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## THE FORMATION AND USE OF NOUN IN NOCTE LANGUAGE

*Kakali Chutia*

Former Student, Department of Assamese, Dibrugarh University, Assam, India

[kakalichutia@gmail.com](mailto:kakalichutia@gmail.com)

**Kakali Chutia: The Formation And Use Of Noun In Nocte Language-- Palarch's Journal Of Archaeology Of Egypt/Egyptology 17(7). ISSN 1567-214x**  
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### **ABSTRACT:**

India is a linguistically diverse country. Due to the migration of many ethnic groups since pre-historic times to India, its language and culture have been developing. Unlike other states of India, The North -East is varied in terms of its linguistic and cultural features which are full of wonders. The North-east comprises of Assam, Arunachal, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya and Sikkim. Sikkim has got the recognition of being an indispensable state of North-East recently. One of the indispensable states of North-East India is Assam. Assam, that is popularly known as the threshold of North-East is the abode of many ethnic groups. Each group has its own distinguished linguistic and cultural characteristics that make it beautiful. Therefore, sometimes Assam is regarded to be the hub of linguistic assimilation. In Assam, many regional languages are in practices which have its origin from different language family, such as: Indo-European, Chinese-Tibetan, Austrick and Dravidian family. One of the languages that is in practice in Assam is NOCTE, which decedents from 'Tibbet-Burma'. The NOCTE's live in Tirap district, which is situated in the South-West part of Arunachal Pradesh, is considered as the important Tribe of Nagaorigin. They are rich in their cultural and linguistic identities. They belong to the Mongoloid ethnic group. Apart from Arunachal Pradesh, The Nocte tribes are seen living there in *Dihing Kinar Nocte Gaon*, situated in Jaypur, Dibrugarh, *Paniduwariya gaon* (Namrup) and *Hiloni Gaon* (Sivasagar). Presently, nine dialectal forms are available of Nocte tribes. They are bilingual; they used Nocte as their first language. In this research paper, an attempt has been made to discuss the formation of verbs and its application by the Noctepeople.

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Noctes are the second largest Chinese Tibetan language family group of the world. They highly inhabit in North-East, particularly in Arunachal Pradesh,

have their own ethnic, linguistic and cultural identities. So far as Ethnic identity is concerned, they belong to the Mongoloid species. The root meaning of the word 'Nocte' is 'Noc'(নক) means Human(মানুষ) and Te(টে) means Village, i.e.those who live in village.As per the folktale, theybelieve that Zauban (জাউবান) is the creator of their breeds. Due to many commercial and social factors, a good relationship has been developed between Noctes of Arunachal Pradesh with Assamese people of Assam. The most important fact that needs to be highlighted here is that such relationships still in continuance.

Many views have been prevailing regarding the migration issue of Noctes. By analyzing those views, it can be estimated that, the Noctes have come to Tirap by crossing Patkai Mountain long ago. Firstly, they lived in high hilly side. But later on, they immigrated to the plain area and started living by making village. In The Noctes, Parul Dutta talks vividly about how the Noctes have crossed the Patkai Mountain. Nowadays, the Noctes are living in the 63 villages of Tirap district and three villages of Assam. The Nocte villages are under the subdivisions of laju, Deumali, Soha, Khunsa, Dadam etc. The inhabitants of Nacte ethnic group are seen in the Dihing Kinar Nocte Gaon (Dibrugarh), Paniduwariya Gaon (Namrup) and Siloni Gaon (Sivsagar) of Assam.

According to the census of 2001, the populations of Noctes living in Arunachal Pradesh are 33,680. There are 10 villages wherein 'Hawa' dialect is in practice. It should be noted that, the people of Dihing Kinar Gaon also use 'Hawa' dialect to some extent. 40 houses of Dihing Kinar District were selected to do this research. There, we found that almost 200 people from those 40 houses using the HAWA dialect. Nocte language is verbal or oral. Due to the non existence of scripts of its own, there are no written literary outputs are found. It is in practice in oral forms, though traces of oral or verbal literature have also been found.

### **OBJECTIVES :**

The main objectives of the research paper are as follows:

1. To study how the Nouns of Nocte language are formed and how to apply it.
2. To study the formation of Nouns and its application in terms of various types.
3. To study how scientific study of Nocte language may help the oral/verbal Nocte language to form a written gesture.

