

Nominal Inflection of the Tutsa Language

Hemanta Konch

Research Scholar, Dibrugarh University

Email - hemantakonch24@gmail.com

Abstract

North-East is a hub of many ethnic languages. This region constitutes with eight major districts; like-Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya and Sikkim. Tutsa is a minor tribe of Arunachal Pradesh. The Tutsa was migrated from the place 'Rangkhan-Sanchik' of the South-East Asia through 'Hakmen-Haksan' way to Arunachal Pradesh. The Tutsa community is mainly inhabited in Tirap district and southern part of Changlang district and a few people are co-exists in Tinsukia district of Assam. The Tutsa language belongs to the Naga group of Sino-Tibetan language family. According to the Report of UNESCO, the Tutsa language is in endangered level and it included in the EGIDS Level 6B. The language has no written literature; songs, folk tales, stories are found in a colloquial form. They use Roman Script. Due to the influence of other languages it causes lack of sincerity for the use of their languages in a united form. Now-a-days the new generation is attracted for using English, Hindi and Assamese language. No study is found till now in a scientific way about the language. So, in this prospect the topic **Nominal Inflection of the Tutsa Language** has been selected for study. It will help to preserve the language and also help in making of dictionary, Grammar and language guide book.

Key Words - Nominal Inflection, Gender & Number.

Introduction

Arunachal Pradesh is a fascinating land of different linguistic communities. Most of the languages of Arunachal Pradesh anthropologically belong to the greater Mongoloid group and in linguistic evidence these languages belong to the Tibeto-burman group of the Sino-Tibetan language family. More than 28 tribes are dwelled in Arunachal Pradesh. The main tribes of Arunachal Pradesh are- Adi, Aka, Nisi, Apatani, Galong, Tagin, Memba, Khamba, Sakma, Idu, Misimi, Tutsa, Lisu, Tangsa, Nocte, Wancho etc. All these languages have their own language. These languages are unintelligible among the tribes. Tutsa is a significant tribe of Arunachal Pradesh. The Tutsa migrated from 'Rangkhan-sansik' of South-East Asia to India through 'Hokman-Haksan' way and now they are living in Arunachal Pradesh. The Tutsa people are dwelled in Trip and Changlang districts of Arunachal Pradesh. According to the census of 2001 the Tutsa population was- 25000. Among these 10,497 are belong to the Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh. As per the Assessment of UNESCO and approach of G.A Grierson the Tutsa language is a sub tribe of Naga. No scientific study has been found till now. As per the assessment of EGIDS level the Tutsa language is in EGDIS level 6a.

Objectives and Importance of the Study

The objectives of the Tutsa language are-

- To enlighten the number defining process of Tutsa language.
- To enlighten the gender defining processes of the Tutsa language.

Scope of the Study

The scope of the paper entitled 'Nominal Inflectives of the Tutsa Language' can be divided into two groups-

- Scope of Data Analysis
- Scope of field study.

The first chapter deals with the number of the Tutsa language, second chapter deals with the gender and third chapter deals with the Case of the Tutsa language. For the scope of field study- Yatdam, Khimiyang, Namtak, Jong Rom, Yangkang, Kangkho, Wottam areas of Arunachal Pradesh have been chosen.

Methods of the Study

Two kinds of methods are used in this paper. These are- Field study method and Data analysis methods.

Field study method

Three kinds of methods are used in collecting required data. These are-

- Interview Method
- Observation Method
- Sample Designing Method

Data Analysis Method

In preparing this paper the collected data's are analyzed with two methods. The datas are analyzed with two methods-Descriptive method and Analytical Method. The inflection theories are discussed through descriptive method and the inflection processes are analyzed through analytical method.

Nominal Inflection of the Tutsa language

A word can be transferred according to tense, case, voice, number, person, gender. This process is known as inflection. When grammatical and meaningful words and word forms are created according to the combination of morphemes. The words can be transferred to different parts of speech through inflection. Sometime the class of word can be changed or sometime cannot be changed. Inflection include the topics- Number, Gender, person, Case, Tense, Voice etc.

Number of the Tutsa language

Two numbers- singular and Plural are found in Tutsa language. No dual number is found; sometime dual number is defined with the addition of numerical word. The words which are used to denote singular number is found as absolute form. Singular number denotes one number and plural number denote two or more than two. The number is not grammatical in Tutsa language. The number defining processes of the Tutsa language are-

- By adding absolute form of number.
- By adding plural form
- By adding numerical form
- By adding classifier
- By adding indefinite form.

