

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL STUDIES

Affixes and Word Formation of Poula

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Abstract:

Poula is spoken in Senapati district of Manipur and Phek district of Nagaland and also in some other adjoining areas. The land areas extend about 1200sq.km and are observed in four areas viz. Chilivai, Lepaona, Paomata and Razeba Circles. It is the language of the Poumai Naga tribe.

*The purpose of this paper is to present a detailed description of the word formation of Poula, a Tibeto-Burman subgroup, spoken mainly in Manipur. There are two word formation processes in Poula i.e. (i) affixation and (ii) compounding. The former process is used sparingly and latter is used extensively and it is more productive. In this language, the pronominal prefixes/ ə-/ ,/ni-/ and /pu-/are found. The paper discussed the three types of compounding based on semantic criteria namely the endocentric compound, exocentric compound and co-ordinate compounds. Formation of words through coining and loaning are also discussed in this paper. Endocentric compounds consist of right-headed and left-headed compounds. In the right-headed compound constituents as N+N and an element can be related with each other by an adjective in the underlying structure. Exocentric compounds are generally made up of a noun or a noun and a verbal root. Both the noun and the verbal root cannot be regarded as a head or the attribute in this compound. In the case of co-ordinate compound both the element function jointly as heads which are generally of two different nouns joined together through the associative suffix -ye as in **phi-ye-ba** 'hand and leg'. Words are also formed through coining as in **douki** 'school' consisting of **dou** 'teach' and **ki** 'house', **luki** 'vehicle' consisting of **lu** 'rolling' and **ki** 'house'. Loaned words in this language are loaned from English, Hindi and its neighbouring villages of Manipur. Eg. **balti** 'bucket', **tibili** 'table' etc.*

1. Introduction

Poula is the language of the Poumai naga tribe. The Poumai Naga tribe is one of the Naga tribes mainly concentrated in the Senapati district and Phek district of Nagaland and also in some other adjoining areas. The land areas extend about 1200sq.km and are observed in four areas viz. Chilivai, Lepaona, Paomata and Razeba Circles. The Poumais live in seventy seven recognised villages and twenty eight sub-villages. The tribe is recognised under the constitution of the Scheduled Caste and Tribe order (Amendment) Act 2002, Government of India.

The paper attempts to describe the word-formation in Poula. Since no research or scientific work has ever been undertaken to study the word formation of Poula in any area till date, this paper is an attempt to bring Poula into the mainstream of linguistic discussion. The paper discussed the three types of compounding based on semantic criteria namely the endocentric compound, exocentric compound and co-ordinate compounds. Formation of words through coining and loaning are also discussed in this paper.

Poula uses various strategies for the formation of new words - affixation, compounding, coining and loaning

1.1. Affixation

In Poula, there is a difference between prefixes and suffixes according to their functions. Prefixes functions only in morphological function while suffix functions in both morphological and syntactical construction. There are two types of prefixes-(a) Pronominal prefix, and (b) verbal prefix. New word forming through affixation is not so rich in this language.

1.1.1. Pronominal Prefix

In Poula, there are three types of pronominal prefixes, they are

- ə- '1st person pronominal prefix'
- ni- '2nd person pronominal prefix'
- pu- '3rd person pronominal prefix'

These Pronominal prefixes are used in kinship terms, body parts and inalienable possession and ownership of things and properties, etc. They always occur directly before the root. The examples are given below:

Examples:

			Poula		Gloss
1.	(a)	pfə	'mother'		
			ə+pfə >	əpfə	'my mother'
			ni+pfə >	nipfə	'your mother'
			pu+pfə >	pupfə	'his/her mother'
	(b)	puo	'father'		
			ə+puo >	əpuo	'my father'
			ni+pu >	nipuo	'your father'
			pu+pu >	pupuo	'his/her father'
	(c)	nai	'aunt'		
			ə+nai >	ənai	'my aunt'
			ni+nai >	ninai	'your aunt'
			pu+nai >	punai	'his/her aunt'
	(d)	pao	'uncle'		
			ə+pao >	əpao	'my uncle'
			ni+pao >	nipao	'your uncle'
			pu+pao >	pupao	'his/her uncle'
	(e)	bao	'arm'		
			ə+bao >	əbao	'my arm'
			ni+bao >	nibao	'your arm'
			pu+bao >	pubao	'his/her arm'
	(f)	pu	'forehead'		
			ə+pu >	əpu	'my forehead'
			ni+pu >	nipu	'your forehead'
			pu+pu >	pupu	'his/her forehead'
	(g)	ki	'house'		
			ə+ki >	əki	'my house'
			ni+ki >	niki	'your house'
			pu+ki >	puki	'his/her house'

The verbal pronominalization is not found in this language.

