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Numeral System in Hmar

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Abstract: *This paper highlights the numeral system in Hmar. Hmar belongs to Tibeto-Burman language family (Grierson, 1904). Hmar is one of the government recognized language in Manipur. It has SOV word order and different word classes are formed by affixation.*

In this paper, cardinal numerals, distributive numerals, multiplicative numerals, approximative numerals and fractional numerals are discussed in detail. In the cardinal numeral system two types – cardinal number and ordinal numeral are also mentioned. Cardinal number can also be divided into two as - basic numerals and compound numerals. There are 13 (thirteen) basic cardinal numbers as /pək^{h}ət/ 'one', /pəhni/ 'two', /pət^{h}um/ 'three', /pəli/ 'four', /pəŋa/ 'five', /pəruk/ 'six', /pəsəri/ 'seven', /pəriet/ 'eight', /pəkuo/ 'nine', /som/ 'ten', /jak^{h}ət/ 'hundred', /saŋk^{h}ət/ 'thousand' and /nuoi/ 'lakh'. In the compound numeral system, three types of - (a) Additive compound (b) Multiplicative compound and (c) Multiplicative-cum-additive compound can be analysed.

Key words*: basic numerals, compound numerals, distributive, multiplicative, approximate and fractional.*

INTRODUCTION

Hmar is a language spoken by the Hmar. The Hmars were scattered mainly over the area of Churachandpur district of Manipur. Among the thirty three recognized tribes of Manipur, the Hmar is one of the tribal communities of the state of Manipur. It has been recognized by the Government of India as a scheduled tribe in 1956 (under the Scheduled Caste and Tribe List (Modification) Orders No.316–A, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi, dated, October 29, 1956).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The Hmar language belongs to the Kuki-Chin-Naga sub-group of Tibeto-Burman stock of the great Sino-Tibetan family of languages. The speakers of the language are also known as Hmar. The allograph of Hmar, as recorded in some books is Mhar.

Hmar is one of the government recognized language in Manipur. This language has the genetic features of Tibeto-Burman language family. It has SOV word order and different word classes are formed by affixation. Though it is a recognized language, it has limited published works. There are some translated publications of short stories of the Holy Bible. The translation work of the Holy Bible is also in progress.

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Most of the Hmar speakers can understand and speak Manipuri, the official language and lingua franca of the State of Manipur. The Government of Manipur allowed Hmar to be a medium of instruction upto middle school. And further it has been permitted to be studied as one of the Major Indian Languages upto the level of class XII since 2001(As per meeting resolution No.21 of the Council of Higher Secondary Education, Government of Manipur, held on May 8, 2000).The process for further extension is almost completed upto graduation level. It is also a recognized language in the school curriculum of Assam, Manipur and Mizoram.

Hmar is a recognized language in the School curriculum of Assam, Manipur and Mizoram, and has also been recently recognized as one of the Modern Indian Languages (MIL) at Manipur University. Board of Secondary Education, Assam has also included Hmar as an MIL in its matriculation syllabus since 2005.

METHODOLOGY

For the collection of data, a list of vocabularies which includes the list of body parts, household articles, kinship terms and frequently used words are prepared in English as well as in Manipuri. The corresponding words for the vocabularies prepared are collected from the informants of different age groups. All the collected data are discussed with the informants to check inconsistencies and again analyzed linguistically. For collection of Hmar vocabularies (data), tape recorder and computer are used. The collected data is transcribed in International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). The interview method is also used for data collection.

NUMERALS

A numeral is a word denoting a number. In Hmar, it can be classified into two categories; viz. (a) Cardinal number and (b) Ordinal number.

Cardinal numbers have more complex and more formal structures whereas ordinal numbers are very simple.

CARDINAL NUMBERS

Cardinal numbers are used in counting, showing how many objects are specified as one, two, three and four etc. It has two types:

(i) Basic numerals and
(ii) Compound numerals.

BASIC NUMERALS

There are thirteen basic numerals in this language. They are given as:

	Hmar	Gloss
1.	/pək^{h}ət/	‘one’
2.	/pəhni/	‘two’
3.	/pət^{h}um/	‘three’
4.	/pəli/	‘four’

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5.	/pəŋa/	‘five’
6.	/pəruk/	‘six’
7.	/pəsəri/	‘seven’
8.	/pəriet/	‘eight’
9.	/pəkuo/	‘nine’
10.	/som/	‘ten’
11.	/jak^{h}ət/	‘one hundred’
12.	/saŋk^{h}ət/	‘one thousand’
13.	/nuoi/	‘lakh’

COMPOUND NUMERALS

There are three types of compound numerals. They are: (a) Additive compound (b) Multiplicative compound and (c) Multiplicative-cum-additive compound.

(a) ADDITIVE COMPOUND

The numerals from eleven to nineteen are additive compound numerals. They are formed by adding the basic numerals with the word ‘som’ means, ‘ten’ i.e. ten plus one (10+1), ten plus two (10+2), ten plus three (10+3) etc.

