

CHAPTER-V
COMPARATIVE VOCABULARY OF THE MECH DIALECT WITH
STANDARD BODO LANGUAGE OF ASSAM

5.0 Introduction

In this chapter, a comparative study has been made on the level of lexis between the Mech dialect of North Bengal and standard form of Bodo language spoken in Assam. Geographically, Mech dialect is spoken in the North Bengal area particularly in the districts of Alipur Duar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling and Cooch Behar of the state of West Bengal and the standard form of Bodo language is spoken in the district of Kokrajhar and its adjacent areas of Assam. The Mech dialect is considered as one of the western Bodo dialects of Bodo language, which is one of the significant languages of Tibeto-Burman branch of Sino-Tibetan language family. So, they have lots of similarities and dissimilarities in the level of lexis. As the chapter is on comparative study of vocabulary, intact form, slightly variant form and completely variant form of words have been included here. Along with this, how the neighboring and foreign language lexis are incorporated in the vocabulary of Mech dialect and standard form of Bodo language through socialization are also exposed in this chapter.

5.1 Vocabulary

The following are variety of lexis of Mech dialect and standard form of Bodo language related to noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, kinship terminology etc. Following discussion shows intact form, slightly variant form and completely variant form lexis available in both.

5.1.1 Intact form of lexis

Since Mech is a dialect variation of the Bodo language, many lexis are found structurally and semantically same. These are discussed below.

5.1.1.1 Lexical terms related to Noun

5.1.1.1.1 Name of Fruits

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
t ^h aizuu	t ^h aizuu	mango

5.1.1.1.2 Name of Animals

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
mui	mui	deer
maɔzi	maɔzi	cat
sesa	sesa	hare
ganda	ganda	rhino
mup ^h ur	mup ^h ur	bear
ɔma	ɔma	pig

5.1.1.1.3 Kinship terms

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
ap ^h a	ap ^h a/aba	my father
ai	ai	mother
ada	ada	elder brother
abɔ	abɔ	elder sister
bima	bima	mother
abui	abui	grand mother
abuu	abuu	grand father
binanaɔ	binanaɔ	younger sister
bida	bida	elder brother

bibo	bibo	elder sister
bihao	bihao	father-in-law
bik ^h unzuu	bik ^h unzuu	mother-in-law
biyadi	biyadi	niece
biyani	biyani	niece
bihamzuu	bihamzuu	daughter-in-law
bizamadi	bizamadi	son-in-law
bisalt ^h i	bisalt ^h i	sisters' husbands
adi	adi	father's younger brother
adi	adi	father's younger brother's wife/ mother's younger sister
gumi	gumi	brother-in-law
bigumi	bigumi	his/ her brother-in-law
banaisu	banaisu	sister's son
bazui	bazui	sister-in-law
ayon	ayon	father's elder brother / mother's elder sister
bizaazali	bizaazali	wives of brothers
bibui	bibui	his/her grand mother
bibu	bibu	his/her grand father
bimai	bimai	maternal uncle
bimayon	bimayon	elder brother of father/ elder sister of mother

5.1.1.1.4 Name of Insects

Mech Dialect

Standard Bodo

Gloss

guma	guma	grasshopper
k ^h ibrōma	k ^h ibrōma	dung beetle

5.1.1.1.5 Name of Body Parts

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
melem	melem	brain
k ^h ap ^h al	k ^h ap ^h al	forehead
k ^h əɔlai	k ^h əɔlai	cheek
k ^h ək ^h ab	k ^h ək ^h ab	chin
hat ^h ai	hat ^h ai	teeth
salai	salai	tongue
səmp ^h lɔ	səmp ^h lɔ	lungs
t ^h ui	t ^h ui	blood
bibu	bibu	intestines
bigur	bigur	skin
begenɟ	begenɟ	bone
bik ^h lu	bik ^h lu	gall
zanzi	zanzi	waist
p ^h enda	p ^h enda	thigh

5.1.1.1.6 Name of Birds

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
dauk ^h a	dauk ^h a	crow
dausa	dausa	chicken
sigun	sigun	vulture
daurai	daurai	peacock
dauzu	dauzu	hen

