

Numerals in Hrangkhawl

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Abstract

According to Sir G.A. Grierson, 1903, *Linguistic Survey of India*, Vol-III, Part-III, Pages 181-187, “Rangkhols are found in Hill Tippera and North-Cachar”. The figures are in Hill Tippera 4500 and North Cachar 2400. According to his survey report Hrangkhawl belongs to the Kuki-Chin sub-group of the Tibeto-Burman family. In India Hrangkhawl speakers are found in Tripura, Mizoram, Assam and Manipur. However, the present study will concentrate on the Hrangkhawls of Tripura only. The main objective of the present study is to highlight and analyse the numerals in Hrangkhawl language.

Key words: Hrangkhawl, Kuki-Chin, Tibeto-Burman, numerals

Introduction

Hrangkhawl belongs to the Kuki-Chin sub-group of Tibeto-Burman family falling under the Sino-Tibetan language family. In Tripura it is mainly spoken in Teliamura, Ambassa and Siphaijala sub-division. The Hrangkhawl is a sub-tribe of Halam, which is one of the Scheduled Tribes in Tripura. It is difficult to trace the historical origin of the Hrangkhawl at present, because there is no literature written on them. According to the present random survey report, the total number of Hrangkhawl speakers in Tripura is estimated about seven thousand. Like many other tribal languages of North-Eastern states do Hrangkhawl also does not have its own indigenous script. Hrangkhawl shows close affinity with many other Tibeto-Burman languages like Hmar, Darlong, Kaipeng, Molsom, Ranglong, Korbong, etc.

Data and Methodology

The data is collected from two main sources: Primary and Secondary. The primary data was collected through observation and through the use of a questionnaire to elicit information from several informants of the language. The data was recorded with the help of

a tape recorder and was transcribed phonetically. The data was cross-checked with the other speakers of Hrangkhawl, varying in age, sex, etc. The Teliamura and Shipahijala subdivisions of Tripura were visited for the collection of Primary data. The secondary data was collected from the written materials like books, journals and articles through library work.

Cardinal Numeral

According to David Crystal, Cardinal is a traditional term retained in some models of grammatical descriptions, referring to the numerals *one*, *two*, etc., in contrast with the ordinal *first*, *second*, etc.

The basic cardinal numerals of Hrangkhawl can be divided into two types:

- 1.1. Basic Cardinal
- 1.2. Compound Cardinal

1.1. Basic Cardinal

The basic cardinal numbers in Hrangkhawl language can never begin without the prefix /k^hat-/. The following are the basic cardinal numerals of Hrangkhawl.

k ^h at-k↔	‘one’
k ^h at-nik↔	‘two’
k ^h at-t ^h umk↔	‘three’
k ^h at-lik↔	‘four’
k ^h at-r↔Nak↔	‘five’
k ^h at-rukk↔	‘six’
k ^h at-sirik↔	‘seven’
k ^h at-ratk↔	‘eight’
k ^h at-kuk↔	‘nine’
k ^h at-somk↔	‘ten’

1.2. Compound Cardinal

Compound cardinals are formed by the compounding of basic cardinals. It can be divided into two types:

- 1.2.1. Additive Compound
- 1.2.2. Multiplicative Compound

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1.2.1. Additive Compound

Additive compounds are formed by the addition involving decade numerals, multiplicative compounds and basic numerals. In Hrangkhawl, from 11-19 are additive compounds. They use a marker /lai/ as an additive marker, which is added between the decade numeral and the basic numeral.

k ^h atsom-lai-k ^h atk↔	(10 + 1)	‘eleven’
k ^h atsom-lai-k ^h atnik↔	(10 + 2)	‘twelve’
k ^h atsom-lai-k ^h att ^h umk↔	(10 + 3)	‘thirteen’
k ^h atsom-lai-k ^h atlik↔	(10 + 4)	‘fourteen’
k ^h atsom-lai-k ^h ar↔Nak↔	(10 + 5)	‘fifteen’
k ^h atsom-lai-k ^h atrukk↔	(10 + 6)	‘sixteen’
k ^h atsom-lai-k ^h atsirik↔	(10 + 7)	‘seventeen’
k ^h atsom-lai-k ^h atratk↔	(10 + 8)	‘eighteen’
k ^h atsom-lai-k ^h atkuk↔	(10 + 9)	‘nineteen,’

1.2.2. Multiplicative Compound

Multiplicative compound are formed by compounding of basic cardinals to each other. It may be divided into two types