1.1.2. Verbal Prefix

The verbal prefix **pa-** is a causative marker, causative is formed by addition **pa-** to the verbal root i.e. **-paw** 'tell', **-tu** 'run', **-ka** 'cry' - **du** 'fall', etc. as given below:-

Examples:

		Poula		Gloss
2.	(a)	paw	'tell'	papaw 'cause to speak'
	(b)	tu	'run'	patu 'cause to run'
	(c)	ka	'cry'	paka 'cause to cry'
	(d)	du	'fall'	padu 'cause to fall'

1.1.3. Suffix Derivational suffixes are

A. -bu

The suffix **-bu** is added to the verbal roots to derive a noun.

It can be represented and analysed in the following ways.

[Verbal root+NZR+bu] Noun

Examples:

3. (a)	yo +yu+bu	>	yoyubu	'place where things are sold'
	Sell+NZR			
(b)	ji+yu+bu	>	jiyubu	'place where things are sold'
	sleepNZR			
(c)	ləw+yu+bu	>	ləwyubu	'entrance'
	enter+NZR			

B. -pu and -pai

Noun derived through the suffixation of **-pu** denotes male human beings, whereas those derived through the suffixation of **-pai** denotes female human beings.

It can be represented in the following ways.

[Verbal root+NZR]+pu/pai**Noun**

Examples:

- | | | | | | |
|----|-----|--------------------------|---|---------|-----------------|
| 4. | (a) | rə+yu+pu
write.NZR.M | > | rəyupu | 'male writer' |
| | (b) | rə+yu+pai
write.NZR.F | > | rəyupai | 'female writer' |
| | (c) | yo+yu+pu
sell.NZR.M | > | yoyupu | 'salesman' |
| | (d) | yo+yu+pai
Sell.NZR.F | > | yoyupai | 'saleswoman' |

2. Compounding

It is composed of elements that function independently in other circumstance. They consist of two or more free morphemes, as in such 'compound nouns' as bedroom, postman, matchbox, etc. They may be combination of noun+ noun or noun verb or noun+adjective.

"The compound words occurring in a language can be studied either from the point of view of their own structure (for example, the kind of constituent elements that occur in them, or the function that these elements are found to carry out in the establishment of composite words) or from the point of view of their underlying structures." (Bhat and Nigomba, 1968).

In Poula, compound words are disyllabic in nature. They are made up of only two syllables. Compound words of Manipuri are mostly disyllabic in nature. There are some trisyllabic compounds derived primarily through the retention of one of the inflectional affixes that occur in the underlying structure. Compounds containing more than three syllables are very rare in this language (Bhat D.N.S. & Nigomba M.S.1995).

Examples:

- | | | | | | |
|---|-----|---------------------|---|-------|-----------|
| 5 | (a) | phi+rə
leg cover | > | phirə | 'shoe' |
| | (b) | co+ki
cow house | > | coki | 'cowshed' |

3. Types of Compounding

Compounding may also be subdivided according to the semantic criteria into three i.e., (i) endocentric compounds (ii) exocentric compounds and (iii) co-ordinate compounds.

3.1. Endocentric Compounds

"Compounds with a head are called endocentric compounds. The term 'endocentric' means that the category of the whole (syntactic or morphological) construction is identical to that of one of its constituents" (Geert Booij 79). Endocentric compounds consist of two elements. It always consists of attributes or subordinate and head or centre. For instance, **himai** 'eyelash' is an endocentric compound consisting of two elements, namely, **hi** 'eye' **mai** 'hair'. In this compound **mai** 'lash' functions as the head and **hi** 'eye' functions as the attribute of **mai** 'lash'.

There are two types of endocentric compounds.

They are: (i) right-headed compounds, and
(ii) left-headed compounds.