	Hmar	Gloss
14.	/sompək^{h}ət/	‘eleven’
15.	/sompəhni/	‘twelve’
16.	/sompət^{h}um/	‘thirteen’
17.	/sompəli/	‘fourteen’

(b) MULTIPLICATIVE COMPOUND NUMERALS

There are two types of multiplicative compound numerals. They are (i) Lower multiplicative and (ii) Higher multiplicative compound numerals.

(i) LOWER MULTIPLICATIVE COMPOUND NUMERALS

The lower multiplicative compounds are twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, sixty, seventy, eighty and ninety. It is formed as multiplication of ten (10 X) and basic numerals. In this numeral, the first syllable /pə-/ of /pək^{h}ət/ ‘one’, /pəhni/ ‘two’ etc. of basic numerals have been deleted.

	Hmar	Gloss
18.	/somhni/	‘twenty’
19.	/somt^{h}um/	‘thirty’
20.	/somli/	‘forty’
21.	/somŋa/	‘fifty’
22.	/somruk/	‘sixty’
23.	/somsəri/	‘seventy’
24.	/somriet/	‘eighty’
25.	/somkuo/	‘ninety’

(ii) HIGHER MULTIPLICATIVE COMPOUND NUMERALS

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There are two types of higher multiplicative compound numerals in Hmar. They are: /jak^{h}ət/ 'hundred' and /saŋk^{h}ət/ 'thousand' etc. The basic numerals are suffixed to the /jak^{h}ət/ 'hundred' by deleting the first syllable /pə-/of the basic numerals.

Examples:

	Hmar	Gloss
26.	/jak^{h}ət/	'one hundred'
27.	/jahni/	'two hundred'
28.	/jat^{h}um/	'three hundred'
29.	/jali/	'four hundred'

(c) MULTIPLICATIVE-CUM-ADDITIVE COMPOUND NUMERALS

The multiplicative cum additive compound numerals can be made by multiplying decade, century and thousand to the numeral numbers. Thus from 21 to 29, 31 to 39, 41 to 49, 51 to 59, 61 to 69, 71 to 79, 81 to 89, 91 to 99, 101 to 110, 201 to 210, 301 to 310, 401 to 410, 501 to 510, 601 to 610, 701 to 710, 801 to 810, 901 to 910, 1001 to 1010, 2001 to 2010, 3001 to 3010, 4001 to 4010, etc. are all multiplicative-cum-additive compound numerals.

There are four forms of multiplicative-cum-additive numerals. They are given as:

I. Decade X basic numerals + basic numerals
II. Century X basic numerals + basic numerals
III. Thousand X basic numerals + basic numerals and
IV. Lakh X basic numeral + basic numeral

I. DECADE X BASIC NUMERALS + BASIC NUMERALS

In this type, the basic numerals are used as a connective for decade X basic numerals + basic numerals.

	Hmar	Gloss
30.	/somhnipək^{h}ət/	'twenty one'
31.	/somhnipəhni/	'twenty two'
32.	/somhnipət^{h}um/	'twenty three'

I. CENTURY X BASIC NUMERALS +BASIC NUMERALS

In this type, the basic numerals are used as a connective for century X basic numerals + basic numerals.

	Hmar	Gloss
33.	/jak^{h}ətpək^{h}ət/	'one hundred and one'
34.	/jahnipəhni/	'two hundred and two'
35.	/jat^{h}umpət^{h}um/	'three hundred and three'
36.	/jalipəli/	'four hundred and four'

II. THOUSAND X BASIC NUMERALS + BASIC NUMERALS

In this type, the basic numerals are used as a connective for thousand X basic numerals + basic numerals.

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	Hmar	Gloss
37.	/saŋkʰətpəkʰət/	‘one thousand and one’
38.	/saŋkʰətpəhni/	‘one thousand and two’
39.	/saŋkʰətpətʰum/	‘one thousand and three’
40.	/saŋkʰətpəli/	‘one thousand and four’

III. LAKH X BASIC NUMERALS + BASIC NUMERALS

In this type, the basic numerals are used as a connective for lakh X basic numerals + basic numerals.

	Hmar	Gloss
41.	/nuoykʰətpəkʰət/	‘one lakh and one’
42.	/nuoykʰətpəhni/	‘one lakh and two’
43.	/nuoykʰətpətʰum/	‘one lakh and three’
44.	/nuoykʰətpəli/	‘one lakh and four’

DISTRIBUTIVE NUMERALS

The basic numerals are used as distributive numerals when they are suffixed with the last syllable of basic numerals. In short the distributive numerals can also be in the repeated form.

	Hmar	Gloss
45.	/pəkʰətkʰət/	‘one each’
46.	/pəhnihni/	‘two each’
47.	/pətʰumtʰum/	‘three each’
48.	/pəlili/	‘four each’

Another two suffixes /-cit/ and /-seŋ/ ‘each’ are also added to make the distributive numerals.

Examples of /-cit/

	Hmar	Gloss
49.	/pəkʰətcit/	‘one each’
50.	/pəhnicit/	‘two each’
51.	/pətʰumcit/	‘three each’
52.	/pəlicit/	‘four each’

Examples of /-seŋ/

	Hmar	Gloss
53.	/pəkʰətseŋ/	‘one each’
54.	/pəhniseŋ/	‘two each’
55.	/pətʰumseŋ/	‘three each’
56.	/pəliseŋ/	‘four each’

MULTIPLICATIVE NUMERALS

The multiplicative numerals can be denoted by prefixing marker /voi-/ to the numerals. The first syllable of the numeral /pə-/ is dropped.

