

A Transliteration within Roman (English), Assamese, Bengali and Devanagari As Used in Bodo Language

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Abstract

The Bodo language, a member of the Tibeto-Burman family from Sino- Tibetan, holds a unique position in the linguistic landscape of northeastern India. Despite its rich oral tradition, the absence of a standardized script has led to diverse transliteration practices, often employing Roman (English), Assamese, Bengali and Devanagari letters in different period. This paper presents a comprehensive study aimed at classifying Roman letters used in representing the phonetic nuances of the Bodo language, with a comparative analysis with Assamese, Bengali and Devanagari scripts.

Furthermore, the study examines the sociolinguistic factors influencing the choice of transliteration schemes among Bodo speakers, shedding light on the dynamic nature of language contact and identity negotiation in the region. By elucidating the complexities of Romanization in the Bodo language, this paper contributes to the development of standardized transliteration guidelines and enhances cross-script interoperability for linguistic and computational applications.

Keywords: Bodo language, Transliteration, Roman, Assamese, Bengali, Devanagari

INTRODUCTION

Many scholars said that the Bodos are Anthropologically Mongoloid descent. While, linguistically Sino-Tibetan descent. Bodos migrated from northwestern China between the Hoang ho and yang tsze Kiang Rivers around 2000 B.C. and are now scattered throughout North East India. This indigenous group has its own language, culture, and traditions. Despite the fact that they did not have written literature at first, their oral literature and folk tale culture are noteworthy.

Suniti Kumar Chatterjee has analysed it from a linguistic point of view:

“The areas of characterization for the primitive Sino-Tibetan speech appears to have been North-western China between the head-waters of the Huang-Ho and the Yang-tsze Kiang Rivers.” (S. K. Chatterji: Kirata Jana Krti, 1951)

However, scholars who have analysed it from an anthropological point of view have argued that the Mongolian country is the original homeland of the Mongoloid Bodo.

According to Raj Mohan Nath –

“Different groups of people came across the Himalayas from the North. They were the primitive people of the area north to the Himalayas and West China. That area was known as “Bod” From the inhabitants of various part of the Bod country were known as Boddo Fichha or Bodo- cha (Fichha- cha Children) or

children of the Bod country and were later known as the Boddoo or the Bodo.” (Grierson, G. A. Linguistic survey of India, Voll- III Part- II. 1903)

“The word Kirata therefore, is a general term referring to the people of the Mongolian origin and it refers specially to the Bodos.

However, particularly, in this presents about concerned of Bodos in India who are living in province of Assam.

A language cannot confined in a boundary. It depends upon the speakers and utility. A language flourishes while it more and more respects in administration, education, social life and creation of literature through it. Bodo language does not have a script tradition of its own. Bodo was primarily an oral language. Over the years, various scripts have been using to write Bodo language, including the Latin script (Romanized script known as the Roman (English) Bodo script), Bengali, Axomiya lipi and Devanagari. To achieve these objective the emancipators, pioneers of Bodo intellectual engaged themselves in the field of literature building for Bodo language. The Bodo language first put to writing through roman (English) script in the year, 1884 by Rev. Sidney Endle. As well as in Roman, (English) script introduced for the first primer Chacari reader in the year 1904. The “Chacari reader” used in teaching for Boro children in Goalpara district in 1931 to till 1963 about 40 L. P. schools.

After Roman (English), it found pure Bengali script in the Bodo writing about in 1925, The Book “Boroni Gudu Sibsa Arw Aroz” (1925) By Modaram Brahma is a good example.

The Bodo Sahitya Sabha (BSS) got it formation on 16 November 1952, after the BSS the formal introduction of Bodo medium in the L. P. schools started in 1963. Since then, question arose that (a). Roman thought, (b) Assamese and Bengali thought, and via media decision taken only to develop the language through writing and creating Bodo literature in those scripts.

After the end Roman script movement of Bodos in 1975, adopted Devanagari script with the title “Once for all”

In summary, the Bodo language has traditionally transmitted orally, and later usin various scripts, including the alphabetic Roman Bodo script, Assamese, Bengali as well as the Indian syllabic Devanagari script. It was choices depended on the context and preferences of the speakers and writers.

