

Nouns and Pronouns in Uchai

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Abstract

Uchai is a small endangered ethnic group of Tripura. This paper discusses the major features of Uchai Nouns and Pronouns. While Section 1 serves as a brief introduction to the paper, Section 2 discusses the various ways of formation of Nouns in Uchai. Section 3 focuses on the classification of Nouns in Uchai. Section 4 presents the different types of pronouns in Uchai and also their uses. Finally, Section 5, while concluding the paper focuses on the salient features of Nouns and Pronouns as found in Uchai.

Keywords: Uchai, nouns, pronouns, formation of nouns, classification of nouns and pronouns

1. Introduction

The major tribal community of Tripura is variously called Tipra, Twipra and Tippera (Tipperah) with reference to the region wherein they have been settled for several centuries. The community speaks Kokborok. Kokborok, one of the Baric languages, has a number of dialects and one such dialectical variant is Uchai. The Uchai is a small endangered ethnic group living chiefly in the southern parts of Tripura and has a population of only 2,015 souls in the Census of 2001. Linguistically, Uchai belongs to the Bodo group of the Tibeto-Burman sub-family of Sino-Tibetan languages; they now speak a dialectical variant of Kokborok, the language of the Tippera.

The paper is primarily based on the data collected through fieldwork conducted in the Uchai villages of Tripura. The fieldwork consisted mainly of interviews with the native speakers of Uchai language. The persons of different age groups,

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professions, and sexes have been used as informants and the data have been cross-checked with other speakers of the same variety. Apart from the field study, a few published dictionaries on Kokborok and Bru have also been consulted upon.

The goal of this study is to analyze the nouns and pronouns as found in Uchai. The study also anticipates to be useful to the Uchai scholars, general linguists, and to the native speakers of Uchai themselves. The present paper might be looked upon as a keystone for future studies on the Uchai language spoken chiefly in the state of Tripura.

2. Formation of Nouns

Uchai nouns are made up of one or more morphemes. Hence Uchai nouns can be broadly classified as (i) monomorphemic and (ii) polymorphemic nouns.

2.1. Monomorphemic Nouns

Nouns in Uchai are chiefly polymorphemic, though monomorphemic nouns are also found. A few examples of Uchai monomorphemic nouns are listed below:

/ruwa/	‘axe’
/goŋ/	‘bear’
/ruŋ/	‘boat’
/sosa/	‘cucumber’
/doga/	‘door’
/pun/	‘goat’
/jouŋ/	‘insect’
/thun/	‘lime’
/alu/	‘potato’
/čini/	‘sugar’

It is, however, to be noted that a good number of the monomorphemic nouns found in Uchai have been borrowed from other languages, especially Bengali. Moreover, all the generic nouns, as discussed below, which are the first member of the polymorphemic noun, can also occur independently and hence, they may be called monomorphemic nouns.

2.2. Polymorphemic Nouns

Polymorphemic nouns in Uchai are numerous. The polymorphemic nouns in Uchai are formed in the following ways:

(i) Nouns where the first member is a Pronominal Prefix

There are Uchai nouns where the first member of a noun is a pronominal prefix. The kinship terms are preceded by the personal pronouns, whereas other nouns are usually preceded by /mV-/ or /kV-/. Here are few examples of Uchai nouns with pronominal prefix:

/a-moŋ/	‘my mother’
/nə-hi?/	‘your wife’
/bu-pha/	‘his father’
/mə-phaŋ/	‘tree’
/mə-khro?/	‘head’
/mə-šu/	‘cow’
/mə-tai/	‘God’
/kə-ši?/	‘hand fan’

(ii) Nouns where the first member is a Generic Noun

In Uchai, polymorphemic nouns are also formed by adding specific nouns after the generic noun. For instance, /mai/ ‘rice’ is a generic noun which can be followed by specific nouns as:

/mai-konda/	‘corn’
/mai-člā/	‘paddy’
/mai-roŋ/	‘uncooked rice’
/mai-nou?/	‘granary’
/mai-raŋ/	‘plate’ (for rice)

