

A STUDY ON SYNONYMY IN BODO

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Abstract: Semantic is a branch of linguistic that deals with meaning. There are many semantic structures in word in every language. Synonym is also one of them. It is a branch of semantics that deals with similar meaning or sameness of meaning. They exist in every word and part of speech like nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. Synonyms are two different words that have the same or very similar meaning with each other. There are various synonyms in Bodo language also. For example: “buhum” means ‘world’ in English. In the same way, ‘buhum’ is also utter as mulug, soṅsar which means ‘world’. They are related and similar in meaning and interchangeable in sentence. Thus they are synonymous of Bodo. Besides that, there are various types and patterns of synonyms in Bodo. The area of the study will confine to discuss about synonyms, its types and various patterns that found in Bodo language.

Keywords: Synonyms, Bodo Synonyms, types, patterns

1. Introduction

Synonym is a branch of semantic where sense with several names is studied. Semantics is the branch of linguistics which focuses on the study of meaning. Synonyms are two or more different words that have the same or very similar meaning to each other. It is a word, morpheme or phrase that means precisely or nearly the same as another word in a given language. The word synonym comes from the Greek word ‘syn’ and ‘onoma’ which mean “together” and “name” respectively. It means synonymy refers to a relationship of sameness of meaning. According to R.L Varshney, “one sense with several names is synonymy that is two items are synonymous when they have the same sense. Lexical items can be regarded as synonymous if they can be interchanged without altering the meaning of an utterance.”¹ Leech also defines that “synonymy is more than one form having the same meaning”²

1.1 Aims and objectives of the study

The main aims and objectives of the study are:

- i) To identify and understand synonyms in Bodo.
- ii) To find out different types and patterns of synonyms in Bodo.
- iii) To understand the nuanced meaning of words in Bodo.

1.2 Methodology of the study

In this study, analytical method of research is used as a methodology.

1.3 Sources of data: Both primary and secondary data has been used for the study. For primary data questionnaires method and for secondary data, it is collected from different published materials such as books, journal, dissertation, thesis etc.

2. Description

Semantic is a branch of linguistic that deals with meaning. There are many semantic structures in word in every language. Synonymy is one of them. It is a branch of semantic which focuses on the study of sameness of meaning. Synonyms are words that have the same or very similar meanings as another word in the same language. There are various synonyms in Bodo language also.

2.1 Synonym in Bodo

Rwk^hwmse wngt^hi is used to mean synonymy or sameness of meaning in Bodo. There are various synonyms in Bodo. For example:

- i) radab, k^huuraṅ (news)

1 Varshney, RL: An Introductory Text Book of Linguistic and Phonetics, p-266

2 leech, Geoffrey: Semantics: The study of Meaning, p-94

zuwbud muzaṇ radab. (great news)

aṇ k^huuraṇ bilai phōraigasinnu dōṇ.

(I am reading a newspaper)

ii) zuu, zumai (alcohol)

aṇ zuu luṇja.

(I don't drink alcohol)

nuṇ zumai luṇduṇ nama?

(Are you drinking alcohol?)

iii) zahar, ṛōṇ, hagrama (forest)

zaharjaw gidir dōṇphāṇ muṇnu.

(Large wood is found in forest)

ṛōṇaw muṣa t^hajū.

(There are tigers in the forest)

hagramajaw muider t^hajū.

(There are elephants in the forest)

In the above examples, radab and k^huuraṇ, zuu and zumai, zahar, ṛōṇ and hagrama are related to each other and similar in meaning. Thus, each pair are synonyms of Bodo.

2.1.1 Types of synonymy

There are generally three types of synonymy in linguistics. These are:

i) Absolute synonymy

ii) Partial synonymy

iii) Near synonymy

i) Absolute synonymy: Absolute synonyms are words with the same meaning with no difference. These are fully interchangeable. It allows one word to replace another without changing the deliberate message. For example:

a) k^huip^hud, ṛōk^hōd (Dangerous situation)

aṇni k^huip^hud sōmaw nuṇ mōdōd hupwibai.

