

## CHAPTER-III

### MORPHOLOGY

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#### 3.0 Introduction

Morphology is an important branch of linguistics, which studies scientifically the smallest unit of grammar or form of words of a particular language. According to David Crystal- *“it is a branch of grammar which studies the structure or forms of words, primarily through the use of the morpheme construct. (Crystal, 1978: 232) The word ‘morphology’ consists of two word-elements, ‘morph-’, which means ‘form’ and ‘logy’, which means ‘the study of’ (Thakur, 2006:1)*

Morphology has two major branches i.e. inflectional morphology and derivational morphology. Inflectional morphology studies how words change their form to indicate number, person, tense etc. Derivational morphology studies how morphemes are combined to form new words. According to David Crystal-*“Morphology generally divided into two fields: the study of inflections (‘inflectional morphology’), and of word formation (‘lexical’ or derivational morphology).” (Crystal, 1978: 232)*

#### 3.1 Word Classes in Mech Dialect

*The words contained in a sentence or the largest meaningful unit of structure, are usually put into different classes according to the function they perform or the purpose they serve in it. These classes are called ‘word-class’ in modern grammar or ‘parts of speech’ as in traditional grammar. (Arora, 2006: 44)*

The core word classes in Mech dialect are noun, pronoun, adjective, verb and adverb. These word classes play an important role in forming different kind of sentences.

#### 3.2 Noun

##### 3.2.1 General classification of Noun

Noun is one of the important sub-classes of word that denotes name of a person, animal, place, thing etc. The noun of Mech dialect is found in different types that are discussed below.

### 3.1.1.1 Common Noun

Common noun describes a specific class or general things. So, it is also known as class noun. For example-

mansui	person
sima	dog
na	fish
dau	bird
gului	child

### 3.1.1.2 Proper Noun

A proper noun denotes the name of a particular person, place or thing. It is the name given to refer to specific common nouns. For example-

P <sup>h</sup> ṣimbṅga	name of a state
Hasimara	name of place
Alipur Duar	name of a place
Raja	name of a boy
Sat <sup>h</sup> ali	name of a village

### 3.1.1.3 Collective Noun

A collective noun is a term that describes a group. This group may describe human or non-human being. For example-

hanza	group
p <sup>h</sup> alo	herd
damul	heap

#### 3.1.1.4 Material Noun

A material noun is a kind of noun that denotes the names of a particular material. For example-

nɔ	house
t <sup>h</sup> uk <sup>h</sup> u	grinder
bɔn	firewood
sɔna	gold
t <sup>h</sup> emai	fishing tool

#### 3.1.1.5 Abstract Noun

Abstract noun is opposite to concrete noun. An abstract noun is a kind of noun that which one cannot see, touch, hear, smell and taste. These are the name of quality, virtue of a person or thing. Following are a few examples of abstract noun. Example-

ziu	life
giyan	wisdom
swit <sup>h</sup> u	truth
suk <sup>h</sup> u	happy
duk <sup>h</sup> u	sorrow
rag	anger
asa	hope

#### 3.1.1.6 Countable noun

Countable nouns are things or objects that are counted. This type of noun can take a plural form. These may be material, common or proper noun. For example -

nak <sup>h</sup> ai	hand
mɔgɔn	eye
bimp <sup>h</sup> aŋ	tree

gram	village
nə	house
ɔma	pig
bit <sup>h</sup> ai	fruit

### 3.1.1.7 Uncountable Noun

Uncountable nouns are the things that cannot be counted properly. A few examples are given below.

dudu	milk
nək <sup>h</sup> a	rain
bar	air
hat <sup>h</sup> ək <sup>h</sup> i	star
haduri	dust
k <sup>h</sup> anai	hair
ɗui	water

### 3.1.2 Morphological Classification of Noun

Morphologically, the structure of noun of Mech dialect is found in two types viz.

1. Basic noun
2. Derived noun

#### 3.1.2.1 Basic Noun

Basic or primary nouns are the independent forms of nouns. Basic nouns in Mech dialect are found in monosyllabic and disyllabic forms. Following are a few examples of basic noun.

##### 3.1.2.1.1 Monosyllabic form

hu	land
k <sup>h</sup> ər	head

na	fish
t <sup>h</sup> ɔi	blood
hi	cloth
wa	bamboo
rɔg	disease

### 3.1.2.1.2 Disyllabic form

si-ma	dog
na-si	finger
nɔ-k <sup>h</sup> a	rain
bi-dɔd	meat
sa-li	front yard
du-duŋ	rope
du-du	milk

### 3.1.2.2 Derived Noun

Many derived nouns are also available in Mech dialect. There are two types of derived nouns. These are- nouns derived from verb and noun derived from noun.

#### 3.1.2.2.1 Noun derived from verb

When the nouns are derived from verb, the class of word is changed. To obtain derived noun, prefixes and suffixes are added to the verb. Monosyllabic and disyllabic simple verbs are used to form derive noun. On the other hand, sometimes complex and compound verbs are also used to form derive noun in this dialect.

**{bi-}**: This prefix is added to the verb to signify different types of tree related parts. Example-

v. bi-bar (bloom)	> n. bibar	flower
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**{-nai}**: This suffix is added to verb to signify different types of action. It can affix with the monosyllabic and disyllabic verb in Mech dialect. Example -

v. zɔ (sit) - <i>nai</i> > n. zɔnai	sitting
v. bu (beat) - <i>nai</i> > n. bunai	beating
v. buŋ (speak) - <i>nai</i> > buŋnai	speaking
v. za (eat) - <i>nai</i> > n. zanai	eating
v. ge-le (play) - <i>nai</i> > n. gelenai	playing

**{-ari}**: This suffix is used with the disyllabic verb in Mech dialect. Example -

v. bi-bai (beg) - <i>ari</i> > n. bibayari	beggar
v. si-bi (worship) - <i>ari</i> > n. sibiayari	worshipper
v. daɔ-bai (travel) - <i>ari</i> > n. daɔbayari	traveller

**{-t<sup>h</sup>ai}**: This suffix is used to signify a result of an action. It can also be used with monosyllabic and disyllabic verb. Example-

v. nu (see) - <i>t<sup>h</sup>ai</i> > n. nut <sup>h</sup> ai	scene
v. za (be) - <i>t<sup>h</sup>ai</i> > n. zat <sup>h</sup> ai	incident
v. lid (write) - <i>t<sup>h</sup>ai</i> > n. lidt <sup>h</sup> ai	writing
v. suu-luŋ (learn) - <i>t<sup>h</sup>ai</i> > n. suuluŋt <sup>h</sup> ai	education

**{-gra}**: This suffix is used with monosyllabic and disyllabic verb to signify one who does something. Example -

v. za (eat) - <i>gra</i> > n. zagra	eater
v. ran (distribute) - <i>gra</i> > n. rangra	distributor
v. la (take) - <i>gra</i> > n. lagra	taker
v. nu (see) - <i>gra</i> > n. nugra	looker
v. ge-le (play) - <i>gra</i> > n. gelegra	player

**{-sali}**: This suffix is used with verb to signify a particular place. Example -

v. p<sup>h</sup>ɔ-rai (read) -sali > n. p<sup>h</sup>ɔraisali school

v. si-bi (worship)-sali > n.sibisali prayer place

**{-t<sup>h</sup>i}**: This suffix is added to verb to signify the quality of human being.

Example-

v. maɔ (do) - t<sup>h</sup>i > n. maɔt<sup>h</sup>i active

### 3.1.2.2.2 Noun derived from noun

When the nouns are derived from the noun root, the class of word is maintained.

Mech dialect has some prefixes and suffixes that retain its category intact.

**{bi-}**: This prefix is added to the noun to signify different types of tree related parts. Example-

v.bi-lai (leaf) > n. bilai leaf

v.bi-t<sup>h</sup>ai (fruit) > n. bit<sup>h</sup>ai fruit

**{-ari}**: In Mech dialect, when derivative suffix **{-ari}** is added to a word ending with / d / phoneme, the / n / phoneme is found inserted between the noun word and the suffix. For example-

n. a-bad (crop)-ari > n. abadnari cultivator

n.ha-dɔd (country)-ari > n. hadɔdnari citizen

**{-sali}**: This suffix is used to represent a particular kind of place. It is used with both monosyllabic and disyllabic words. Example-

n. gu-t<sup>h</sup>ui (dead) - sali > n. gut<sup>h</sup>uisali grave yard

n. t<sup>h</sup>an (place) - sali > n. t<sup>h</sup>ansali prayer place

n. ha-t<sup>h</sup>ai (market) - sali > n. hat<sup>h</sup>aisali market place

**{-t<sup>h</sup>ili}**: Like **{-sali}**, this suffix is also used to represent a particular place.

Though both the suffix has common meaning, their use is morphologically conditioned except the word ha-t<sup>h</sup>ai (market) which can take both the suffixes.

n. a-bad (crop) - <i>t<sup>h</sup>ili</i> > n. abadt <sup>h</sup> ili	crop field
n. daɔ-ha (war) - <i>t<sup>h</sup>ili</i> > n. daɔhat <sup>h</sup> ilai	battle field
n. ha-t <sup>h</sup> ai (market)- <i>t<sup>h</sup>ili</i> > n. hat <sup>h</sup> ait <sup>h</sup> ili	market place

### 3.1.2.3 Compound Noun

In Mech dialect, the majority of compound nouns comprises of two or more nouns. Sometimes compound nouns are formed by combining one noun with other category words. The other category words may be adjective and verb.

#### 3.1.2.3.1 Noun + Noun

The compounding between two nouns is one of the notable processes of formation of noun. At the time of compounding of two nouns, the structure does not change but there is change in meaning. Example-

n. dau (fowl)- n. k <sup>h</sup> i (excreta)> n.dauk <sup>h</sup> i	fowl's excreta
n. dau (fowl)- n. zila (male) > n. dauzila	cock
n. dau (fowl)- n. zuu (female) > n. dauzuu	hen
n. bisa (child)- n. zila (male)> n. bisazila	son
n. bisa (child)- n. zuu (female)> n. bisazuu	daughter

It is also notable that a few compound nouns are formed by automatically deleting some segments of two nouns. A few examples are observable where nouns are rarely constructed through the process of deleting second syllable of first member of noun. Example-

n.k <sup>h</sup> uga (mouth)- dui (water) > n. k <sup>h</sup> udui	saliva
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Some examples are also observable where nouns are formed through the process of deleting first syllable of second member of noun. Such kind of examples are also rare in number. Example-

n. nasi (finger) - n.bima (mother) > n. asima	thump finger
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n. dau (hen) - n. bidui (egg) > n. daudui          egg

A few examples are also observable where nouns are constructed through the process of deleting second syllable of the first member of noun and first syllable of the second member of noun. Such kind of example is also very limited in number.