This presentation focuses on the transliteration of Bodo language in its English form using the Roman letters including Assamese, Bengali and Devanagari letters. Specifically, seeks to classify and analyze the various challenges and intricacies associated with this transliteration process.

THE OBJECTIVES

This paper will explore and examine the evolution, adaptations, and influences on these scripts and their role in the preservation and dissemination of Bodo language of script systems including the Roman (English), Assamese, Bengali and Devanagari script.

The primary objectives of the paper:

1. To provide a comprehensive overview of the Bodo language, its unique phonetic features in Bodo writing in difference script.
2. To explore the necessity and significance of transliterating Bodo into the Roman script, particularly the English alphabet, and its relevance in the context of Assamese, Bengali, and Devanagari lipi.
3. To classify the transliteration of Bodo's phonemes and characters into Roman (English) letters, examining variations and discrepancies that may arise in the process.

4. To highlight, the practical applications of this transliteration, such as in educational materials, documentation, and communication in multilingual purpose.

This study adopts a multidisciplinary approach, drawing on linguistics, script development, and preservation, to explore the complexities of transliterating the Bodo language into the Roman letters. It also emphasizes the importance of linguistic diversity and cross-cultural communication in the context of India's linguistic landscape.

SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

The classification of Bodo's Roman letters in the context of transliteration with Assamese, Bengali, and Devanagari letters have several significant as given bellow:

Linguistic Analysis: This study can provide insights into the phonetic and phonological characteristics of the Bodo language and represented in the Roman script. By comparing, Bodo Roman letters to Assamese, Bengali, and Devanagari scripts. That can better understand the linguistic features unique to Bodo.

Transliteration Standardization: Standardization is crucial for consistency in written communication, especially in educational materials, publications, and digital content.

The study can help establish or refine standards for transliterating Bodo letters.

Cross-Linguistic Comparison: By comparing the Bodo spelling with Assamese, Bengali, and Devanagari scripts, researchers can identify similarities and differences in the writing systems of these languages. This can aid in understanding the historical and cultural connections between these languages.

Language Preservation: Transliteration studies like this one can contribute to the preservation and promotion of the Bodo language. With standardized transliteration, it becomes easier to document and teach the language, making it more accessible to speakers and learners.

Educational Material Development: the studies can be instrumental in creating educational materials for Bodo language learners. This can include textbooks, dictionaries, and online resources.

Computer and Digital Applications: Standardized transliteration is essential for creating computer applications, fonts, and input methods that support the language, to make it more accessible in the digital age.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The methodology of this study on classification of Bodo's Roman (English) letters as part of a transliteration study with Assamese, Bengali, and Devanagari letters would involve a systematic research methodology. Here, given bellow such a methods for study-

Research design - Descriptive and Analytical

Source of Data - Primary and secondary data.

Manner of data - Quantitative and Qualitative data.

Framework of analysis- Phonetics, Sociolinguistics Research with Transliteration chart.

Tools and Techniques - Computational tools, Questionnaire and Interview with Comparative analysis.

DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

The following analysis of presentation on classification of Bodo's roman (English) letters in the context of transliteration with Assamese, Bengali, and Devanagari letters. Bodo has its own unique phonetic sounds, which may not align perfectly within all the phonetic sounds of Roman (English) Assamese, Bengali, and Devanagari.

Devanagari is use by many Indian languages, but each language may require different diacritic and accent, which can complicate the transliteration process.

The classification of present regular valid letters of Bodo language in Roman (English), Assamese, Bengali and Devanagari letters given below in a symmetrical pattern.

