Numeral System in Kabonglo

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Abstract

The present paper is an attempt to describe some of the morpho-syntactic aspects of numeral system in Kabonglo (mainly focus on the language spoken in Kabongram village or Tangkhul Hundung Khullen of Phungyar sub-division of Ukhrul district of Manipur). Kabonglo is one of the dialects of Tangkhul which is mainly spoken in Kabongram village of Phungyar sub-division in Ukhrul district of Manipur. Approximately, Kabongram or Tangkhul Hundung Khullen has 138 households with the total of 640 people of which 340 are male and 300 are female. Furthermore, the same dialect is also spoken in Laikoi Ching, Sopleng, and Island villages in Senapati district of Manipur. Like many other Tibeto-Burman languages, numeral system in Kabonglo is mainly of the decimal type however, the vigesimal system is also found in the language. Structurally, numerals in the language can be categorised into seven major types namely, (i) cardinal (ii) ordinal (iii) fractional (iv) multiplicative (v) distributive (vi) restrictive and (vii) approximate. Syntactically, the numerals always follow the head nouns without any exception.

Keywords: Kabonglo, Kabongram, Tangkhul Hundung Khullen, Tangkhul, Tibeto-Burman, Ukhrul district, Manipur, Numerals, Decimal, Vigesimal, Compound.

1. Introduction

Tangkhul is one of the tribal languages of Manipur which belongs to the Kuki-Chin Naga subgroup of the Tibeto-Burman family (Grierson, 1903). Tangkhul has many dialects. Arokianathan (1987) noted that there are 219 Tangkhul villages and each village has its own dialect or speech form named after the village. Besides, Mortensen (2003) made the similar statement that Tangkhuls are quite diversified linguistically, and the speech varieties of most of the Tangkhul villages are not mutually intelligible with those of neighbouring villages (though the similarities are large enough to facilitate the rapid learning of one another's languages). Kabonglo is one of the dialects of Tangkhul which is mainly spoken in Kabongram village or Tangkhul Hundung Khullen of Phungyar sub-division in Ukhrul district of Manipur. Approximately, Tangkhul Hundung Khullen has 138 households with the total of 640 people of which 340 are male and 300 are female. It is further noticed that the same dialect is also spoken in Laikoi Ching, Sopleng, and Island villages in Senapati district of Manipur.

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As many other tribal people of Northeast India, Tangkhul do not have their own script or writing system to write their language. Therefore, they used to write in Roman script with some modification. Similarly, Tangkhul lack healthy written literature, however they have a rich oral literature which has not been recorded or documented in proper way. As a result, most of the younger generations of Tangkhuls are not well aware of their heritage oral literature in the form of folk songs, folk tales, oral narratives which play a crucial role to enhance their literature to a great extent. Due to non-availability of schooling in their mother tongue, Tangkhul people used to educate their children in English medium schools irrespective of their economic condition. Besides, Tangkhuls are bilinguals. Along with their mother tongue, they speak Manipuri in their inter-ethnic communication. This may be the reason that Manipuri is the dominant language of the state.

2. Typological Overview of Kabonglo

(i) Like many other Tibeto-Burman languages, Kabonglo is a tonal language.

(ii) As in many other TB languages, aspirated voiced stops b^h, d^h and g^h are totally absent in the language.

(iii) Interestingly, the velar nasal /ŋ/ can occur in all the three positions.

(iv) Gender distinction in the language is determined on the basis of natural recognition of sex i.e., all the man (human and inanimate nouns) are referred to as masculine and all the female are referred to as feminine.

(v) Number is not grammatically significant in Kabonglo i.e., there is no subject-verb agreement for number distinction.

(vi) The basic word order in Kabonglo is SOV. However, the alternative order of words in the language is OSV. Thus, Kabonglo is a V-final language.

3. Numerals in Kabonglo

Kabonglo being a Tibeto-Burman language, numeral system is of decimal type. However, the Vigesimal system is also found in the language but vigesimal system is not a productive system in the language. As in many South Asian languages in general and Tibeto-Burman languages in particular, compounding is the productive morphological process to form the higher numerals in the language. Numerals in Kabonglo can be classified in the following categories:

1. Cardinal Numerals
2. Ordinal Numerals
3. Fractional Numerals
4. Multiplicative Numerals
5. Distributive Numerals
6. Restrictive Numerals
7. Approximate Numerals

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3.1. Cardinal Numerals

In Kabonglo, cardinal numerals can be structurally sub-classified into two types: (a) basic numerals and (b) compound numerals.

