Research Paper

Adverbial System in Lotha

Yantsubeni Ngullie and Barika Khyriem
Department of Linguistics
North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya, India

Abstract*: Lotha, is a language spoken in Wokha district of the State of Nagaland, in the North-Eastern region of India. Adverbs in the Lotha language unveil a complex structure shaped by diverse ways of forming words. Adverbs serve as tools to describe how verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs work, and they have a distinct pattern of creation and categorization. An interesting aspect of Lotha adverbs is the process of reduplication. This involves repeating a word to make a new adverb. For instance, an adverb like "quickly" can become more intense by being repeated as "quickly quickly." Beyond reduplication, adverbs in Lotha also emerge through the use of suffixes. Specifically, suffixes like -na and -tɔ are added to verbs or adjectives, creating adverbs that add depth to the meanings of actions and qualities. These adverbs fall into different categories, clarifying how actions happen, where events take place, when things occur, the level of a quality, and even the speaker's viewpoint. The role of adverbs goes beyond just adding more words to a sentence. They are crucial for creating a vivid picture of actions, descriptions, and emotions. The interplay between reduplication, suffixation, and categorization is a distinct trait of Lotha adverbs, highlighting the language's richness and creativity.*
Keywords:- *Adverbs, derivation, suffixation, reduplication, lexical, Lotha, Naga, Tibeto-Burman*

I. Introduction

Grierson (1904, p. 193) placed Lotha in the Central group of the Naga languages within the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibetan language family. So, Lotha is classified as a member of the Central group of the Naga languages within the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibetan language family. It is a generic term that refers to both the linguistic group and the ethno cultural entity. The language is widely spoken throughout Nagaland, with the majority of its speakers concentrated in the Wokha district. According to the Census of India (2011), there are 1,66,343 Lotha speakers, a number consistent with the estimate given by Lewis et.al. (2015), who lists a total of 1,66,000 speakers.

Although there are some variations in the language across different villages, these differences are primarily in the accent of the speaker, and the language remains mutually intelligible. For literary purposes, the variety spoken in central villages, particularly in and around Wokha Town, is commonly used.

This study focuses on the standard variety of the Lotha language spoken in and around Wokha Town. By examining this specific variety, the study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the language's structure and usage, with a particular focus on the numeral system. Through this analysis, we hope to contribute to a deeper understanding of the Lotha language and its unique features.

1.1. Methodology and Analysis
1. Research Design:
This research study employs a linguistic fieldwork methodology to investigate the adverbial characteristics in the Lotha. The corpus for analysis comprises spoken data collected from eight native speakers, representing diverse genders, age groups, and educational backgrounds. The research was conducted in various locations, including Wokha town, Wokha village, Yikhum village, and Doyang, which are adjacent to Wokha town in Nagaland, to ensure a comprehensive representation of the Lotha-speaking community.
2. Data Collection:
To gather primary data, multiple techniques were employed during the fieldwork. These include:
Word lists: A collection of numerals and related lexical items to document the numeral system comprehensively.

Sentence Lists: Phrases and sentences featuring numerals, enabling a detailed analysis of numeral usage in context.

Narratives: Spoken narratives, traditional stories, and oral traditions to explore the cultural and historical aspects of numerals in Lotha.

Interviews and Questionnaires: In-depth interviews and questionnaires with language consultants to elicit insights into their numerical understanding and usage.

3. Sample Population:

The study involved eight language consultants from the Lotha-speaking community. The sample was purposefully chosen to ensure diversity in terms of gender, age, and education levels, enabling a broader representation of the numeral system's usage across different demographics.

4. Data Elicitation Tools:

Data were elicited using interviews, questionnaires, and audio recorders, specifically, the Zoom H4n, to ensure accurate and reliable recordings of spoken data. The use of multiple data elicitation tools facilitated a comprehensive collection of numeral expressions in various communicative contexts.

5. Data Analysis:

The collected data underwent rigorous qualitative data analysis using established linguistic analysis techniques. The analysis involved the following steps:

Transcription: Spoken data was transcribed from the audio recordings into a standardized format, preserving the original structure and linguistic features.

Translation: Transcriptions were translated from Lotha into a language the researcher is proficient in (e.g., English) to facilitate analysis and interpretation.

II.   Adverbs in Lotha

Crystal (2011, p. 13) defines adverb as " 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 the verb". He further on addressed that syntactically it can refer to relate to questions such as *how*, *where*, *when* and *why* and also classify them accordingly as adverbs of manner, place, time, etc.

Matthews (2014, p. 11) defines adverbs as class of word that modifies a verb. They also modify nouns, adjectives, other adverbs, prepositions, determiners, clause and sentences etc.