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	Hmar	Gloss
57.	/voik^{h}ət/	‘once
58.	/voik^{h}ət/	‘twice
59.	/voit^{h}um/	‘thrice’
60.	/voili/	‘four times’

APPROXIMATIVE NUMERALS

Approximative numerals can express approximate number in counting. They can be divided into two as:

a) Successive approximate numerals and

b) Non-successive approximate numerals

a) Successive approximate numerals

Two successive numerals are used to indicate successive approximate numerals with a connective /əm/ in this language.

	Hmar	Gloss
61.	/pək^{h}ətəmpəhni/	‘one or two’
62.	/pəhniəmpət^{h}um/	‘two or three’
63.	/pəliəmpəŋa/	‘four or five’
64.	/pəŋaəmpəruk/	‘five or six’

b) Non-successive approximate numerals

Non-successive approximate numeral can be made by adding the suffix marker /vel/ to the particular numeral number.

	Hmar	Gloss
65.	/pək^{h}ətvel/	‘about one’
66.	/pəhnivel/	‘about two’
67.	/pət^{h}umvel/	‘about three’
68.	/pəlivel/	‘about four’

FRACTIONAL NUMERALS

The fractional numeral is denoted by suffixing ‘cenve’ to the particular numerals. It is used in the polymorphemic fraction, but not in the morphemic fraction /cenve/ ‘half’. It denotes the fraction of the wholes, as quarter, three quarters, etc. Another suffix ‘a-t^{h}re-a’ is also used to denote the fractional number. Here, /hmun/ carries the meaning of ‘part’ in the following examples.

	Hmar	Gloss
69.	/cenve/	‘half’
70.	/pək^{h}ət le cenve/	‘one-half’
71.	/hmun t^{h}rum a t^{h}re a hmun k^{h}ət/	‘one-third’
72.	/hmun li a t^{h}re a hmun k^{h}ət/	‘one-fourth’

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73.	/hmun li a t^{h}re a hmun t^{h}um/	‘three-fourth’
74.	/hmun t^{h}rum a t^{h}re hmun hni/	‘two-third’
75.	/pəli le cenve/	‘two-fourth’
76.	/hmun som a t^{h}re a hmun ŋa/	‘five-tenth’
77.	/hmun sompəhni a hmun ruk/	‘six-twelfth’

ORDINAL NUMBERS

Ordinal numbers are derived from the cardinal numbers by suffixing /-na/ to the cardinal numbers. The suffix marker /-na/ is suffixed to /pək^{h}ət/ to form the ordinal number ‘first’ and so on.

	Hmar	Gloss
78.	/pək^{h}ətna/	‘first’
79.	/pəhnina/	‘second’
80.	/pət^{h}umna/	‘third’
81.	/pəlina/	‘fourth’
82.	/pəŋana/	‘fifth’
83.	/pərukna/	‘sixth’ etc.

CONCLUSION

In this paper, the numeral system in Hmar – cardinal and ordinal numerals can be analysed. It includes - basic numerals, compound numerals, distributive numerals, multiplicative numerals, approximative numerals and fractional numerals etc.

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Appendices (Body Parts)

Hmar	Gloss
/səm/	‘hair’
/lu/	‘head’
/luru/	‘skull’
/t^{h}luk/	‘brain’
/hmai/	‘face’
/cəl/	‘forehead’
/mikəu/	‘eyebrow’
/mit/	‘eye’
/mitvun/	‘eyelid’
/mitmun/	‘eyelash’
/mitnauleŋ/	‘pupil’
/hnar/	‘nose’

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/hnarkua/	‘nostril’
/bieŋ/	‘cheek’
/bieŋnu/	‘cheekbone’
/nakor/	‘ear’
/beŋdar/	‘eardrum’
/bau/	‘mouth’
/hmur/	‘lip’
/ha/	‘teeth’
/ləi/	‘tongue’
/hnerhmul/	‘moustache’
/k^{h}abe/	‘chin’
/riŋ/	‘neck’
/lienkəu/	‘shoulder’
/ban/	‘arm’
/kut/	‘hand’
/kutp^{h}a/	‘palm’
/kutpar/	‘finger’
/kutpui/	‘thumb’
/kuttin/	‘nail’
/om/	‘breast’
/p^{h}iŋ/	‘belly’
/koŋ/	‘waist’
/malpui/	‘thigh’
/k^{h}up/	‘knee’
/keriŋ/	‘ankle’
/kepar/	‘toe’
/keparhuoi/	‘sole’
/nakru/	‘ribs’
/hnuŋjaru/	‘spine’
/ru/	‘bone’
/cuop/	‘lungs’
/p^{h}iŋpui/	‘stomach’
/t^{h}in/	‘liver’
/ril/	‘intestine’
/luŋ/	‘heart’
/t^{h}ijam/	‘veins’
/t^{h}isen/	‘blood’