3.1.1. Basic Numerals

The basic numerals from one/1 to nine/9 are considered as the basic numerals. It is worth mentioning here that the basic numerals one, two, three and five in Kabonglo are bound roots which always take numeral formative prefix in the form of *kə-* and *pʰə-* respectively. Numeral system in Kabonglo is of decimal type i.e., ten/10 base. The basic numerals in Kabonglo are illustrated in the following table:

Table no.1: Basic numerals in Kabonglo

Value	Gloss	Num
1	One	*kə-təŋ*
2	Two	*kə-di*
3	Three	*kə-tʰuŋ*
4	Four	*maili*
5	Five	*pʰəŋa*
6	Six	*tʰru*
7	Seven	*ʃiniŋ*
8	Eight	*ʃai*
9	Nine	*ʃiko*

It is observed that the numeral one, two and three have nominal formative prefix *kə-*, whereas the numeral 'five' has nominal formative prefix *pʰə-*. However, the numerals four, six, seven, eight, and nine do not take any kind of prefixes or suffixes. But it can be mentioned that the morpheme *-ge* represents 'one' which is used to form multiples of ten such as *tʰrage* i.e., 'ten x one', *kuige* i.e.,'twenty x one', *tʰorage* i.e.,'thirty x one' etc.

3.1.2. Compound Numerals

In addition to the basic numerals, numerals in Kabonglo are also formed by means of compounding. In other words, compound numerals are formed by juxtaposition of two or more free morphemes. Based on their process of compounding, compound numerals in Kabonglo can be classified into three types:

(i)   Additive compound numerals
(ii)   Multiplicative compound numerals
(iii)   Multiplicative plus additive compound numerals

3.1.2.1. Additive Compound Numerals

Additive compound numerals are formed by compounding the basic numerals from 1/one to 9/nine to decade *tʰrage* '10'. Here, it can be mentioned that the higher numeral

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usually precedes the lower numeral i.e., the head is in the left of the compound. It is also worth mentioning to note that the morpheme *-ge* is being dropped from *t^{h}rage* 'ten' and the additive marker *-lo-* is always accompanied with the numerals to form the higher numeral 10 onwards i.e., 11, 21, 31, 41, 51, 61, 71, 81, 91 and so on. Consider the following examples:

t^{h}ra-lo-kətəŋ [10+1=11]	'eleven'
t^{h}ra-lo-kədi [10+2=12]	'twelve'
t^{h}ra-lo-kət^{h}uŋ [10+3=13]	'thirteen'
t^{h}ra-lo-maili [10+4=14]	'fourteen'
t^{h}ra-lo-p^{h}əŋa [10+5=15]	'fifteen'
t^{h}ra-lo-t^{h}ru [10+6=16]	'sixteen'
t^{h}ra-lo-ʃiniŋ [10+7=17]	'seventeen'
t^{h}ra-lo-ʃai [10+8=18]	'eighteen'
t^{h}ra-lo-ʃiko [10+9=19]	'nineteen'

As mentioned above that Kabonglo has vigesimal numeral *kui-ge* '20' [*kui* 'twenty x *ge* 'one'] as it is found in very few Tibeto-Burman languages of North East India namely Manipuri (Yashawanta, 2000), Dimasa (Dhiren, 2013), Rongmei (Deb, 2015) etc. The presence of vigesimal numeral *kuige* 'twenty' is one of the typical features of Kabonglo language in the Tibeto-Burman family. The formations of numerals from 21/twenty-one to 29/twenty-nine are illustrated below:

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kui-lo-kətəŋ [20+1=21]	'twenty-one'
kui-lo-kədi [20+2=22]	'twenty-two'
kui-lo-kət^{h}uŋ [20+3=23]	'twenty-three'
kui-lo-maili [20+4=24]	'twenty-four'
kui-lo-p^{h}əŋa [20+5=25]	'twenty-five'
kui-lo-t^{h}ru [20+6=26]	'twenty-six'
kui-lo-ʃiniŋ [20+7=27]	'twenty-seven'
kui-lo-ʃai [20+8=28]	'twenty-eight'
kui-lo-ʃiko [20+9=29]	'twenty-nine'

