



The Numerals of Aimol

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Abstract: *The Indian government acknowledged Aimol as a tribe in Manipur in 1956. There are about 4900 population of Aimol in Manipur (Churches record). They mostly reside in Churachandpur, Senapati, Chandel and Tengnoupal districts of Manipur. It is reported that Aimol also resides in Cachar district of Assam. It is a member of the Tibeto-Burman language family's Kuki sub-group of the Kuki-Chin language family (Grierson, LSI-1904:245). There is no government or private schools in Manipur that use the Aimol language as a medium of instruction. However it has a rich cultural heritage. It is supported by the oral literature such as proverbs, folktales, riddles, folksongs and folkdances. The primary goal of the paper is to investigate the numerals which is used in the daily life in regard to counting, numbering etc. It is a part of preserving and enriching the numeral system of Aimol which is one of the endangered languages of Manipur. The numerical system of Aimol is almost similar to Kom, Koirang, Chiru, Kharam, Purum tribe of Manipur. Here it will highlights the exact numerical system of Aimol which is of researchers interest in preserving and enriching the vulnerable and threatened language of Aimol which is minority population in Manipur and Northeast India. It is hoped that this paper will contribute to the preservation and revival of the threatened language of Aimol in Manipur and other parts of India.*

Key Words: Aimol, cardinal numerals, $\leftrightarrow nkH \leftrightarrow$, $\leftrightarrow nni$, $rekH \leftrightarrow$, $lisiNkH \leftrightarrow$

1. INTRODUCTION:

Aimol is one of the recognized tribes of Manipur. It was recognized in 29th October, 1956 vide notification no. 2477, under Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The present population of Aimol is about 4900 (Four thousand nine hundred) according to churches records. They settled in Chandel, Churachandpur, Senapati and Tengnoupal district of Manipur. The Aimol villages in Manipur are; (1) Aimol Khullen (2) Aimol Chandonpokpi (3) Aimol Khodamphai (4) Aimol Ngairong (5) Aimol Tampak (6) Aimol Chingnunghut (7) Aimol Kumbirei (8) Aimol Khunjai (9) Aimol Satu (10) Aimol Khudengthabi (11) Aimol Unapal (12) Kha-Aimol (13) Aimol Aimol Louchunbung (14) Aimol Tuikhang and (15) Aimol Kharam-Thadoi. The author of the paper is also a native speaker of the Aimol community, and on April 7, 2024, while on a field trip at Aimol Unapal village, Chandel district, Manipur, Ln. Sopa, who is 70 years old, of the village elder also provided the necessary information about the numerals of Aimol. There is thorough consultation with the Aimol Literature Society Manipur (ALSOM) in regard to the topic.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW:

There is no much printed text on Aimol except some gospel books and songs which is translated in Aimol language. There is one book on 'Aimol Customary laws and Practices of Manipur' and 'Aimol Dictionary' written by Okhup Aimol and published by Sarup Publication New Delhi. In the book it discusses about the general concept of Aimol customs and practices. In the dictionary it gives the meaning of various words of Aimol from Aimol to English. It is a general glossary book. But it didn't discuss about the formation of various types of numerals in Aimol. Aimol has no original script. It used Roman script for writing books and other journals. The teaching Aimol of Aimol has not been introduced in any private and government schools as a medium of instructions. Manipuri or Meiteilon is used for communication with other tribes.

3. METHOD OF THE STUDY:

The method adopted for collecting data on this paper is field work and interview method. During fieldwork there is interaction with the elderly people of Aimol who know the original numerical system of Aimol. Reference is also taken on internet regarding spelling and other doubts on grammar and meaning. Other book on numerical system is also consulted. Other unpublished thesis on grammar is also referred.



4. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

The main objective of the study is to find out the formation of various types of numerals in Aimol. It examines how these words are used since time immemorial. It also checks how the English words like hundred, thousand, lakh, crores are formed in the language. It also discusses about the numeral system of olden times and the present time i.e. modern days. It also checks how the younger generations used the numerical system. Its main aim is to preserve the numerical system of Aimol which is an endangered language of Manipur.

