

## Compound Noun Structure in Manipuri-Emphatic and Reduplicated Forms

Dr. Dhanapati Shougrakpam

*Department of Linguistics, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Manipur University, Canchipur-795003, Manipur*

**Abstract:** A compound is a word (lexeme) that consists of more than one free morpheme. Compounding refers to the joining or combining of two or more words which has its own meanings which then function as a single word. In Manipuri, there is a widespread phenomenon of compound nouns formed with the used of emphatic markers and reduplicated modifiers. In compound nouns formed with emphatic markers, the emphatic markers appear either in the initial or medial positions; the compound nouns thus formed shows a kind of completeness, extremeness or totality of the entity that is being involved. The compound nouns formed with reduplicated modifiers-describes the state or nature of the deverbal nouns they modify; describes the nature or character of a person; indicates a kind of feeling of slightness of the modifying words. The reduplicated modifiers can only precede the deverbal nouns that it modifies.

**Keywords:** Compound noun, deverbal nouns, emphatic marker, modifying words, reduplicated modifiers.

### I. Introduction:

The present paper discusses the compound noun structure in Manipuri formed with emphatic markers and reduplicated modifiers. Two different types of compound nouns formed with emphatic markers - emphatic markers appearing in initial and medial positions and compound nouns formed with reduplicated modifiers are discussed and analysed.

The present study is based on the structural analysis approach; a term used in linguistics referring to any approach to the analysis of language that pays explicit attention to the way in which linguistic features can best be described in terms of structure and system.

Two types of compound noun structures are drawn and discussed as below:

- I. Compound nouns formed with emphatic markers.
- II. Compound nouns formed with reduplicated modifiers.

### II. Compound nouns formed with emphatic markers:

In Compound nouns formed with emphatic markers, the following two types of structures are discussed.

#### 2.1. Compound nouns with emphatic marker appearing in the initial position:

Emphatic marker	Indication
(i) puŋ- ~ pum- ~ puk-	completeness/totality
(ii) i-	Slightness

Table 1: Emphatic marker in initial position

#### 2.1.1 The used of puŋ~pum~puk-:

The used of the emphatic marker puŋ~ pum ~puk- shows completeness or totality of the entity that is being involved. ŋ~m~k are said to be in free variation. For the convenience of analysis puŋ- is used.

The form of the compound noun is in the order emphatic marker + 1st stem + 2nd stem-NZR as in puŋ(EM) + haŋ ‘empty’ + haŋbə ‘empty-NZR’ > puŋhaŋhaŋbə which means ‘extremely empty’

*Examples:*

puŋ + phun + phunbə EM block block-NZR	>	puŋphunphunbə completely blocked
puŋ + ŋaŋ + ŋaŋbə EM red red-NZR	>	puŋŋaŋŋaŋbə totally red

puṅ + thən + thənbə EM full full-NZR	>	puṅthənthənbə completely full
puṅ + səṅ + səṅbə EM free free-NZR	>	puṅsəṅsəṅbə completely free
puṅ + səṅ + səṅbə EM green green-NZR	>	puṅsəṅsəṅbə totally green
puṅ + pik + pikpə EM small small-NZR	>	puṅpikpikpə extremely small
puṅ + saṅ + saṅbə EM long long-NZR	>	puṅsaṅsaṅbə extremely long
puṅ + hən + hənbə EM new new-NZR	>	puṅhənhənbə totally new
puṅ + tiṅ + tiṅbə EM stiff stiff-NZR	>	puṅtiṅtiṅbə totally stiff
puṅ + laṅ + laṅbə EM noisy noisy-NZR	>	puṅlaṅlaṅbə totally noisy
puṅ + nin + ninbə EM noisy noisy-NZR	>	puṅninninbə totally noisy
puṅ + yaṅ + yaṅbə EM light light-NZR	>	puṅyaṅyaṅbə totally light
puṅ + nəw + nəwbə EM new new-NZR	>	puṅnəwnəwbə totally new
puṅ + cik + cikpə EM lonely lonely-NZR	>	puṅcikcikpə extremely lonely

### 2.1.2. The used of i-:

The used of the emphatic marker shows a kind of slightness of the entity that is being involved. Its form is in the order emphatic marker + 1st stem + 2nd stem-NZR as in i- (EM) + pət ‘wither’ + pətpə ‘wither-NZR’ > ipətpətpə which means ‘kind of withered’.