Similarly, formation of the numerals from 31/thirty-one to 39/thirty-nine is demonstrated below:

t^{h}ora-lo-kətəŋ [30+1=31]	'thirty-one'
t^{h}ora-lo-kədi [30+2=32]	'thirty-two'
t^{h}ora-lo-kət^{h}uŋ [30+3=33]	'thirty-three'
t^{h}ora-lo-maili [30+4=34]	'thirty-four'

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t^hora-lo-$p^h\partial\eta a$ 'thirty-five'
[30+5=35]

t^hora-lo-t^hru 'thirty-six'
[30+6=36]

t^hora-lo-ʃiniŋ   'thirty-seven'
[30+7=37]

t^hora-lo-ʃai   'thirty-eight'
[30+8=38]

t^hora-lo-ʃiko   'thirty-nine'
[30+9=39]

Besides, the formation of numerals from 41/forty-one to 49/ forty-nine is demonstrated below:

dəŋdi-lo-kətəŋ   'forty-one'
[40+1=41]

dəŋdi-lo-kədi   'forty-two'
[40+2=42]

dəŋdi-lo-kət^{h}uŋ   'forty-three'
[40+3=43]

dəŋdi-lo-maili   'forty-four'
[40+4=44]

dəŋdi-lo-$p^h\partial\eta a$ 'forty-five'
[40+5=45]

dəŋdi-lo-t^hru   'forty-six'
[40+6=46]

dəŋdi-lo-ʃiniŋ   'forty-seven'
[40+7=47]

dəŋdi-lo-ʃai   'forty-eight'
[40+8=48]

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dəŋdi-lo-ʃiko   'forty-nine'
[40+9=49]

3.1.2.2. Multiplicative Compound Numerals

The multiplicative compound numerals such as 10/ten, 20/twenty, 30/thirty, 40/forty, and numerals from 50/fifty to 90/ninety are formed by the multiplication of basic numeral to decade t^hrage 'ten'. In the case of multiplication, the *dəŋ* 'ten', the allomorph of t^hrage is used to take part in the formation of higher numerals 50/fifty to 90/ninety. As mentioned earlier that the morpheme *ge* represents 'one' which is particularly used in the formation of higher numerals such as 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 and so on. It is important to note that the higher numeral precedes the lower numeral in the formation of following sets of numerals as illustrated below:

$t^h ra$-*ge*   'ten'
[10x1=10]

kui-ge   'twenty'
[20x1=20]

$t^h ora$-*ge*   'thirty'
[30 x 1=30]

dəŋdi-ge   'forty'
 [40 x 1]

dəŋ-p^{h}əŋa-ge   'fifty'
[10x5x1=50]

dəŋ-t^{h}ru-ge   'sixty'
[10x6x1=60]

dəŋ-ʃiniŋ-ge   'seventy'
[10x7x1=70]

dəŋ-ʃai-ge   'eighty'
[10x8x1=80]

dəŋ-ʃiko-ge   'ninety'
[10x9x1=90]

It is interesting to note that the morpheme '*ge*' is used to form only in one hundred and one thousand. It can also be observed that the numeral formative prefix *kə-* is being

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dropped to form the higher numerals like two hundred, three hundred, two thousand and three thousand respectively. And the rest of the higher numerals from four hundred to nine-hundred and four thousand to nine thousand are formed by multiplication the century root *insa* '100' and *liʃiŋ* '1000' to the corresponding numerals as demonstrated below:

insa-ge   'one-hundred'
[100x1=100]

insa-di   'two-hundred'
[100x2=200]

insa-tʰuŋ   'three-hundred'
[100x3=300]

insa-maili   'four-hundred'
[100x4=400]

insa-pʰəŋa   'five-hundred'
[100x5=500]

insa-tʰru   'six-hundred'
[100x6=600]

insa-ʃiniŋ   'seven-hundred'
[100x7=700]

insa-ʃai   'eight-hundred'
[100x8=800]

insa-ʃiko   'nine-hundred'
[100x9=900]

The formation of thousand is illustrated in the following examples:

liʃiŋ-ge   'one thousand'
[1000x1=1000]

liʃiŋ-di   'two thousand'
[1000x2=2000]

liʃiŋ-tʰuŋ   'three thousand'
[1000x3=3000]