3.1.1. Right-Headed Compounds

In the right headed compounds, the constituent elements are found to be nominal bases generally. The constituents may be **noun+noun** and **noun+derived noun** functioning as the constituent elements of this headed compounds related with one another either by the possessive suffix final composite word. The examples are given below:

A. Noun+Noun

Examples:

- | | | | | | |
|----|-----|----------------------------|---|-----------|---------------|
| 6. | (a) | laivou+dzə
bee+ water | > | laivoudzə | 'honey' |
| | (b) | hi+mai
eye+hair | > | himai | 'eyelash' |
| | (c) | dzə+bvə
water+container | > | dzəbvə | 'waterbottle' |
| | (d) | hi+dzə
eye+water | > | hidzə | 'tear(eye)' |

B. Noun+Derived Noun

7. (a) ki+sou-pu > kisoupu 'house maker(M)
house+ make- M
(b) khot+kho-pai > khotokhopai 'rice cooker(F)
rice+cookerF
(c) sa+sao-pai > sasaopai 'washer(F)
cloth+ wash -F
(d) lao+sou-pu > laosoupu 'worker of paddy field (M)
paddy+ make -M

C. Possessive Relation

Examples:

8. (a) pupa-vei-houŋ > pupahouŋ 'petal'
flower- GEN-leaf
(b) roufu-vei-fe > roufufe 'nest'
bird-GEN-house(nest)
(c) tsə-vei-shikaw > tsəshikaw 'bark(tree)
Tree-GEN-skin(bark)
(d) hi-vei-khe > hikhe 'below of the eye'
Eye-GEN-below

D. Directional

Examples:

9. (a) ki-vei-phaw > kiphaw 'roof'
house- GEN-top
(b) deiki-vei-pei > deikipei 'top of the hill'
hill- GEN-top
(c) khaonamorə-vei-shi > khaonamorəshi 'skin of animals'
animal- GEN-skin

It is found that the above examples i.e possessive and directional are the combinations of two nouns and their underlying shows that the two components are connected by the genitive marker –**vei** 'genitive' which gets deleted in its compound form. In Chothe, the possessive relation is denoted through the prefixation of the pronominal prefix –ə to the second element(noun). In the formation of compound nouns, the pronominal prefix is deleted (Singh, Brojen, 2008).

E. Verbal Relation

In Poula the two constituent elements of right-headed compound nouns may be related with each other by verbal relation in the underlying structures.

Examples:-

10. (a) khaovu kho-yu li khaovuli 'curry pot'
curry cook-NZR pot
'Pot for cooking curry'
(b) cikha-hi ci-yu morə cikhamorə 'domestic animal'
house- LOC rear-NZR animal
'Animals reared at home'
(c) rəlai-hi hə-yu fupi rəlaifupi 'wild duck'
jungle- LOC live-NZR duck
'Duck which lives in the jungle'
(d) yao kə-yu prai yaoprai 'wine cup'
wine drink-NZR cup
'Cup for drinking wine'
(e) rəlai-hi hə-yu morə rəlaimorə 'wild animal'
jungle- LOC live-NZR animal
'Animal which lives in jungle'

3.1.2. Left-Headed Compounds

There are two elements in the left-headed compounds. The two elements may be nouns, or the first element is a noun whereas the second element is an adjective.

In the case of left-headed compounds consisting of two elements which are nouns, the first element and the second element can be related with each other by an adjective in the underlying structure. Examples:-

Underlying noun

11. (a) kobi pa rai-yu > kobipa 'cauliflower'
cabbage flower like-NZR
'Cabbage that looks like flower'
- (b) kha hou rai-yu > khahou 'eel fish'
fish snake like-NZR
'Fish that looks like snake'

Further, in the case of left-headed compound where the first element is a noun and second element is an adjective, the first element and second element can be related with each other by supplying the nominalizer **-yu**.

Examples:

12. (a) he-yu sa > sahe 'red cloth'
red- NZR cloth
- (b) so-yu vaw > vawso 'long bamboo'
long- NZR bamboo
- (c) du-yu mai > maidu 'big man'
big- NZR man
- (d) tai-yu mai > maitai 'small man'
small- NZR man

In giving the underlying formation (meaning) the order is completely reversed, i.e. the adjective becomes the first order while in the compound form(derived one the noun becomes the first , as in the above examples).

3.2. Exocentric Compounds

Exocentric Compounds are compounds where none of the constituents function as the head. In special semantic interpretations of compounds such as 'blue stocking' in English, "The Compound denotes the person who is in possession of the entity mentioned by the Compound" (Geert Booij, 80). In Poula, exocentric compounds are generally made up of a noun or a noun and a verbal root. Both the noun and the verbal root cannot be regarded as a head or the attribute in this compound. It shows to postulate a covert element as the head.