(iii) Nouns with derivative constructions

Some of the polymorphemic nouns in Uchai are of derivative constructions. Such polymorphemic nouns are derived either by adding a noun, a verb, an adjective or a derivative suffix either to the base noun. Here are few examples of derivative polymorphemic nouns in Uchai:

Noun + Noun:

/abo?-toi/			
breast-water	>	/abo?toi/	‘milk’
/mukhu-toi/			
mouth-water	>	/mukhutoi/	‘spit’
/toi-nou?/			
water-house	>	/toinou?/	‘room to keep water’

Noun + Verb:

/ša-ka/			
sun-rise	>	/šaka/	‘east’
/ša-thaŋ/			
sun-go	>	/šathaŋ/	‘west’
/ho-khu/			
fire-scatter	>	/hokhu/	‘smoke’

Noun + Adjective:

/raŋ-ča?/			
money-red	>	/raŋča?/	‘gold’
/thuŋ-kuruŋ/			
play-expert	>	/thuŋkuruŋ/	‘sportsman’
/nouba-ŋuŋ/			
air-enormous	>	/noubaŋuŋ/	‘storm’

Noun/Verb + Derivative Suffix:

/taŋ-ča-nai/			
work-eat-AGT	>	/taŋčanai/	‘farmer’
/snuŋ-nai/			
learn-AGT	>	/snuŋnai/	‘student’
/da-tau?-nai/			
chopper-make-AGT	>	/datau?nai/	‘blacksmith’

3. Classification of Noun

Uchai nouns can be classified under certain categories, like, generic noun, non-generic noun, human animate noun, non-human animate noun, inanimate noun, abstract noun, noun indicating parts of body, kinship terms, and verbal nouns, which are discussed below in details:

3.1. Generic Noun

In Uchai, Generic Noun refers or relates to a whole class of similar things. The generic noun can occur independently. Also, the generic noun in Uchai usually does not take pronominal prefix; rather it is followed by a specific noun or an adjective. The following examples given below will explicate the aforesaid statement:

/ha/	‘soil’	/tau/	‘bird’
/haču/	‘hill’	/taukha/	‘crow’
/hačeŋ/	‘sand’	/tauma/	‘hen’
/hašmuk/	‘dust’	/taukhō/	‘duck’
/hakra/	‘hard soil’	/taukhu/	‘owl’

Some of the common generic nouns found in Uchai are listed below:

/jak/	‘arm’
/tau/	‘bird’
/ho/	‘fire’
/a/	‘fish’

/khũ/	‘flower’
/thai/	‘fruit’
/nou?/	‘house’
/mai/	‘rice’
/ha/	‘soil’
/phaŋ/	‘tree’
/moi/	‘vegetable’
/toi/	‘water’

3.2. Non-generic Noun

In Uchai, nouns that can occur independently without any generic word or pronominal prefix can also be found. A few examples of non-generic nouns found in Uchai are listed below:

/thoi/	‘blood’
/da/	‘chopper’
/doga/	‘door’
/pun/	‘goat’
/wa?/	‘hog’
/šo?/	‘iron’
/hu?/	‘jum’
/thun/	‘lime’
/ha?thi/	‘market’
/thau/	‘oil’
/ko/	‘spear’
/bě/	‘spider’
/čini/	‘sugar’
/para/	‘village’

3.3. Animate: Human Noun

Animate human nouns in Uchai are in fact, the common nouns, which denote a particular class and/or their jobs and professions. Here are few examples of animate human nouns found in Uchai:

/člaməsa/	‘boy’
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/da tau?nai/	‘blacksmith’
/məphaŋ tau?nai/	‘carpenter’
/hermai/	‘chief’
/črai/	‘child’
/panʃi/	‘clan’
/daktar/	‘doctor’
/taŋčanai/	‘farmer’
/oʃa/	‘exorcist’
/broiməša/	‘girl’
/brou?/	‘human’
/ukil/	‘lawyer’
/owčai/	‘priest’
/snuŋnai/	‘student’
/mastar/	‘teacher’
/broi/	‘woman’

3.4. Animate: Non-human

Non-human animate nouns in Uchai are also common names, which indicate or represent one or all of the members of a particular class. Non-human animate nouns can be sub-divided under various categories. Here are few examples of the following types:

Animals (domestic)

/blai/	‘cat’
/šoi/	‘dog’
/pun/	‘goat’

Animals (wild)

/goŋ/	‘bear’
/maiʃuŋ/	‘elephant’
/məsa/	‘tiger’

Animals (with horns)

/miši/	‘buffalo’
/məšu/	‘cow’
/məšoi/	‘deer’

Animals (without horns)

/korai/	‘horse’
/məkhra/	‘monkey’
/siŋʃo/	‘rat’

Birds (pet)

/taukhō/	‘duck’
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Birds (wild)

/taukha/	‘crow’
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/tauma/	‘hen’	/tauleŋ/	‘hawk’
/pharu/	‘pigeon’	/taukhu/	‘owl’

Fish

/a kaŋko/	‘small ell’
/a bou?ma/	‘’
/a siŋgi/	‘cat fish’

Reptiles

/khomi/	‘crocodile’
/čubu/	‘snake’
/keraŋ/	‘tortoise’

Insects (house)

/mušron/	‘ant’
/thaŋpui/	‘housefly’
/thampui/	‘mosquito’

Insects (outdoor)

/piya/	‘bee’
/tauleŋsiŋsa/	‘butterfly’
/čuŋhairi/	‘glow-worm’

Trees

/šal/	‘Sal’
/gojuŋ/	‘Gurjan’
/borphaŋ/	‘Banyan’

Flowers

/gulab/	‘rose’
/boikō/	‘marigold’
/raŋjau?ma/	‘china rose’

Fruits

/thaili?/	‘banana’
/thaiphloŋ/	‘jackfruit’
/thaiču/	‘mango’

Vegetables

/moilau/	‘gourd’
/risū/	‘onion’
/čakma/	‘pumpkin’

Gods, Ghosts and Spirits

/mətai/	‘god’
/buraha/	‘ghost’
/phola/	‘spirit’

3.5. Inanimate

Inanimate nouns in Uchai can be broadly classified into two categories: items of human artifice and natural features. Few examples within each of the categories are enlisted below:

Human Artifice

Natural Features

/paməsu/	‘arrow’	/nouba/	‘air’
/ruŋ/	‘boat’	/ʃumui/	‘cloud’
/benč/	‘bench’	/aiču/	‘dawn’
/mudai/	‘candle’	/hamanəŋ/	‘earth’
/betra/	‘comb’	/baŋlai/	‘earthquake’
/khai/	‘drum’	/tuitomo/	‘flood’
/kəši?/	‘hand fan’	/haču/	‘hill’
/kušumu/	‘flute’	/bloŋ/	‘jungle’
/da/	‘knife’	/ta?/	‘moon’
/kathi/	‘ladle’	/moi/	‘mountain’
/šuči/	‘needle’	/watoi/	‘rain’
/tuk/	‘pot’	/tuičəŋli/	‘rainbow’
/loŋbai/	‘plate’	/tuima/	‘river’
/du/	‘rope’	/doliya/	‘sea’
/khutai/	‘shirt’	/nou?kha/	‘sky’
/sapa/	‘soap’	/athukroi/	‘star’
/phaikho/	‘spoon’	/sloŋ/	‘stone’
/tebil/	‘table’	/nou?baŋuŋ/	‘storm’
/kăso?/	‘turban’	/phra/	‘thunder’
/tailă/	‘window’	/toi/	‘water’

However, under natural features, names of days, months and seasons can further be categorized as inanimate nouns in Uchai. Here are few examples:

<i>Days</i>	<i>Months</i>	<i>Seasons</i>
/talaŋli/ ‘Sunday’	/phagan/ ‘January’	/satuŋ/ ‘summer’
/talaŋla/ ‘Monday’	/čeŋra/ ‘February’	/baša/ ‘rainy’
/aŋa/ ‘Tuesday’	/boišu/ ‘March’	/maseŋ/ ‘winter’

3.6. Abstract

An abstract noun in Uchai refers to something which cannot be physically interacted. In other words, it is an aspect, concept, idea, experience, a state of being, trait, quality, feeling, or any other entity that cannot be experienced with the five senses. Here are few examples of abstract nouns in Uchai:

/imaŋ/	‘dream’
/snuŋmuŋ/	‘education’
/khathoi/	‘faith’
/thi/	‘honesty’
/bau?ha/	‘justice’
/siri/	‘knowledge’
/sayau?/	‘pain’
/rəčamuŋ/	‘song’
/phola/	‘soul’
/gəboi/	‘truth’

3.7. Body Parts

Names of different parts of the body as found in Uchai can also be classified under the category of Nouns. Names of the body parts can however, be grouped as: human and non-human body parts. Examples of both types are given below:

<i>Human</i>		<i>Non-human</i>	
/ʃak/	‘arm’	/muku/	‘hide’
/məko?/	‘eye’	/məkroŋ/	‘horn’
/məkhro?/	‘head’	/khitouŋ/	‘tail’
/ʃakuŋ/	‘leg’	/məkraŋ/	‘wing’
/kũ/	‘nose’	/məkhmo?/	‘fur’

3.8. Kinship Terms

Kinship terms in Uchai can also be classified under nouns. Few examples of kinship terms are given below:

/pha/	‘father’	/amoŋ/	‘mother’
/ču/	‘grandfather’	/čoi/	‘grandmother’
/ata/	‘elder brother’	/abi/	‘elder sister’
/sai/	‘husband’	/hi?/	‘wife’
/kra/	‘father-in-law’	/kraiyo?/	‘mother-in-law’

3.9. Verbal Nouns

Verbal Nouns are nouns formed from verbs. Though verbal nouns are formed from verbs yet they function as nouns; they look like verbs but work as a noun. In Uchai, verbal nouns are obtained by suffixing /-mo/ to the verb. Few examples of verbal nouns found in Uchai are given below:

/ča-mo/	‘eating’
/thuŋ-mo/	‘playing’
/kau-sa-mo/	‘speaking’
/šiyau-mo/	‘swimming’
/hiŋ-mo/	‘walking’

4. Pronouns

Pronouns refer to a set of items which can be used to substitute for a noun or a noun phrase. Pronouns show the distinction of person and occur as pronominal prefix before the nouns and adjectives. On the basis of usage of separate lexical items for different purposes, the pronouns in Uchai can be classified into certain categories which are discussed below.

4.1. Personal Pronouns

The personal pronoun is represented by separate lexical items in Uchai. A three way distinction of person is made in personal pronoun. They are the first person, second person and third person. The first person pronoun refers to the speaker, the second person pronoun to the listener and the third person pronoun to others. The personal pronouns in Uchai do not show any gender-sex distinction. All the personal pronouns of Uchai are listed below:

	<u>Singular</u>	<u>Plural</u>
First Person	/aŋ/ ‘I’	/čun/ ‘we’
Second Person	/nuŋ/ ‘you’	/nənaŋ/ ‘you’
Third Person	/bo/ ‘he’/‘she’/‘it’	/braŋ/ ‘they’

The first person pronouns /aŋ/ ‘I’ and /čun/ ‘we’ have two allophones each. While the allophones for first person singular are /aŋ/ and /a-/, the allophones for the first person plural are /čun/ and /či-/. The allomorph /a-/ of the first person singular

pronoun occurs before the accusative and dative morpheme /-no/, for instance, /a-no/ meaning ‘me’ or ‘to me’ and the genitive and ablative morpheme /-ni/ meaning ‘of me’ or ‘from me’. It also occurs as pronominal prefix before all the substantives except those beginning with ‘h’, as in /a-moŋ/ ‘my mother’, /a-pa/ ‘my father’ but /aŋ hik/ ‘my wife’. Moreover, the allomorph /či-/ of the first person plural occurs before the genitive marker /-ni/, as in, /či-ni/ ‘of us’; while /čuŋ/ occurs with other case markers. Likewise, the allomorph /nə-/ of the second person singular pronoun and /bə-/ of the third person singular pronoun occur before the accusative and dative morpheme /-no/, for instance, /nə-no/ and /bə-no/ meaning ‘your’ or ‘to you’ and ‘his/her’ or ‘to him/her’ respectively.

