilai ‘leaf’
{ha-} ‘body part’ {-kʰai} hakʰai ‘hand’
{-sugur} hasugur ‘nail’

3.2.2. Derived verbs
In SB, derived verbs can be gained by the process of causation and by adding two or more verb roots or particles. Derived verbs have more than one morphemes but structurally they are single constituents or stems. Larnyo & Glover-Men (2020) mentioned that several situations of causation involve a change of state verbs some of which include stative verbs, action, and process verbs. The types of SB verbs that take causative affixes and derive new verbs have been shown in the following examples.

Causative prefixes Verbs Derived verbs
{pʰi-} {si} ‘wet’ pʰisi ‘make it wet’
{pʰa-} {ɾan} ‘dry’ pʰaran ‘make it dry’
{pʰu-} {mum} ‘ripe’ pʰumum ‘make it ripe’
{bu-} {pʰu} ‘uproot’ bupʰu ‘uproot’
{sa-} {ɡab} ‘cry’ saɡab ‘make someone cry’
{si-} {ɡi} ‘fear’ siɡi ‘make some scared’

Verbs Causative suffixes Derived verbs
{bu} ‘beat’ {-za} buza ‘beaten by somebody’
{lun} ‘dring’ {-hu} lunhu ‘feed some liquid’

SB verbs are also derived by adding two or more verb roots or particles. For example:

Verb + Verb
3.2.3. Derived adjectives

In SB, adjectives are mainly derived by \{gV-\} form of adjectivation, by adding suffixes with verbs, and by changing the final vowel of an adjective. These processes are discussed in the following.

\{gV-\} form of adjectivation

DeLancey (2015) has stated that Boro has a substantial set of adjectives that are characterized by an initial minor syllable gV- like other Tibeto-Burman languages. SB also follows this form to derive adjectives. For example

\[
\begin{array}{lll}
\{ga\} & \{hai\} & ‘lower’ \\
\{gi\} & \{si\} & ‘to wet’ \\
\{gu\} & \{k^ui\} & ‘sour’ \\
\{gu\} & \{k^u\} & ‘become cold’
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{lll}
\{ghai\} & ‘low, short’ \\
\{gisi\} & ‘wet’ \\
\{gu^kui\} & ‘sour’ \\
\{gu^k\} & ‘cold’
\end{array}
\]

Derive adjective by adding suffixes

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\{ran\} & ‘to dry’ \\
\{mao\} & ‘do’ \\
\{dui\} & ‘water’ \\
\{du\} & ‘to heat’
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\{-\text{t\textasciitilde}en\} & ‘thin’ \\
\{-t\textasciitildei\} & ‘active’ \\
\{-bru\} & ‘tasteless (like water)’ \\
\{-hao\} & ‘slightly hot’
\end{array}
\]

Derive adjective by changing the final vowel

SB adjective masculine gender is sometimes converted to feminine gender by changing the final vowel. For example:

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\{-a\} & \{-i\} \\
\{-u\} & \{-i\}
\end{array}
\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vowel change</th>
<th>Masculine</th>
<th>Feminine</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>{-a} to {-i}</td>
<td>ben\textasciitildea ‘idiot’</td>
<td>ben\textasciitildei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{-a} to {-u}</td>
<td>k\textasciitildeala ‘deaf’</td>
<td>k\textasciitildeali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{-u} to {-i}</td>
<td>hait\textasciitildea ‘short’</td>
<td>hait\textasciitildeu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2.4. Derived adverbs

In SB, adverbs are derived by adding suffixes like \{-i\} \{-ji\}, and \{-je\} with verbs, nouns and adjectives. The derived forms of adverbs are shown below.