dausa

dausa

chick

5.1.1.1.7 Name of Vegetables

Mech Dialect

Standard Bodo

Gloss

p^hant^haɔ

p^hant^haɔ

brinjal

lap^ha

lap^ha

a kind of green vegetable

lai

lai

mustard green

p^halaŋ

p^haleŋ

spinach

dundia

dundia

coriander

gɔrsi

gɔrsi

flat bean

t^hasɔ

t^hasɔ

arum

alu

alu

potato

5.1.1.1.8 Name of Spices

Mech Dialect

Standard Bodo

Gloss

sambram

sambram

onion

haizeŋ

haizeŋ

ginger

5.1.1.1.9 Name of Household Articles

Mech Dialect

Standard Bodo

Gloss

zek^hai

zek^hai

fishing instrument

k^hɔbai

k^hɔbai

fishing instrument

5.1.1.1.10 Name of Miscellaneous Nouns

Mech Dialect

Standard Bodo

Gloss

zuu

zuu

rice bear

bilai

bilai

leaf

laɔk^har

laɔk^har

cowherd

duik ^h ɔr	duik ^h ɔr	well
deŋk ^h a	deŋk ^h a	a kind of rope
nɔma nɔ	nɔma nɔ	main house
seŋgra	seŋgra	young boy
nɔsa	nɔsa	small house
nɔk ^h ɔr	nɔk ^h ɔr	family
sɔŋk ^h ruɪ	sɔŋk ^h ruɪ	salt
luɠu	luɠu	friend
sik ^h ari	sik ^h ari	hunter
salamat ^h a	salamat ^h a	plain cloth
salgandɔi	salgandui	instrument used in handloom
sɔŋsar	sɔŋsar	world
bizi	bizi	needle
su	su	thorn
hari	hari	race
hayen	hayen	plain land
habahuk ^h a	habahuk ^h a	work and deeds
gɔsai	gɔsai/ isur	god
hat ^h ai	hat ^h ai	market
dɔl	dɔl	drum
bɔn	bɔn	wood
sini	sini	sugar

5.1.2 Lexical terms related to Pronoun

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
aŋ	aŋ	I

zuŋ	zuŋ	we
be	be	it
habui	bui	that
gaɔ	gaɔ	self
sur	sur	who
ma	ma	what
bɔbe	bɔbe	which
raɔbu	raɔbu	nobody

5.1.3 Lexical terms related to Adjective

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
guba	guba	thin
muzaŋ	muzaŋ	good
gulao	gulao	long
gup ^h uŋ	gup ^h uŋ	fat
guwar	guwar	wide
zaruu	zaruu	slight red
geseb	geseb	narrow
gudui	gudui	sweet
guduŋ	guduŋ	hot
guidan	guidan	new

5.1.4 Lexical terms related to Verb

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
aluu	aluu	be spicy
buhui	buhui	flow
geɔ	geɔ	open

gi	gi	be scared
gidiŋ	gidiŋ	turn around
buɯslai	buɯslai	move
basai	basai	rescue
baŋ	baŋ	increase
bar	bar	blow/bloom
bai	bai	buy
huu	huu	give
t ^h ui	t ^h ui	die
k ^h uuna	k ^h uuna	hear
p ^h ui	p ^h ui	come
za	za	eat
zuu	zuu	be high
za	za	to be
zaɔ	zaɔ	to dig
dui	dui	to lay
baɔ	baɔ	to forget
zab	zab	file up
duu	duu	to feed
duŋ	duŋ	to become hot
gab	gab	cry
gabzri	gabzri	to call
gan	gan	to put on
ha	ha	can
ham	ham	be cure/be good

hab	hab	to enter
həm	həm	to catch
hu	hu	wipe
bi	bi	beg
bisi	bisi	to tear
bir	bir	to fly
bək ^h ɔ	bək ^h ɔ	to take out
sub	sub	to suck
səɔ	səɔ	to burn
sɔŋ	sɔŋ	to cook
undu	undu	sleep
ru	ru	boil
bu	bu	beat
su	su	to wash
da	da	to weave
zuu	zuu	kick
dint ^h i	dint ^h i	to show
bu	bu	beat
buŋ	buŋ	to say
bur	bur	scoop out

5.1.5 Lexical term related to Adverb

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
denaŋ	denaŋ	in future
k ^h almasi	k ^h almansi	next year
deglai	deglai	this year

da

da

now

5.1.2 Slightly variant lexis

Apart from the similar lexis, slight variation can also be seen between the lexis of Mech dialect and standard form of Bodo language. Slight variations are mainly phonological variations. Some of the examples are given below.

5.1.2.1 Lexical terms related to noun

5.1.2.1.1 Name of Fruits

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
bit ^h ai	p ^h it ^h ai	fruit
guai~gɔi	gɔi	betel-nut
t ^h alid	t ^h alir	banana

5.1.2.1.2 Name of Animals

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
sima	suima	dog
mɔk ^h ra	muuk ^h ra	monkey
mɔided	muider	elephant
mɔisuu	muisuu	buffalo
muusu	muusuu	cow
bɔrma	burma	goat
inzɔd	enzɔr	rat
imbu	embu	frog
zibɔu	zibuuu	snake

5.1.2.1.3 Kinship terms

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
bisadla	p ^h isazla	son
bisazuu	p ^h isazuu	daughter
bisai	p ^h isai	husband
bisi	bizi	wife
bisuuu	p ^h isuuu	grand child
bip ^h a	bip ^h a	father
biyarui	bihari	co-wife
bip ^h ɔŋ	p ^h ɔŋbai	younger brother
bibt ^h i	bibt ^h ui	father's younger brother
bizamaizuu	zamaizuu	a term of relation between the mothers of son-in- law or daughter-in-law

