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### Semantic Extension and Recreation in Manipuri

#### Abstract

The present study contributes to the study of Lexical Development in Semantic Extension and Recreation in Manipuri, a Tibeto-Burman language. Semantic Extension is the lexical change of using words of ordinary meaning in the ordinary language in an added technical sense. Semantic Recreation is a newly word, technical term crafted by the committees, are stored away in glossaries and manuals and are unused actively but for a small percentage of them being used in institutional textbooks. This practice may be both process of replacement and reduction. It is to implement a perceived notion of precision over riding the fact that words have their meaning by convention. The new recreated words seem to be motivated only by a feel of newness. These words will enrich Manipuri vocabulary.

Keywords: Semantic, extension, recreation, vocabulary and lexical

#### Introduction

Semantic (the meaning of words) in a language may change with time. There are different opinions among scholars on the classification and terminology of semantic change.

Semantic change is the widening of meaning, narrowing of meaning and transfer of meaning of a particular language. Meillet (1974), classified semantic change on the basis of the ultimate causes - changes due to linguistic reasons, changes due to historical reasons and due to social mobility and social stratification.

According to Stephen Ullman (1957), semantic change is to fuse the logico-rhetorical, generic, casual, empirical and functional approaches in a broad manner. He divided semantic change into two types namely, changes due to linguistic conservatism and changes due to linguistic innovation.

According to Lehmann (1992), semantic change occurs due to reduction in context, expansion in context and alteration in context.

Ginzburg (1979) claims that the factors accounting for semantic change may be roughly subdivided into two groups namely, *extra linguistic* and *linguistic causes*. *Extra linguistic causes* means various changes in the life of the speech community, changes in economic and social structure, changes in ideas, scientific concepts, way of life and other spheres of human activities. Whereas *linguistic causes* means some changes in the meaning of words are caused by their habitual use in particular contexts.

The traditional descriptive aims of lexical semantics have been: (a) to represent the meaning of each word in the language; and (b) to show how the meanings of words in a language are interrelated (Saeed, 1997). These aims are closely related because the meaning of word is defined in part by its relations with other words in the language.

*Semantic Extension* is the lexical change of using words of ordinary meaning in the ordinary language in an added technical sense. The new polysemous word with its added technical sense becomes a component in other technical terms making new compounds. The term extension of an expression is the set of things which could possibly be the referent of

that expression. So, the extension of the word toad is the set of all toads. The relationship between an expression and extension is called denotation (Lyons, 1977).

Semantic knowledge seems to include both reference and sense. There are two different approaches to our ability to talk about the world: a denotational approach which emphasizes the links between language and external reality; and representational approach which emphasizes the link between language and conceptual structure (Saeed, 1997).

*Semantic Recreation* is a technical terms in science, law and administration, which are in millions, crafted by the committees, are stored away in glossaries and manuals and are unused actively but for a small percentage of them being used in textbooks (Annamalai, 2008). They are words without use, like things stored in an iron safe. There is a practice, motivated by ideology, of recreating the words crafted by the community. This practice might go through both process of replacement and reduction. It is to implement a perceived notion of precision overriding the fact that words have their meaning by convention. Some recreated words seem to be motivated only by a feel of newness.

#### Semantic Extension In Manipuri

*Semantic Extension* is the lexical change in meaning by using ordinary words in the ordinary language and made a technical sense. The new polysemous word with its added technical sense becomes a component in other technical terms making new compounds. Semantic Extension is based on the description of an object, concept or phenomenon in the most common process of word extension in most of the languages. In Chinese and Japanese, the morph for 'electricity' is extended from the meaning 'lighting'; 'electricity' in Japanese is denki 'lighting spirit'/ 'telephone'; denwa 'lighting speech'; 'telegraph' dempoo 'lighting report' (Lehmann, 1992).

Another example from Tamil, oLi 'light', which gets the sense of 'light' as used in physics added to it; with this technical sense, this word becomes part of compound words to

create new technical terms: oLikkaRRai ‘beam of light’, oLicitaRal ‘scattering of light’, oLicceerkkai ‘photosynthesis’, oLippativu ‘cinematography’, oLiparappu ‘transmission of television signals, telecasting’, oLiyaaNTu ‘light year’, oLivaTTam ‘halo (of the moon), oLivilakai ‘refraction of light rays’ (Annamalai, 2008).

Semantic representation of a word may also change over time. The changes in the society are reflected in the language of the speakers of that society. So, a word may change its meaning with the evolution of language. The meaning of a word may be extended, restricted or may be even shifted to another meaning. Similar kinds of above said example is found in Manipuri. Manipuri word has extended its meaning are shown below:

Table 1: Semantic Extension in Manipuri words

Manipuri words	Semantic extension	Gloss
waik <sup>h</sup> u	so ‘lock (of a key)’	Crab
Naharol	underground/ revolutionary	Youth
Mei	noṅmei ‘gun’ noṅthaṅ ‘lightening’ noṅ-mei-sinjan ‘thunder bolt’ meik <sup>h</sup> et ‘lighter’ meikappi ‘sparkler’	Fire
Ceisiṅ	ceisiṅlon ‘mathematics’ ceisiṅloi ‘mathematician’	Counting

I	iyon 'handloom'	Thatch
Lei	leiron 'floriculture' leiten 'decoration' leiron 'sketching a bunch of flower' leiron 'kiln'	Flower
Sagol	sagol 'a carpentry tool'	Horse
Thengu	thengu 'a carpentry tool'	Tortoise
Ce	ce- ron 'polythene' ce- ron k <sup>h</sup> ao 'polythene bag'	Paper
Yot	yot cabi 'magnet'	Iron
nakon	nakon tabi 'earpiece'	Ear
Muk	muktabi 'fountain pen'	Ink

Here, the Manipuri word *waik<sup>h</sup>u* 'crab' has extended its meaning to *so* 'lock (of a key)'. This word may be started to refer to 'lock' from the appearance of the object. The lock that is generally in use in Manipur has the similar appearance of 'crab'. The Manipuri word *naharol* 'youth' has extended its meaning to 'underground/ revolutionary' through many old persons in the category so called *naharol* 'youth'. Similarly, *mei* 'fire' and *nonmei* 'gun', *non-meisinja* 'thunder bolt', *meik<sup>h</sup>et* 'lighter'. *ceisij* 'counting' has extended its meaning to *ceisijlon* 'mathematics'. *ceisijloi* 'mathematician'; the study of counting is mathematics.

