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Numerals in Kaprang-Tangkhul

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Abstract

This paper aims to describe the numerals used in Kaprang-Tangkhul, a language which is typographically closely connected with its neighbouring district of Thoubal. Kaprang has a nine number system: cardinal, ordinal, multiplicative, aggregative, approximative, fractional, indefinite, distributive and restrictive.

Introduction

The Naga-Kuki sub-group of Tibeto-Burman language family includes many languages and dialects spoken in North East India including the states of Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland and Assam.

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 13:11 November 2013

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Kaprang is a small Tangkhul village of Manipur. This village is located in the Thoubal district but it also extends to the Senapati district. The language spoken here is also known as Kaprang Tangkhul. Although the name Tangkhul is given to a group of tribal communities, these groups cannot communicate each other through their language. It means that Tangkhul speaks different languages and the groups speak dialects/languages that are mutually unintelligible. When they communicate with each other, they use either standard Tangkhul, spoken in the Ukhrul district or in Manipuri. Tangkhul is spoken in some parts of Manipur and is mainly found in the hill districts of Manipur. Tangkhul is divided into eight regions, viz, (1) Northern hilly region; Raphei, (2) North-East hilly region; Somra, (3) Eastern hilly region; Ram, (4) Southern hilly region; Kamo, (5) Western hilly region; Kharao, (6) South-West hilly region; Khaorui, (7) North-West hilly region; Kathur or Khaorui–raora and (8) South-East hilly region; Kaikhang.

Kaprang Tangkhul is included in the Southern hilly region, Kamo. According to G.A. Grierson, Tangkhul is included in the Naga-Kuki group.

Numerals

A numeral is a word class designating numbers or related to specifying quantities and any other countable divisions. For instance, English words such as 'two', 'second', 'twice', or even compounds like 'seventy-seven'. In Kaprang, numerals can be classified in the following ways.

- 1) Cardinal
- 2) Ordinal
- 3) Multiplicative
- 4) Aggregative
- 5) Approximative
- 6) Fractional
- 7) Indefinite
- 8) Distributive and

9) Restrictive

1. Cardinal Numerals

Cardinal numbers are used in counting, showing how many objects are specified as one, two, three, four, etc. It can be classified as:

- a) Basic Cardinal and
- b) Compound Cardinal

(a) Basic Cardinal

The basic cardinals in Kaprang are dimorphemic. The following are the cardinals of Kaprang-Tangkhul.

Example:

ək ^h ət	‘one’
kini	‘two’
ant ^h um	‘three’
məlli	‘four’
rəŋŋa	‘five’
kuruk	‘six’
siri	‘seven’
əret	‘eight’
əko	‘nine’
som	‘ten’
rija	‘hundred’
lisiŋ	‘thousand’

In Kaprang, the basic cardinal numbers from ‘one’ to ‘nine’ are independent numerals.

(b) Compound Cardinal Numerals

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 13:11 November 2013

Takhellambam Bijaya Devi, Ph.D. Scholar
Numerals in Kaprang-Tangkhul

The compound Cardinals are divided into three types. They are:

- (i) Additive compound
- (ii) Multiplicative compound and
- (iii) multiplicative-cum-additive compound.

i) Additive Compound

Additive compound are the numerals eleven to nineteen. It is formed by adding the basic expression of numerals from one to nine to the decade numerals i.e 10+1, 10+2 10+3, 10+4 etc.

Examples:

som-k ^h ət	‘eleven’
som-kini	‘twelve’
som-ant ^h um	‘thirteen’
som-məlli	‘fourteen’
som-rəŋŋa	‘fifteen’
som-kuruk	‘sixteen’
som-siri	‘seventeen’
som-əret	‘eighteen’
som-əko	‘nineteen’

ii) Multiplicative Compound

Multiplicative compounds are formed by compounding basic cardinals with each other. It may be divided into two kinds.