5. NUMERAL

Numeral is a word or phrase, which is used to name a number. Numerals in Aimol can be studied in the following classification.

1. Cardinal
2. Ordinal
3. Multiplicative
4. Aggregative
5. Approximate
6. Fractional
7. Indefinite
8. Distributive
9. Restrictive

5.1. CARDINAL NUMERAL

Cardinal is a traditional term retained in some models of grammatical description referring to the class of numerals **one, two, three, four, five, six, seven** etc. Cardinal numeral is divided into two types:

1. Basic cardinal and
2. Compound cardinal

5.1.1. BASIC CARDINAL

Aimol have monomorphemic type of basic cardinal number.

Example:

Aimol	Gloss
↔νκH↔τ	“one”
↔ννι	“two”
↔ντHυμ	“three”
μ↔νλι	“four”
ρ↔N↔	“five”
κ↔ρυκ	“six”
σ↔ρι	“seven”
κ↔ριατ	“eight”
κυο	“nine”
σoμ	“ten”
ρεκH↔τ	“hundred”

5.1.2. COMPOUND CARDINAL

Compound cardinals are formed by compounding of basic cardinals. It can be divided into two types.

1. Additive compound and
2. Multiplicative compound

5.1.2.1. ADDITIVE COMPOUND

Additive compounds are formed by adding the basic numerals from one to nine to the decade numerals or multiplicative compounds. Additive compound in Aimol is formed by an additive or an associative marker $\sqrt{\square} \leftrightarrow \square$ which is added between the decade numeral and the basic numeral.



Example

Aimol	Gloss
σoμ√λ↔φ√κH↔τ	“eleven”
σoμ√λ↔φ√νι	“twelve”
σoμ√λ↔φ√τHυμ	“thirteen”
σoμ√λ↔φ√μ↔νλι	“fourteen”

5.1.2.2. MULTIPLICATIVE COMPOUND

Multiplicative compounds are formed by compounding of basic cardinals to each other. It may be divided into two types.

1. Lower multiplicative compounds and
2. Higher multiplicative compounds

5.1.2.2.1. LOWER MULTIPLICATIVE COMPOUND

Lower multiplicative compounds can be expressed as the multiplicative cardinals that form the numerals from twenty to ninety. They can be expressed as *IOX* basic cardinals.

Example:

Aimol	Gloss
σoμνι	“twenty”
σoμτHυμ	“thirty”
σoμμ↔νλι	“forty”
σoμρ↔N↔	“fifty”

5.1.2.2.2. HIGHER MULTIPLICATIVE COMPOUND

Higher multiplicative compounds may be expressed as the multiples of hundred and thousand by placing ρε√ “hundred” and λισιN- “thousand” before the cardinal numerals.

Example:

Aimol	Gloss
ρε√κH↔τ	“one hundred”
ρε√νι	“two hundred”
ρε√τHυμ	“three hundred”
ρε√μ↔νλι	“four hundred”

6. ORDINAL NUMERAL

In Aimol, ordinal numbers may be expressed by adding the suffix √χ↔Nν↔ to the cardinal numbers.

Example:

Aimol	Gloss
↔νκH↔τ√χ↔Nν↔	“first”
↔ννι√χ↔Nν↔	“second”
ρ↔N↔√χ↔Nν↔	“fifth”
σoμνι√χ↔Nν↔	“twentieth”
σoμκ↔ριατ√λ↔φ√ρ↔	“eighty fifth”
N↔√χ↔Nν↔	
σoμκυo√λ↔φ√κυo√χ↔	“ninety ninth”
Nν↔	

7. MULTIPLICATIVE NUMERAL

The multiplicative numeral can be expressed by prefixing ω↔φ-√ to the cardinals.