Example-

n.sima (dog) - n.bisa (child) > n. sisa          puppy

n.ɔma (pig) - n.bisa (child) > n. ɔsa          piglet

n.ɔma (pig) - n.gɔgra (a place where pig is keep) > n. ɔgra    pigsty

There are also a few examples of compounding noun, where newly constructed noun is converted to oblique form. Example-

n.məgɔn (eye) - n. k<sup>h</sup>i (excreta) > n. muik<sup>h</sup>i          eye excreta

n. məgɔn (eye) - n. dui (water) > n. mudui          tear

n. gɔnt<sup>h</sup>uŋ (nose) - n.k<sup>h</sup>i (excreta) > n. guŋk<sup>h</sup>i          dry mucus in the  
nostril

### 3.1.2.3.2 Noun + Adjective

The compounding of noun and adjective does not change the structure of the words but there is change in case of meaning. Example-

n.dui (water)-adj. ma (big) > n.duima          river

n.dui (water)-adj.sa (small) > n. duisa          stream/rivulet

n. dau (fowl)-adj. sa (small) > n. dausa          chick

### 3.1.2.3.3 Verb + Noun

The compounding between verb and noun also does not change the structure of the words but there is change in meaning. Example-

v. hasu (urinate)- n.dui (water) > n hasudui          urine

v.muzu (spit) -n.dui (water) > n. muzudui          saliva

v.guba (vomit) - n.dui (water) > n. gubadui vomiting

#### 3.1.2.3.4 Noun + Bound form

In Mech dialect, adding different bound morphemes to the noun can also form a noun. These bound morphemes are used to represent different varieties of species as mentioned below. For example-

n. dau (fowl)- b.k <sup>h</sup> a > n. dauk <sup>h</sup> a	crow
n. dau (bird)- b.sari > n. dausari	martin
n. dau (bird)- b.blud > n. daublud	bulbul
n. na (fish)- b.srai > n. nasrai	a kind of fish
n. na (fish)- b.t <sup>h</sup> ur > n.nat <sup>h</sup> ur	prawn

### 3.3 Gender

In Mech, gender is found as an inflected form of noun. It is notable that Mech dialect has no use of grammatical gender as found in other Indo-Aryan languages like Hindi and Sanskrit. They have use of natural gender as found in other Bodo groups of Tibeto-Burman branch of Sino-Tibetan language family. Their gender distinction deals only on sex variation of human and non-human beings.

There are two different types of gender system in this dialect. These are masculine and feminine. A noun that describes a male sex is known as masculine gender. On the contrary, a noun that describes a female sex is known as feminine gender.

#### 3.3.1 Methods of gender distinction

There are three types of gender distinction in Mech dialect. These are-

- (i) By using opposite lexical terms
- (ii) By placing different attributive words before or after noun and
- (iii) By adding different bound base and suffixes to the noun and pronoun

### 3.3.1.1 By using opposite lexical terms

One of the notable methods of gender distinction in Mech dialect is the use of different opposite lexical terms. In this method, kinship terms play an important role in denoting masculine and feminine gender. Some examples are given below.

<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>
bisai (husband)	bisi (wife)
ada (brother)	bazui (sister-in-law)
abuu (grand father)	abuui (grand mother)
bihaɔ (father-in-law)	bik <sup>h</sup> unzuu (mother-in-law)
ap <sup>h</sup> a (father)	ai (mother)

### 3.3.1.2 By placing attributive words before or after noun

In Mech dialect, gender distinction is obtained by placing many attributive words before or after the nouns.

#### 3.3.1.2.1 By placing ‘*huwa*’(male) and ‘*hinzaɔ*’(female)before noun

In order to refer masculine and feminine gender, words like ‘*huua*’(male) and ‘*hinzaɔ*’(female) are placed before nouns. This process is only applicable in case of human beings. For example-

<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>
<i>huwa</i> mansui (male person)	<i>hinzaɔ</i> mansui (female person)
<i>huwa</i> alasi (male guest)	<i>hinzaɔ</i> alasi (female guest)
<i>huwa</i> gului (male child)	<i>hinzaɔ</i> gului (female child)

#### 3.3.1.2.2 By placing ‘*zila*’ (masculine) and ‘*zu*’ (feminine) after noun

To obtain gender distinction, words like ‘*zila*’ (masculine) and ‘*zu*’ (feminine) are also placed after the noun. This method is applicable to both humans and non-humans. For example-

*Masculine*

bisa *zila* (son)

dau *zila* (cock)

*Feminine*

bisa *zuu* (daughter)

dau *zuu* (hen)

**3.3.1.2.3 By placing ‘bunda’, ‘p<sup>h</sup>ant<sup>h</sup>a’ ‘dambra’ (for masculine) and ‘bundi’, ‘p<sup>h</sup>ant<sup>h</sup>i’ ‘dambri’ (for feminine) after noun**

Attributive words like ‘bunda’, ‘p<sup>h</sup>ant<sup>h</sup>a’ ‘dambra’ (used to indicate masculine) and ‘bundi’, ‘p<sup>h</sup>ant<sup>h</sup>i’ ‘dambri’ (used to indicate feminine) are used after nouns to distinguish the gender of animate non-humans. For example -

*Masculine*

ɔma *bunda* (male pig)

maɔzi *bunda* (male cat)

bɔrma *p<sup>h</sup>ant<sup>h</sup>a* (he goat)

muusu *dambra* (male cow)

*Feminine*

ɔma *bundi* (female pig)

maɔzi *bundi* (female cat)

bɔrma *p<sup>h</sup>ant<sup>h</sup>i* (she goat)

muusu *dambri* (heifer)

**3.3.1.3 By adding suffixes- { -i }, { -u } and { -e } to the noun**

Addition of different suffixes like { -i }, { -u } and { -e } to the noun is also one of the methods of gender distinction found in Mech dialect.

**3.3.1.3.1 By adding { -i }**

To distinguish gender, suffix { -i } is added to the word ending with { -a } representing masculine gender. This process is applicable in case of human beings only.

Following are some examples falling under this process.

*Masculine*

dudda (bachelor)

bat<sup>h</sup>ua (male servant)

seŋgra (young boy)

beŋga (deaf man)

*Feminine*

dudda-*i* > duddi (spinster)

bat<sup>h</sup>ua-*i* > batri (female servant)

seŋgra-*i* > seŋgri (young girl)

beŋga-*i* > beŋgi (deaf woman)

k<sup>h</sup>ana (male blind)

k<sup>h</sup>ana-i > k<sup>h</sup>ani (female blind)

It is worth mentioning that in standard form of Bodo language, gender of *dog* is distinguished by using attributive word '*bangra*' (*masculine*) and '*bangri*' (*feminine*) after noun. However, this process is not available in Mech dialect. Instead of attributive words, in this dialect gender of male and female dog is distinguished by adding suffix {-i}. For example-

saŋk<sup>h</sup>ra (male dog)

saŋk<sup>h</sup>ra-i > saŋk<sup>h</sup>ri (bitch)

### 3.3.1.3.2 By adding {-u}

In this process, suffix {-u} is added to the word ending with {-a} representing masculine gender. This process is also applicable in case of human being only.

Example -

*Masculine*

*Feminine*

hait<sup>h</sup>a (short man)

hait<sup>h</sup>a-u > hait<sup>h</sup>u (short woman)

### 3.3.1.3.3 By adding {-e}

In this process, suffix {-e} is added to the word ending with {-a} representing animate human. Example -

*Masculine*

*Feminine*

nabla (a man of flat nose)

nabla-e > nable (a woman of flat nose)

### 3.3.1.3.4 By adding different bound base and suffixes to the pronoun

Gender distinction in Mech is formed by adding different bound base and suffixes to the pronoun. In the examples given below different bound base and suffixes have been added to the 2<sup>nd</sup> person non-honorific singular form *nuŋ* (*you*). Here, *sa* is a bound form representing meaning *child*, *la* is the abridge form of *zula* (male); *zu* (female) is a suffix; *p<sup>h</sup>a* is father in general without representing my, your, his/her; *ma* is

mother in general as in case of  $p^ha$ ; and  $ha\omega$  is father-in-law in general and  $k^hun$  though have no meaning in the dialect is used only to represent mother-in-law.

<i>Masculine</i>	<i>Feminine</i>
nuŋ (you)-sala > nuŋsala (your son)	nuŋ (you)-sazuu>nuŋsazuu (your daughter)
nuŋ (you)-p <sup>h</sup> a >nuŋp <sup>h</sup> a (your father)	nuŋ (you)-ma(mother)>numa(your mother)
nuŋ (you)-ha $\omega$ > nuŋha $\omega$ (your father-in-law)	nuŋ (you)-k <sup>h</sup> unzuu > nuŋk <sup>h</sup> unzuu (your mother-in-law)

Scholars are of the opinion that third process of gender distinction has very close similarity with Aryan languages of the region.

Like other languages, in Mech dialect also a few masculine and feminine genders have neither opposite set of words nor attributive words. They are not added to any prefixes or suffixes. Such kind of gender is considered as unique masculine and feminine gender. A few examples are given below-

(i) Unique masculine gender:

de $\omega$ si	priest
la $\omega$ k <sup>h</sup> ar	cowherd
badari	wood cutter
barik <sup>h</sup> it <sup>h</sup> ou	a person who leads the bridegroom's party in traditional wedding ceremony

(ii) Unique feminine gender:

ap <sup>h</sup> ed	baby nurser
dada $\omega$ ri	a girl having loose character
biharui	co-wife
sagrema	barren woman

duudini	female oracle
buirat <sup>h</sup> i	a woman who serves betel-nut in wedding

### 3.4 Number

Number is a grammatical category related to nouns, pronouns and adjectives. Mech has two types of number system viz. singular and plural. Singular number denotes one and plural number denotes more than one. Generally, plural numbers are inflected form of singular number by the morphological process of suffixation.

Three types of pluralisation are obtainable in Mech dialect. This are-

1. By using plural suffixes
2. Reduplication and
3. Using collective terms

#### 3.4.1 By using plural suffixes

Addition of suffixes to the noun, pronoun and adjective is one of the notable processes of pluralisation found in Mech dialect. In this process, suffixes like *{-sur, -mun, -p<sup>h</sup>ur}* are added to noun, pronoun and adjective.