### **IMPORTANCE OF STUDY :**

A scientific study of a language helps to establish an identity of its own. Still, nobody has made an attempt to study the formation of verbs of Nocte language scientifically. Through this research report, it is believed that a way will be created to the scientific thinking of Nocte language. Nowadays, it is seen that the present generation do not give much attention the development of Nocte language, they are not showing any kind of interest; therefore it can be said that this paper will help to preserve the language that might help to give it a written form later on.

### **SCOPE OF STUDY :**

The present study deals with the formation and use of Noun in Nocte Language,

Its classifications and application in different areas. The data has been collected from 'Dihing Kinar Nocte Gaon' which falls under the Jaipur sub division, Dibrugarh. Through field study, data from Hawa Dialect has been collected.

### **METHODOLOGY :**

In this paper, descriptive method has been adopted. This study encompasses to the ongoing oral form of Nocte language.

### **LITERARY REVIEW :**

1. While analyzing the languages of Arunchal Pradesh, George A. Grierson in his 'Linguistic survey of India' (1903), just only mentioned Nocte language. No detail study has been done by him.

2. 'An introduction to Nocte language' (1971) of K.Das Gupta discusses of the overview of Nocte dialects.

3. In 'Hindi Nocte English Vocabulary' (1974), published by Nagaland Language Council on analysis has been done on Nocte language in this book.

4. While analyzing the languages of Arunachal Pradesh, George A. Grierson in his 'Linguistic survey of India' (1903), just only mentioned Nacte Language. No detail study has been done by him.

5. 'An Introduction to Nocte Language' (1971) of K. Das Gupta discusses of the overview of Nocte dialects.

6. In 'Hindi Nocte English Vocabulary' (1974), published by Nagaland Language Council on analyses has been done on Nacte language in this book.

7. In 'The Noctes' (1978), Parul Dutta has analyzed the socio cultural aspect of Nocte people. No detailed study has been done in this book.

8. In the Research Book 'Tribel chieftainship '(2003) of Dr. P.C. Dutta hah analyzed the social arrangement of Nocte People.

9. In the 'Linguistic Situation in North-East India' (1982), book edited by Mrinal Miri, 'Sino Tibetan of North-East India, Social Aspects' the article of Promod Chandra Bhattacharji has been mentioned about the generation of Nocte Language.

10. In the Research Book 'Nocte aru Wansusakalor lokacar' (2013) of Khanikar Maut has been a few suggest of Nocte Language.

11. In the Book 'Nocte Bhasar Nampadar gathan aru Rupsadhan' (2013) of Amar Saikia has been expanded discuss the word structure and word derivation of Nocte Language, structure of Noun word and morphological form of Nocte Language.

After reviewing these above mentioned books, it seems that nobody has ever attempted to underscore the formation of Nocte language in a full-fledged form. In regards to Nocte Language, even through K. Das Gupta and Amar Saikia have attempted to study it in a detailed manner, it is not sufficient to make it a distinguishable language. The larger aspects of the language would come to the fore if we study it only through unified methods and data collected from field studies.

### **PROBLEMS OF THE STUDY :**

Every tribes of North East has own kind of spoken/oral language. It is true that many researchers have done works on these oral languages. But, research on Nocte language is still limited. There are many problems that a researcher has to face while studying Nocte language. The main problems are as follows:

1. Nocte language does not have scripts of its own. That is why it is available in oral/verbal forms. No written documents have been found out yet about Nocte Language.
2. Due to the lack of interest shown by young generation, it is in practiced within limited people.
3. As no systematic study has been done yet, there are no grammar books, dictionary and text books are found written in Nocte language
4. As the people are not conscious regarding their language, it is considered as endangered language.
5. It is seen that, nowadays Hindi and English language have a great impact in Nocte populated areas.

## **1.0 Concept of Morphology**

### **1.1 Morphology and Its Scope :**

Morphology is another aspect of the study of language. It studies the division of words into smaller units. In this branch of linguistics, the structure of the words and the formation of morphemes are studied. The structure of the morphemes vary with the Languages used. The bound morphemes are combined with the free morphemes through different rules which makes the differentiation of the bound morphemes difficult. Morphology analyzes the structure of words, prefixes, stems and root words, how genders and classified, the use of the parts of speech, intonation and stress, and ways context can change a words pronunciation and meaning. One is the very important subject of morphology is 'Structure of Nominals'. Noun, Pronoun and Adjective word are called Nominals.