*Examples:*

i + cəm + cəmbə EM simple simple-NZR	>	icəmcəmbə kind of simple/bland
i + ləṅ + ləṅbə EM bright bright-NZR	>	iləṅləṅbə kind of bright
i + ləṅ + ləṅbə EM bright bright-NZR	>	iləṅləṅbə kind of bright
i + tən + tənbə EM lazy lazy-NZR	>	itəntənbə kind of lethargic
i + tiṅ + tiṅbə EM stiff stiff-NZR	>	itiṅtiṅbə kind of stiff

**2.2. Compound nouns with emphatic markers appearing in the medial position:**

The used of this type of emphatic markers shows the extremity of the entity that is being involved. Its form is in the order 1st stem + emphatic marker + 2nd stem-NZR.

Emphatic marker	Indication
-trik-	Shows extremity
-srok-	
-tru-	
-sək-	
-troŋ-	
-səŋ-	
-suk-	
-drəŋ-	
-droŋ-	

*Table 2: Emphatic markers in medial position.*

**2.2.1. The used of -trik-:**

Its form is in the order 1st stem + emphatic marker + 2nd stem-NZR as in mən ‘old’ + trik(EM) + mənbə ‘old-NZR’ > məntrikmənbə which means ‘extremely old’.

*Examples:*

- |  |   |                                 |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| noy + trik + noybə<br>fat EM fat-NZR     | > | noytriknoybə<br>extremely fat   |
| ten + trik + tenbə<br>short EM short-NZR | > | tentriktənbə<br>extremely short |
| caw + trik + cawbə<br>big EM big-NZR     | > | cawtrikcawbə<br>extremely big   |
| son + trik + sonbə<br>weak EM weak-NZR   | > | sontriksonbə<br>extremely weak  |
| nəw + trik + nəwbə<br>new EM new-NZR     | > | nəwtriknəwbə<br>extremely new   |

The emphatic marker -trik- occurs frequently.

**2.2.2. Compound noun structures with the same form as above but with different emphatic markers.**

**-srok-:**

- |  |   |                                 |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| ŋəw + srok + ŋəwbə<br>white EM white-NZR | > | ŋəwsrokŋəwbə<br>extremely white |
|--|---|---------------------------------|

**-tru-:**

- |   |   |                                |
|---|---|--------------------------------|
| pik + tru + pikpə<br>small EM small-NZR | > | piktrupikpə<br>extremely small |
|---|---|--------------------------------|

**-sək-:**

- |   |   |                               |
|---|---|-------------------------------|
| pik + sək + pikpə<br>small EM small-NZR | > | pisəkpikpə<br>extremely small |
|---|---|-------------------------------|

**-troŋ-:**

- |  |   |                                 |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| ho + troŋ + hobə<br>hollow EM hollow-NZR | > | hotroŋhobə<br>completely hollow |
|--|---|---------------------------------|

**-səŋ-:**

- |                                     |   |                              |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| ŋaŋ + səŋ + ŋaŋbə<br>red EM red-NZR | > | ŋaŋsəŋŋaŋbə<br>extremely red |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|

<p><b>-suk-:</b> mu + suk + mubə black EM black-NZR</p>	>	<p>musukmubə extremely black</p>
<p><b>-drəŋ-:</b> waŋ + drəŋ + waŋbə tall EM tall-NZR</p>	>	<p>waŋdrəŋwaŋbə extremely tall</p>
<p><b>-droŋ-:</b> saŋ + droŋ + saŋbə long EM long-NZR</p>	>	<p>saŋdroŋsaŋbə extremely long</p>
<p><b>-throk-:</b> pak + throk + pakpə wide EM wide-NZR</p>	>	<p>pakthrokpakpə extremely wide</p>

The emphatic markers as listed above have a limited occurrence and occur only with the nouns as shown in the following examples.

**2.2.3. Compound noun structures formed with emphatic marker -trik- where the same word indicates different meanings as in the following examples.**

səŋtriksəŋbə:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. It has a reference to anything that is very green.</li> <li>b. it refers to time when one has got no work.</li> </ul>
satriksabə:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. refers to food that is extremely hot from spices (chilli).</li> <li>b. extreme hotness felt by the body due to some external heat.</li> <li>c. one having high fever.</li> </ul>
lutriklubə:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. water that is very deep.</li> <li>b. anything which is very clean.</li> <li>c. a person who is not of open nature.</li> <li>d. something which is very difficult.</li> </ul>
yaktrikyakpə:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. anything that tastes very salty.</li> <li>b. colour that is too bright.</li> <li>c. a blazing sun.</li> </ul>
cintrikeinbə:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. clothes that is very tight.</li> <li>b. place that is crowded</li> <li>c. a tight schedule.</li> </ul>
komtrikkomba	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. clothes that is very loose</li> <li>b. spacious place</li> <li>c. no work</li> </ul>
nantriknanbə:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a slippery place</li> <li>b. anything that is neat and clean</li> </ul>

**III. Compound nouns formed with reduplicated modifiers:**

The modifying words can only be used in their reduplicated forms along with the deverbal nouns. In this type of compounding, the reduplicated modifying words can only precede the words that it modifies.