5.1.2.1.4 Name of insects

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
maizet ^h i	mainaɔ	lizard
t ^h uiɔad	lewar	leech
k ^h ɔŋk ^h ɔma	gaŋgɔma	cockroach
sagrema	saŋgrema	firefly
mɔdzlai	muzlai	a kind of ant
k ^h ɔizema	kuizuma	a kind of ant
bedlaɔ	belɔɔ	water leech
gunzed	gunzer	larva that eats rotten wood
t ^h amp ^h ɔi	t ^h amp ^h ui	mosquito

samɔ	samu	mollusk
muusuruum	muusrum	ant

5.1.2.1.5 Name of Body Parts

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
k ^h ɔr	k ^h ɔrɔ	head
k ^h ɔga	k ^h uga	mouth
mɔgɔn	megɔn	eye
musigur	musugur	eyebrow
gɔnt ^h uŋ	gɔnt ^h ɔŋ	nose
gusut ^h i	gust ^h i	lip
nak ^h ai	ak ^h ai	hand
nak ^h ant ^h i	ak ^h ant ^h i	arm
nak ^h ai t ^h ark ^h a	ak ^h ai t ^h ark ^h a	palm
nasi	asi	finger
nasima	asibima	thumb
nasi guɽtɽui	asi p ^h isa	little finger
nagda	agda	right
nagsi	agsi	left
nasigur	asigur	nail
nat ^h eŋ	at ^h iŋ	leg
nadɽui	adɽui	calf
nap ^h a daɔɔɽui	ap ^h adaɔɔɽui	heel
bik ^h um	bik ^h uŋ	back
udɔi	udɽui	stomach

k ^h ɔma	k ^h uma	ear
sit ^h ɔb	sit ^h ub	bladder
bisak ^h ɔ	p ^h isak ^h ɔ	uterus
gɔdɔnak ^h ɔŋ	gɔdɔnak ^h ɔŋ	the back of the neck
hant ^h ɔ	hant ^h u	knee
t ^h insri	sinsri	back bone

5.1.2.1.6 Name of Birds

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
dausen	dau	bird
dausari	dausri	martin
dausarihazi	dausrihazi	jungle martin
haŋsa	haŋsu	duck
silla	sila	kite
bazɔ	sik ^h rabazi	hawk
daut ^h ɔu	daut ^h u	dove
dauzila	daɔzuɔla	cock

5.1.2.1.7 Name of Vegetables

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
t ^h adun	t ^h adun	arum
laɔt ^h ai	laɔ	bottle gourd
p ^h at ^h ɔ	p ^h at ^h u	jute
bisɔr	besɔr	mustard
muist ^h a	muist ^h a	roselle
dint ^h ia	diŋk ^h iya	fern

5.1.2.1.8 Name of Household articles

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
rɔa	rua	axe
duduŋ	duruŋ	rope

5.1.2.1.9 Name of Miscellaneous Noun

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
nubt ^h i	nɔbɔt ^h i	site where one use to live
hisri	zisri	torn clothes
sia	sa / saha	tea
hu	ha	land
ak ^h undɔi	uk ^h undtui	smoke
bimp ^h aŋ	bip ^h aŋ	tree
simna	sima	boundary
gɔali	gɔli	cowshed
wa	uuua	bamboo
bidɔd	bedɔr	meat
wad	ɔr	fire
hat ^h ɔk ^h i	hat ^h ɔrk ^h i	star
nɔk ^h a	ɔk ^h a	rain
nɔk ^h ap ^h ɔr	ɔk ^h ap ^h ur	moon
nɔk ^h raŋ	ɔk ^h raŋ	sky
udsuŋ	usuŋ	backyard
p ^h ua	k ^h ua	fog
surgɔ	surguu	heaven
haduri	hadri	dust
habɔru	habru	clay

barhuk ^h a	barhuŋk ^h a	storm
nək ^h anaisi	ɔk ^h anaisi	dawn
duar	dɔr	door
musari	musri	net
haduŋgɔra	haduŋgura	leader
hisansali	isansali	a place of weaving

5.1.2.2 Lexical terms related to Adjective

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
gudzuu	guuzuu	high
gudzam	guuzam	old
gudzan	guuzan	far
gudɔi	gudi	base
gubbab	gubab	salty
gulwui	guurlwui	simple/easy
gumu	guumu	yellow
gudza	guza	red
muut ^h aŋ	gut ^h aŋ	blue
gussum	guusum	black
gɔp ^h ɔd	gup ^h ur	white
gɔdai	undwui	small
guuk ^h rɔi	guuk ^h ruui	fast
gaham	muzaŋ	good
gudsuŋ	gusuŋ	short
si	ese	little
ik ^h ura	ek ^h ura	arrogant

zaram	zarum	dark red
gat ^h ao	gut ^h ao	tasty
geded	geder	big
dumbru	dunbrud	slightly hot
gedsen	geseŋ	thin
gilid	gilir	heavy
guk ^h k ^h a	guk ^h a	bitter
hasiŋ	harsiŋ	alone
sumbrəm	sumbrum	dark blue
guk ^h k ^h ui	guk ^h ui	sour

5.2.2.3 Lexical terms related to Verb

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
k ^h ui	uk ^h ui	hungry
uŋk ^h ad	uŋk ^h ar	come out
aɔlai	p ^h uɔzɔb	to destroy
bɔdlab	budlab	to bring out
bɔdlai	sɔulai	change
bɔnai	banai	make
bad	bar	jump
badɔ	barsɔ	cross through
lid	lir	write
sɔi	sɔhui	arrive
k ^h ad	k ^h ar	run
bɔrab	burab	be angry
basum	barsum	dive

basin	barsin	attack
p ^h ran	p ^h uran	make dry
k ^h lam	k ^h alam	make
baddaw	bardaw	to be surprised
sit ^h at	but ^h ar	kill
aot ^h ai	suu	put in
t ^h an	t ^h an	go
zik ^h ad	sik ^h an	wake up
zid	zir	peel
dɔn	duun	put
gad	gar	throw
hat ^h ad	hat ^h ar	to kill by cutting
deha	derha	win
ded	der	be big
det ^h ad	det ^h ar	to kill by hitting