Sl. No.	Division of Alphabet	Roman (English) Letters	Valid letters used in Bodos Assamese and Bengali	Valid letters used by Bodos in Devanagari letters
1	Basic Vowels	I, U, E, O, A,	ই, উ, এ, অ, আ,	इ, उ, ए, अ, आ
2	Semi Vowels	W, Y	ব (ৱ), য (য়) (ওয়)	व, य
3	Distinctive Bodo vowel	Ô and Ø	-----	ओ
4	Consonants of Regular Valid used.	Ph Th Kh B,D, G, M, N, N'Ng, S, Z, H, R, L and W,	ফ, থ,খ, ব, দ,গ, ম, ন, ঙ, ছ, জ, হ, , ব (ৱ), ল, and ৱ (ব), য (য়)	फ, थ,ख, ब, द, ग, म, न, ङ, स, ज, ह, र, ल and व, य
	Ⓐ Consonants of less used	C/K, P, Q, T, V, J	ক,প, ক্ষ, ত, ভ, ঝ	क, प, क्ष, त, भ, झ
	Ⓑ Consonants used in the middle or end of the word without vowel sound.	P, T, K	প, ত , ক	प, त, क

Figure no: 1, Roman (English), Assamese with Bengali and Devanagari letters for Bodo

Classification of present Compound valid letters of Bodo in Roman (English), Assamese, Bengali and Devanagari letters

Sl. No	Division of compound Letters	Roman (English) Letters	Appropriate use in Bodo with Assamese and Bengali letters	Appropriate use in Bodo with Devanagari letters
1	Diphthongs or Compound Vowels	OI,AI, WI, OU, IU, UI	অই, আই, ঐ/ ঔই (ঔ), ঔ, ইউ, উই	अइ, आइ, ऐ/ औइ, औ, इउ, उइ
2	Ⓐ Aspirated Compound Consonants Added “H” Regular	PH, TH, KH	ফ, ঠ –(থ), খ	फ, थ, ख

Figure no: 2. Compound letters for Bodo’s Roman (English), Assamese with Bengali and Devanagari letters.

A complete transliteration of Roman (English), Assamese, Bengali and Devanagari letters used for Bodo language as uses of English orthography in early periods.

Sl. No.	Letters appropriate use in Bodo writing			A description on Roman letters used in Bodo as English pronunciations.
	Roman in Bodo	Assamese and Bengali	Devanagari	
1	A, a	আ	आ	Long A, a as in Arch, father.
2	A, a/ O, o	অ	अ	Short round A, a as in All, Ball.
3	B, b	ব	ब	As B, b in Ball, Table, Bar.
4	Bh, bh	ভ	भ	As Bh, bh in Bharat, Sarabhai, Bhum.
5	C, c	চ (স)	स	As C, c in Centre, Rice.
6	Ch, ch	ছ	छ	As Ch, ch In Change, Bench.
7	D, d	ড, দ	द	As D, d in Do, God.
8	Dh, Dh	ঢ, ধ	ध	As Dh, dh in Dharna, Buddha.
9	E, e	এ, ে	ए,	As E, e In End, Bed.
10	F, f	ফ	फे	As F, f in Father, Comfort.
11	G, g	গ	ग	As G, g in God, Dog.
12	Gh, gh	ঘ	घ	As Gh, gh in Ghost, Gherao.
13	H, h	হ	ह	As H, h in House, Teheran.
14	I, i	ই, ি,	इ,	As I, i in India, Pin.
15	EE, ee	ঈ, ী	ई	As EE in Knee
16	J, j	জ, ষ	ज	As J, j in Joy, Enjoy.
17	Jh, jh	ঝ	झ	As Jh, jh in Jharkhand, Jhanda.
18	K, k	ক	क	As K, k in Kota, Kolkata.
19	Kh, kh	খ	ख	As Kh, kh in Khada.
20	L, l	ল	ल	As L, l in Love, Bell
21	M, m	ম	म	As M, m in Mother, Name.
22	N, n	ন, ণ	न, ण	As N, n in Name, Son,
23	O, o	ও, অ, ো	ओ, अ	As O/ in Orange Ton.
24	OO, oo	ঊ, ু	ऊ	As oo, in Book
25	Ô, Ø	-----	औ	As unmarked vowel, sound between b and l in table, cable, Marble.
26	P, p	প	प	As P, p in Pin, Tip.
27	Ph, ph	ফ	फ	As Ph, ph in Philosophy.
28	Q, q	কয়	क्ष	As Q, q in Raiqosh.
29	R, r	ৰ/ (র)	र	As R, r in Ring, Bring.
30	S, s	স, শ, ষ	स	As S, s in Sun, Sin.
31	Sh, sh	শ, ষ	श	As Sh, sh in Shine.
32	T, t	ট, ত	त	As T, t in Time, Bet.

