

KOKBOROK IS ONE OF THE RICH LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD

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on
behalf of
The Kokborek tei Hukumu Mission.

- (1) Kokborok is one of the rich language of the world.
- (2) It existed thousand of years in eastern zone of Indian Sub-Continent.
- (3) Its Grammer terms and vocabularies probe it.
- (4) Borek/Tripurie(officialy) is ethnically branch of Boro is Assam (India).
- (5) Kokborok speaking people have intermingled with other neighbouring languages too.
- (6) There was kokborek script called 'Kokoma'.
- (7) Kokborok has slight dialectical existance within.
- (8) It has rich numerical counting method and linguistic ornaments.
- (9) Tripuri's use kokborok Grammer and Counting methods. The also use English and Bangoli countings.
- (10) Tripuris write in Kokborok. in Roman script.
- (11) 99'5% of Tripuris use kokborok in conversation in thinking and in their cultural file.
- (12) Every one enjoys, thinks, worries in kokborok.
- (13) Tripuris are ethnically mongoloits, linguistically Tibeto-Burmese and linguistic identical is Boro in Assam, India.
- (14) Kokborok is a tunal language.
- (15) Kokborok has a rich morphology.
- (16) Kokborok symple sentenci is constructed by suobject, object and verb.
- (17) Simple sentence contains also internal meaning .
- (18) In expression one can use his style of art in kokborok.

PAN-ASIATIC LINGUISTICS..The 4th International Symposium on Language and Linguistics.SYMPOSIUM PAPERIntroduction:-

At the out set I bring greetings from India, my beloved country and my native home state Tripura in North East India. May I also extend a heartiest greetings, love and affactions on behalf of Kokborok tei hukumu mission (kohm) to the family of the PAN-ASIATIC LINGUISTICS SYMPOSIUM, here in Thailand.

May I also on behalf of Tripura people (Borok), Express our gratitude to the Hon'ble Chairman Dr.Suwilal premarirate for allowing us to present a paper on kokborok our mother tongue. In fact I have received your circular about this Symposium through some reliable sources lately. We were very glad to know about this Symposium and submitted our application with a request for special consideration. Indeed he granted our request and hence we are here with you today. Today is a historic day for Tripuri(Borok) community. Because through your invitation to this Symposium, the Language which has been ignored for thousands of years, a language called kokborok, is still alive of her own system, his received a gracious favour to the PAN-ASIATIC LINGUISTICS FAMILY.

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Now some of us may be inquiring about this particular language kokborok : No doubt it is a rich language, kokborok could be analysed in a very simple way. KOK means language, Borok means the name of a people group or a Nation. Therefore the name of this language is called KOKBOROK. The word " BOROK " gives different meanings (1) Borok - human being (2) Borok - name of a Nation, (3) Borok-Citizen, (4) Borok- Life partner (5) Borok- members.

The KOKBOROK Speaking people comprises 1.5 million spreading in the North East Indian States and also in the neighbouring Country Bangladesh. This Borok people Originally come from Boro People in Assam in North East India. In the course of History they separated from each other. Even now 70% of their linguistic terms and cultural life are still maintaining similarities. Now we are identifying ourselves as Borok, we are also called ourselves as Twipra. Twi means river Bappa means Confluence. In one simple word we call ourselves Twiprasa. This means son of confluence. As linguistic evolution took place down through to the centuries the word Twipara is also evolved to Tripura, The present Official name.

1. LANGUAGE COMPARISON, :-

Historical & Comparative Studies:-

Ethnically Borok or Tripuri Community are the branch of the Boro people of Assam State of North East India.

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So Tripuri or Borok are racially Mongolians. But the British Historians recognised them as Tebe-to Burmese linguistics Group. The related language Groups are Boro, Garo, Rabha, Lalung, Kuch, Mech, Dimasa, Chutia, about a lakh of them are in Bangladesh now. In the 7th Century A.D. a Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang as he travelled India Sub-Continent recognised that there was a great Boro Kingdom in the eastern Zone of the Continent. In his writing he appreciated Boro people's hospitality, highly developed language and cultural heritage. Although Borok or Tripuri people Group is a branch of the great Boro family but now they are recognised as Unique ethnic Group by the then British Government. Because this Borok or Tripuri people group had established their kingdom in the Southern part of the then Great Boro Kingdom. This is now known as Tripura. About 184 of Kings Ruled in this country for about 15(fifteen) hundreds years without break.