**3.1. Compound nouns that describe the state or nature of the deverbal nouns they modify:**

The form of the compound noun structure is in the order reduplicated modifier(RM) + deverbal noun(DN) as in lumbulumbu ‘warmness’(RM) + sabə ‘hot’(DN) >lumbulumbusabə ‘lukewarm water’/‘having a slight fever’.

*Examples:*

phoŋphoŋ hot	+	sabə hot	>	phoŋphoŋsabə hotness or freshness of a thing
-----------------	---	-------------	---	---

tiktik healthy	+	lawbə feel	>	tiktiklawbə healthy
khirumkhirum feverish	+	təwbə do	>	khirumkhirumtəwbə feverish
murummurum murmur	+	sonbə babble	>	murummurumsonbə murmuring
hikhik sob	+	lawbə feel	>	hikhiklawbə sobbing

**3.2. Compound noun structures formed by reduplication of the modifying words that describe the nature or character of a person:**

Its form is in the order of reduplicated modifier + deverbal noun as in injiñ ‘cold’ (RM) + lawbə ‘feel’ (DN) > injiñlawbə ‘one who is very calm’.

*Examples:*

khiñkhiñ active	+	lawbə feel	>	khiñkhiñlawbə one who is very active
baba talkative	+	lawbə feel	>	baba lawbə one who is very loud and talkative
səwsəw grumble	+	lawbə feel	>	səwsəwlawbə one who grumble too much
phorophoro careless	+	lawbə feel	>	phorophorolawbə one who is careless
khətkhət flirt	+	lawbə feel	>	khətkhətlawbə one who is flirtatious
phiñphiñ rash	+	lawbə feel	>	phiñphiñlawbə one who is rash
prokprok impatient	+	cakpə burn	>	prokprokcakpə one who is impatient
cəgətcəgət ill-mannered	+	lawbə feel	>	cəgətcəgətlawbə one who is not well-mannered
solisoli weak	+	lawbə feel	>	solisolilawbə one who looks weak
ṅawriṅawri crazy	+	təwbə do	>	ṅawriṅawritəwbə one who is kind of crazy
phərophərə sway	+	haybə swing	>	phərophərəhaybə one who causes other to suffer

**3.3. Compound noun structures formed by reduplication of the modifying words that indicates a kind of feeling of slighness of the modifying words:**

Its form is in the order of reduplicated modifier + deverbal noun as in injiñli ‘cold’(RM) + təwbə ‘do’(DN) > injiñliṅlawbə ‘slightly feeling cold’.

*Examples:*

ṅaṅliṅaṅli reddish	+	təwbə do	>	ṅaṅliṅaṅliṅlawbə slightly reddish in color
-----------------------	---	-------------	---	---

ṅanlijanli bright	+	təwbə do	>	ṅanlijanlitəwbə slightly bright
sarisari hot	+	təwbə do	>	sarisaritəwbə slightly hot
məmliməmli dark	+	təwbə do	>	məmliməmlitəwbə slightly dark
narinari sick	+	təwbə do	>	narinaritəwbə slightly sick
molimoli soft	+	təwbə do	>	molimolitəwbə slightly soft

#### **IV. Conclusion**

This paper is essentially an exploratory analysis of the Compound Noun Structure in Manipuri-Emphatic and Reduplicated forms. These preliminary findings will hopefully serve as a basis for advancement of further studies.

#### **Abbreviations**

DN	:	Deverbal Noun
EM	:	Emphatic marker
NZR	:	Nominalizer
RM	:	Reduplicated Modifier

#### **References**

- [1] Crystal, David (1985) 'A First dictionary of Linguistics and Phonetics.' Service Book Syndicate, New Delhi.
- [2] Burling, Robbins (1985) 'Noun Compounding in Garo.' University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich, 48109 USA.