(You helped me in my dangerous situation)

aṇni ṛōk^hōd sōmaw nuṇ mōdōd hupwibai.

(You helped me in my dangerous situation)

b) ṛaibū, zēblaibū (always)

aṇ nuṇk^huu ṛaibū guṣuk^haṇḡun.

(I will always remember you)

aṇ nuṇk^huu zēblaibū guṣuk^haṇḡun.

(I will always remember you)

c) k^huuraṇ, radab (news)

zuwbud muzaṇ k^huuraṇ hup^hwibai dinui.

(You have given very good news today)

zuwbud muzaṇ radab hup^hwibai dinui.

(You have given very good news today)

In the above example k^huip^hud and ṛōk^hōd, ṛaibū and zēblaibū, k^huuraṇ and radab has the same meaning without any distinction. That is why each pair is interchangeable in sentence to each other without changing the meaning.

ii) Partial synonymy: Partial synonyms are words having similar but slightly difference in meaning. It is often be used interchangeably with a small difference and very common and useful for adding variety to language without changing the meaning. For example:

a) mōdōd, hep^hazab (support, help)

bit^haṇni k^hamanijau aṇ guṣu guṭ^harui mōdōd huḡū.

(I support his work wholeheartedly)

aṇ nuṇk^huu hep^hazab huḡū.

(I will help you).

b) raŋ, duhuun (money, wealth)

aŋha raŋ guia.

(I have no money).

dehajanu duhuun.

(Health is wealth)

In the above examples mɔdɔd and hep^hazab, raŋ and duhuun are related to each other but slightly difference in meaning. Yet they can be interchangeable in sentence without affecting much in meaning.

iii) Near synonymy: Near synonyms are words that are connected but have different meaning. They cannot always be interchangeable as replacing each other might change the meaning in sentence. For example:

a) sau, haŋ (burn, roast)

bijuu saunai dau zaduŋ.

(He is eating burn chicken)

bijuu haŋnai dau zaduŋ.

(He is eating roasted chicken)

b) adɔb, k^haida (technique, trick)

guubrab nazonanui zap^huŋsar zanw aŋnuu mak^hase adɔbp^hur p^huruŋ.

(Teach me some techniques to be successful with hard work)

aŋnuu ese k^haida p^huruŋ.

(Teach me some tricks)

In the above example sau and haŋ, adɔb and k^haida are related to each other but different in meaning. sau means burn in English and haŋ means heating in English. Like that, adɔb means technique and k^haida means tricks in English. Both pairs are related to each other but different in meaning. That is why they are not changeable to each other in sentence.

2.1.2 Various types of Synonymy in Bodo:

Besides three types of synonymy in linguistics types, there are different types of synonyms in Bodo also. These are:

i) Nominal lexical synonymous: There are various nominal lexical synonymous in Bodo. For example:

a) gami, p^hara, lagu (village)

nuŋni gamini muŋja ma?

(What is the name of your village?)

aŋ nuŋsur lagu nip^hrainuu p^huiduŋ.

(I am coming from your village)

nuŋ ma p^haranip^hrai p^huiduŋ?

(Which village are you from?)

b) zuu, zumai (alcohol)

aŋ zuu luŋja.

(I don't drink alcohol)

zumaija dehak^huu lasui lasui gazri k^halamu.

(Alcohol slowly spoils the body)

In the above examples, gami, p^hara, lagu and zuu, zumai all are noun words.

ii) Verbal (t^haizajari) lexical synonymous: Various verbal lexical synonymous are there in Bodo also. For example:

a) k^halam, mau (do)

nuŋ ma khalamduŋ?

(What are you doing?)

nuŋ bejaɔ ma maɔduŋ?

(What are you doing here?)

b) sit^hab, naŋt^hab (stick)

nuŋ inzuraw manuu sithabduŋ?