### **1.2 Formation and use of Noun :**

Naming words are called nouns. They tell us the name, place, thing and their state and action. Based on their meaning and use, nouns are divided into 5 parts- proper noun, common noun, collective noun, material noun and abstract noun. On the other hand, based on their function, nouns are divided into three types – common noun, relative noun, abstract nouns.

## **2.0 The formation and use of noun in Nocte language :**

According to the function or nature, nouns are divided into three types in Nocte Language. These are - common noun, relative noun, abstract nouns. The noun words are shown below and the nouns can be deconstructed are shown as example.

### **2.1 Formation of Common nouns :**

The words that identify a person, place or thing in general, are called common nouns. They do not specifically identify one specific thing or person. Some

Nocte common nouns are:

### 2.1.1 Name of birds :

Assamese	Nocte	
Green pigeon		ʋakra
(according to sound)		
Crow		ʋɔk <sup>h</sup> a
(according to sound)		
Perrot		ʋɔt <sup>h</sup> ɔi
Pigeon		p <sup>h</sup> areɔ
		(cause of still live in basket or cage)

### 2.1.2 Name of animals :

Assamese	Nocte	
Cow		man
Bull Calf		man-pɔŋ-cha
(man='cow' + pɔŋ='male' + cha='calf')		
Dog		hu
Cat		miaŋ
(according to 'miaŋ' sound)		

### 2.1.3 Names of trees :

Assamese	Nocte	
Tree		baŋ
Branch/bough		baŋ-kaŋ
Leaf		baŋ-dɔk
Grass		hin
Grass-plot		ʋun

### 2.1.4 Words related to nature :

Assamese	Nocte	
Earth		ha
Stream		zɔ-k <sup>h</sup> ɔ
(zɔ='water' + k <sup>h</sup> ɔ='an arm or channel')		
Cloud		p <sup>h</sup> uam
Water		zɔ
wind		pɔuŋ
Sky		raŋ (very brief meaning)

### 2.1.5 Words that identify body parts :

Assamese	Nocte	
Hand		dɔk
Right Hand		dɔk-si
(dɔk='hand'+ si='right')		
Left Hand		dɔk-k <sup>h</sup> it
Eye		mik
Finger		su
Eye lids		mik-njap

### 2.1.6 Words that identify the parts of the house :

Assamese	Nocte
House	hum
Door	ka-sak
(ka='open' + sak='close')	
Window	pɔŋ-ka
(pɔŋ='wind' + ka='corner')	
Wall	si-tittu
Corn house	sa-puŋ
Cowshed	man-hum-hu

### 2.1.7 Words related to tools :

Assamese	Nocte
Large knife	daŋ
Sickle	sa-k <sup>h</sup> a-t <sup>h</sup> in
(sa='rice' + k <sup>h</sup> a='cutting' + t <sup>h</sup> in='tools')	
Knife	mik-sa
An axe	va-ka

### 2.1.8 Clothes, Jewellery etc. :

Assamese	Nocte
A jacket/ a tunic	sam-sɔŋ
(denotes the upper cloth)	
A sheet/ a covering	k <sup>h</sup> at-sa
Cloth	k <sup>h</sup> at
Earing	na-te

### 2.1.9 Words for insects :

Assamese	Nocte
Insect	dɔŋ
Wasp	ŋa
Bee	ŋa-kat
Butterfly	p <sup>h</sup> an-p <sup>h</sup> ei
Grasshopper	kup-saŋ
Fly	mit-chit
Termite	k <sup>h</sup> un-ha

### 2.1.10 Words that denote colour :

Assamese	Nocte
Red	tsjak
Blak	nji-ak
White	apɔu
Blue	tjahin
Green	ahin-pun-pun
Yellow	amijen

## 2.2. Nouns that denote numbers :

These nouns are divided into four types in Nocte language.