- a) Lower multiplicative compounds
- b) Higher multiplicative compounds

Lower Multiplicative Compounds: Lower multiplicative compounds are the numerals, twenty to ninety. It is formed by the use of decade term **so** “ten” multiplied by the basic cardinal numbers i.e., 10X2, 10X3, 10X4 ... etc.

In these numerals, the first syllable of basic numerals has been dropped, i.e., ə-k^hət, ki-ni, an-t^hum etc. examples are given below:

somni	‘twenty’
somt ^h um	‘thirty’
somli	‘forty’
somŋa	‘fifty’
somruk	‘sixty’
somri	‘seventy’
somret	‘eighty’
somko	‘ninety’

Higher Multiplicative Compounds: It is formed by the preceding *rija* ‘hundred’ and *lisiŋ* ‘thousand’ before cardinals and the first syllable of the basic numerals is dropped. But in the case of basic cardinal **siri** ‘seven’ the first syllable is not dropped.

Examples:

rijakini	‘two hundred’
rijat ^h um	‘three hundred’
rijali	‘four hundred’
rijaŋa	‘five hundred’
rijaruk	‘six hundred’

rijasiri	‘seven hundred’
rijaret	‘eight hundred’
rijako	‘nine hundred’
lisiṅk ^h ət	‘one thousand’
lisiṅsom	‘ten thousand’

(iii) Multiplicative-cum-Additive Compound

The numerals from 21 to 29, 31 to 39, 41 to 49, 51 to 59, 61 to 69, 71 to 79, 81 to 89 and 91 to 99, etc. are multiplicative-cum-additive compound numerals. Multiplicative compound is formed by the decade number som ‘ten’, multiplied by basic cardinal numerals again adding the basic cardinal numerals, i.e. $10X2+1$, $10X3+1$, $10X4+3$... etc., and associative marker -a- is added between them. Examples are given below:

somni-a-k ^h ət	‘twenty-one’
somni-a-kini	‘twenty-two’
somni-a-məlli	‘twenty-four’
somt ^h um-a-kuruk	‘thirty-six’
somt ^h um-a-ret	‘thirty-eight’
somli-a-k ^h ət	‘forty-one’
somṅa-a-kini	‘fifty-two’
somruk-a-k ^h ət	‘sixty-one’
somri-a-t ^h um	‘seventy-three’
somret-a-məlli	‘eighty-four’
somko-a-kini	‘ninety-two’

2. Ordinals Numerals

Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 13:11 November 2013

Takhellambam Bijaya Devi, Ph.D. Scholar
Numerals in Kaprang-Tangkhul

Ordinals refer to the positions in a sequence. The primary ordinals are items such as *first*, *second*, *third*, *fourth*, *fifth*, etc. In Kaprang, the ordinal numerals are formed by suffixing - **caŋna** (an adjectival suffix) to the cardinal numbers except in the case of first “**lumsata**”.

Examples:

lumsata	‘first’
kinicaŋna	‘second’
ant ^h umcaŋna	‘third’
məllicaŋna	‘fourth’
rəŋŋacaŋna	‘fifth’
kurukcaŋna	‘sixth’
siricaŋna	‘seventh’
əretcaŋna	‘eighth’
əkocaŋna	‘ninth’
somcaŋna	‘tenth’
somkini	‘twentieth’
somt ^h uməkocaŋna	‘thirty-ninths’

3. Multiplicative Numerals

Multiplicative numerals are formed by prefixing **hum-**, followed by the suffix -**caŋwa** (sense of repetition) to the cardinal numbers but in the case of “once” the prefix **hum-** is added to the cardinal numbers.