(Why are you sticking on the wall?)

nuṅ manu inzuraw naṅ^habna dṅ?

(Why are you sticking on the wall?)

iii) Adjectival lexical synonymous: There are adjectival lexical synonymous in Bodo also. For example:

a) guṅgu, guṅ^har (pure, holy)

zuṅ zeblaibu guṅgu dui luṅnaṅguu.

(We should always drink pure water)

Gangaja duṅse guṅ^har duima.

(Ganga is a holy river)

b) sṁmaina, hainari (beautiful)

Rak^hija sase sṁmaina sik^hla.

(Rakhi is a beautiful girl)

nuṅni megṁna haina guṅaṅ.

(Your eyes are beautiful)

iv) Adverbial lexical synonymous: Various adverbial lexical synonymous are there in Bodo. For example:

a) zuṅbuud, k^hlab k^hlab (very)

aṅ zuṅbuud dui gaṅduṅ.

(I am very thirsty)

aṅ k^hlab k^hlab dui gaṅduṅ.

(I am very thirsty)

2.1.3 Synonymic pattern of the Bodo

There are various synonymic patterns in Bodo. These are:

i) Double Scale Synonyms: If the two words have the same meaning or related to each other, they are called double scale synonyms. In Bodo, these types of words are much in member. For example:

a) ṁk^haphur (moon)

uk^humbri (moon)

b) sik^hao (thief)

dak^hat^hi (robber)

ii) Triple Scale Synonyms: If three words have the same meaning or related to each other, they are called triple scale synonyms. For example:

a) gut^hal (wave)

duit^hun (wave)

duḥuu (wave)

iii) Tetra-Scale Synonyms: If four words have the same meaning or related to each other, they are called tetra-scale synonyms. These types of words also exist in Bodo. For example:

a) niza (own)

aṅgu (own)

ṁse (own)

gaṁni (own)

iv) Penta-Scale Synonyms: If five words have the same meaning or related to each other, they are called penta scale synonyms. For example:

a) ziṅ (beside)

ruguṅ (bank)

ser (beside)

khathi (near)

rubui (edge)

v) Hexa-Scale Synonyms: If six words have the same meaning or related to each other, they are called sexi scale synonyms. For example:

a) raha (solution)

sulwu (idea)
adob (technique)
khaida (trick)
upai (solution)
lama (way)

vi) Hepta Scale Synonyms: If seven words have the same meaning or related to each other, they are called hepta scale synonyms. For example:

a) guut^hum (association)
ap^had (organization)
zot^hum (meeting)
got^hum (association)
phosont^han (institution)
gaosont^han (establishment)
mel (meeting)

vii) Multi Scale Synonyms: If more than seven expressions mean the same meaning, they are called multi scale synonyms. These types of expressions also exist in Bodo. For example:

a) isur (God)
gosai (God)
obonglauri (God)
anan gosai (God)
khangiri (God)
binan gosai (God)
nuathari (God)
surzigiri (God)
ruik^hagiri (God)

3. Findings:

The following points are the findings of the study. These are:

- i) There are various synonyms in Bodo.
- ii) There are three types of synonyms in Bodo. These are: absolute, partial and near
- iii) In Bodo language, there are various kinds of synonyms like nominal, verbal, adjectival and adverbial.
- iv) In Bodo language, there are also various patterns of synonyms. These are: double scale, triple scale, tetra-scale, penta scale, hexa-scale, hepta-scale and multi scale synonyms.

4. Conclusion:

The above discussion has addressed synonyms in Bodo, its types and patterns very clearly. There are various synonyms in Bodo language. It has three types like absolute, partial and near. Besides that, there are many types of synonyms like nominal, verbal, adjectival and adverbial. It has also various patterns in Bodo like double scale, triple scale, tetra-scale, penta scale, hexa-scale, hepta-scale and multi scale synonyms. Using the similar word continually can make reading sound monotonous and boring. So, synonyms helps to avoid repetition of words replacing one word to another in sentence.

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