Adverbs in Lotha can be divided into two types, derived adverbs and lexical adverbs. Derived adverbs are formed either by reduplicating an adjective or verb or by attaching an adverbial suffix to verbs or adjectives. Lexical Adverbs in Lotha are further sub-categorized into subclasses of adverbs such as adverbs of manner, place, time, degree, epistemic and expressive adverb etc. The structure of Lotha adverbs can be seen in Table 1 below:

Adverbs	
Derived Adverbs	Lexical Adverbs
1. Reduplication	1. Manner
2. Suffixation	2. Place
	3. Time
	4. Degree
	5. Epistemic
	6. Expressive

Table 1: Adverbs in Lotha

2.1. Derived adverbs

Derived adverbs in Lotha are formed in two different ways:-

a. through the process of totally reduplicating adjectives.

b. through the process of derivation by attaching an adverbial suffix *-na* and *-tɔ* to a verb or an adjective.

One of the ways of creating an adverb in Lotha is through the process of reduplicating an adjective. Reduplication entails the repetition of a word or a portion thereof, resulting in an intensified or modified meaning as seen in the illustration below:-

1.   *zak-zak*   *tsʰɔ-a*
quick-quick   do-SG
'Do quickly'
2.   *ʃok-ʃok*   *tsɔ-a*
fast-fast   eat-SG
'Eat quickly'

In the context of the examples given, the adjectives *zak* (quick) and *ʃok* (fast) are reduplicated to form adverbs that convey the notion of quickness or speed in the actions described by the accompanying verbs.

In (1) the adjective *zak* is reduplicated to yield the adverb *zak-zak* which signifies "quickly" or "speedily." The repetition of the adjective intensifies the sense of rapidity, offering a vivid description of the manner in which the action *tsʰɔ-a* (do) is executed. This reduplicated adverb sum up a heightened degree of urgency or swiftness, thereby enriching the communicative capacity of the sentence.

Likewise, in (2) the adjective *ʃok* undergoes reduplication, resulting in the adverb *ʃok-ʃok* denoting "quickly" or "rapidly." This adverb augments the verb *tsɔ-a* (eat) by conveying a vivid sense of the speed at which the eating action occurs. Through reduplication, the adverbs sum up a heightened tempo, serving as a linguistic tool to briefly convey the intended meaning.

By duplicating elements of words, speakers of Lotha can emphasize and modify qualities such as speed, intensity, or repetitiveness, thereby enhancing their ability to convey adverbs.

The second process of creating an adverb in Lotha is by attaching an adverbial suffix *-na* and *-tɔ* to a verb or an adjective which can be seen in the following illustrations below:

3.   *jəŋ-tɔ*   *wɔ-a*
quiet-ADV   go-SG
'Go quietly'
4.   *m̥ɔ-na*   *jəb-a*
good- ADV   sleep-SG
'Sleep well/properly'

The data above exemplify the formation of adverbs in Lotha through the utilization of adverbial suffixes and their subsequent integration with verbs or adjectives. In both instances, the adverbial suffixes augment the semantic scope of the accompanying verbs, imparting specific variation to the actions they describe.

In (3) the addition of the adverbial suffix *-tɔ* to *jəŋ* (quiet) results in the formation of the adverb *jəŋ-tɔ* (quietly). This suffix operates as a semantic modifier, converting the adjective "quiet" into an adverb that specifies the manner in which the action of 'go' is executed. Thus, the phrase *jəŋ-tɔ wɔ-a* conveys the instruction to proceed in a hushed manner, thereby reflecting the role of the adverb in describing the manner of the verb's execution.

Similarly, in (4) the adverbial suffix *-na* is affixed to the adjective *m̥ɔ* (good), yielding the adverb *m̥ɔ-na* (well/properly). This adverb sum up a qualitative assessment of the subsequent verb *jəb-a* (sleep), thus indicating that the sleep is of satisfactory quality. Through the addition of the adverbial suffix, the adjective is transformed into an adverb that emphasizes the action being performed.

2.2. Lexical Adverbs

Adverbs in Lotha are semantically sub-classified into adverbs of time, manner, place, epistemic, degree and number. The above mentioned sub-classes of adverbs are discussed below:

2.2.1. Time adverbial

Temporal adverbials generally answer the question 'where'. They denote precise time such as yesterday, tomorrow, always, never, etc as well as imprecise time such as before, afterwards, a while ago, in a little while, etc. Some of the adverbs in Lotha, when reduplicated give the meaning of an intensifier such as *ntʃəŋ-ntʃeŋ* which is a repetition of 'today' meaning 'today itself (without failing)' and *enəŋa-enəŋa* which is a repetition of 'now' meaning 'at this very moment'.