Examples:

hum-k ^h ət	‘once’
hum-kini-caŋwa	‘twice’

hum-ant ^h um-caŋwa	‘thrice’
hum-məlli-caŋwa	‘fourth times’
hum-rəŋŋa-caŋwa	‘fifth times’
hum-kuruk-caŋwa	‘sixth times’
hum-som-caŋwa	‘tenth times’
hum-somk ^h ət-caŋwa	‘eleven times’
hum-somli-caŋwa	‘thirty times’
hum-somŋa-caŋwa	‘fifty times’
hum-rija-caŋwa	‘hundred times’

4. Aggregative Numerals

Aggregative numerals are formed by prefixing **punna-** (sense of togetherness) to the cardinals.

Examples:

punna-kini	‘all the two or two together’
punna-t ^h um	‘all the three or three together’
punna-rəŋŋa	‘all the five or five together’
punna-kuruk	‘all the six or six together’
punnna-siri	‘all the seven or seven together’
punna-somk ^h ət	‘all the eleven or eleven together’

5. Approximate Numerals

In Kaprang, approximates are formed by the suffixing **-ant^haloije** to the cardinal numerals. It carries an approximate sense in counting.

Examples:

ək ^h ət-ant ^h aloije	‘about one’
kini-ant ^h aloije	‘about two’
ant ^h um-ant ^h aloije	‘about three’
məlli-ant ^h aloije	‘about four’
rəŋŋa-ant ^h aloije	‘about five’
kuruk-ant ^h aloije	‘about six’
siri-ant ^h aloije	‘about seven’
əret-ant ^h aloije	‘about eight’
əko-ant ^h aloije	‘about nine’
som-ant ^h aloije	‘about ten’
somni-ant ^h aloije	‘about twenty’

6. Fractional Numerals

The fractional refers to quantities less than one. They include *half*, *quarter*, *three quarters*, and compounds of a cardinal number with an ordinal such as *two-third*, *three-fifth*, and *one-eighth*. Fractional numerals in Kaprang are formed by suffixing **-tai** between the cardinals and bigger cardinal precedes the smaller cardinal.

Examples:

ant ^h um-tai-ək ^h ət	‘one-third’
məlli-tai-ək ^h ət	‘one-fourth’
kuruk-tai-ant ^h um	‘three-sixth’
rəŋŋa-tai-kini	‘two-fifth’
rəŋŋa-tai-ant ^h um	‘three-fifth’

siri-tai-məlli ‘four-seventh’

Kaprang also uses lexicalized fractional numerals. They are:

təŋk^hai ‘half’

masuŋ ‘quarter or segment’

ace ‘piece’

əpun ‘whole’

7. Indefinite Numerals

Following are the indefinite numerals in Kaprang.

Examples:

sak^hət ‘some/few’

pitti ‘many/much’

əpun ‘bunch’

məjam ‘group’

8. Distributive Numerals

In Kaprang, distributive numerals are formed by repeating the cardinal numerals.

Examples:

ək^hət-ək^hət ‘one each’

kini-kini ‘two each’

ant^hum-ant^hum ‘three each’

məlli-məlli ‘four each’

som-som ‘ten each’

9. Restrictive Numerals

Restrictive numerals in Kaprang are formed by the using word “jaṅti” after the basic cardinal numbers.

Examples:

ək ^h ətjaṅti	‘only one’
kinijaṅti	‘only two’
ant ^h umjaṅti	‘only three’
məllijaṅti	‘only four’
rəŋŋajaṅti	‘only five’
əkojaṅti	‘only nine’
somjaṅti	‘only ten’

Conclusion

From the above analysis we can determine that Kaprang has seven types of numeral. In this language, the cardinal numbers are independent and dimorphemic. And compound cardinal numbers are formed by using **som** ‘ten’ and the suffix ‘-a’ is inserted between the **som** and basic numerals. The numbers *hundred* and *thousand* are lexical words. The ordinal numerals are formed by suffixing **-caṅna** to the basic numerals except *first*. The distributive numerals are formed by repeating or duplicating the basic numbers. Similarly restrictive numerals are also formed by suffixing **jaṅti** to the basic cardinal numerals.

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Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 13:11 November 2013

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Numerals in Kaprang-Tangkhul

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