*{-sur}*: This plural suffix is used to represent human being. It is generally used with first and second person of personal pronoun and reflexive pronoun respectively.

Example-

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
nun	nun-sur	you
bi	bi-sur	they
gaɔ	gaɔ-sur	oneself

*{-mun}*: This plural suffix is used with kinship terms only. Example-

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
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ai	ai- <i>mun</i>	mother and others
ap <sup>h</sup> a	ap <sup>h</sup> a- <i>mun</i>	father and others
ada	ada- <i>mun</i>	elder brother and others
abui	abui- <i>mun</i>	grandmother and others
abuu	abuu- <i>mun</i>	grandfather and others

It is also mentionable that, this plural suffix *{-mun}* is also used during the expression of honorific form with second and third person personal pronoun. In Mech, honorific form is expressed by *{-t<sup>h</sup>an}*. During expression of pluralisation *{-t<sup>h</sup>an}* is followed by suffix *{-mun}*. For example-

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
nun	nun-t <sup>h</sup> an- <i>mun</i>	you
bi	bi-t <sup>h</sup> an- <i>mun</i>	they

***{-p<sup>h</sup>ur}***: To obtain plural form, this suffix is added to the noun, pronoun and adjective though using of plural suffix with adjective is not a linguistically recognised rule.

**Noun:**

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Gloss</i>	<i>Plural</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
gului	child	gului- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	children
mansui	man	mansui- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	men
seŋgri	girl	seŋgri- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	girls
seŋgra	boy	seŋgra- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	boys
bisadla	son	bisadla- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	sons
bisazui	daughter	bisazui- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	daughters
bit <sup>h</sup> ai	fruit	bit <sup>h</sup> ai- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	fruits
sima	dog	sima- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	dogs



dau	bird	dau- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	fowls
na	fish	na- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	fish
muna	object	muna- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	objects

**Pronoun:**

be	this	be- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	these are
habui	those	habui- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	those are
k <sup>h</sup> aɔba	somebody	k <sup>h</sup> aɔba- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	somebody (are)

**Adjective:**

gɔp <sup>h</sup> ɔd	white	gɔp <sup>h</sup> ɔd- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	white (are)
sɔmaina	beauty	sɔmaina- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	beauties
guzam	old	guzam- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	olds
gumu	yellow	gumu- <i>p<sup>h</sup>ur</i>	yellows

**3.4.2 Reduplication**

Reduplication is also one of the processes of pluralisation found in Mech dialect. Plurality is stated by fully reduplicating nouns, pronouns and adjectives.

**3.4.2.1 Noun**

Many instances of reduplication of nouns are seen in Mech dialect. In this dialect, nouns are fully reduplicated to express different aspect of function. Example-

<i>nak<sup>h</sup>ai nak<sup>h</sup>ai</i> p <sup>h</sup> ɔisa	money on the hands
<i>k<sup>h</sup>ɔr k<sup>h</sup>ɔr</i> t <sup>h</sup> up <sup>h</sup> i	hat on heads
<i>mɔgɔn mɔgɔn</i> mudui	tears on the eyes
<i>bimp<sup>h</sup>an bimp<sup>h</sup>an</i> dau	bird on the trees
<i>lama lama</i> t <sup>h</sup> abaiduŋ	walking on the roads
<i>nɔ nɔ</i> gidin <sup>h</sup> duŋ	roaming from home to home
<i>grame grame</i> magiduŋ	begging from village to village

### 3.4.2.2 Pronoun

In Mech dialect, interrogative, indefinite and reflexive pronouns are expressed in plural by the process of reduplication. These pronouns are reduplicated fully. Example-

<i>k<sup>h</sup>ɑba k<sup>h</sup>ɑba</i> zaduŋ	somebody (are) eating
<i>sur sur</i> p <sup>h</sup> uiduŋ ?	who are coming ?
<i>ma ma</i> muna ?	what are the things ?
<i>gaɔ gaɔ</i> maɔduŋ	doing oneself

### 3.4.2.3 Adjective

In this dialect, adjectives are also fully reduplicated. Example -

<i>gussuum gussuum</i> sima	black dogs
<i>gɔp<sup>h</sup>ɔd gɔp<sup>h</sup>ɔd</i> dau	white birds
<i>gɔk<sup>h</sup>k<sup>h</sup>a gɔk<sup>h</sup>k<sup>h</sup>a</i> bit <sup>h</sup> ai	bitter fruits
<i>gahai gahai</i> mansui	short men
<i>gudzuuu gudzuuu</i> bimp <sup>h</sup> aŋ	tall trees

### 3.4.3 Collective terms

Using of different collective terms is also one of the remarkable types among the three processes of pluralisation. Collective terms are found in free forms. These donot take any prefixes or suffixes. In this dialect, collective terms like *gubbaŋ* (*much*), *gasin* (*all*), *hanza* (*group*), *p<sup>h</sup>alɔ* (*herd/flock*), *damul* (*heap*) are used to express plurality.

Example -

***gubbaŋ* (*much*):** This collective term is used with animate humans and objects.

It precedes the noun in sentence.

<i>gubbaŋ</i> huua	many males
<i>gubbaŋ</i> hinzaɔ	many females
<i>gubbaŋ</i> muna	many objects

*gubbaŋ satri* many female students

***gasin (all)***: This collective term is also used with humans and non-humans and precedes the noun in sentence. Example-

*gasin mansui* all the persons

*gasin lama* all the ways

*gasin sima* all the dogs

*gasin luguu* all the friends

*gasin dau* all the birds

***hanza (group)***: This collective term is also used with animate humans and non-humans and it can follow the noun in sentence. Example-

*mansui hanza* group of persons

*seŋgra hanza* group of boys

*seŋgri hanza* group of girls

***p<sup>h</sup>alɔ (herd/flock)*** : This is used with animate non-humans. It can follow the noun. Example -

*muusu p<sup>h</sup>alɔ* herd of cows

*bɔrma p<sup>h</sup>alɔ* herd of goats

*dau p<sup>h</sup>alɔ* flock of birds

*muusuruum p<sup>h</sup>alɔ* herd of ants

***damul (heap)***: This collective term is used with objects. This term follows the noun. Example-

*ɔnt<sup>h</sup>ai damul* heap of stone

*bɔn damul* heap of firewood

There are also a few words that do not fall under above discussed processes. Such kinds of words are in independent form. For instance, plural form of first person

personal pronoun ‘aŋ’ (I) is ‘zuŋ’ (we). This is an independent form and can express plural form in isolation.

### 3.5 Pronoun

Pronoun is one of the sub-classes of the nominal group that take place of a noun. In Mech dialect, pronoun is classified into five types as mentioned below.

1. Personal pronoun
2. Demonstrative pronoun
3. Interrogative pronoun
4. Reflexive pronoun and
5. Indefinite pronoun

#### 3.5.1 Personal pronoun

Personal pronoun is associated with person. In this dialect, depending on person, personal pronoun is divided into three types. These are first person, second person and third person. Following are examples of personal pronoun.

Person	Number	
	Singular	Plural
First	aŋ (I)	zuŋ (we)
Second	nuŋ (you)	nuŋ-suur (you)
	nuŋ-t <sup>h</sup> aŋ (you) (honorific form)	nuŋ-t <sup>h</sup> aŋ-muŋ (you)(honorific form)
Third	bi (he/she)	bi-suur (they)
	bi-t <sup>h</sup> aŋ (he/she) (honorific form)	bi-t <sup>h</sup> aŋ-muŋ (they)(honorific form)

In the above examples, it has been seen that first person *singular* and *plural* number has been found in free form. In case of second and third person, only singular non-honorific form is found in free form. During pluralisation of second and third person, suffixes like *{-sur}* and *{-mun}* are added to the pronoun. To form honorific form suffix *{-t<sup>h</sup>an}* with second and third person have been used viz. *nun-t<sup>h</sup>an* (you), *bi-t<sup>h</sup>an* (he/she). The personal pronoun of Mech dialect is almost same with the standard form of Bodo language spoken in Assam.

### 3.5.2 Demonstrative Pronoun

In Mech dialect, there are two types of demonstrative pronoun. These are *be* (*this*) and *habui* (*that*). Demonstrative pronoun *be* is used with animate humans, non-humans and other things to indicate proximal and *habui* is used with animate humans, non-humans and objects to indicate distal. For example-

<i>beyu lek<sup>h</sup>a</i>	this is book
<i>beyu mase insu</i>	this is a caterpillar
<i>habui mase sima</i>	that is a dog
<i>habui an<sup>h</sup>i abuu</i>	that is my grandfather

Apart from this, they also commonly use *baø* (*here*) to represent *proximal* and *ha-baø* (*there*) to represent *distal* as demonstrative pronoun. For example-

<i>baø zø</i>	seat here
<i>baø t<sup>h</sup>a</i>	live here
<i>habaø t<sup>h</sup>an</i>	go there

### 3.5.3 Interrogative Pronoun

There are many interrogative pronouns in Mech. In this dialect, *sur* (*who*), *ma* (*what*), *bøbe / øbe* (*which*) and *bese* (*how many*) are the major interrogative pronouns. These are in free form. These pronouns are pluralized by reduplicating viz. *sur sur*

(*who are...*), *ma ma* (*what are...*), *bɔbe bɔbe / ɔbe ɔbe* (*which are...*), *bese bese* (*how much..*). A few interrogative pronouns are also found which are derived from *ma* interrogative pronoun. For example-

<i>Singular</i>	<i>Plural</i>
ma-hai (where)	mahai mahai (where)
ma-be (which)	mabe mabe (which)
ma-la ~ mɔ-bla (when)	mala mala ~ mɔbla mɔbla (when)
ma-brui ~ ma-rui (how)	mabruui mabruui ~ marui marui (how)
ma-zuŋ (by which way)	mazuŋ mazuŋ (by which)

In the above examples suffixes like *{-hai, -be, -le, ble, -brui, -rui, -zuŋ}* suffixes are added to the *ma* pronoun. These pronouns are also pluralized through the process of reduplication.