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liʃiŋ-maili [1000x4=4000]	'four thousand'

liʃiŋ-pʰəŋa [1000x5=5000]	'five thousand'

liʃiŋ-tʰru [1000x6=6000]	'six thousand'

liʃiŋ-ʃiniŋ [1000x7=7000]	'seven thousand'

liʃiŋ-ʃai [1000x8=8000]	'eight thousand'

liʃiŋ-ʃiko [1000x9=9000]	'nine thousand'

3.1.2.3. Multiplicative plus Additive Compound Numerals

In Kabonglo, numerals from 51-59, 61-69, 71-79, 81-89, 91-99 are formed through the multiplication of first two numerals and the summation of the third ones with the help of additive marker *-lo-* as can be seen in the following examples:

dəŋ-pʰəŋa-lo-kətəŋ [10x5+1=51]	'fifty-one'

dəŋ-pʰəŋa-lo-maili [10x5+4=54]	'fifty-four'

dəŋ-tʰru-lo-kətəŋ [10x6+1=61]	'sixty-one'

dəŋ-tʰru-lo-ʃiniŋ [10x6+7=67]	'sixty-seven'

dəŋ-ʃiniŋ-lo-kətəŋ [10x7+1=71]	'seventy-one'

dəŋ-ʃiniŋ-lo-ʃai [10x7+8=78]	'seventy-eight'

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dəŋ-ʃai-lo-kətəŋ		'eighty-one'
[10x8+1=81]		
dəŋ-ʃai-lo-pʰəŋa		'eighty-five'
[10x8+5=85]		
dəŋ-ʃiko-lo-kətəŋ		'ninety-one'
[10x9+1=91]		
dəŋ-ʃiko-lo-maili		'ninety-four'
[10x9+4=94]		

3.2. Numerals in Noun Phrase construction

Syntactically, numeral is one of the optional grammatical elements in a Noun Phrase construction in Kabonglo. Functionally, numeral is a modifier of the head noun in Kabonglo Noun Phrase and the numeral follows the head noun without exceptions. So, the order of numerals in a NP is [Noun + Numerals] as in (1)-(2). However, if the head noun is modified by an adjective, the order of the construction is the head noun either preceded or followed by the adjectives and followed by the numerals as can be illustrated in (3a)-(3b)- (4a)-(4b).

(1) *ai*   *[paitu   kədi]NP*   *lai-e*
     I   bag   two   COPL-DECL
     'I have two bags'

(2) *pe*   *[ʃui   kətʰuŋ]NP*   *tʰai-e*
     s/he   dog   three   see-DECL
     'He/she saw three dogs.'

(3a) *ai*   *[ətane kə-ŋo*   *kətʰuŋ]NP*   *tʰai-e*
     I   bird   NMZ-white   three   see-DECL
     'I saw three white birds.'

(3b) *ai*   *[kə-ŋo   ətane kətʰuŋ]NP*   *tʰai-e*
     I   NMZ-white   bird   three   see-DECL
     'I saw three white birds.'

(4a) *ai*   *[siŋ   hənčo kədi]NP*   *lai-e*
     I   house big   two   COPL-DECL
     'I have two big houses.'

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(4b) *ai*   *[hənčo siŋ   kədi]NP*   *lai-e*
      I   big   house two   COPL-DECL
      'I have two big houses.'

3.3. Ordinal Numerals

Like many other Tibeto-Burman languages, the ordinal numerals in Kabonglo are formed by suffixing *-ʃuva* to the cardinal ones except in the case of ordinal 'first'. The ordinal numeral first '*ʃuiri*' do not take any affixes. It is merely a suppletive form which is found in many other Tibeto-Burman languages, namely, Manipuri, Dimasa, Rongmei, Kokborok, Zeme, etc. The formations of ordinal numerals in Kabonglo are shown below.