33	Th, th	ঠ, থ	থ	As Th, th in Thank, Think
34	U, u	উ, ু,	उ	As U, u in Urdu, Put
35	V, v	ভ	भ	As V, v in Advance, Vote.
35	W, w	ব, (ওব)	व	As W, w in Wait, War, Power.
37	X, x	ঝ	क्ष	As X, x in Box, Tax.
38	Y, y	ই, য়	ई, य	As Y, y in You, Young.
39	Z, z	জ/ জৰ	ज्	As Z, z in Zebra, Zoo.
40	Ñ/N/Ng,	ঙ	ङ	As Ng, ng in Sin, King, In place of Ng, ng when they are followed by a vowel or ‘g’ or ‘k’, and in Nasal N, n as in French. ‘n’ in Jean like stress accent.

Figure No: 3. A transliteration of Roman (English), Assamese with Bengali and Devanagari letters used in Bodo as English pronunciations (Data from early periods).

A SHORT REVIEW AND FINDINGS ON THE ABOVE PRESENTATION

In the presenting transliteration table is not identify (mentioned) the name of letters, vowel sign and IPA. The Letters adopted from Assamese and Bengali combination letters for Bodo language in early periods of 1975: i.e.

Vowel letters: অ, আ, ই ঙ্গ, উ, উ, ঝ, এ, ঐ, ও, ঔ

Consonant letters: ক, খ, গ, ঙ, ছ, জ, ত, থ, দ, ধ, ন, প, ফ, ব, ভ, ম, ব, and লা

ব, ভ, চ/ (স), চ, ড, দ, ঢ, ধ, এ, , ও, ফ, গ, ঘ, হ, জ, ষ, ঝ, জহ, ন, গ, প, ফ, ঙ্গ, ব/ (র), স, শ, ষ, শ, ষ, ট, ত, ঠ, থ, উ, উ, ভ, ব/ (ওব), ঝ, জ্জ, জৰ

As well, as letters adoption from Devanagari script for Bodo language until now. That is-

Vowel letters: अ, आ, इ, ई, उ, ऊ, ऋ, ए, ऐ, ओ, औ

Consonant letters: ब, द, ग, फ, थ, ख, स, ज, ह, म, न, ङ, र, ल and two semi vowel व, य

From the above-mentioned letters in transliteration table, some are valid letters used for original native words, while others used for loan or foreign words.

Example;

Native words: Fithai = ফিথাই= ফিথাই (Meaning Fruit)

Loan or foreign words: Silpo = শিল্প = सिल्प (Meaning Craft)

The letters given brackets in the above table are only variation within Bengali and Assamese.

Example: for Roman /R/, Assamese /ব/, and Bengali /র/ as well as Devanagari /र/

The Roman /W/, in place of Assamese /ব/ Bengali /ওব/ and Devanagari /व

The Roman letters for Bodo language have popular written system with some additional characters and diacritics to represent the unique sounds of the Bodo language.

Example, from complete transliteration table: in place of letter /w/ the / ô~ø/ was used for Assamese and Bengali/ও/ and Devanagari /ओ/ to produce The Sound /ओ/ which is a distinctive manner of Bodo language.

CONCLUSION

In summary, the classification of Bodo's Roman letters in conjunction with Assamese, Bengali, and Devanagari letters is significant for linguistic study and preservation of educational development. It helps ensure the accurate representation and dissemination of the Bodo language in various contexts.

In the present, the study influenced by linguistic, historic and practical considerations of writing circulations in Bodo language in differences periods.

Here, carefully considering about the continuous development of standardize transliteration system and linguistic identity of the Bodo language.

The goal of this study is likely to develop a consistent and accurate system for representing Bodos pronunciations using Roman letters while taking into account the relationships with Assamese, Bengali, and Devanagari scripts.

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