The Manipuri word *i* ‘thatch’ has extended its meaning to *iyon* ‘handloom’. This word may be started to refer to ‘handloom’ from the appearance of the object because thatch is used to build house. Similarly, *lei* ‘flower’ has extended its meaning to *leiron* ‘floriculture’, *leitej* ‘decoration’, *leiron* ‘sketching a bunch of flower’, *leirɔ̃ŋ* ‘kiln’. These words have the similar appearance of the respective objects. The Manipuri word *sagol* ‘horse’ has extended its meaning to ‘carpentry tool’. This word may be started to refer to ‘carpentry tool’ from the appearance of the particular object.

The Manipuri word *thengu* ‘tortoise’ has extended its meaning to ‘a carpentry tool’. This word may be started to refer to ‘a carpentry tool’ from the appearance of the object. This carpentry tool which is generally in use in Manipur has the similar appearance of ‘tortoise’.

The word *ce* ‘paper’ has extended its meaning to ‘polythene’. *ce-rɔ̃ŋ* literally means ‘a glittering paper’. A polythene paper is as thin as a writing paper and as it has shining effect in light, polythene is known by the name *ce-rɔ̃ŋ* (*ce* ‘paper’ + *-rɔ̃ŋ/lɔ̃ŋ* ‘glitter’) and the *ce* ‘paper’ and *k<sup>h</sup>ao* ‘bag’ formed *ce-khao* ‘paper bag’.

The word *yot* ‘iron’ has extended its meaning to magnet. The literal meaning of *yot cabi* is ‘iron eater (*yot* ‘iron’ + *cabi* ‘eater’), it is based on the property of a magnet that attracts iron. A magnet is called as *yot cabi* by Manipuri speakers.

The word *nakonj* ‘ear’ has extended its meaning to *nakonj tabi* ‘earpiece’. This word refers to ‘earpiece’ from the appearance of the object. This object which is generally in use in Manipur has the similar function of ear.

The word *muk* ‘ink’ has extended its meaning to *muktabi* ‘fountain pen’. The literal meaning of this combination is (*muk* ‘ink’+ *tabi* ‘falling’) ‘fountain pen’. The ink is steadily falls while writing with a fountain pen.

These semantic extension of words enriched Manipuri vocabulary and lexicon. The semantic extension plays the great role for the development of lexical items in Manipuri.

## Semantic Recreation In Manipuri

*Semantic Recreation* is newly words, technical terms crafted by the committees, which are stored away in glossaries and manuals and unused actively but for a small percentage of them being used in institutional textbooks. This practice may be both process of replacement and reduction. It is to implement a perceived notion of precision overriding the fact that words have their meaning by convention. Some recreated words seem to be motivated only by a feel of newness. In Manipuri, semantic recreated words are used for the development of lexicon. Semantic recreation is the recreation of new words by using technical thoughts and findings. The following are the recreated words of Manipuri.

Table 2: Semantic Recreation in Manipuri words

<b>Etymology</b>	<b>Manipuri Recreation words</b>	<b>Gloss</b>
ηak-lon rule-language	ηak-lon	Administration
lei-ηak-lon land-rule-language	Lei-ηak-lon	Ruling
lei-ηak land-rule	lei-ηak	Government
lei-ηak-loi land-rule-agentive suffix	lei-ηak-loi	Ruler
senmit-lon economy-language	sen-mit-lon	Economics
handok-loi translate-agentive suffix	handok-loi	Translator
mit <sup>h</sup> uη-lon	mit <sup>h</sup> uηlen	Chief guest

guest-chief		
th̄u-pu-rel duty-owner-chief	th̄u-pu-rel	Secretary
t <sup>h</sup> ouram-mapu program-owner	t <sup>h</sup> ouram-mapu	President

The above Manipuri recreated words are crafted by the Manipuri community from the etymology of archaic and modern Manipuri words. This practice might go through both replacement and reduction processes. It is the formation of new words according to their etymological Manipuri lexemes that words have their meaning by convention. Some recreated words seem to be motivated only by a feel of newness. Semantic recreation of words that crafted in Manipuri is just an act of filling a need in idealism and capturing an idea accurately. It is also an act of beautification and lexical development of the language. Recreation of new words plays the role of enrichment of the language.

## Conclusion

In Manipuri Semantic Extension is formed by using ordinary words in Manipuri language and made a technical sense. The new word with its added technical sense becomes a component in other technical terms making new compounds. It is based on the description of an object, concept or phenomenon in the common process of word extension. Semantic representation of a word may also change over time and a word may change its meaning with the evolution of language. The meaning of a word may be extended, restricted or may be even shifted to another meaning. Semantic recreation is newly words, technical terms crafted by the committees. Some recreated words seem to be motivated only by a feel of newness. In Manipuri, semantic recreated words are used for the development of lexicon. Semantic

recreation is the recreation of new words by using technical thoughts and findings. The changing of words enriched the vocabulary in Manipuri.

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