Unfortunately the picultarity of the kings of Tripuri of Borok nation. Were that the ignored their Mother Tongue Kokborok and the Borok Culture. Consequently in 19Century A.D. The then king Birchandra (1862 - 96 A.D) introduced Bengali(Bangla) as Royal language and since then the kings given all their efforts to aboliap their own language Kokborok and culture. In the course of history India was set free from British power on 15th August 1947, India was divided as Hindustan and Pakistan. When lakhs and lakhs of Hindu Bengalis free the

country for life East Pakistan to Tripura, was still independent country in those days, the then King Birbikram Kishore Manikya Bahadur Debbarma rescued them with food and shelter. Now the 1991 census reports the hindu Bengalis formed 70% of the total population of the state. As owner of the soil when they raise voice for survival they are now interpreted as extrinists, separatists and go on. On 15th Octobar, 1949 Independent Tripura Marched to Independent India and become part of the Democratic Country.

2. LANGUAGE CONTACT AND LANGUAGE CHANGE:-

Down through the history the Borok of Tripuri people as any other ethnic group in the world, have been intermingled and interchanged of culture and language with their neighbouring communities in the Indian Sub-Continent. But Kokborok maintains her own style and structure as origin as before. Few terms and structures certainly interchange with the neighbouring language are as follows:-

Torma.

| <u>Kokborok</u> | <u>Neighbouring Languagesr</u> |
|--------------------------|---|
| Twi (Water) Halan Tui | Kuki Sanskrit hindi BengaliMizo Tui Tuio Tui |
| | Assamese |
| Rwjai(Quilt) | Rijai |
| Chalo | Chalanu Chalanu. |

3. TYPOLOGY AND UNIVERSALS.

There was a Kokborok script called KOLOMA. The Chronicles of the Tripuri Kings were written in a Book, Namely-Rajnama, originally this Book was written in KOLOMA Script by Durlobendra Chantai. Letter Sukreshwar and Vaneshwar translated it into Sanskrit and now again translated into Bengali. In this systematic process of change KOLOMA SCRIPT was completely vanished.

The present Borok or Tripuri educated people started looking for a suitable and the scientific script to write Kokborok. They find Roman script as the most scientific script for their mother tongue. So 90% of Borok people are now started writing Kokborok in Roman script very negligible percent are writing Kokborok in Bengali script. In fact Kokborok tei Hunkumu Mission (Kohm) is doing intensive research work on this field.

4. DIALECTOLOGY:

In the real sense there is no sharp dialectocal identity in Kokborak as such. However the pronunciation differences could be realised no doubt. In fact we can identify it as pronunciation differences within the Kokborok speaking people. This unfortunate thing occurred due to the absence of common literary cultivation about a couple of centuries in their mother tongue. Please view the actual condition of the Kokborok:-

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| English Stamp (Three) | Debbarna Bokong | Jamatia Bokong | Tripura Bokong | Koloy Bokong | Rupimi Bokong | Murasing Bokong |
| Number | Kai | Kai | Kai | Kai | Reang Mokong | Uchui Mokong |
| One | Sa | Sa | Sa | Sa | Ke | Ke |
| Eatable | Chahma | Chahma | Chahma | Chahma | Ha | Ha |
| Hand | Yak | Yak | Yak | Yak | Chahma | Chahma |
| Self | Som | Som | Som | Som | Som | Som |
| Tough | Romdi | Romdi | Romdi | Romdi | Romdi | Romdi |
| Name | Mung | Mung | Mung | Mung | Mung | Mung |
| Where | Boro | Borp | Boro | Boro | Boro | Boro |
| Language | Kok | Kok | Krok | Kok | Kok | Kau |

LANGUAGE AND RELATED SCIENCES

1. COMPUTATIONAL LINGUISTICS

The computational linguistics structure in Kokborok is very much rich and wonderful. There is a standard style of counting method in Kokborok and we can count upto billions and Trillions.

Another interesting counting method is called numerical method in Kokborok, If a person is well versed in Kokborok numerical method, I would say, he can rather claim at least 20% Kokborok Vocabulary are in his knowledge. Because in this Numerical method of Kokborok one has to know about the size of the particular material. There are 90 different types of numerical method in Kokborok.

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FOR EXAMPLE

| English | Kokborok | Numerical | <u>Method</u> |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Fruits | Bwthai | Thaisa, Thainwi, Thaithan. | |
| 2. Egg. | Butwi | Twisa Twnwi Thithan. | |
| 3. Paper | Swlkram | | |
| Leave | Bwlai | | |
| Cloth etc, | Rih rok - Kangsa, Kangnwi, Kangtham. | | |
| 4. All the living thing | - Masa, Makwi, Maktham. | | |
| 5. Man - Borok - Khoroknwi, Khoroktham | Khoroktham | | |
| CA Special honourific term is used for human being in Kokborok. | | | |
| 6. Stone, Rock, holong = Dulsa, Dulnwi, Dultham. | | | |
| All the bigger round Holongdap. | | | |
| 7. Bamboo Uash = Konghsa Konghnwi, Konghtham. | | | |
| Rod etc. Borkongrok. | | | |
| 8. Thread, Khwtwng = Twingse, Twngnwi, Twngtham. | | | |
| River, Streem, | Twima | | |
| Rop etc. | Budu rok. | | |

Apart from the counting method and numerical method Kokborok has a rich Linguistics ornamentals terms and rich linguistics expression style. Not only that Kokborok is capable to create a new meaningful vocabularies and terms of her own structure. Therefore all these standard system helped the language to develop to the highest degree that it ought to be.