4.2. Demonstrative Pronouns

In Uchai, two demonstrative pronouns are found, /bo/ and /abo/, denoting proximity and remoteness respectively. The same forms are used both for singular and plural as well as for animate and inanimate nouns. However, the morpheme /rau/, the plural marker in Uchai is used after the demonstrative pronoun to indicate plurality. Few sentences are given below to illustrate the use of demonstrative pronouns in Uchai:

- | | | | | | |
|----|---------|-----|-------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1] | /bo | le | blai/ | | |
| | DEM PRO | EQU | cat | This is a cat. | |
| 2] | /abo | le | boi/ | | |
| | DEM PRO | EQU | book | That is a book. | |
| 3] | /bo | rau | le | tebil/ | |
| | DEM PRO | PL | EQU | table | These are tables. |
| 4] | /abo | rau | le | šoi/ | |
| | DEM PRO | PL | EQU | dog | Those are dogs. |

4.3. Possessive Pronouns

Possessive pronouns are, in fact, the genitive forms of personal pronouns. All the possessive pronouns of Uchai are listed below:

<i>Bases</i>	<i>Possessive Pronouns</i>
/aŋ/ 'I' / 'me'	/ani/ 'my' / 'mine'
/čun/ 'we' / 'us'	/čini/ 'our' / 'ours'
/nuŋ/ 'you'	/nəni/ 'your' / 'yours'
/bo/ 'he' / 'him'	/bini/ 'his'
/bo/ 'she' / 'her'	/bini/ 'her'
/bo/ 'it'	/bini/ 'its'
/braŋ/ 'they' / 'them'	/braŋni/ 'their' / 'theirs'

Given below are few sentences to illustrate the possessive pronoun in Uchai:

- 5] /bo khe a-ni nou?/
 DEM PRO EQU 1SG-GEN house This is my house.
- 6] /bo khe či-ni nou?/
 DEM PRO EQU 1PL-GEN house This is our house.
- 7] /bo khe nə-ni nou?/
 DEM PRO EQU 2SG-GEN house This is your house.
- 8] /bo khe bi-ni nou?/
 DEM PRO EQU 3SG-GEN house This is his house.
- 9] /bo khe braŋ-ni nou?/
 DEM PRO EQU 3PL-GEN house This is their house.

4.4. Referential Pronouns

In Uchai, the referential pronoun is a nominal form used to substitute the identical noun occurring in the sentence or in the succeeding sentence(s). When a pronoun refers directly to something, it has reference – thus, referential pronoun. So,

the noun that the pronoun is replacing is called its antecedent or referential pronoun. In Uchai, /bo/ and /abo/ are used as referential pronouns. For instance,

- 10] /bo khe či-ni nou?/ /čuŋ abo-no hăyau?-woi/
 DEM PRO EQU 2SG-GEN house 2PL REF PRO-ACC love-PRES
 This is our house. We love it.

- 11] /jon le črai kahã/ /bo rča?-na kruŋ /
 John EQU boy good 3SG sing-MOD PRO well
 John is a good boy. He can sing well.

- 12] /mšu-ma le nou?rimo sadawa sei/ /bo čuŋ-no
 Cow-F EQU domestic animal PTCL 3SG 1PL-ACC
 abo?-toi ri-woi/
 breast-water = milk give-PRES
 Cow is a domestic animal. It gives us milk.

4.5. Interrogative Pronouns

Interrogative pronouns in Uchai do not take the number marker and same interrogative pronouns are used for both animate and inanimate objects. The following are the interrogative pronouns used in Uchai:

/šo/ : ‘who’

- 13] /nə-ni mə-pha le šo/
 2SG-GEN PRO PRE-father EQU who
 Who is your father?

/šono/ : ‘whom’

- 14] /nuŋ šono naŋ-mi/
 2SG whom want-PST
 Whom do you want?

/šoni/ : ‘whose’

- 15] /bo le šoni boi/
 DEM PRO EQU whose book
 Whose book is this?

/təmau ?mi/ : ‘why’

- 16] /nuŋ təmau?mi aro-wo thaŋ-mi/
 2SG why there-LOC go-PST
 Why did you go there?