By adding absolute form of number

Generally the noun words are known as absolute form of number in Tutsa language. Singular number is formed in addition with the definitive's and numerical forms to the absolute form and plural number is formed in addition of definitive's and numerical form. The absolute form of number of the Tutsa language can be shown as follows-

Tutsa word	English Word
nah	honey bee
kham	beer

By adding Plural form

1. {-loi} form is used after noun to denote plurality word. Example-

Absolute form	plural form	plural word
zaro 'boy'	loi	zarolo 'boys'
zalah 'girl'	loi	zalahlo 'girls'

2. The {-nuhloi} form is used to denote plural form. Example-

Absolute form	Plural form	Plural Word
hi 'dog'	nuhoi	hi-nuhoi 'dogs'

3. 'vohloi' form is used to denote crowd of birds in Tutsa language. Example-

Absolute form	Plural Form	Plural Word
<i>VAmA</i> 'bird'	vohloi	<i>VAmA</i> Vohloŋ'birds'
<i>Ve</i> 'hen'	vohloi	<i>Ve</i> 'hens'

4. {rapne} form is used after adjective word to denote plural form. Example-

Absolute form of number

zase 'good'

ehan 'complex'

Adjectives of Plural number

rapne zase 'better'

rapne-ehan 'very hard'

4. In Tutsa language separate words are used in singular number to define number of personal pronoun. {-loi} plural form is used in second and third person to denote plural number. Example- Using Separate:

Singular

Ŷa 'I'

Plural

siŶ 'We'

Using {-loi} plural form-

Singular

an 'you'

heh 'he'

Plural

an-loi 'you'

heh-loi 'they'

Using Numerical form

In Tutsa language Number is defined in the combination of numerical words. Example-

Singular

oma 'mango'

rapsi 'star'

Absolete form of number

asit 'one'

ani 'two'

Singular

asit-oma 'an orrange'

ani rapsi 'two stars'

By adding Classifier

{-Ah} definite form is used denote singular number. Example-

Absolute form

mok 'horse'

ŶepoŶ 'hen'

Classifier

Ŷh

Ŷh

Singular

mok-*Ŷh* 'the horse'

ŶepoŶ-Ŷh 'the hen'

Gender of the Tutsa language

Gender is not grammatical in Tutsa language. The verb forms occur no changes in terms of the changes of gender in Tutsa language. There are four genders in Tutsa language- Masculine Gender, Feminine gender, Common gender and neuter gender. The gender defining processes of Tutsa language are-

- Using different words.
- Using female forms
- In terms of Idea.
- Using different words-

1. Singular and feminine gender is defined by using separate words in genitive noun.

Example-

Masculine

Va 'father'

to 'grand father'

Masculine Gender

nu 'mother'

V1 'grand mother'

By using feminine forms

1. In Tutsa language masculine gender form {-*Vah*} and feminine form {-nuh} is used to define gender. Example-

Absolute form

mi 'men'

mok 'mad'

Masculine

mi-*Vah* 'man'

mok-*Vah* 'mad man'

Feminine

mi-nuh 'woman'

mok-nuh 'mad woman'

2. Male form {-*paŋ*} is used in animate objects and female form {-nu} is used to denote gender. Example-

Absolute form

hi 'dog'

ɣok 'tiger'

Masculine

hi-*ɣŋ* 'dog'

ɣok-ɣŋ 'tiger'

Feminine

hi-nu 'bitch'

ɣok-nu 'tigeress'

3. In Tutsa language some absolute noun forms of gender are found. These denote both masculine and feminine gender. Example-

Tutsa word

suh

minu

English

grand son/grand daughter

causin

In terms of Idea

Gender is also defined according to idea in some words. Example-

Masculine word

Tutsa word	English
ko ^ŋ	hill
lu ^ŋ va ^ŋ	king

Female word

Tutsa word	English
zu ^ŋ nu	river
enit	stream
sat ^h an	rain

Neuter word is used to denote inanimate objects. Example-

Tutsa word	English
san	wood
k ^h ot ^h ep	knife

Conclusion

Tutsa is one of the Tibeto-Burman languages of Arunachal Pradesh. This language is spoken by the people of Changlang and Tirap districts of Arunachal Pradesh. Now-a-days the degradation by the English, Assamese and Hindi language leads a threat to the Tutsa language. Therefore the language is in endangered level. Scientific research will help in developing and preserving the language. In this prospect the topic 'Nominal Inflection of the Tutsa language' has been chosen for study. After the above discussions some conclusions have been found. These are-

1. There are two numbers in Tutsa language- Singular Number and Plural Number. Number is not grammatical in Tutsa language. Verb occurs no changes in terms of number.
2. Five number defining processes are found in Tutsa- By using absolute form, Using numerical form, using definite form and Using indefinite form.