5.2.2.4 Lexical term related to Adverb

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
dak ^h al	dak ^h lui	day before yesterday
miya	muiya	yesterday
habao	buiyao	there
bao	beyao	here
agla	guudu	past
dini	dinui	today
iyun	un	future
osimun	osumun	before last year

5.1.3 Completely variant lexis

Completely variant lexis can also be found between Mech dialect and standard Bodo language. This may be due to the minimal contact between the speakers as a result of geographical separation. Following are some of the examples falling in this category.

5.1.3.1 Lexical terms related to Noun

5.1.3.1.1 Name of Fruits

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
dumba	zuk ^h am	maize
sɔnt ^h ra	k ^h ɔmbla	orange
t ^h am	sump ^h ram	guava

5.1.3.1.2 Name of Animals

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
sisa	suima p ^h isa	puppy
ɔsa	ɔma p ^h isa	piglet

5.1.3.1.3 Name of Insects

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
insu	emp ^h uusu	caterpillar
bemaduŋ	mak ^h ra	spider

5.1.3.1.4 Name of Body parts

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
muusruum	muusa	eyelash
gɔdɔ	guuduna	neck
galamba	garama	throat
muik ^h um	gurbuu	heart
zerba	bik ^h a	chest

5.1.3.1.5 Name of Birds

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
masraṅa	maslaṅk ^h ar	kingfisher
t ^h ia	bat ^h o	parrot
dausibiṅ	daut ^h eb	a kind of small bird
dausarōmai	dauk ^h anzōṅ	turban
gōrsōk ^h a	sōk ^h a	sparrow

5.1.3.1.6 Name of Vegetables

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
dambudi	sōbaibima	a kind of bean
mōsamōgōn	p ^h endi	ladies finger
k ^h aruuk ^h u bibar	sink ^h ōna bibar	a kind of medicinal herb
k ^h ak ^h luu	zuḡunar	pumpkin
lambera	belat ^h i baigōn	tomato
t ^h ulmul	mudup ^h ul	papaya

5.1.3.1.7 Name of Species

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
bader	sambram gup ^h ur	garlic
banzud	banlu ~p ^h anlu	chilli
banzud zignad	banlu~p ^h anlu buddun	a kind of chilli
banzud t ^h ōp ^h p ^h a	banlu t ^h ōp ^h sa	bell-pepper
banzud sahib	banlu gup ^h ur	a kind of white chilli

5.1.3.1.8 Name of Household articles

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
dōn	k ^h ada	basket

gɔri	t ^h angun	a piece of wood used in cutting meat
daɔdab	ɔrdab	oven
bat ^h iri	bak ^h ri	granary
t ^h uk ^h u	t ^h uusi	grinder
buruŋ	k ^h ak ^h i	a kind of fishing object
t ^h emai	sen	a kind of fishing object
naŋgɔl	naŋgɔl	plough
t ^h at ^h i	bera	fence
k ^h alari	huk ^h en	an agricultural tool
sui	kɔp ^h ri	a kind of umbrella made of leaves
senza	p ^h at ^h isina	jute sticks
dauk ^h ɔ	k ^h at ^h ak ^h ɔ	nest made of bamboo

5.1.3.1.9 Name of Miscellaneous Noun

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
gaŋgrim	baŋgriŋ	earthquake
k ^h ɔrɔnt ^h ai	sarɔnt ^h ai	hail stone
masuu	saradu	a ritual after dead
deusi	p ^h uruhid	priest
bat ^h ri	ruat ^h i	housemaid
bat ^h ua	dahuuna	male servant
slat ^h ai	k ^h urumnai	thunder
dadauri	bagraŋsi	girl having loose character

dudu	gaik ^h er	milk
seŋgri	sik ^h la	young girl
mɔk ^h rɔi	uŋk ^h ruɪ	curry
gɔgra	ɗauk ^h ik ^h ɔna	poultry house
ɔgra	ɔma gɔndra	pigsty
zamp ^h ɔi	ɗɔŋgɔ	canal
bit ^h ɔn	k ^h ut ^h iya	paddy seedling
rɔnda	balɔnda	widower
randi	randi	widow
dudda	asunda	bachelor
duddi	aduŋgari	spinster
bla	t ^h ir	arrow
ɗɔk ^h ɔ	k ^h at ^h ak ^h ɔ	coop
musuk ^h i	guburk ^h i	cow dung
rɔg	beram	disease
rambat ^h ul	zaik ^h lɔŋ	rainbow
rɔn	dauha	war
zigab p ^h unzi	maiɗuŋ	a heap of rice hay
dusmɔn	sut ^h ur	enemy
sali	k ^h amsali	verandah

5.1.3.2 Lexical terms related to pronoun

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
k ^h ɔba	surba	somebody

5.2 Semantic change of lexis

It can be mentioned that semantic changes can also be observed where similar lexis are used for different things in Mech dialect and standard Bodo language. A few of the examples are given below.