Verb to adverb

\[
\begin{array}{lll}
\{bu\} & ‘tell’ \\
\{za\} & ‘eat’
\end{array}
\]

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\{-i\} & ‘having said’ \\
\{-ji\} & ‘having eaten’
\end{array}
\]

Derive adverb by adding suffixes

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\{ran\} & ‘having said’ \\
\{mao\} & ‘active’ \\
\{du\} & ‘slightly hot’
\end{array}
\]

Derive adverb by changing the final vowel

SB adverb masculine gender is sometimes converted to feminine gender by changing the final vowel. For example:

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\{-a\} & \{-i\} \\
\{-u\} & \{-i\}
\end{array}
\]

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<th>Vowel change</th>
<th>Masculine</th>
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<td>ben\textasciitildei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{-a} to {-u}</td>
<td>k\textasciitildeala ‘deaf’</td>
<td>k\textasciitildeali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>{-u} to {-i}</td>
<td>hait\textasciitildea ‘short’</td>
<td>hait\textasciitildeu</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[
\begin{array}{ll}
\{on\} & ‘one who enjoys’
\{on\} & ‘one who enjoys’
\end{array}
\]

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Adjective to adverb

- 'good' to 'well'
- 'bad' to 'badly'

Noun to adverb

- 'fish' to 'with fish and eel'
- 'tree' to 'with tree and leaf'

3.3. Compounding in SB

Compounding is one of the major word-formation processes in SB. Compounding is a process of word formation in which two independent words of a language are joined to form a new word (Abbi, 2001). According to Brahma (2013a), semantically there are four types of compounding, namely, endocentric, exocentric, copulative, and appositional. Compounds can be again classified structurally into several classes, like, Noun-Noun, Noun-Verb, Noun-Adjective, Verb-Verb, etc. The compounding that has been observed in SB is discussed below.

3.3.1. Endocentric compound

In an endocentric compound, one element becomes the head of the compound word. For example:

- 'jute' + 'dry' = 'dry jute'
- 'pig' + 'intestine' = 'pig intestine'

Here, 'jute' and 'pig' are the heads of the derived compound words 'dry jute' and 'pig intestine' respectively.

3.3.2. Exocentric compound

In an exocentric compound, none of the constituents acts as a head. For example:

- 'crow' + 'wooden flat stool' = 'a kind of creeper fruit'
- 'head' + 'ripe' = 'old person'

3.3.3. Copulative compound

In a copulative compound, the two or more semantic heads are joined together. For example:

- 'south' + 'east' = 'south-east'
- 'job' + 'grain treasurer' = 'job-grain treasurer'

3.3.4. Appositional compound

In an appositional compound, the components provide different descriptions of a single referent. For example:

- 'male' + 'child' = 'male child'
- 'female' + 'small' = 'girl child'

3.3.5. Structurally classified compounds

There are several possible structurally classified compounds observed in SB. These are shown below.

**Noun-Noun**

- 'Boro people' + 'village' = 'Boro village'
- 'your mother' + 'house' = 'kitchen'

**Noun-Verb**

- 'sun' + 'to heat' = 'the heat of the sun'
- 'water' + 'pour' = 'tasteless'

**Noun-Adjective**
3.4. Reduplications in SB

Reduplication is a morphological process by which all or part of a form is repeated. In SB, reduplication is used to form plural nouns, adjectives, compound adjectives, to intensify the action of the verb, and so on. Generally, reduplicants occur to the right of the roots or stems in SB. Based on the data, reduplication can be categorized into the following types in SB.

3.4.1. Full reduplications

Full reduplication is a process where the entire word is reduplicated. For example:

(1) zuŋ sipʰuŋ dam-i dami makʰa-gɯn
   1PL flute play-ADVLZ RED dance-FUT
   'We will dance playing a flute.'

(2) an kʰona kʰona namai-gɯn
   1SG corner RED search-FUT
   'I will search every corner.'

3.4.2. Partial reduplication

In partial reduplication, only a part of the reduplicated root or stem is reduplicated. For example:

(3) sona-ja naitʰao-tʰao hinzaokʰa
   Sona-NOM beautiful- RED girl
   'Sona is a beautiful girl.'

(4) meɡoŋ-a duilbru-bru
   curry-NOM salt less- RED
   'The curry is saltless.'