Examples:

13. (a) pei saw-yu ra peisawra 'headache'
head ache-NZR disease
'disease in which head aches'
- (b) hu saw-yu ra husawra 'teethache'
teeth ache-NZR disease
'disease in which teeth aches'
- (c) va saw-yu ra vasawra 'bodyache'
body ache-NZR disease
'disease in which body aches'
- (d) pou saw-yu ra pousawra 'stomachache'
stomach ache-NZR disease
'disease in which stomach aches'

3.3. Co-ordinate Compounds

"In these compounds there is no semantic head and the relation between the constituent is a relation of co-ordination" (Geert Booij 80). In Poula, both the element, functioned jointly as heads, which are generally of two different nouns joined together through the associative suffix **-ye** 'and.' In other sense they contain neither head nor attribute, but they are made up of two different nouns. In the underlying structures of co-ordinate compounds, the two elements can be related with each other by an aforesaid associative suffix **-ye** which gets deleted in its compound form.

Examples:

14. (a) sei -ye vo sei -vo 'dog and pig'
dog- ASS. pig
- (b) co-ye ha co-ha 'cow and buffallo'
cow-ASS.buffallo
- (c) li-ye khao li-khao 'pot and plate'
pot-ASS.plate
- (d) phi-ye ba phi-ba 'leg and hand'
leg-ASS.hand
- (e) khotoli-ye khaovuli khotoli-khaovuli 'ricepot and currypot'
ricepot-ASS.currypot
- (f) kho-ye hou kho-hou 'knife and spear'
knife-ASS.spear
- (g) hi-ye nibe hi-nibe 'eye and ear'

eye-ASS.ear (h) thou-ye dzə	thou-dzə	'paddy and water'
paddy-ASS.water (i)sə-ye mei	sə-mei	'firewood and fire'
firewood-ASS.fire (j)khoto-ye khaovu	khoto-khaovu	'rice and curry'
rice-ASS.curry		

3.3.1. Coined words

In Poula, there are a number of coined words which is very forceful and natural. Examples of coined words are given below:

15. (a) dou-ki	>	douki	'school'
teach+learn			
(b) lu+ki	>	luki	'vehicle'
roll+house			
(c) rə+dzə	>	rədzə	'ink'
write+water			
(d) zei+bei	>	zeibei	'zero'
lost+nothing			
(e) teile+yu+və	>	teileyuvə	'clock'
time+see+box			

3.3.2. Borrowed words

Poula has borrowed a number of words from English, Hindi and Manipuri. The examples of borrowed words are given below:

From English:

	Poula	Gloss
16 (a)	tibili	'table'
(b)	computar	'computer'
(c)	botolo	'bottle'
(d)	yunifo	'uniform'
(e)	tiliphon	'telephone'
(f)	elitiri	'electric'

From Hindi:

	Poula	Hindi	Gloss
17 (a)	balti	baltin	'bucket'
(b)	kobi	kobi	'cabbage'
(c)	khoboro	khobar	'newspaper'
(d)	haldi	haldi	'turmeric powder'
(e)	Chapal	chapala	"sandal"

From Manipuri:

	Poula	Manipuri	Gloss
18(a)	pundo	pundon	'gauva'
(b)	thyao	thao	'oil'
(c)	chaoki	chaoki	'chair'
(d)	hainou	hainou	'mango'
(e)	bilandiri	bəlandri	'ladies finger'
(f)	koṅgoren	koṅgreṅ	'oyster'

4. Conclusion

On account of the above discussion, Poula word formation employs two processes i.e. (i) affixation and (ii) compounding. Affixation is sparingly used while compounding is used extensively and is more productive. Compounding employs a productive role in this language; they may be combination of noun+ noun or noun+ verb or noun+ adjective. Compounding in Poula is disyllabic in nature. Three types of compounding based on semantic criteria namely, endocentric, exocentric and co-ordinate compounds are found. Endocentric compounds in Poula have two types i.e., right-headed and left-headed compound. Right-headed compound may be (a) noun+noun (b) noun+derived noun. There are two elements in the left-headed compound, where the two elements may be nouns, or the first element is a noun and the second element an adjective. In left-headed compounds consisting of two elements which are nouns, the first element and the second element can be related with each other by an adjective in the underlying structure. In the case of co-ordinate compound both the element function jointly as heads, which are generally of two different nouns joined together through the associative suffix *-ye* which gets deleted in its composite form. Words in Poula are also formed through borrowing and loaning from English, Hindi and Manipuri.

Note: This paper was presented at the 42nd All India Conference of Dravidian Linguists held on 19_21 June 2014 at Dravidian

University, Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh organized by International School of Dravidian Linguistics, Dravidian Linguistics Association, CIIL, Mysore & Dept. Of Dravidian & Computational Linguistics, Dravidian University.

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