/təma/ : ‘what’

- 17] /nə-ni muŋ le təma/
 2SG-GEN name EQU what
 What is your name?

/baiphu ?wo/ : ‘when’

- 18] /nə-ni ačaima sa le baiphu?wo/
 2SG-GEN birth day EQU when
 When is your birthday?

/batoiwo/ : ‘where’

- 19] /nuŋ batoiwo toŋ/
 2SG where live
 Where do you live?

/batoima/ : ‘which’

- 20] /nə-ni nou? le batoima/
 2SG-GEN house EQU which
 Which is your house?

/nəkhe khaiye/ : ‘how’

- 21] /nuŋ nəkhe khaiye phai-mi/
 2SG how come-PST
 How did you come here?

/məsaʔha/ : ‘how much’

- 22] /brou kai-ha ha məsaʔha naŋ/
 Man CLF-one land how much need
 How much land does a man need?

/kaŋsuʔ/ : ‘how many’

- 23] /nə-ni boi kaŋsuʔ toŋ-woi/
 2SG-GEN book how many have-PRES
 How many books do you have?

4.6. Reflexive Pronouns

The reflexive pronoun refers to a construction where the subject and the object relate to the same entity. Uchai uses the forms of personal pronouns to indicate reflexive pronouns. However, the morpheme /sauʔ/ ‘self’ is used after the personal pronoun. Again, the numeral marker /kai/ and /ha/ ‘one’ is also added after the morpheme /sauʔ/ to indicate singularity. The different ways how the personal pronouns are used as reflexive pronouns in Uchai are given below:

<i>Bases</i>	<i>Reflexive Pronouns</i>	
/aŋ/ ‘I’	/aŋsauʔ/	‘myself’
/čun/ ‘we’	/čunsausauʔ/	‘ourselves’
/nuŋ/ ‘you’	/nuŋsauʔ/	‘yourself’
/nənaŋ/ ‘you’	/nənaŋsausauʔ/	‘yourselves’
/bo/ ‘he’/‘she’/‘it’	/bosauʔ/	‘him/her/itself’
/braŋ/ ‘they’	/braŋsausauʔ/	‘themselves’

Here are a few sentences to illustrate the reflexive pronouns in Uchai:

- 24] /aŋ-sauʔ kai-ha thaŋ-mi/
 1SG-self NUM-one go-PST
 I myself went.

- 25] /čun je oŋ-mo le čun-sauʔ se juŋau lã-woi/

1PL all happen-CAU EQU 1PL-self EQU earn take-PRES
We ourselves are responsible for our fate.

26] /nuŋ-sau? kai-ha abo samuŋ-no ma-taŋ-nai/
2SG-self NUM-one REF PRO work-ACC MOD CER-do-FUT
You have to do the work yourself.

27] /bo-sau? kai-ha bi-ni siŋli-no lã-hã/
3SG-self CLF-one 3SG-GEN life-ACC take-PST
He killed himself.

28] /braŋ-sau? se abo-ni khaiye le dosa/
3PL-self EQU DEM PRO-GEN for EQU blame
They themselves are guilty for this.

4.7. Indefinite Pronouns

The indefinite pronoun refers to an entity or class of entities which is not capable of specific identification. However, use of indefinite pronoun in Uchai is limited. The same form /joto/ is used for ‘all’ and ‘everything’ in Uchai, as in,

29] /joto nou?-wo thaŋ-pai-hã/
All house-LOC go-complete-PST
All of them went home.

30] /a-ni joto train-wo kəma thaŋ-hã/
1SG-GEN everything train-LOC lost go-PST
I lost everything in the train.

The other indefinite pronouns found in Uchai are as follows:

31] /khrouha pho abo-no khai-mai-ya/
None also DEM PRO-ACC do-MOD ABL-NEG
Nobody/None (also) can do it.

- 32] /a-ni jau?-wo muṇha pho kroi/
 1SG-GEN hand-LOC nothing also NEG
 I have nothing (also) in my hand.
- 33] /jebai pho bo le li? oṇ-yau?-woi/
 Anything also 3SG EQU surprise happen-PTCL-PRES
 S/He is surprised by anything (also).
- 34] /kaihasu? a-ni gori khau-hã/
 Someone 1SG-GEN watch steal-PST
 Someone has stolen my watch.
- 35] /muṇhasu? oṇ-na pho toṇ-woi tini/
 Something happen-MOD PRO also EXIS-PRES today
 Something (also) might happen today.