It is also notable that, in Mech dialect when asking the number of animate humans and non-humans, the interrogative pronoun is formed with the classifier prefixing it with the cardinal numeral. In going so, consonant / b / is inserted in between the classifier and the numeral. For example-

sa-b-se	(used for human beings)
ma-b-se	(used for animals and birds)
muun-b-se	(used for objects)
san-b-se	(used for days)
gaŋ-b-se	(used for leaves or flat objects)
dɔd-b-se	(used for pieces of meat)

### 3.5.4 Reflexive Pronoun

The reflexive pronoun of Mech dialect is '*gao*' (*self*). This pronoun of Mech can be pluralized by adding suffix *{-sur}*. Example -

*Singular*

gɑɔ (self)

*Plural*

gɑɔ-sur (*themselves*)

The reflexive pronoun of this dialect is also be pluralized by reduplicating in full. Example -

*Singular*

gɑɔ (self)

*Plural*

gɑɔ gɑɔ (*you yourself*)

During reduplication, the second member of reduplicated pronoun can take definite suffix {-nu}. Example-

*Singular*

gɑɔ (self)

*Plural*

gɑɔ gɑɔ-nu (*one self*)

One of the mentionable things of reduplication of reflexive pronoun is that the first member of reduplicated pronoun can also take suffix {-ba} and it depends upon the speaker. Example -

*Singular*

gɑɔ (self)

*Plural*

gɑɔ-ba gɑɔ (*one self*)

### 3.5.5 Indefinite Pronoun

Mech dialect has three different indefinite pronouns. These are -  $k^h\alpha\beta a$  (*somebody*),  $k^h\text{aise} \sim k^h\text{aip}^h a$  (*some people*) and  $\text{ra}\beta\text{uu}$  (*nobody*).

Indefinite pronouns  $k^h\alpha\beta a$  (*some people*) and  $k^h\text{aise}$  (*some people*) can be reduplicated in full. Example -

*Singular*

$k^h\alpha\beta a$  (*somebody*)

$k^h\text{aise} \sim k^h\text{aip}^h a$  (*some people*)

*Plural*

$k^h\alpha\beta a k^h\alpha\beta a$  (*somebody are*)

$k^h\text{aise} k^h\text{aise} \sim k^h\text{aip}^h a k^h\text{aip}^h a$   
(*some people are*)

Indefinite pronoun *k<sup>h</sup>aoba* (somebody) and *k<sup>h</sup>aise~k<sup>h</sup>aip<sup>h</sup>a* (some people) can also be pluralized by adding plural suffix  $\{-p^h ur\}$ . Example -

<i>k<sup>h</sup>aoba</i> (somebody)	<i>k<sup>h</sup>aoba -p<sup>h</sup>ur</i> (somebody are)
<i>k<sup>h</sup>aise ~k<sup>h</sup>aip<sup>h</sup>a</i> (some people)	<i>k<sup>h</sup>aise-p<sup>h</sup>ur~k<sup>h</sup>aip<sup>h</sup>a-p<sup>h</sup>ur</i> (some peoples are)

There is no suffix that can turn indefinite pronoun *raobu* into plural form. Even reduplication does not turn it into plural form.

### 3.6 Case

Case is one of the divisions of grammatical category. Case are inflected with nouns, some pronouns and sometimes with the adjectives though their use with the adjectives are not permitted linguistically. Following are case and case markers found in Mech dialect.

1. Nominative Case	<i>-a</i> ( <i>-ya</i> , <i>-wa</i> )
2. Accusative Case	<i>-ak<sup>h</sup>uu, -k<sup>h</sup>uu, {-φ}</i>
3. Instrumental Case	<i>-zuη</i>
4. Dative Case	<i>-nu</i>
5. Ablative Case	<i>-ni-p<sup>h</sup>ra</i>
6. Genitive Case	<i>-ni</i>
7. Locative Case	<i>-aɔ-ha</i>

#### 3.6.1 Nominative Case

Nominative case is a type of case meant for a noun. Nominative case marker in Mech dialect is  $\{-a\}$  that resembles to the standard variety of the Bodos. Case marker  $\{-a\}$  has allomorphs  $\{-ya\}$  and  $\{-wa\}$ .

The case marker  $\{-a\}$  does not change when it is added to the nouns ending with consonants and vowel  $\{-u\}$ . Example-



- (i) luguu-*a* gabduŋ  
 Friend-NOM crying  
 Friend is crying.
- (ii) suith<sup>h</sup>uu-*a* derhasad  
 truth –NOM wins  
 Truth wins.

When nominative case marker  $\{-a\}$  is added to the word ending with  $\{-a\}$  and  $\{-i\}$ , then it corresponds to  $\{-ya\}$ . Example-

- (i) sima-*a* (simaya) suŋuu.  
 Dog -NOM bark  
 Dog barks.
- (ii) ada-*a* (adaya) bəl geleyuu  
 Elder brother-NOM football plays  
 My elder brother plays football.

When nominative case marker  $\{-a\}$  is added to the word ending with  $\{-u\}$ , then it corresponds to  $\{-wa\}$ . Example-

- (i) duimu-*a* (duimuwa) isik<sup>h</sup>ɔl-aɔ t<sup>h</sup>aŋuu  
 duimu-NOM school-LOC go  
 Duimu goes to school.

### 3.6.2 Accusative Case

The function of accusative case is to show the noun and pronoun as a direct object. Accusative case marker in this dialect are  $\{-a-k^h uu\}$  and  $\{-k^h uu\}$ . Case marker  $\{-a-k^h uu\}$  is added with noun and  $\{-k^h uu\}$  with pronoun. Example-

- (i) bisa-*a-k^h uu* (bisayak<sup>h</sup>uu) bimaya buduŋ  
 Child-ACC mother beat

Mother is beating her child.

(ii) aŋ-k<sup>h</sup>uu ai-a (aya) suŋ-a

I-ACC mother-NOM question-PAST

Mother asked me.

Accusative case in this dialect is also found in the form of zero morpheme {- $\phi$ }.

It is one of the mentionable morphological characteristics of accusative case in Mech.

For example-

(i) ap<sup>h</sup>eda gɔt<sup>h</sup>ɔ {- $\phi$ } bamduŋ

maid child ZM carry

The maid is carrying child.

### 3.6.3 Instrumental Case

Instrumental case indicates the word as an instrument with which the action of verb is performed. Nouns and pronouns are used as instrument in this dialect. However, noun is used as direct instrument but when instrumental case marker is used with the pronoun it represents the sense of accompanying or along with. The instrumental case marker of this dialect is {-zuŋ}. Example-

(i) zuŋ k<sup>h</sup>ɔga- zuŋ zayu

We mouth -INST eat

We eat with the mouth.

(ii) zuŋ nat<sup>h</sup>eŋ- zuŋ t<sup>h</sup>abayu

We leg-INST walk

We walk with the legs.

(iii) aŋ-zuŋ ai-buu p<sup>h</sup>uiip<sup>h</sup>a-nai

I-INST mother-also come-FUT

Mother will also come with me.

### 3.6.4 Dative Case

The dative case expresses a noun like an indirect object. In Mech, dative case marker is *{-nu}*. This case marker can occur with noun and pronoun. Example-

- (i) aŋ-*nu* bit<sup>h</sup>ai t<sup>h</sup>ai-se hɔr  
I-DAT fruit CLF-one give  
Give me a fruit.
- (ii) bi-*nu* p<sup>h</sup>ɔisa hɔr  
He/she-DAT money give  
Give him money.
- (iii) ɔma-*nu* adar hu  
Pig-DAT food give  
Feed the pig.

In the examples mentioned above speaker is not acting in his/her own but is asking or requesting the others to do the same.

### 3.6.5 Ablative Case

Ablative case expresses the separation from noun and pronoun. Besides separation from noun and pronoun, it is also used with adjective to show the changing quality either from good to bad or vice-versa. Ablative case marker is obtained by adding suffix *{-ni-pra}* to the noun and pronoun. It is mentionable that this case marker consists of genitive case marker *{-ni}* and post position *{-p<sup>h</sup>ra}*. Example-

- (i) mai-*ni-pra* mairɔŋ zayw  
Paddy-ABL-PP rice comes  
Rice comes from paddy.
- (ii) aŋ nɔ-*ni-pra* p<sup>h</sup>uiduŋ  
I home-ABL-PP coming

I am coming from home.

(iii) lek<sup>h</sup>a-ni-p<sup>h</sup>ra giyan munu

Book-ABL-PP knowledge comes

Knowledge comes from book.

(iv) aŋ gɔp<sup>h</sup>ɔd-ni-phra guɔsum zaləŋbai

I white – ABL-PP black changed

I have changed from white to black.

### 3.6.6 Genitive Case

Genitive case expresses ownership or relationship. In this dialect, {-ni} functions as genitive case marker. Generally, this case marker is added to the noun and pronoun.

Example-

(i) dabra-ni hu

dabra-GEN land

Dabra's land.

(ii) beyu aŋ-ni nɔ

This my-GEN home

This is my home.

(iii) zuŋ-ni gram

We-GEN village

Our village.

### 3.6.7 Locative Case

Locative case indicates a particular location. Locative case marker of this dialect is {-aɔha}. Case marker {-aɔha} has allomorphs {-yaɔha} and {-waɔha}.

The case marker {-aɔha} does not change when it is added to the nouns ending with consonants and vowel {-u}. Example-

- (i) bizab- *aɔha* giyan t<sup>h</sup>ayuu  
 Book-LOC knowledge have  
 Books have knowledge.
- (ii) luit<sup>h</sup>uu -*aɔha* gidid na t<sup>h</sup>ayuu  
 Ocean-LOC big fish have  
 Big fish live in the ocean.

When case marker *{-aɔha}* is added to the nouns ending with *{-a}* and *{-i}*, then it changes to *{-yaɔha}*. Example-

- (i) hagra-*aɔha* (hagrayaoha) zibuu t<sup>h</sup>ayuu  
 Forest-LOC snake live  
 Snakes live in forest.
- (ii) duii-*aɔha* (duiiaoha) na t<sup>h</sup>ayuu  
 Water-LOC fish live  
 Fish live in water.

When case marker *{-aɔha}* is added to the nouns ending with vowels *{-ɔ}* and *{-u}* it changes to *{-waɔha}*. For example-

- (i) nɔ-*aɔha* (nɔaɔha) mansui t<sup>h</sup>ayuu  
 Home-LOC people live  
 Peoples live at home.
- (ii) habru-*aɔha* (habruwaɔha) mai gaiyuu  
 mud-LOC rice plant  
 Rice is planted in the mud.