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
lɔk ^h ra	muusa	tiger
mɔsa	siŋhɔ	lion
gandɔula	sik ^h ri	butterfly
sik ^h ri	ganduuula	dragonfly

5.3 Taboo words

Mech dialect and standard form of Bodo language also have few taboo words. For example in Mech *'bra'* or *'ra'* is only used by the males. It is taboo for the females. As such the word *'k^hine'* is only used by the females, which is a taboo for males. In standard form of Bodo also, *'lui'* is a taboo word for woman. It is only used by the males during informal situation. Like that *'hai'* is also taboo for male. It is only used by females.

5.4 Onomatopoeic words

There are many onomatopoeic words found in the vocabulary of Mech dialect and standard form of Bodo language. These are found in the form of full reduplication and partial reduplication. Following are a few examples of onomatopoeic words found in the vocabulary of standard form of Bodo language and Mech dialect.

<i>Mech Dialect</i>	<i>Standard Bodo</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
uɭwui-uɭwui	gaza-guumza	with pomp and grandeur
deŋ-deŋ	lelai-lelai	neither dead nor alive
zɔbra-zɔnt ^h a	bemar- azar	diseases
dausen-daula	dausin-daula	birds and fowls
naŋgɔl-zuŋgal	naŋgɔl-zuŋgal	ploughing equipments
hak ^h ɔr-duiik ^h ɔr	hak ^h ɔr-hala	pot hole
t ^h a-t ^h ap ^h uŋ	t ^h a-t ^h arun	arums

duima-duisa	duima-duisa	stream and rivers
aba-zabba	zabba-zubba	untidy
era-bera	serk ^h ai-berk ^h ai	scattered
hagra-bɔŋgra	hagra-bɔŋgra	forests and jungles
hi-zuum	zi-zuum	clothes
zaruu-maruu	zaruu-maruu	cute and beautiful
hazuu-hala	hazu-hala	hills and mountains

5.5 Loan or Borrowed words

Borrowed word is also known as loan word. Borrowed words are the words adopted by the speakers of one language from other languages. According to David Crystal borrowing is “*a term used in comparative and historical linguistics to refer to linguistic forms being taken over by one language or dialect from another; such borrowings are usually known as loan words.*” (Crystal, 1978:47) Borrowing or loan words from various languages is an outcome of cultural assimilation or cultural contact between two or more language speakers. In the present day society, borrowing of words from one language into another language is a common practice. Like other languages, the speakers of Mech dialect and standard form of Bodo language are also using many borrowed or loan words from diverse Indian and foreign languages. These words are basically from the languages of Indo-European, Iranian and Tibeto-Burman language families.

In North Bengal, a large number of Mech speaking inhabited areas are encircled by the great Indo-Aryan Bengali speaking people since long years back. In contrast, they do not have their own medium of instruction in educational institutions. That is why maximum number of Mech speakers adopted the Bengali language as their medium of instruction. So, it is seen that most of the new generation are using Bengali words

during conversation. On the other hand, standard form of Bodo language speakers are also surrounded by the Indo-Aryan language speaking Assamese community from the remote past. Accordingly they assimilated in the aspects of cultural and linguistic elements. Dr. Bainkanta Kakati has commented that *“living long in the plains and in immediate neighbourhood of Aryan-speaking people, the Bodos borrowed words freely from the Aryan dialect.”* (Kakati, 2007:42) Thus several words of Bengali and Assamese are incorporated into the vocabulary of Mech dialect and standard form of Bodo language.

Most of the Mech dialect and Bodo speakers are bilingual. Due to century old contact with each other the Mech can speak Bengali language splendidly and on the other hand the Bodo speakers of Assam also can speak Assamese very well. So, it can be assumed that the borrowing of words from foreign languages directly or indirectly entered into Mech through Bengali language and in Bodo via Assamese language.

Following are a few examples of loan words directly or indirectly entered into the vocabulary of Mech dialect and standard form of Bodo language.

5.5.1 Bengali loan words into Mech

<i>Bengali</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
agɔd	past
barɔmasiya	occurring all the year around
b ^h alo	good
b ^h ezal	impure
bɔis	year
bɔst ^h i	colony
buddi	idea
dese	country

digi	pond
duk ^h u	sorrow
ek ^h dɔm	big
gɔrib	poor
gram	village
harzila	heron
k ^h elengk ^h ari	scandal
k ^h ɔbɔr	news
k ^h ub	extremely
k ^h usi	happy
lusi	a kind of food
mist ^h i	a kind of sweet
nabalɔg	children under a certain age
ɔnek	much
ɔŋsɔ	part
p ^h ab	sin
pant ^h ɔl	assistant of the priest
pak ^h g ^h ar	kitchen
rɔsagɔlla	kind of Sweet
t ^h uk ^h ura	piece etc.