2. PRAGMATICS :

The pragmatism of Kokborok is remarkable. Because it has a rich Grammar and counting method of her own. Borok or Tripuri people naturally using both of these as they converse with each other. Alongwith Kokborok English and Bengali counting methods are also used when required.

3. SOCIO LINGUISTICS :

Borok of Tripuri people are closely conversing among themselves in their social life. They sing, dance, love, weep, cry, exchanging views in festivals etc in kokborok.

4. PSYCHOLO LINGUISTICS :

Emotionally the Borok people are very much attached with the Kokborok. They love their mother tongue and respect it as a rich language. About 95% of Tripuris are using this language in social life, political life, in economic life, in administrative life, cultural life, and so on. But 5% of town dwellers are feeling ashamed to speak Kokborok and adopted ordinary village Bangla to be their mother tongue and thus suffering identity crisis.

5. NEOROLINGUISTICS :

Kokborok speaking people with their mother tongue, they think, they love, they quarrel, they pass judgement, they rebuke, they wonder, they imagine, they see visions, and so on. They also

very good in learning other languages. However before they speak other languages they used to think with their own mother tongue and express accordingly.

6. ETHNOLINGUISTICS :

Racially Borok or Tripuri are Mangoloids, Ethnically they are Borok or Boro linguistically, they fall on Tibeto - Burmese languages group. Father language is Boro, Kokborok is one of the branch of the Boro language.

LANGUAGE DESCRIPTION :-

1. Phonetics and Phonology:-

Kokborok is a tonal language. Therefore although the two words give similar sound in hearing but meaning are different. To represent high tone in Kokborok we use "h" to the particular syllable.

FOR EXAMPLE :-

| | Low tone | High tone |
|----|----------------|------------------|
| 1. | Cha(right) | Chah (To eat) |
| 2. | Tan (dry land) | Tahn(To cut) |
| 3. | Phai (to come) | Phaih (to break) |

There are also 4 different similar sounds but different meaning For Example :-

| In Low tone. | In High Tone. |
|--------------|----------------|
| Hor-Night | Hohr - to send |
| Hor-To carry | Hohr - Fire |

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We find here Hor(Night), Hor (To carry)
are same sound but different meaning.

Hohr (To send), Hohr (five)
These two words are similar sound but
two different meanings.

2. Morphology :-

As any other language in the world
Kokborok is also enjoining a rich natural Morph-
ology.

For Example :-

Broken shoot = Bosok kocho -Sok Kocho
Sokcho.

Tiny = Bwsa tete - Bwsate - Ste.

There are thousands of example could be drawn.
But all of them could be broken into small piec-
-es into consise from meaning remains the same.

3. SYNTAX :

The simple sentence construction of
Kokborok is formed sequently subject, object,
verb. For Example :-

Ang (Subject) - I
Mai (object) - Rice.
Chsho(verb) - eat.
Ag Angmai Chao
meaning I eat rice.

Here I would like to mention very interesting thing is that there are 320 words meaningful new word can be constructed by using prefix and saffix to a root word in Kokborok. To this very root verb one can use

Suffix - O, nai, Kho, Kha, etc.

Choo, Chahnai, Chahkha, Chahkhe,
Prefix = Machao - has to eat.

Masema chaho- sure to eat.

Masemachahsugo = Definite to eat.

4. Semantics.

In Kokborok has also a rich semantics expression as any other rich language of the world. Just like a proverb there is a inner of the sentence.

For Example :-

Thwinonogo Uatwi Manjago,

The external meaning is just this

Before daying rain is falling on head.

But the internal meaning is different. It says in the old age again suffering.

4. Discourse :-

To speak beautifully in Kokborok is an art. One can present any matter sweetly to the other persons and serve his purpose.

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Other picularity of Kokborok is that one can use vocabularies in langthem forms and also in a shorten form.

For Example:

| | | | |
|--------|---------|-------|---------|
| Khwlai | - to do | Kolok | - Long. |
| Khla! | - to do | klok | - long. |
| Khai | - to do | lok | - long. |

It is also depend upon the art of a person as to how much standard way he would speak in Kokborok

Finally, may I am behalf of Kokborok Tei Hukumu Mission (KOHM) once again express heartiest gratutute to you for showing favour to present a paper on our mother tongue to this symposium which will be remaining a historical event in the history of the Kokborok.

Thanking you,

Sincerely,

(Rev Naphurai Jamatia)
 President,
 For and on behalf of
 Kokborok TEI,
 HUKUMU MISSION.