When case marker *{-aɔha}* is added to the pronouns, kinship terms and name of persons, then suffix *{-na}* is automatically found inserted between the case marker *{-aɔha}* and pronoun, kinship term and noun. Some examples are given below.

- (i)     *aŋ-na- aɔha (aŋnaɔha)* p<sup>h</sup>ɔisa guile  
I-SUFF-LOC money NEG  
I do not have money.
- (ii)    *ai-na-aɔha (ainaɔha)* dɔk<sup>h</sup>na guɗan gaŋ-se dɔŋ  
mother-SUFF-LOC dɔk<sup>h</sup>na new CLF-one has  
Mother has a new dɔk<sup>h</sup>na.
- (iii)   *laɔdum-na-aɔha (laɔdumnaɔha)* saik<sup>h</sup>el gɔŋ-se dɔŋ  
laodum-SUFF-LOC bi-cycle CLF-one has  
Laodum has a bi-cycle.

{-na-} also appears in between animate non human and locative case marker but is never used with inanimate nouns in this dialect. As {-na-}, {-aɔha} have ending and beginning with *a*, when both are combined together only single *a* is used.

### 3.7 Adjective

Adjective is a term that describes or clarifies a noun. It gives information about shape, size, age, color etc. of noun.

#### 3.7.1 General Classification of adjective

In Mech, adjective is divided in two types. These are -

1. Adjective of Quality
2. Adjective of Quantity

##### 3.7.1.1 Adjective of Quality

Adjectives showing the quality of noun are called adjective of quality or qualitative adjective. Adjective of quality precedes noun. A few examples are given below.

<i>sɔmaina</i> bibar	beautiful flower
<i>gaham</i> p <sup>h</sup> ɔraisa	good student

<i>gudsum</i> mauzi	black cat
<i>gɔp<sup>h</sup>ɔd</i> dau	white fowl
<i>gɔp<sup>h</sup>uŋ</i> guɽlɽui	fate baby
<i>git<sup>h</sup> aɔbat<sup>h</sup> aɔ</i> mansui	dangerous person

### 3.7.1.2 Adjective of Quantity

Adjective of quantity or quantitative adjective describes the amount of nouns. It also precedes noun. Example -

<i>gubbaŋ</i> sɔm	many time
<i>buza</i> p <sup>h</sup> ɔisa	huge money
<i>p<sup>h</sup>aluse</i> mɔided	a herd of elephant
<i>zɔk<sup>h</sup>aise</i> daudui	four eggs
<i>bisase</i> bit <sup>h</sup> ai	twenty fruits

### 3.7.2 Structural classification of Adjective

Structurally, adjective in Mech can be discussed by classifying into two types. Viz. -

1. Basic Adjective and
2. Derived Adjective

#### 3.7.2.1 Basic adjective

Mech dialect has several kinds of basic adjectives. However, the numbers of basic adjectives are comparatively less than derived adjectives. For example-

buza	much
si	little
burai	old (male)
burui	old (female)
ɔlsia	lazy

guk <sup>h</sup> rui	quick
somaina	beautiful

### 3.7.2.2 Derived adjective

Derived adjectives are formed by adding different prefixes or suffixes to the verb root.

In Mech, prefix {gɔ-} plays an important role during the time of formation of derived adjective. Examples are available where adjectives are formed through the process of regressive vowel assimilation. Example-

gɔ-	v.ham (become good)> adj.gaham	good
	v.hai (shorten) > adj.gahai	short
	v.ded (become big)> adj. geded	big
	v.lid (be heavy) > adj.gilid	heavy
	v.dui (be sweet)> adj. gudui	sweet
	v.k <sup>h</sup> ui (sour) > adj.guk <sup>h</sup> ui	sour
	v.t <sup>h</sup> ui (die)> adj.gut <sup>h</sup> ui	dead
	v.muun (be ripe)> adj.gumuun	ripe
	v.zuŋ (light)> adj.guzuŋ	bright
	v.ruŋ (know)> adj. gurruŋ	learned
	v.gu (be pure)> adj.gugu	pure
	v.seo (rot)> adj.gesao	rotten
	v.duŋ (heat)> adj.guduŋ	hot
	v.su (be cold)> adj.gusu	cold
	v.p <sup>h</sup> uŋ (be fat) > adj.gup <sup>h</sup> uŋ	fat

Other examples of adjectives are also available where {gɔ-} is prefixed to the verb, but notable thing is that voiced alveolar stop / d / is found automatically inserted



between prefix and verb. Though it is not explainable phonologically, one condition found in this dialect is that this phoneme always appears following a vowel and preceding the voiceless and voiced alveolar fricatives / s z /. Example-

gɔ-	v.zen (lose) > adj.gedzen	defeated
	v.seŋ (lessen)> adj.gedsen	sparse
	v.si (wet)> adj.gidsi	wet
	v.zi (tear)> adj. gidzi	torn
	v.suŋ (shorten)> adj. gudsuŋ	short

Some examples are also available where adjectives are formed by prefixing {gɔ-} to the verb, but during affixation / ɔ / phoneme of prefix changes into / u / . In all these examples, verb roots have / a / and as per the condition of regressive vowel assimilation mentioned above the vowel / ɔ / of the prefix is changed to / a / , which is found in some dialects of Bodo. However, along with the development of time, the use of high back unrounded vowel phoneme / u / is increasing rapidly and this may be the reason that in Mech dialect also this has been deeply rooted. Example-

gɔ-	v.k <sup>h</sup> a (be bitter)> adj.guuk <sup>h</sup> k <sup>h</sup> a	bitter
	v.t <sup>h</sup> aɔ (be tasty)>adj guut <sup>h</sup> aɔ	tasty
	v.t <sup>h</sup> aŋ (alive)> adj. guut <sup>h</sup> aŋ	alive
	v.ran (be dry)>adj.guran	dry
	v.k <sup>h</sup> am (burn)>adj guuk <sup>h</sup> am	burnt
	v.laɔ (be long)>adj. gulaɔ	long
	v.ra (be hard)>adj.gura	matured
	v.baŋ (be more)>adj.gubaŋ	more
	v.t <sup>h</sup> ar (make pure)>adj.guut <sup>h</sup> ar	pure

There are also suffixes that are added to the verbs in order to form different kinds of derive adjectives. Some examples are given below.

v.sum(be black)-k <sup>h</sup> e>	adj.sumk <sup>h</sup> e	blackish
v.sum(be black)-zru>	adj.sumzru	slightly black
v.maɔ (do)-t <sup>h</sup> i>	adj.maɔt <sup>h</sup> i	active
v.gab (cry)-k <sup>h</sup> ɔ>	adj.gabk <sup>h</sup> ɔ	one who cries easily
v.ra (be hard)-k <sup>h</sup> eŋ>	adj.rak <sup>h</sup> eŋ	angry/hard
v.ra (be hard)-k <sup>h</sup> eb>	adj.rak <sup>h</sup> eb	physically hard person
v.hai (be short)-t <sup>h</sup> a>	adj.hait <sup>h</sup> a	short man
v.hai (be short)-t <sup>h</sup> u>	adj.hait <sup>h</sup> u	short woman
v.dui (be sweet)-bru>	adj.duibru	slight sweet
v.dui (be sweet)-su>	adj.duisu	watery
v.duŋ (heat)-bud>	adj.duŋbud	warm
v.duŋ (heat)-hao>	adj.duŋhao	hot
v.ɔn (love)-zalu>	adj.ɔnzalu	dear (male)
v.ɔn (love)-zali>	adj.ɔnzali	dear (female)
v.za (eat)-sula >	adj.zasula	who eat more (male)
v.za (eat)-suli>	adj.zasuli	who eat more (female)

### 3.8 Numeral

Numeral system of Mech dialect is very complex. Their traditional numeral system is not same to standard variety of Bodo language. Bodo language of Assam has full pledged numeral system. They have ten basic numerals viz. se (one), nui (two), t<sup>h</sup>am (three), bruui (four), ba (five), dɔ (six), sni (seven), dain (eight), gu (nine) and zi (ten). In Mech, traditionally numerals are formed by prefixing the classifier {*mun-*} up to five. According to Mr. Ramesh Suba of Satali, Alipur Duar, West Bengal, key

informant of this study, a traditional numeral system existed among the Meches earlier.

For example-

munse	one (1)
munnui	two (2)
muunt <sup>h</sup> am	three (3)
mumbrui or zɔk <sup>h</sup> aise	four (4)
mumba or zɔk <sup>h</sup> aise munse	five (4+1=5)
zɔk <sup>h</sup> aise munnui	six (4+2=6)
zɔk <sup>h</sup> aise muunt <sup>h</sup> am	seven (4+3=7)
zɔk <sup>h</sup> ainui	eight (4x2=8)
zɔk <sup>h</sup> ainui munse	nine (4x2+1=9)
zɔk <sup>h</sup> ainui munnui	ten (4x2+2=10)
zɔk <sup>h</sup> ainui muunt <sup>h</sup> am	eleventh (4x2+3=11)
zɔk <sup>h</sup> ait <sup>h</sup> am	twelve (4x3=12)
zɔk <sup>h</sup> ait <sup>h</sup> am munse	thirteen(4x3+1=13)
zɔk <sup>h</sup> ait <sup>h</sup> am munnui	fourteen(4x3+2=14)
zɔk <sup>h</sup> ait <sup>h</sup> am muunt <sup>h</sup> am	fifteen (4x3+3=15)
zɔk <sup>h</sup> aibrui	sixteen(4x4=16)
zɔk <sup>h</sup> aibrui munse	seventeen(4x4+1=17)
zɔk <sup>h</sup> aibrui munnui	eighteen(4x4+2=18)
zɔk <sup>h</sup> aibrui muunt <sup>h</sup> am	nineteen(4x4+3=19)
bisase	twenty (20x1=20)

Other numbers are called as-

Thirty (30)	bisase zɔk <sup>h</sup> ainui munnui (20x1+4x2+2)
Forty (40)	bisanui (20x2)

Fifty (50)	biasnui zɔk <sup>h</sup> ainui munnui (20x2+4x2+2)
Sixty (60)	bisat <sup>h</sup> am (20x3)
Seventy (70)	biast <sup>h</sup> am zɔk <sup>h</sup> ainui munnui (20x3+4x2+2)
Eighty (80)	bisabrui (20x4)
Ninety (90)	bisabrui zɔk <sup>h</sup> ainui munnui (20x4+4x2+2)
One hundred (100)	bisaba (20x5)

Above discussed numeral system is a traditional numeral system of the speakers of Mech dialect. Starting from five (5) onwards numerals are formed by addition, multiplication, multiplication-addition and multiplication-addition-multiplication-addition system making the counting more trendy and long in form. However, presently, Meches are freely using the Bengali numeral system in their everyday life because of living in the same geographical area. Educated persons are using directly the English numeral system. It is mentionable that now a day, some of the Mech speakers are using the numeral system of standard Bodo language in their writing and speaking in order to maintain uniformity. This is due to the result of close contact growing recently among the Meches of Bengal and the Bodos of Assam.