5.5.2 Assamese loan words into Bodo

<i>Bodo</i>	<i>Assamese</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
asa	<i>axa</i>	hope
badali	<i>baduli</i>	bat
bahaguu	<i>b^hag</i>	portion

beram	<i>bemar</i>	patient
bindu	<i>bindu</i>	point
bis	<i>bix</i>	poison
dalai	<i>dal</i>	branch
duk ^h u	<i>duk</i>	sorrow
gərai	<i>g^hora</i>	horse
gəσαι	<i>gəxai</i>	god
k ^h amani	<i>kam</i>	work
k ^h ap ^h al	<i>kəpal</i>	forehead
k ^h ut ^h a	<i>kəta</i>	sentence
man	<i>man</i>	respect
neəlai	<i>neəl</i>	mongoose
nuguur	<i>nəgər</i>	city
p ^h ərai	<i>pərhə</i>	read
p ^h uisa	<i>pəisa</i>	money
p ^h urman	<i>prəman</i>	proof
puut ^h ar	<i>pətar</i>	field
raizuu	<i>rajya</i>	state
raza	<i>rəza</i>	king
siyal	<i>hiyal</i>	fox
sudub	<i>səbdə</i>	word
swit ^h u	<i>satya</i>	truth
suk ^h u	<i>suk</i>	happy
t ^h uruum	<i>d^harma</i>	religion
zəra	<i>zər</i>	pair
zuum	<i>zənmə</i>	birth etc.

5.5.3 English loan words into Mech Dialect and Standard Bodo

English is a global language and as a result accepted very easily by all. At present rapid increase of English education, development of science and technology and influence of electronic media are playing an important role in borrowing of English words into Mech and Bodo. Globalization and colonization also resulted in incorporation of different English words into their vocabulary. Today industries produce different types of items which are related to food, luxurious things, household articles etc. The names of these items are directly or indirectly entered into their vocabulary when using these items. Thus, English words are entering day by day into their vocabulary. These words are generally related to household articles, education, administration, games and sports, equipment, medical etc. Following are a few examples of English loan words which are equally used in Mech dialect and standard form of Bodo language.

5.5.3.1 Terms related to Education

<i>MD/SBL</i>	<i>Pronunciation</i>	<i>English</i>
ard	'art	art
k ^h ɔlez	kɔla:ʒ	college
digri	di'gre	degree
dip ^h lɔma	di'pləʊmə	diploma
hɔst ^h el	'hɔst(ə)l	hostel
isik ^h ɔl	aku:l	school
universit ^h i	ju:ni'vɜ:səti	university
k ^h ɔmars	'kɔmɜ:s	commerce
laibiri	'laibrəri	library
mast ^h ar	'ma:stə	teacher

b ^h ais-p ^h rinsip ^h al	<i>vais-'prɪnsəpl</i>	vice-principal
p ^h as	<i>pa:s</i>	pass
p ^h el	<i>feɪl</i>	fail
p ^h insil	<i>'pens(ə)l</i>	pencil
p ^h rinsip ^h al	<i>'prɪnsəpl</i>	principal
p ^h rɒp ^h esar	<i>prə'fesə(r)</i>	professor
rizal	<i>rɪ'zʌlt</i>	result
saence	<i>'saɪəns</i>	science
sert ^h ibik ^h id	<i>sə'tɪfɪkət</i>	certificate
t ^h ibson	<i>tju:'tʃn</i>	tuition
warden	<i>'wɔ:dn</i>	warden

5.5.3.2 Terms related to Medicine

dak ^h t ^h ar	<i>'dɒktə(r)</i>	doctor
inzek ^h sɔn	<i>ɪn'zɛkjn</i>	injection
hɔsp ^h it ^h al	<i>hɔspɪtl</i>	hospital
midisin	<i>'meds(ə)n</i>	medicine
nars	<i>nɜ:s</i>	nurse
ɔp ^h aresɔn	<i>ɔpə'refɪn</i>	operation
p ^h armasi	<i>'fɑ:məsi</i>	pharmacy
t ^h eblɛd	<i>tæblɪt</i>	tablet

5.5.3.3 Terms related to Administration and Law

dairek ^h t ^h ɔr	<i>dɪ'rektə(r)</i>	director
frɔm	<i>fɔ:m</i>	form
gɔbɔrnɔr	<i>'gɔvənə(r)</i>	governor
gɔrmend	<i>'gɔvənəmənt</i>	government

inisp ^h ek ^h t ^h or	<i>in'spektə</i>	inspector
k ^h or	<i>kɔ:t</i>	court
lɔ	<i>lɔ:</i>	law
minist ^h ar	<i>'minstə(r)</i>	minister
ɔp ^h is	<i>'ɔfis</i>	office
ɔp ^h isar	<i>'ɔfisə</i>	officer
p ^h ayel	<i>fil</i>	file
p ^h iɔn	<i>'pi:ən</i>	peon
pulis	<i>pə'lēs</i>	police
sek ^h rit ^h ari	<i>'sekrətri</i>	secretary
zaz	<i>dʒAdʒ</i>	judge
ziyal	<i>'jāl</i>	jail

5.5.3.4 Terms related to Games and Sports

bask ^h et ^h bəl	<i>ba:skɪtbɔ:l</i>	basketball
bəl	<i>bɔ:l</i>	ball
bɔlar	<i>'bɔvlə</i>	bowler
bɔk ^h siŋ	<i>bɔksɪŋ</i>	boxing
gəl	<i>gəʊl</i>	goal
k ^h ip ^h ar	<i>'kepər</i>	keeper
k ^h ɔrnal	<i>'kɔ:nə</i>	corner
k ^h rik ^h ed	<i>'krɪkɪt</i>	cricket
p ^h aɔl	<i>fəʊl</i>	foul
p ^h enalt ^h i	<i>penaltɪ</i>	penalty
b ^h ɔlibəl	<i>'vɒlɪbɔ:l</i>	volleyball
p ^h udbəl	<i>'fʊtbɔ:l</i>	football

rep ^h ri	<i>refə'ri:</i>	referee
uik ^h ed	<i>wɪkɪt</i>	wicket etc.