Temporal adverbs in Lotha are listed below followed by illustrations of the same in a sentence construction:

kə-tʰəŋ
Q-time   'when'
kə-tʰəŋ-sana
Q-time   -INDF   'sometimes'
eŋakə   'everyday'
ntʃəkʰɔn   'always/forever'
nkolɔ   'long ago'
ntʃəŋ   'today'
odʒəja   'tomorrow'
ǹdʒə   'yesterday'
etʃuŋa   'once'
səŋrɔ   'short while'
ntʰoyaŋ   'before/not long ago'
osì   'before/long ago'
enəŋa   'now'

n-tsʰɔtʃə		
NEG-do	'never'	
enəŋa- enəŋa	'right now/ at this very moment'	
okʰana	'later/afterwards'	
okʰólɔ́	'later/in the days to come'	
dʒə-tʰəŋ		
DEF.SG-time	'at that very moment'	
tólí	'then'	
dʒə-səlɔ		
DEF.SG-after	'after that'	

2.2.2. Manner adverbial

Manner adverbial generally answer the question 'how'. They indicate how or in what manner something is done. Most of the manner adverbials in Lotha are formed by attaching the adverbial suffix *-tɔ* and *-na* to almost any verb which modifies the meaning of a verb as seen in the following illustrations below:

13.   *zak-tɔ   rɔ-a*
quick-ADV   come-SG
'Come quickly'

14.   *tʃema-natsa-a*
slow-ADV   walk-SG
'Walk slowly'

Some of the manner adverbials in Lotha are listed below followed by illustrations:-

	mbɔbɔ	'by itself, alone'
	dʒəkarɔ	'little'
	nzɔ	'together'
nsansam	'frequently'	

e-tʃema-na
           NMZ-slow-ADV   'slowly'

rəm-tɔ
together-ADV   'together/at the same time'

zak-tɔ
          quick- ADV   'quickly'

          ʃɔk-tɔ
          quick-ADV   'rapidly/quickly'

kvə-toli
Q-then   'how'

ntʲa-ntʲa
nothing-nothing   'without any motive/reason'

2.2. 3. Locative adverbial

Locative adverbials answer the question 'where'? In Lotha it functions adverbially by attaching the locative markers *-lɔ* and *-i* to its base which are mostly adjectives. Some locative adverbials in Lotha are listed below followed by illustrations of the same in sentence construction:

          kə-lɔ
Q-LOC   'where'

ʃi-lɔ
here-LOC   'here'(PROX)

dʒə-lɔ
there- LOC   'there'(DIST)

o-tʃuŋ-i
RL-inside- LOC 'inside'

hapʰɔ-i
out- LOC 'outside'

səlam-i
back- LOC   'back'

o-vəŋ-i
RL-front- LOC   'front'

o-kəp-i
RL-down- LOC   'down'

o-m̩a-i
RL -up- LOC   'above, higher up'

o-bon-i
RL -to- LOC   'on top'

heb-i
here- LOC   'here'(PROX)

hodʒə-i
there- LOC   'there'(DIST)

e-kon-i
RL -far- LOC   'far away'

o-luŋ-i
RL -middle- LOC'middle'

ej̊an-ɔ
near- LOC   'nearby'

2.2.4. Degree adverbials
Degree adverbials indicate the relative intensity of a state, process or action. Some of the degree adverbials in Lotha are listed below;-

dʒəkarɔ	'little'
kʰɔʃa	'much'
eləm	'very'
nlamɔ	'very much'
matarɔ	'less'
terə	'small'
ntəmarɔ	'tiny'
dʒəkʃə	'too much'
-te	'only'

Some of the degree adverbial in Lotha can be reduplicated as seen below:-

dʒək-dʒəkrɔ	'lilttle by little'
terə-terə	'very small'
kʰɔʃa-kʰɔʃa	'plenty'
nlamɔ-nlamɔ	'plenty'

The adverbial suffix *-li* in Lotha conveys the meaning of an adverb when it is intensified, which emphasis the meaning of the adverb being intensified which can be seen in the following illustrations given below:

15. *eləm   m̥ɔ-na   -li   van-a-la*
     very   good-ADV   -INT   stay-SG-NPST
     'He is staying very nicely

16. *ratʰa-tsəɲi   ntəmarɔ -li   van-a*
     sick-INT tiny   -INT   live-NMZL
     '...because of the sickness he has become extremely thin/tiny'

Besides the adverb intensifier *-li* Lotha has another adverbial intensifier suffix *-motɔ* which is associated to the word *eləm* 'very'. It occurs only with the word *eləm* 'very' which emphasis the meaning as 'extremely' or 'very much' which can be seen in the following illustrations below:

17. *eləm -motɔ   e-matʰata*
     very-INT 3PL-happy
     'Extremely happy'

18. *eləm-motɔ   e-nuŋra*
     very-INT 3PL-sad
     'It is extremely sad'

Degree adverbials help manner adverbs to intensify the meaning. Lotha has two comparative markers *-la* and *-ka* and a superlative marker *-tsaɔ*. However, when a degree adverbial is intensified it takes only the marker *-ka* which occurs along with another degree adverbial marker *-ta* becoming *-kata*. It can be seen in the illustrations below:

238. *ènɔ-dʒə   tʲuŋ   -ka-ta   -la*
      pain-DEF.SG   increase- CMPR-ADV   -NPST
      'The pain is increasing more and more'

240. *ombɔ   etʲəŋ-tsa-ɔ   yi-a   van-tʃɔ*
      3SG   fast-SUPER-COMP go-SG   PROG-SPST
      'He was going the fastest'

In a comparative construction, the degree adverbial marker *-ta* is attached to the comparative marker *-ka:* whereas in a superlative construction the degree adverbial does not co-occur with the superlative marker *-tsaɔ*.

2.2. 5. Modal adverbials
Modal adverbs identify the speaker's attitudes, opinions, qualifications, restrictions or evaluations etc. some of the modal adverbs in Lotha are listed below:

kvə-tɔ sana-li   'somehow/somewhat'
-ha   'also'
tɔle   'it appears that'
təna   'really, certainly, surely, in truth'
mba/mbi   'would that, perhaps'
otsɔ-tsɔ   'truely'
namo   'of course, certainly, naturally'
esə-   'probably'

241. *fərɔ -ha   rɔ-tʃɔ*
      dog- also   come-PST
      'A dog also came'

242. *erə   dʒɔsa   esə-a*
      rain   fall   like-NMZL
      'Looks like it is going to rain'

III.   Conclusion
The study of adverbs in the Lotha language reveals a systematic and complex system of adverbial categorization and formation. Adverbs are classified into two main types: derived adverbs and lexical adverbs. Derived adverbs are generated through processes such as reduplication of adjectives or verbs, as well as by the

addition of adverbial suffixes to adjectives or verbs. On the other hand, lexical adverbs encompass various subcategories, including adverbs of manner, place, time, degree, epistemic, and expressive adverbs.

Temporal adverbials provide information about time, distinguishing between precise instances like 'yesterday' or 'tomorrow,' and more vague periods such as 'before' or 'afterwards.' Interestingly, certain reduplicated adverbs, like *ntʃəŋ-ntʃeŋ* meaning 'today itself' intensify the temporal context. Manner adverbials address the 'how' aspect of an action, frequently formed by attaching suffixes like *-tɔ or -na* to verbs. These suffixes serve to modify the verb's meaning. Locative adverbials focus on location and are constructed by adding the locative markers *-lɔ* or *-i* to adjectives, functioning adverbially. Degree adverbials gauge the intensity of an action, with reduplication being a common method of emphasis. The adverbial suffix *-li* intensifies adverbs, while *-motɔ* combined with *eləm* (very) amplifies the degree of intensity.

Comparative and superlative markers, *-la, -ka*, and *-tsaɔ* contribute to the language's adverbial diversity, facilitating the expression of comparisons and superlatives. Interestingly, intensified degree adverbials solely adopt the marker *-ka* often co-occurring with *-ta* leading to a heightened degree of emphasis. Modal adverbs provide insights into the speaker's perspective, opinions, and evaluations. Adverbs in Lotha aren't just about adding extra words. They play an important role in painting a clear picture of actions, descriptions, and emotions. By using different techniques, Lotha adverbs help people communicate better and share a lot of information in a compact and meaningful way.

The analysis of Lotha adverbs underscores a structured framework in which these linguistic elements operate. The division between derived and lexical adverbs establishes a foundation, while the distinct subcategories enable precise communication of various shades. This exploration enhances our understanding of how Lotha speakers convey information related to time, manner, place, degree, and modality. The interplay of adverb formation, reduplication, and suffixation enriches the language's expressiveness and offers a fascinating avenue for linguistic investigation.

Abbreviation

3PL	3rd person plural	NMLZ	Nominalizer
ADV	Adverbial marker	NPST	Non-past
CMPR	Comparative	PROG	Progressive marker
COMP	Complimentizer	PROX	Proximity
DEF.SG	Definite singular	PST	Past tense
DIST	Distance	RL	Relational marker
INDF	Indefinite marker	SG	Singular
INT	Intensifier	SUPER	Superlative
LOC	Locative		

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