ʃuiri	'first'
kədi-ʃuva	'second'
kətʰuŋ-ʃuva	'third'
maili-ʃuva	'fourth'
pʰəŋa-ʃuva	'fifth'
tʰru-ʃuva	'sixth'
ʃiniŋ-ʃuva	'seventh'
ʃai-ʃuva	'eight'
ʃiko-ʃuva	'ninth'
tʰrage-ʃuva	'tenth'

3.4. Fractional Numerals

In Kabonglo, fractional numerals are formed by using morpheme '*vedo*' in the following formula.

kətʰuŋ-vedo-kətəŋ	'1/3'
pʰəŋa-vedo-kədi	'2/5'
tʰrage-vedo-kətəŋ	'1/10'

3.5. Multiplicative Numerals

Multiplicative numerals in Kabonglo are formed by suffixing the morpheme *-ʃi* to the corresponding cardinal numerals. It is generally used when a question arises "how many times or how many folds" as many other Tibeto-Burman languages do. The multiplicative numerals in Kabonglo are demonstrated below:

kətəŋ-ʃi	'once'
kədi-ʃi	'twice'
kətʰuŋ-ʃi	'thrice'
maili-ʃi	'four times'
tʰru-ʃi	'six times'
ʃiniŋ-ʃi	'seven times'

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ʃai-ʃi	'eight times'
ʃiko-ʃi	'nine times'
tʰrage-ʃi	'ten times'

3.6. Distributive Numerals

Distributive numerals in Kabonglo are formed by reduplicating the cardinal numerals except in the case of one to three. It is observed that from numeral one to three, the entire numerals are not reduplicated rather the numeral roots are being reduplicated. However, the rest of the distributive numerals such as four each, five each etc. are formed by reduplicating the whole basic numerals as can be seen in the following examples:

kətəŋ-təŋ	'one each'
kədi-di	'two each'
kətʰuŋ-tʰuŋ	'three each'
maili-maili	'four each'
pʰəŋa-pʰəŋa	'five each'
tʰru-tʰru	'six each'
ʃiniŋ-ʃiniŋ	'seven each'
ʃai-ʃai	'eight each'
ʃiko-ʃiko	'nine-each'
tʰrage-tʰrage	'ten-each'

3.7. Restrictive Numerals

Restrictive numerals in Kabonglo are formed by suffixing -*tʰi* to the cardinal numerals as shown in the following examples:

kətəŋ-tʰi	'only one'
kədi-tʰi	'only two'
kətʰuŋ-tʰi	'only three'
maili-tʰi	'only four'
pʰəŋa-tʰi	'only five'
tʰru-tʰi	'only six'
ʃiniŋ-tʰi	'only seven'
ʃai-tʰi	'only eight'
tʰrage-tʰi	'only ten'

3.8. Approximate Numerals

In Kabonglo, approximate numerals are formed by adding morphemes *tʰəva* 'about' to the corresponding cardinal numerals as can be seen in the following examples:

laire	*tʰrage*	*tʰəva*	'about ten books'
book	ten	about	

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| siŋ | kət^huŋ t^həva | 'about three houses' |

siŋ   kət^huŋ t^həva   'about three houses'
house   three   about

3.9. Conclusion

From the above analysis, it can be concluded that numeral system in Kabonglo is mainly of decimal type. However, the Vigesimal system is also found in the language but vigesimal system is not a productive system in the language. The basic numerals from one/1 to nine/9 are considered as the basic numerals. It is worth mentioning here that the basic numerals one, two, three and five in Kabonglo are bound roots which always take numeral formative prefix in the form of *kə-* and *p^hə-.* It is observed that the numeral one, two and three have nominal formative prefix *kə-,* whereas the numeral 'five' has nominal formative prefix *p^hə-*. However, the numerals like four, six, seven, eight and nine do not take any kind of prefixes or suffixes. In the case of multiplication, the *dəŋ* 'ten', the allomorph of *t^hrage* is used to take part in the formation of higher numerals 50/fifty to 90/ninety. Like many other Tibeto-Burman languages, the ordinal numerals in Kabonglo are formed by suffixing *-ʃuva* to the cardinal ones except in the case of ordinal 'first'. The ordinal numeral first '*ʃuiri*' do not take any affixes. Fractional numerals are also formed by using morpheme '*vedo*'. Multiplicative numerals in Kabonglo are formed by suffixing the morpheme *-ʃi* to the corresponding cardinal numerals. For Distributive, Restrictive and Approximate numerals different types of markers are used. Finally, the plural morpheme in the language cannot co-occur with the numerals as many other Tibeto-Burman languages do.

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Abbreviations

COPL	Copular
DECL	Declarative
NP	Noun Phrase
NMZ	Nominalizer

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