1.2.2.1. Lower multiplicative Compounds

1.2.2.2. Higher multiplicative Compounds

1.2.2.1. Lower Multiplicative Compound

Lower multiplicative compound can be expressed as the multiplicative cardinals that form the numerals from twenty to ninety. In Hrangkhawl, they are formed by the use of decade term /som/ multiplied by the basic cardinal numerals 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 respectively as in the following examples.

k ^h atsom-nik↔	(10 x 2)	‘twenty’
k ^h atsom-t ^h umk↔	(10 x 3)	‘thirty’
k ^h atsom-lik↔	(10 x 4)	‘fourty’
k ^h atsom-r↔Nak↔	(10 x 5)	‘fifty’
k ^h atsom-ruk↔	(10 x 6)	‘sixty’

k ^h atsom-sirik↔	(10 x 7)	‘seventy’
k ^h atsom-ratk↔	(10 x 8)	‘eighty’
k ^h atsom-kuk↔	(10 x 9)	‘ninty’

1.2.2.2. Higher Multiplicative Compound

Higher multiplicative compounds may be expressed as the multiples of hundred and thousand. In the formation of these numerals in Hrangkhawl, the basic numerals are suffixed to the /r↔za/ ‘hundred’ and / saN/ ‘thousand’.

r↔za-k↔	(100 x 1)	‘one hundred’
r↔za-nik↔	(100 x 2)	‘two hundred’
r↔za-t ^h umk↔	(100 x 3)	‘three hundred’
r↔za-lik↔	(100 x 4)	‘four hundred’
r↔za-r↔Nak↔	(100 x 5)	‘five hundred’
r↔za-ruk↔	(100 x 6)	‘six hundred’
r↔za-sirik↔	(100 x 7)	‘seven hundred’
r↔za-ratk↔	(100 x 8)	‘eight hundred’
r↔za-kuk↔	(100 x 9)	‘nine hundred’
saN-k↔	(1000 x 1)	‘one thousand’
saN-nik↔	(1000 x 2)	‘two thousand’
saN-t ^h umk↔	(1000 x 3)	‘three thousand’
saN-lik↔	(1000 x 4)	‘four thousand’
saN-r↔Nak↔	(1000 x 5)	‘five thousand’
saN-ruk↔	(1000 x 6)	‘six thousand’
saN-sirik↔	(1000 x 7)	‘seven thousand’
saN-ratk↔	(1000 x 8)	‘eight thousand’
saN-kuk↔	(1000 x 9)	‘nine thousand’

2. Ordinal Numerals

A number to indicate order as position such as a specific seat. In other words, it refers to the class of numerals – first, second, third, etc., by contrast with the cardinal numbers one, two, three etc.

First	ap ^h otna
Second	vainik↔na
Third	vait ^h umk↔na

The terms indicating *once*, *twice*, *thrice*, etc. in the language are formed by prefixing/ vai/ to the cardinal number as in the following examples:

vai-k↔	‘once’
vai-nik↔	‘twice’
vai-t ^h umk↔	‘thrice’

3. Distributive Numerals

A distributive numeral is a numeral which expresses a group of the number specified. In Hrangkhawl, the distributive numerals are formed by reduplicating the numerals.

k ^h atk↔-k ^h atk↔	‘one each’
k ^h atnik↔-k ^h atnik↔	‘two each’
k ^h att ^h umk↔-k ^h att ^h umk↔	‘three each’

4. Restrictive Numerals

In Hrangkhawl, restrictive numerals are formed by adding the suffix /rok/ to the cardinals.

k ^h atk↔-rok	‘only one’
k ^h atnik↔-rok	‘only two’
k ^h att ^h umk↔-rok	‘only three’
k ^h atlik↔-rok	‘only four’
k ^h atr↔k↔-rok	‘only five’

Conclusion

From the above discussion, it may be observed that the basic cardinal numbers in Hrangkhawl language can never begin without the prefix /k^hat/. In Hrangkhawl, compound cardinal are formed by compounding of basic cardinal numerical. From 11-19 are additive compounds. They use a marker /lai/ as an additive marker, which is added between the decade numeral and the basic numeral. Multiplicative compounds are formed by compounding of basic cardinals to each other. Lower multiplicative compounds are formed

by the use of decade term /som/ multiplied by the basic cardinal numerals 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 respectively and the higher multiplicative compound are formed when the basic numerals are suffixed to the /r↔za/ 'hundred' and /saN/ 'thousand'. The terms indicating *once, twice, thrice*, etc., in the language are formed by prefixing /vai/ to the cardinal number. The distributive numbers are formed by reduplicating the numerals and restrictive numerals are formed by adding the suffix /rok/ to the cardinals.

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