They are-

2.1.1 Through the use of different words

2.2.2. Through the process of combination

2.2.3. Through the process of permutation

## 2.2.4. Through both permutation and combination

**2.1.1 Through the use of different words :**

Assamese	Nocte
One	van-t <sup>h</sup> e
Two	va-ni
Three	van-ram
Four	boli
Five	baṇa
Six	irok
Seven	injit
Eight	set
Nine	ik <sup>h</sup> o
Ten	tsi

**2.2.2. Through the process of combination :**

In the Nocte Language, the numbers from 12 to 19, 21-29, 31-39, 41-49 and so on are formed by adding one to nine after the words denoting ten, twenty, thirty, forty, fifty, sixty...ninety etc. For example-

Assamese	Nocte
Eleven	tsi-van-t <sup>h</sup> e (tsi='ten' + van-t <sup>h</sup> e='one')
Twelve	tsi-van-ni (tsi='ten' + van-ni='two')
Thirteen	tsi-van-ram (tsi='ten' + van-ram='three')
Twenty One	ruvokni-van-t <sup>h</sup> e (ruvokni='twenty' + van-t <sup>h</sup> e='one')
Thirty Two	ruvokram-van-ni (ruvokram='thirty' + van-ni='two')

**2.2.3. Through the process of permutation :**

Assamese	Nocte
Twenty	ruvok-ni (ruvok='ten' × ni='two')
Thirty	ruvok-ram (ruvok='ten' × ram='three')
Fifty	ruvok-baṇa (ruvok='ten' × baṇa='five')
Ninety	ruvok-k <sup>h</sup> u (ruvok='ten' × k <sup>h</sup> u='nine')

**2.2.4. Through both permutation and combination :**

Assamese	Nocte
Twenty One	ruvokni-van-t <sup>h</sup> e (ruvok='ten' × ni='two' + van-t <sup>h</sup> e='one')
Thirty Six	ruvokram-irok (ruvok='ten' × ram='three' + irok='six')

Sixty Six ruɔɔk-rɔk-ɔan-ram  
(ruɔɔk='ten' × irɔk='six' + ɔan-ram='three')

### 2.3 Abstract Noun/ Relative Noun :

The words or noun that denotes the relation of a noun to other are called relative nouns. They are divided into two parts – (a) Radical noun (b) Compound noun

#### 2.3.1 Radical Nouns :

Assamese	Nocte	
Mother	nɪɲaŋ	
Father	ɔa	
Grand Mother	vi	
Sister	na	
Aunty	didi	
	Uncle	hukaɔ <sup>h</sup> ɔu
Brother	p <sup>h</sup> ɔ	

#### 2.3.2 Compound Nouns :

Assamese	Nocte
Friend (male)	ru-ɔa
Friend (female)	ru-niu
Husband	taŋ-ɔa
Wife	taŋ-niu

### CONCLUAION :

One of the major tribes of North East India is Nocte. Dialectical differences are visible within Nocte people. Linguistic diversity has become a kind of obstacle in the development process of the language. It seems that no detailed study has been undertaken by anyone yet. Apart from these factors, other noticeable factors are -no written documents, no text books, grammar books, and problems in compilation of grammar books etc. This language is still in practice in oral forms only

#### 3.1 Findings :

1. One of the main characteristics of Nocte language is- formation and use of noun.
2. The Nouns of Nocte language can be divided into three parts based on their nature –
  - a) Common noun
  - b) Nouns that denote number
  - c) Abstract noun
3. Some nouns are formed by joining two more words. Moreover the names of birds and animals are given based on their characteristics.
4. According to structure, the Abstract nouns are two types –a)Redical noun b) Compound noun
5. One of the features of the Adjectives of noun of Nocte language is that Adjective is not placed before the noun like in the assamese language, but placed the Noun.

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**Appendix :**

Name of the Informant who helped to collect data to prepare to 'The formation and use of noun in Nocte language' in these Research work, they are :

Name of the Informant	Age	Gender	Educational qualification
Huju Nocte	40	Male	Graduate
Lanjo Nocte	69	Male	No
Jya Jya Nocte	50	Male	No
Khuncid Nocte	40	Male	10th passed
Jonali Nocte	14	Female	Class 8 passed
P. Lowing	25	Female	Graduate
Chak hang Mongwang	27	Female	Graduate