5. Conclusion

The noun in Uchai may be defined as a word that can take the pronominal prefix and carry the distinction of gender and number. The grammatical construction of Uchai nouns may be shown as:

$$\text{Noun} = \text{root} \pm \text{gender} \pm \text{number}$$

Here are few examples:

Noun (root)	:	/šoi/	‘dog’
Noun (root + gender)	:	/šoila/	‘male dog’
Noun (root + number)	:	/šoirau/	‘dogs’
Noun (root + gender + number)	:	/šoilarau/	‘male dogs’

Uchai nouns can be broadly classified as (i) monomorphemic and (ii) polymorphemic nouns. However, polymorphemic nouns in Uchai are more numerous

than monomorphemic nouns. The polymorphemic nouns in Uchai are formed in three different ways:

- (i) Nouns where the first member is a Pronominal Prefix,
- (ii) Nouns where the first member is a Generic Noun, and
- (iii) Nouns with derivative constructions.

Uchai nouns can be classified under certain categories, like, generic noun, non-generic noun, human animate noun, non-human animate noun, inanimate noun, abstract noun, noun indicating parts of body, kinship terms, and verbal nouns.

Pronouns in Uchai are a sub-class of nominal as the root morpheme is capable of taking case affixes. In Uchai, the root pronoun may be followed by case markers. Therefore, the morphological construction of pronoun in Uchai may be stated as:

$$\text{Pronoun} = \text{Root} \pm \text{case}$$

It means that the root pronoun can occur alone as well as with case markers. Hence, Uchai pronoun has basically two types of morphological construction which are as follows:

Pronoun (only root)	:	/aŋ/	‘I’
Pronoun (root + case)	:	/aŋ-no/	‘to me’

On the basis of usage of separate lexical items for different purposes, the pronouns in Uchai can be classified into certain categories which are as follows:

- (i) *personal pronouns* like /aŋ/ ‘I’, /čun/ ‘we’, /nuŋ/ ‘you’, /nənaŋ/ ‘you’, /bo/ ‘he’/‘she’/‘it’ and /braŋ/ ‘they’;
- (ii) *demonstrative pronouns* like /bo/ ‘this’ and /abo/ ‘that’;
- (iii) *possessive pronouns* like, /ani/ ‘my’/‘mine’, /čini/ ‘our’/‘ours’, /nəni/ ‘your’/‘yours’, /bini/ ‘his’/‘her’/‘its’ and /braŋni/ ‘their’/‘theirs’
- (iv) *referential pronouns* like /bo/ and /abo/,

- (v) *interrogative pronouns* like /šo/ ‘who’, /šono/ ‘whom’, /šoni/ ‘whose’, /təmau?mi/ ‘why’, /təma/ ‘what’, /baiphu?wo/ ‘when’, /batoiwo/ ‘where’, /batoima/ ‘which’, etc.
- (vi) *reflexive pronouns* like, /aŋsau?/ ‘myself’, /nuŋsau?/ ‘yourself’, /bosau?/ ‘himself/herself/itself’ etc.; and
- (vii) *indefinite pronouns* like /joto/ ‘all’/‘everything’, /khrouha/ ‘nobody’/‘none’, /muŋha/ ‘nothing’, /jebai/ ‘anything’, etc.

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Abbreviations

1/2/3	=	first/second/third person	MOD CON	=	modal of
ACC	=	accusative			condition
AGT	=	agentive	MOD PRO	=	modal of
CAU	=	causative			probability
CLF	=	classifier	NEG	=	negative
DEM PRO	=	demonstrative pronoun	NOM	=	nominalizer
EQU	=	equative verb	PL	=	plural

FUT	=	future	PRES	=	present
GEN	=	genitive	PRO PRE	=	pronominal
LOC	=	locative	PST	=	past
REF PRO	=	referential pronoun	PTCL	=	particle
MOD ABL	=	modal of ability	SG	=	singular

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