### 3.8.1 Numeral Classifier

Numeral classifier or numeral definitive is a linguistic term that functions as specific determiner of the shape, quality of the objects. David Crystal's 'A first Dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics' describes that -"*morphemes whose function is to indicate the formal or semantic class to which items belong are sometimes called classifier.*" (Crystal, 1978:61)

Use of classifier is one of the features of Mech dialect that are related to noun syntactically and semantically. Mech has a rich set of classifiers that are used with numerals according to the nature of objects. Most of the classifiers are bound

morphemes and never used without adding numerals. Classifiers are prefixed with numerals.

The classifier of this dialect can be discussed classifying into two parts viz.

- (i) Nominal classifier
- (ii) Verb used as classifier and
- (iii) Common classifier

Nominal classifier defines the shape, quality and others of noun. On the other hand, verbal classifiers define the action of verb.

In Mech dialect, one of the notable things is that numeral classifier can precede or follow the noun. For example-

*{ma-}*: This classifier is used for animals, birds, insects etc.

ma-se dau  
CLF-one bird  
(a bird)  
dau ma-se  
bird - CLF one  
(a bird)

*{muzum-}*: It is used to determine an amount that contains a handful of things viz. rice, sugar etc.

muzum-se uŋk<sup>h</sup>am  
CLF-one rice  
(a handful of rice)  
uŋk<sup>h</sup>am muzum-se  
rice CLF-one  
(a handful of rice)

### 3.8.1.1 Nominal Classifier

Maximum classifiers of Mech dialect accompany nouns and define the nature and quantity of noun. Nominal classifiers may have or have not independent meaning.

#### a) Nominal classifiers without independent meaning

{*p<sup>h</sup>ed-*}: This classifier is used to define clove of garlic. Example-

ped-se bader

CLF-one garlic

(a clove of garlic)

{*k<sup>h</sup>ɔŋ-*}: This classifier is used for counting song. Example-

k<sup>h</sup>ɔŋ-se met<sup>h</sup>ai

CLF-one song

(a song)

{*duma-*}: This classifier is used to define for counting pieces of fish. Example-

duma-se na

CLF-one fish

(a piece of fish)

{*dɔd-*}: This classifier is used to describe piece of meat, potato etc. Example-

dɔd-se bidod

CLF-one meat

(a piece of meat)

{*sa-*}: This classifier is used to define human being. Example-

sa-se mansui

CLF-one man

(a man)

{k<sup>h</sup>andi-}: This classifier is used to indicate piece of betel nut. Example-

k<sup>h</sup>andi-se guai

CLF-one betel nut

(a piece of betel nut)

{gɔŋ-}: This classifier is used with stick, firewood, household articles etc.

Example-

gɔŋ-nui t<sup>h</sup>ɔk<sup>h</sup>ɔŋ

CLF-two stick

(two sticks)

{gɔd-}: This classifier is used to indicate the quantity of seeds, marbles etc.

Example-

gɔd-se bigod

CLF-one paddy

(one seed)

{gaŋ-}: This classifier is used with leaf, paper, cloth, wing, book etc. Example-

gaŋ-se busula

CLF-one shirt

(a shirt)

{t<sup>h</sup>ɔ-}: This classifier is used with bamboo, wood etc. Example-

t<sup>h</sup>ɔ-se wa

CLF-one bamboo

(one bamboo)

{t<sup>h</sup>uŋ-}: This classifier is used with legs. Example-

t<sup>h</sup>uŋ-se nat<sup>h</sup>eŋ

CLF-one leg

(one leg)

{*dak<sup>h</sup>a-*}: This classifier is used with cloud. Example-

*dak<sup>h</sup>a-se zumui*

CLF-one cloud

(one mass of cloud)

{*daŋ-*}: This classifier is used with banana, garland etc. Example-

*daŋ-se mala*

CLF-one garland

(one garland)

{*p<sup>h</sup>ar-*}: This classifier is used to indicate a particular side of a place.

*p<sup>h</sup>ar-se zaiga*

CLF-one place

(one side of place)

{*p<sup>h</sup>an-*}: This classifier is used to indicate portion of food, meat and others.

Example-

*p<sup>h</sup>an-se bedod*

CLF-one meat

(one portion of meat)

{*p<sup>h</sup>aŋ-*}: This classifier is used to indicate number of plant. Example-

*p<sup>h</sup>aŋ-se bimp<sup>h</sup>aŋ*

CLF-one tree

(one tree)

{*bar-*}: This classifier is used to define number of flower. Example-

*bar-se bibar*

CLF-one flower



(one flower)

{*duŋ-*}: This classifier defines the number of string, poem and garland etc.

Example-

duŋ-se k<sup>h</sup>ɔnt<sup>h</sup>ai

CLF-one poem

(one poem)

{*dab-*}: This classifier is used to define place. Example-

dab-se zaiga

CLF-one place

(one place)

{*k<sup>h</sup>uŋ-*}: This classifier is used to define river. Example-

k<sup>h</sup>uŋ-se duima

CLF-one river

(a river)

{*t<sup>h</sup>uk<sup>h</sup>ura-*}: This classifier is used to define a broken piece. Example-

t<sup>h</sup>uk<sup>h</sup>ura-se bɔn

CLF-one wood

(a piece of wood)

{*zab-*}: This classifier is used to define bunch of bananas, grapes, books etc.

Example-

zab-se t<sup>h</sup>alid

CLF-one banana

( a bunch of banana)

{*zɔra-*}: This classifier is used to define pair of birds, persons etc. Example-

zɔra-se daut<sup>h</sup>ɔ

CLF-one dove

(a pair of dove)

**b) Nominal classifiers having independent meaning**

{*lɔt<sup>h</sup>a-*}: (brass vessel), this classifier is used to represent quantity having in pot.

For example-

*lɔt<sup>h</sup>a-se dui*

CLF-one water

(a glass of water)

{*dɔn-*}: (bamboo basket), this classifier describes the amount that is in a basket.

For example-

*dɔn-se mairɔŋ*

CLF-one rice

(a basket of rice)

{*bat<sup>h</sup>iri-*}: (granary), this classifier describes quantity equivalent to a full granary. For example-

*bat<sup>h</sup>iri-se mai*

CLF-one rice grains

(a granary full of rice grains)

**3.8.1.2 Verbal classifier**

In Mech dialect, a few verbal classifiers are also observable. Here, the verbs function as classifiers. Some examples are given below.

{*p<sup>h</sup>ɔŋ-*}: This classifier is used during counting of action of saying, beating, kicking etc. Example-

*p<sup>h</sup>ɔŋ-se bu*

CLF- one beat

(beat one time)

{*k<sup>h</sup>eb-*}: This classifier is used during counting of saying, going, coming etc.

Example-

k<sup>h</sup>eb-se t<sup>h</sup>aŋ

CLF-one go

(go for one time)

{*gərɔd-*}: This classifier is used with drinks. Example-

gərɔd-se luŋ

CLF-one drink

(take one sip)

{*dandi-*}: This classifier is used to indicate a moment of time. Example-

dandi-se p<sup>h</sup>ui

CLF-one come

(come for a moment)

### 3.8.1.3 Common classifier

There are also a few examples of classifiers that can function as nominal and verbal classifier.

{*sɔ-*}: This classifier is used to describe an amount of nouns like wood, fish, bamboo, rope etc describing the amount. Along with this, it also can describe an action of verb. Example-

(i) sɔ-se na

CLF-one fish

(one piece of fish)

(ii) sɔ-se za

CLF-one eat

(eat a part)

{<sup>h</sup>ai-}: This classifier is used to count the quantity of fruit, finger, eye, money etc. as well as to express an action of verb. Example-

- (i)    <sup>h</sup>ai-se nasi  
          CLF-one finger  
          (one finger)
- (ii)   <sup>h</sup>ai-se za  
          CLF-one eat  
          (eat one)

{<sup>h</sup>aw-}: This classifier is used to indicate piece of fruits. Example-

- (i)    <sup>h</sup>aw-se t<sup>h</sup>am  
          CLF-one guava  
          (one piece of guava)
- (ii)   <sup>h</sup>aw-se gar  
          CLF-one throw  
          (throw half)

{<sup>h</sup>abw-}: This classifier is used to define food especially with rice. Example-

- (i)    <sup>h</sup>abw-nui uŋk<sup>h</sup>am  
          CLF - two rice  
          (two morsel of rice)
- (ii)   <sup>h</sup>abw-se za  
          CLF-one eat  
          (eat one morsel)

### 3.9 Verb

Verb is one of the important types of word class. It is a term that represents an action in a sentence.

#### 3.9.1 Structural classification of Verb

Structurally, verb of Mech dialect can be classified into three types. These are -

1. Simple Verb
2. Complex Verb and
3. Compound Verb

##### 3.9.1.1 Simple Verb

The majority of the simple verb in Mech dialect is monosyllabic in character that is considered very important characteristics of Tibeto-Burman group. They are found in free form. For examples-

<i>Verb</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
za	eat
p <sup>h</sup> in	again
p <sup>h</sup> wi	come
wad	bit
luŋ	drink
lid	write
k <sup>h</sup> ad	run
t <sup>h</sup> aŋ	go
bu	beat
su	stab
ha	cut
siŋ	cut

bad	jump
zɔ	sit

### 3.9.1.2 Complex Verb

Many complex verbs are also available in Mech dialect. These complex verbs are formed by combining prefixes and suffixes to the simple verbs.