5.5.3.5 Terms related to Communication and Transport

arɔp ^h len	<i>'eərəplən</i>	aeroplane
baɪg	<i>'bɪk</i>	bike
bas	<i>bʌs</i>	bus
drib ^h er	<i>'drɪvər</i>	driver
haiway	<i>'haɪwa</i>	highway
k ^h ar	<i>ka:(r)</i>	car
mɔt ^h ər	<i>məʊtə</i>	motor
rɔd	<i>'rɔd</i>	road
sai ^h el	<i>'saɪk(ə)l</i>	bicycle
t ^h rag	<i>trʌk</i>	truck
t ^h imp ^h u	<i>'tæmpəʊ</i>	tempo
t ^h ren	<i>trʌn</i>	train

5.5.3.6 Name of Equipments

comp ^h iut ^h ar	<i>kəm'pjʊ:tə(r)</i>	computer
lem	<i>læm'p</i>	lamp
mɔbailp ^h ɔn	<i>'məʊbailfəʊn</i>	mobile
ridiɔ	<i>'rerdrəʊ</i>	radio
t ^h eb	<i>'tæp</i>	tape
t ^h elɪp ^h ɔn	<i>'telɪfəʊn</i>	telephone
t ^h elɪsk ^h ɔb	<i>'telɪskəʊp</i>	telescope

5.5.3.7 Name of House hold articles

bens	<i>'bench</i>	bench
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dish	<i>'dish</i>	dish
gas	<i>'gas</i>	gas
gelas	<i>'glas</i>	glass
k ^h ab	<i>kəp</i>	cup
k ^h uk ^h ar	<i>'kukəɾ</i>	cooker
p ^h ilt ^h er	<i>'filtə</i>	filter
p ^h led	<i>plat</i>	plate
silindar	<i>'siləndəɾ</i>	cylinder
siyar	<i>'cher</i>	chair
sək ^h es	<i>'shōkās</i>	showcase
t ^h ibil	<i>teib(ə)l</i>	table
t ^h əs	<i>'təɾch</i>	torch
zəg	<i>'jəg</i>	jug

5.5.3.8 Terms related to Measurement and Time

gram	<i>græm</i>	gram
iŋsi	<i>intʃ</i>	inch
k ^h ilogram	<i>'kēlōgræm</i>	kilogram
k ^h ilomit ^h ar	<i>kə'lämətəɾ</i>	kilometer
k ^h uint ^h el	<i>'kwintəl</i>	quintal
lit ^h ar	<i>'litəɾ</i>	litre
mail	<i>maɪl</i>	mile
minid	<i>'mɪnɪt</i>	minute
mit ^h ar	<i>'mitə(r)</i>	metre
sek ^h end	<i>'sekənd</i>	second

5.5.3.9 Different terms used in daily life

ak ^h sidand	<i>'aksədənt</i>	accident
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baɔndary	'baũnd(ə)rē	boundary
beŋ	'baŋk	bank
bwiik ^h ɔd	'bɔikät	boycott
bɔt ^h ɔl	'bɔt(ə)l	bottle
sans	'chan(t)s	chance
k ^h ɔnsider	kən'sidər	consider
k ^h arek ^h	kə'rekt	correct
dər	'dɔr	door
esp ^h ad	'ekspərt	expert
p ^h ɔls	'fɔls	false
p ^h is	'fē	fee
p ^h ainal	'faɪn(ə)l	final
int ^h erp ^h iu	'intərvyü	interview
k ^h alar	'kælər	colour
lidar	lēdər	leader
laid	'līt	light
lɔs	'lüz	lose
lus	'lūs	loose
met ^h eŋ	'mētɪŋ	meeting
mix	miks	mix
p ^h əɔdar	'paũdər	powder
p ^h əŋsɔn	'fəŋ(k)shən	function
p ^h anismen	'pənɪshmənt	punishment
p ^h armanen	pɜ:mənənt	permanent
p ^h awar	'paũ(ə)r	power

p ^h esən	'fashən	fashion
p ^h ilim	'fi(ə)m	film
p ^h ɔind	'pɔint	point
rial	'rē(ə)l	real
rek ^h ɔrd	ri'kɔrd	record
rijek ^h	ri'jekt	reject
raid	'rīt	right
rɔŋ	'rɔŋ	wrong
sek ^h	'check	check
sens	'chānj	change
siŋgel	'siŋ(ə)l	single
sinima	'sinəmə	cinema
isit ^h isən	'stāshən	station
suis	'swich	switch
t ^h es	'test	test
t ^h aid	'tīd	tide
t ^h ik ^h id	'tikət	ticket
t ^h aem	'tīme	time