3.4.3. Expressives (Morphological reduplication)

In expressive (Abbi, 1992), the non-reduplicated syllable does not exist as a word. It becomes a word only after it is duplicated. For example:

(5) kʰu kʰu bar bu-gasenɯ donŋ
   cold RED wind blow-PROG be
   'Cold wind is blowing.'

(6) nokʰa pʰiri pʰiri ha-gasenɯ donŋ
3.4.4. Rhyming reduplication
In rhyming reduplication, a rhyme ending is added with the root/stem which often forms a collective meaning. For example:

(7) aŋ mansɯi dunsɯi-ni gezer-ou tʰaŋ-a
1SG man RED-GEN middle-LOC go-NEG
‘I will not go in the midst of people.’

(8) mokʰou-wa hagra bongra za-jɯ
cow-NOM grass RED eat-HAB
‘Cow eats grass.’

3.4.5. Exact reduplication
In this type of reduplication, the word is reduplicated without any alteration. For example:

(9) bi dubuli dubuli pʰai-gɯn
s/he field RED come-FUT
‘S/he will come through fields.’

(10) bisɯɾ gazɾi gazɾi kʰatʰa buŋ-ɯ
s/he.PL bad RED language speak-HAB
‘They speak slangs.’

3.4.6. Ablaut reduplication
In this reduplication, the vowel sound of the reduplicant changes. For example:

(11) zeɾem-ni hɑŋkʰɯ-pʰur-a pʰakʰaɾa pʰakʰ ɯɾi
Zerem- GEN duck-PL-NOM multiple color RED
‘Zerem’s ducks are having multiple colors.’

(12) beŋga biŋgi badi kʰambai da-tʰa
idiot RED like do-PRF NEG-stay
‘Do not do like idiots.’

In SB, reduplication is used to get different forms of words. Some of the examples have been shown below.

dam-i ‘play’ + dami ‘play’ = dami dami ‘having played’ (verb to adverb)
kʰona ‘corner’ + kʰona ‘corner’ = kʰona kʰona ‘every corner (becomes plural)’
duibr-u-bru ‘salt less’ (intensified the adjective)
mansɯi-dunsɯi ‘people’ (collectively)
kʰiu + kʰiu = kʰiu kʰiu ‘cold’ (forming new word)

4. Conclusions

In the previous section, various morphological processes that have been observed in SB have been discussed. The major morphological processes in SB are inflection, derivation, compounding, and reduplication. SB grammatical categories are infected with at least one number, classifier, case, tense, aspect, mood, and degree. In SB, inflection is gained mainly through suffixation but it has been observed that SB classifiers precede numerals. The derivation is a process of word formation in SB through which new words of noun, verb, adjective, and adverb are formed by adding affixes to the different roots/words. The causative prefix is also added with some verbs to create a new verb. The
process of compounding also helps in forming new words in SB. The compounding processes that have been observed are like, Noun-Noun, Noun-Verb, Noun-Adjective, Pronoun-Noun, Verb-Verb, Verb-Adjective, and Noun-Verb-Adverbial Suffix. Reduplication is also another process of word formation through which new words are formed in SB. The types of reduplication that have been found in SB are full reduplication, partial reduplication, expressive, rhyming reduplication, exact reduplication, and ablaut reduplication. Sometimes, apart from forming new words, reduplication intensifies the action of verbs and the quality of adjectives. In this research, an attempt has been made to show the various morphological processes observed in SB. In fine, this research is based on limited data so further depth research may bring more morphological processes and examples in SB.

References
Endle, R.S. (1884). Outline Grammar of the Kachári (Bãrã) Language as Spoken in District Darrang, Assam: With Illustrative Sentences, Notes, Reading Lessons, and a Short Vocabulary. Shillong: Assam Secretariat Press.


**Abbreviations**

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<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Ø</td>
<td>Empty</td>
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<td>DAT</td>
<td>Dative case</td>
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<td>Future tense</td>
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