#### 3.9.1.2.1 Combination of suffixes

{-le}: This suffix is added to the simple verb to form a complex verb. This is a negative formation suffix. Example-

v.za-le> zale	do not/ does not eat
v.t <sup>h</sup> aŋ-le> t <sup>h</sup> aŋle	do not / does not go
v.luŋ-le> luŋle	do not / does not drink

{-ak<sup>h</sup>ɔ}: This is also a negative suffix that is added to the simple verb to form a complex verb. Example-

v.luŋ-ak <sup>h</sup> ɔ> luŋak <sup>h</sup> ɔ	did not drink
v.bu-ak <sup>h</sup> ɔ> buak <sup>h</sup> ɔ	did not beat
v.k <sup>h</sup> ad-ak <sup>h</sup> ɔ> k <sup>h</sup> adak <sup>h</sup> ɔ	did not run

{-p<sup>h</sup>a}: This is a together denoting suffix. To obtain a complex verb it is added to the simple verb. Example-

v. maɔ-p <sup>h</sup> a > maɔp <sup>h</sup> a	do together
v.t <sup>h</sup> aŋ-p <sup>h</sup> a > t <sup>h</sup> aŋp <sup>h</sup> a	go together
v. suu-p <sup>h</sup> a > suup <sup>h</sup> a	insert together

{-t<sup>h</sup>ar}: This is also one of the verbal suffixes. To form a complex verb it is added to the simple verb. Example-

v. maɔ-t <sup>h</sup> ar	must do
v. za-t <sup>h</sup> ar	must eat

{-k<sup>h</sup>a}: It is a separate denoting verbal suffix which is added to the simple verb.

Example-

v. dan-k <sup>h</sup> a	cut out
v. buu-k <sup>h</sup> a	pull out

{-nai}: This is a future tense marker that indicates an action that will occur in future. In contrast to the Mech dialect, suffix {-gun} is used in standard Bodo language.

To obtain complex verb suffix {-nai} is added to the simple verb. Example-

v.za-nai> zanai	will eat
v.buŋ-nai> buŋnai	will speak
v.nai-nai> nainai	will see

{-u}: This present indefinite tense marker is added to the simple verb to obtain complex verb. Example-

aŋ za-u (zayuu)	I eat
zuŋ t <sup>h</sup> aŋ-u	We go
bisur gele-u (geleyuu)	They play

{-duŋ}: To obtain complex verb, this suffix is added to the simple verb. It is a tense marker which indicates an action of present indefinite. Example-

v.k <sup>h</sup> ad-duŋ> k <sup>h</sup> adduŋ	running
v.zɔ-duŋ> zɔduŋ	sitting
v.bad-duŋ> badduŋ	jumping

{-bai}: It is also a past tense marker which indicates an action of immediate past.

To obtain complex verb this suffix is added to the simple verb. Example-

v.za-bai> zabai	have eaten
v.bu-bai> bubai	have beaten
v.la-bai> labai	have taken

{-a}: It is also a past tense marker which indicates an action that occurred in the past. To obtain complex verb, suffix {-a} is added to the simple verb. Example-

v.t <sup>h</sup> aŋ-a>	t <sup>h</sup> aŋa	went
v.za-a>	zaya	ate
v.p <sup>h</sup> uii-a >	p <sup>h</sup> uiya	came

### 3.9.1.2.2 Combination of prefixes

Mech dialect has a few prefixes that are added to the simple verb to form a complex verb.

{da-}: This is a negative prefix and is added to the simple verb to form a complex verb. No changes occur when added to the simple verb.

da-v.za>	daza	do not eat
da-v.maɔ>	damaɔ	do not do
da-v.t <sup>h</sup> aŋ>	dat <sup>h</sup> aŋ	do not go

{si-}: This is used to signify causative sense and is added to the simple verb in order to form a complex verb. There is no change in structure when added to the simple verb. Example-

si-v.maɔ>	simaɔ	shake
si-v.gab>	sigab	make cry
si-v.la>	silā	lick

{p<sup>h</sup>ɔ-}: This prefix is used with the verb to indicate to do an action. Example-

p <sup>h</sup> ɔ-v.sɔŋ>	p <sup>h</sup> ɔsɔŋ	to erect
p <sup>h</sup> ɔ-v.dɔm>	p <sup>h</sup> ɔdɔm	to make bend
p <sup>h</sup> ɔ-v.zɔ>	p <sup>h</sup> ɔzɔ	to make sit

Many examples are obtainable where complex verbs are formed through the process of regressive vowel assimilation. Example-



$p^h\text{ɔ-v.ded}$	$p^he\text{-ded}$	make big
$p^h\text{ɔ-v.seb}$	$p^he\text{-seb}$	make narrow
$p^h\text{ɔ-v.seɔ}$	$p^he\text{-seɔ}$	to rot something
$p^h\text{ɔ-v.duŋ}$	$p^h\text{uduŋ}$	make hot
$p^h\text{ɔ-v.ham}$	$p^h\text{aham}$	make cure
$p^h\text{ɔ-v.hai}$	$p^h\text{ahai}$	lessen
$p^h\text{ɔ-v.ruŋ}$	$p^h\text{uruŋ}$	soften

A few examples are also available where phoneme / ɔ / of prefix is changed into / u / and / u / respectively. Example-

$p^h\text{ɔ-v.laɔ}$	$p^h\text{u}l\text{aɔ}$	make long
$p^h\text{ɔ-v.ran}$	$p^h\text{u}r\text{an}$	make dry
$p^h\text{ɔ-v.t}^h\text{aŋ}$	$p^h\text{u}t^h\text{aŋ}$	make alive
$p^h\text{ɔ-v.ɔr}$	$p^h\text{u}ar$	widen

### 3.9.1.3 Compound Verb

Compound verbs are formed with combination of two or more verbs. Many examples of compound verbs are presented in Mech dialect. Example-

#### 3.9.1.3.1 V+V structure

$v.za+v.laŋ$	$v.zalaŋ$	eat and go
$v.za+v.p^h\text{ui}$	$v.zap^h\text{ui}$	come and eat
$v.maɔ+v.p^h\text{ui}$	$v.maɔp^h\text{ui}$	come and do
$v.luŋ+v.laŋ$	$v.luŋlaŋ$	drink and go
$v.bu+v.p^h\text{ui}$	$v.bup^h\text{ui}$	come and beat

#### 3.9.1.3.2 V+V+V structure

$v.za-v.zub-v.laŋ$	$v.zazu\text{b}laŋ$	eat everything and go
$v.maɔ-v.laŋ-v.zub$	$v.maɔlaŋz\text{ub}$	do everything and go

v.laŋ-v.p<sup>h</sup>ui-v.zuub> v.laŋp<sup>h</sup>uizuub      take away everything

### 3.9.1.3.3 V+V+V+V structure

v.luŋ-v.laŋ-v.zuub-v.p<sup>h</sup>ui>v.luŋlaŋzuubp<sup>h</sup>ui      come, drink everything and go

v.maɔ-laŋ-zuub-p<sup>h</sup>ui> v.maɔlaŋzuubp<sup>h</sup>ui      come, do everything and go

## 3.9.2 Three types of verb

In Mech dialect, on the basis of function, verb is also classified into three types viz.

1. Transitive verb
2. Intransitive verb and
3. Causative verb

### 3.9.2.1 Transitive Verb

Transitive verb indicates the action that requires an object. Example-

aŋ bit<sup>h</sup>ai zaduŋ      I am eating fruit.

lɔk<sup>h</sup>raya ɔmayak<sup>h</sup>uu wad-t<sup>h</sup>at<sup>h</sup>bai      Pig has been killed  
by tiger by biting.

simayak<sup>h</sup>uu ap<sup>h</sup>aya sit<sup>h</sup>ada      Father has killed the dog.

### 3.9.2.2 Intransitive Verb

Intransitive verb indicates the action that does not have a direct object.

Following are a few examples of intransitive verb.

biyu sut<sup>h</sup>adnai      He will stab.

aŋ siŋduŋ      I am cutting.

bisur gabduŋ      They are crying.

aŋbɔ t<sup>h</sup>aŋa      I also went.

bisur zabai      They have eaten.

### 3.9.2.3 Causative Verb

Causative verbs are obtained by affixing prefixes or suffixes to the verb stem.

{*da-*}, {*si-*}, {*p<sup>h</sup>ɔ-*} are causative prefixes that are added to the verb. For example-

<i>da-v.za</i> > <i>v.daza</i>	do not eat
<i>si-v.maɔ</i> > <i>v.simaɔ</i>	shake
<i>p<sup>h</sup>ɔ -v.ded</i> > <i>v.p<sup>h</sup>eded</i>	make big
<i>p<sup>h</sup>ɔ -v.laɔ</i> > <i>v.p<sup>h</sup>ulaɔ</i>	lengthen
<i>p<sup>h</sup>ɔ -v.ɔr</i> > <i>v.p<sup>h</sup>uwar</i>	widen
<i>p<sup>h</sup>ɔ -v.ham</i> > <i>v.p<sup>h</sup>a-ham</i>	make cure
<i>p<sup>h</sup>ɔ-v.səŋ</i> > <i>v.p<sup>h</sup>ɔ-səŋ</i>	to erect

Although {*-huu*} is a verb, it sometimes function as suffix. For example-

<i>v.za-huu</i> > <i>zahuu</i>	make eat
<i>v.maɔ-huu</i> > <i>maɔhuu</i>	make do
<i>v.lid-huu</i> > <i>lidhuu</i>	make write

### 3.10 Tense

*Tense is a category used in the grammatical description of verbs (along with ASPECT and MOOD), referring primarily to the way the grammar marks the time at which the action denoted by the verb took place. (Crystal, 2008: 352)*

#### 3.10.1 Types of Tense in Mech

Morphologically, the tense system of Mech dialect can be discuss by classifying into three types as found in standard form of Bodo language and other Bodo dialects.

These are -

1. Past Tense
2. Present Tense and
3. Future Tense

### 3.10.1.1 Past Tense

The main function of the past tense is to describe an action or situation of past moment. The past tense markers of this dialect are *{-bai}*, *{-a}* and *{-mun}*.

Tense marker *{-bai}* is used to describe a moment of immediate past. Example-

- (i) bi-yuu t<sup>h</sup>aŋ-bai  
He/she go-PAST  
He/she has gone.
- (ii) aŋ uŋk<sup>h</sup>am za-bai  
I rice eat-PAST  
I have eaten rice.
- (iii) abuu-a (abuuwa) t<sup>h</sup>ui-bai  
Grand father-NOM die-PAST  
Grand father has died.

Tense marker *{-a}* and *{-mun}* are equally used to describe a moment of remote past, whereas standard form of Bodo language has only use of tense marker *{-mun}*.

Example-

- (i) aŋ t<sup>h</sup>aŋ-a  
I go-PAST  
I went.
- (ii) zuŋ nu- a (nuwa)  
We see-PAST  
We saw.
- (iii) raza-a (razaya) Delhi-aw (delhiyaw) t<sup>h</sup>ayu-mun  
Raza-NOM Delhi-LOC live-PAST  
Raza lived in Delhi.