5.5.4 Arabic loan words into Mech and Bodo

<i>MD/SBL</i>	<i>Arabic origin</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
asul	<i>asl</i>	real
alek ^h a	<i>ilākah</i>	area
bak ^h i	<i>bāqi:</i>	remaining
bɔdɔl	<i>badl</i>	exchange
dɔlil	<i>dəlil</i>	stamp paper

duniya	<i>duniya</i>	world
gərib	<i>g^harīb</i>	poor
hisab	<i>hisāb</i>	calculation
huk ^h um	<i>hukum</i>	order
ijid	<i>ijjət</i>	honour
jinis	<i>jins</i>	thing
k ^h anun	<i>qanu:n</i>	law
k ^h arab	<i>karāb</i>	bad
k ^h azna	<i>xəzānā</i>	revenue
k ^h ali	<i>k^hālī</i>	empty
k ^h əbər	<i>k^habar</i>	news
k ^h el	<i>k^hyal</i>	consideration
mal	<i>māl</i>	goods
nək ^h əl	<i>naql</i>	fake
əzən	<i>wazn</i>	weight
p ^h arag	<i>fərək</i>	difference
sahib	<i>sāhib</i>	officer
sərəb	<i>fərək</i>	road
səhid	<i>fəhi:d</i>	martyr
t ^h arig	<i>tārix</i>	date
zahaz	<i>jəhāz</i>	ship
zaldi	<i>jald</i>	quick
zamin	<i>za:min</i>	guarantor
zilla	<i>jilā</i>	district
zəbab	<i>zəbab</i>	answer

zɔma	<i>jam</i>	collect
uk ^h il	<i>vəki:l</i>	advocate

5.5.5 Persian loan words into Mech and Bodo

<i>MD/SBL</i>	<i>Persian Origin</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
aien	<i>āi:n</i>	law
aina	<i>āynah</i>	mirror
andaz	<i>andāz</i>	guess
aram	<i>ārām</i>	comfort
awaz	<i>āvāz</i>	sound
ast ^h e	<i>āistah</i>	slowly
bagan	<i>bāghān</i>	garden
barɔnda	<i>bārāmdā</i>	verandah
bɔdnam	<i>bādn:m</i>	infamous
bazar	<i>bāzār</i>	market
daguu	<i>dāg</i>	mark
darga	<i>dāroga</i>	police
deri	<i>dēr</i>	late
dɔk ^h an	<i>dukān</i>	store
dɔrji	<i>derji:</i>	tailor
dturk ^h ar	<i>dəkār</i>	necessity
gɔrɔm	<i>garm</i>	hot
habt ^h a	<i>hāfta</i>	week
k ^h agɔz	<i>kaghaz</i>	paper
k ^h ak ^h i	<i>xaki:</i>	a kind of dress
k ^h ark ^h ana	<i>kār-xānā</i>	industry

k ^h ismis	<i>kifmis</i>	dried grapes
k ^h oros	<i>xərc</i>	expenditure
k ^h urt ^h a	<i>kurtā</i>	a kind of shirt
p ^h aizama	<i>pājāməh</i>	a kind of men's cloth
p ^h orda	<i>pardah</i>	curtain
p ^h osonda	<i>pôchhōndô</i>	like
rōsid	<i>rəsi:d</i>	receipt
rumal	<i>ru:māl</i>	handkerchief
sadər	<i>cādur</i>	blanket
saza	<i>səzā</i>	punishment
sak ^h ri	<i>chākar</i>	job
selwar	<i>felvār</i>	a kind of ladies cloth
sibp ^h ai	<i>sipāhi</i>	soldier
sōhər	<i>fəhər</i>	town
sər ^h ar	<i>sərkār</i>	government
sōsma	<i>chashm</i>	spectacles
zaiga	<i>jāigāh</i>	place
zamindar	<i>zəmi:ndār</i>	landlord

5.5.6 Japanese loan words into Mech and Bodo

<i>MD/BSL</i>	<i>Japanese Origin</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
haik ^h u	<i>haiku</i>	haiku
lisu	<i>lyc^hee</i>	litchi
rik ^h sa	<i>rikisha</i>	rickshaw
sia saha	<i>caa:</i>	tea
sunami	<i>tsunami</i>	tsunami

sudɔk^hu

sudoku

sudoku

5.5.7 Portuguese words into Mech and Bodo

<i>MD/SBL</i>	<i>Portuguese Origin</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
almari	<i>armario</i>	closet
anarɔs	<i>ananas</i>	pineapple
balt ^h ij	<i>balde</i>	bucket
bɔt ^h am	<i>botão</i>	button
gamla	<i>gamela</i>	basket
girza	<i>igreja</i>	church
iŋrazi	<i>inglês</i>	english
isp ^h ad	<i>espada</i>	steel
ist ^h ri	<i>estirar</i>	iron
k ^h amiz	<i>camisa</i>	shirt
k ^h ɔp ^h i	<i>couve</i>	cabbage
p ^h ap ^h aya	<i>papaia</i>	papaya
p ^h it ^h a	<i>fita</i>	ribbon
sabi	<i>chave</i>	key
sabuun	<i>sabão</i>	soap
salad	<i>salada</i>	salad
zanala	<i>janela</i>	window