- (iv) aburu-a (aburuwa) mastar-mun  
 grand father-NOM teacher-PAST  
 My grandfather was a teacher.

It is worth mentioning that  $\{-a\}$  past tense marker is not present in the standard form of Bodo language; instead it functions as negative formation suffix.

It is also notable that to express past progressive, tense marker  $\{-gadsen\}$  is suffixed to the verb which is followed by *dɔŋmun*. For Example-

- (i) aŋ bit<sup>h</sup>ai za-gadsen dɔŋ-mun  
 I fruit eat-PROG be-PAST  
 I was eating fruit.
- (ii) nuŋ lek<sup>h</sup>a p<sup>h</sup>ɔrai-gadsen dɔŋ-mun  
 You book read-PROG be-PAST  
 You were reading book.
- (iii) zuŋ uŋk<sup>h</sup>am za-gadsen dɔŋ-mun  
 We rice eat-PROG be-PAST  
 We were eating rice.

To express past conditional tense, marker  $\{-naimun\}$  is added to the verb which is followed by *t<sup>h</sup>anai*. Example-

- (i) aŋ t<sup>h</sup>aŋ-naimun t<sup>h</sup>anai  
 I go-PAST-CON  
 I would have gone.

### 3.10.1.2 Present Tense

The present tense indicates an action or situation of a present moment. It is also used to refer a universal or general truth. In this dialect, present tense is found in two type viz. present indefinite and present continuous tense.

To mean present indefinite tense suffix  $\{-u\}$  is added to the verb. Example-

- (i) aŋ zay-u  
I eat PRES-I  
I eat.
- (ii) san-a sanzaha uŋk<sup>h</sup>ad-nuu  
San-NOM east rise-PRES-I  
The sun rises in the east.
- (iii) mansuii-a (mansuiiya) t<sup>h</sup>ui-u  
Man-NOM mortal-PRES-I  
Man is mortal.

To find present continuous, tense marker  $\{-gadsen\}$  is suffixed to the verb, which is followed by  $d\omega\eta$ . For example-

- (i) aŋ lid-gadsen  $d\omega\eta$   
I write-PRES-C be  
I am writing.
- (ii) Babu-a za-gadsen  $d\omega\eta$   
Babu-NOM eat-PRES-C be  
Babu is eating.
- (iii) zuuŋ k<sup>h</sup>ad-gadsen  $d\omega\eta$   
we run-PRES-C be  
We are running.

Apart from the above discussed two types of present tense, it is also mentionable about present conditional aspect where tense marker  $\{-nai\}$  is added to the verb and is followed by  $t^h anai$ . Example-

- (i) biyu t<sup>h</sup>aŋ-nai t<sup>h</sup>anai

He/She go-PRES-CA

He/She may go.

### 3.10.1.3 Future Tense

The future tense describes an action or event not happened yet, but expected to happen in the future time. It usually means the future moment of speaking. In Mech dialect, future tense is also found in two type viz. immediate future and remote future.

Immediate future tense marker of this dialect is *{-naisui}* and it is added to the verb.

(i) aŋ nɔ-aɔ (nɔwaɔ) t<sup>h</sup>aŋ-*naisui*

I home-LOC go-FUT-I

I am going to home.

(ii) aŋ za-*naisui*

I eat-FUT-I

I am going to eat.

Remote future tense marker of this dialect is *{-nai}* and it is also added to the verb. For example-

(i) bibari-a (bibariya) uŋk<sup>h</sup>am sɔŋ-*nai*

Bibari -NOM rice cook-FUT-R

Bibari will cook rice.

(ii) aŋ hat<sup>h</sup>ai-aɔhai (hat<sup>h</sup>aiyaɔ) t<sup>h</sup>aŋ-*nai*

I market-LOC go-FUT-R

I will go to market.

It is worth mentioning that the future tense marker *{-nai}* has no use in standard form of Bodo language as well as other Bodo dialects. Instead of *{-nai}* they use *{-gun}* for remote future. This is one of the remarkable features of Mech dialect.

It is also mentionable that to express progressive future, progressive tense marker *{-gadsen}* is added to the verb, which is followed by *t<sup>h</sup>anai*.

(i) biyw gabunni-pra p<sup>h</sup>wi-gadsen t<sup>h</sup>anai

He tomorrow-PTP come-FUT-PROG

He will be coming from tomorrow.

(ii) aŋ da lek<sup>h</sup>a p<sup>h</sup>ɔrai-gadsen t<sup>h</sup>a-nai

I now book read-FUT-PROG

I will be reading book from now.

(iii) aŋ k<sup>h</sup>ad-gadsen t<sup>h</sup>a-nai

I run-FUT-PROG

I will be running.

### 3.11 Adverb

Adverb is a term used in the grammatical classification of words to refer to a heterogeneous group of items whose most frequent function is to specify the mode of action of verb. In Mech, adverb occurs before the verb. Adverbs are formed by the process of derivation. In this process, suffixes are added to the noun, pronoun and adjective. Adverb in this dialect is found in three types. These are -

1. Adverb of time
2. Adverb of place
3. Adverb of manner

#### 3.11.1 Adverb of time

Adverb of time refers to a time of action. This time may be past, present and future. Adverb of time is found in the form of basic and derived from noun. Following are a few examples of basic form of adverb of time.



<i>Adverb</i>	<i>Gloss</i>
miya	yesterday
dak <sup>h</sup> al	day before yesterday
dini	today
da	now
agla	remote past
iyun	future
ɔsimun	before last year
denaŋ	remote future
k <sup>h</sup> almasi	next year
deglai	this year

The derived adverb of time is derived from noun. In this process, the locative case marker *{-aɔ}* is added to the noun. Following are some examples of derived adverb. However, its category is easily understood from its uses.

n. san (day) -aɔ > adv. sanaɔ	in the day
n. muna (night)-aɔ > adv. munayaɔ	at night
n. p <sup>h</sup> uŋ (morning)-aɔ > adv. p <sup>h</sup> uŋaɔ	in the morning
n. sansu (noon)-aɔ > adv. sansuaɔ	at noon
n. agla (past)-aɔ > adv. aglayaɔ	in the past

Adverb of time is also formed through the compounding of two nouns. Such kind of adverb of time is very limited in number viz.-

n. san- n. hɔr > adv. sanhɔr	day and night
n. p <sup>h</sup> uŋ- n. belasi > adv. p <sup>h</sup> uŋbelasi	morning and evening
n. p <sup>h</sup> uŋ-n. muna > adv. p <sup>h</sup> uŋmuna	morning and night

### 3.11.2 Adverb of place

Adverb of place is related to a particular place of action. It defines about the place of action or where action occurs or occurred or will occur. In Mech dialect, the structure of adverb of place is found in derivative form. It is derived from noun, pronoun and adjective. To indicate adverb of place, locative case marker {-aɔ} is added to the noun, pronoun and adjective.

#### 3.11.2.1 Derived from noun

n. nak <sup>h</sup> ai (hand)-aɔ > adv. nak <sup>h</sup> aiyaɔ	in the hand
n. hu (soil)-aɔ > adv. huaɔ	on the land
n. nɔk <sup>h</sup> raŋ (sky)-aɔ > adv. nɔk <sup>h</sup> raŋaɔ	in the sky
n. sali (courtyard)-aɔ > adv. saliyaɔ	in courtyard
n. mɔgɔn (eye)-aɔ > adv. mɔgɔnaɔ	in the eye
n. hadɔd (country)-aɔ > adv. hadɔdnaɔ	in the country
n. nɔ (home)-aɔ > adv. nɔaɔ	at home
n. gram (village)-aɔ > adv. gramaɔ	in the village
n. nɔk <sup>h</sup> a (rain)-aɔ > adv. nɔk <sup>h</sup> ayaɔ	in the rain
n. nat <sup>h</sup> eŋ (foot)-aɔ > adv. nat <sup>h</sup> eŋaɔ	in the foot

#### 3.11.2.2 Derived from adjective

adj. gułwui (childhood)-aɔ > adv. gułwuiyaɔ	in the childhood
adj. guzuuu (top)-aɔ > adv. guzuuuaɔ	on the top
adj. gahai (below)-aɔ > adv. gahaiyaɔ	in the below
adj. gezer (middle)-aɔ > adv. gezeraɔ	in the middle
adj. sa (on)-aɔ > adv. sayaɔ	on the top

#### 3.1.11.2.3 Derived from pronoun

pron. be (it)- aɔ > adv. baɔ	here
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pron. habe (that)- <i>ɑ</i> > adv. habaɔ	there
pron. ma (what)- <i>ɑ</i> > adv.mayaɔ	where is
pron. aŋ (I)- <i>ɑ</i> >adv.aŋnaɔ	in me

### 3.11.3 Adverb of manner

This type of adverb defines in which manner the action occurs or how the action occurs, or will occur. In Mech, adverb of manner is placed before the verb. Remarkable thing is that adverb of manner is found by adding suffix *{-ui}* to the adjectives. For example-

adj. lasui (slow)- <i>ui</i> > adv. lasuiui	slowly
adj. gaham (good)- <i>ui</i> > adv. gahamui	nicely
adj. gubbar (loud)- <i>ui</i> >adv. gubbarui	loudly
adj. gɔk <sup>h</sup> rui (fast) <i>ui</i> > adv.gɔk <sup>h</sup> ruiui	quickly
adj. gudsa (hard)- <i>ui</i> > adv.gudsauui	hardly/loudly
adj. gurui (soft)- <i>ui</i> > adv.guruiui	softly/mildly
adj. gudsum (black)- <i>ui</i> >adv. gudsumui	blackishly
adj. gɔp <sup>h</sup> ɔd (white)- <i>ui</i> >adv. gɔp <sup>h</sup> ɔdui	whitely
adj. guduŋ (hot)- <i>ui</i> > adv.guduŋui	hotly

Adverb of manner is formed by reduplicating the adjectives. However, to express adverb of manner, suffix *{-ui}* is added to the second member of reduplicated word. Following are a few examples of this process.

adv. lasui lasui- <i>ui</i>	slowly
adv. guura guura- <i>ui</i>	hardly
adv. gului gului- <i>ui</i>	in pieces/easily
adv. p <sup>h</sup> ri p <sup>h</sup> ri- <i>ui</i>	in drizzle