Example:

Aimol	Gloss
ω↔φ√κH↔τ	“once”
ω↔φ√νι	“twice”
ω↔φ√τHυμ	“thrice”



$\omega \leftrightarrow \varphi \sqrt{\mu} \leftrightarrow \nu \lambda \iota$ "fourth times"
 $\omega \leftrightarrow \varphi \sqrt{\kappa} \leftrightarrow \rho \upsilon \kappa$ "sixth times"

8. AGGREGATIVE NUMERAL

The aggregative numerals can be formed by suffixing $\sqrt{\kappa} \text{Hομ} \chi \upsilon \nu$ to the cardinal numeral.

Example:

Aimol	Gloss
$\leftrightarrow \nu \nu \iota \sqrt{\kappa} \text{Hομ} \chi \upsilon \nu$	"all the two or two together"
$\leftrightarrow \nu \tau \text{Hυμ} \sqrt{\kappa} \text{Hομ} \chi \upsilon \nu$	"all the three or three together"
$\mu \leftrightarrow \nu \lambda \iota \sqrt{\kappa} \text{Hομ} \chi \upsilon \nu$	"all the four or four together"
$\rho \leftrightarrow \text{N} \leftrightarrow \sqrt{\kappa} \text{Hομ} \chi \upsilon \nu$	"all the five or five together"
$\kappa \leftrightarrow \rho \upsilon \kappa \sqrt{\kappa} \text{Hομ} \chi \upsilon \nu$	"all the six or six together"

9. APPROXIMATIVE NUMERAL

The approximative numerals are formed by suffixing $\sqrt{\delta} \upsilon \kappa$ to the cardinal numerals.

Example:

Aimol	Gloss
$\leftrightarrow \nu \kappa \text{H} \leftrightarrow \tau \sqrt{\delta} \upsilon \kappa$	"about one"
$\leftrightarrow \nu \nu \iota \sqrt{\delta} \upsilon \kappa$	"about two"
$\leftrightarrow \nu \tau \text{Hυμ} \sqrt{\delta} \upsilon \kappa$	"about three"
$\mu \leftrightarrow \nu \lambda \iota \sqrt{\delta} \upsilon \kappa$	"about four"
$\rho \leftrightarrow \text{N} \leftrightarrow \sqrt{\delta} \upsilon \kappa$	"about five"

10. FRACTIONAL NUMERAL

In Aimol, fractional numerals are formed as a single word with the prefix $\sigma \epsilon \mu$ plus a cardinal number forming the denominator, and the affix $\sqrt{\leftrightarrow} \sqrt{\leftrightarrow}$ plus a cardinal number forming the numerator. The full forms of "one", "two" and "three" are used in this case.

Example:

Aimol	Gloss
$\sigma \epsilon \mu \tau \text{Hυμ} \sqrt{\leftrightarrow} \sqrt{\leftrightarrow} \nu \kappa \text{H} \leftrightarrow \tau$	"one $\sqrt{\leftrightarrow}$ third"
$\sigma \epsilon \mu \rho \leftrightarrow \text{N} \leftrightarrow \sqrt{\leftrightarrow} \sqrt{\leftrightarrow} \nu \nu \iota$	"two $\sqrt{\leftrightarrow}$ fifth"
$\sigma \epsilon \mu \kappa \leftrightarrow \rho \upsilon \kappa \sqrt{\leftrightarrow} \sqrt{\leftrightarrow} \nu \nu \iota$	"two $\sqrt{\leftrightarrow}$ sixth"
$\sigma \epsilon \mu \kappa \leftrightarrow \rho \iota \leftrightarrow \tau \sqrt{\leftrightarrow} \sqrt{\leftrightarrow} \nu \tau \text{Hυμ}$	"three $\sqrt{\leftrightarrow}$ eight"
$\sigma \epsilon \mu \sigma \omicron \mu \sqrt{\leftrightarrow} \sqrt{\leftrightarrow} \kappa \leftrightarrow \rho \upsilon \kappa$	"six $\sqrt{\leftrightarrow}$ tenth"

11. INDEFINITE NUMERAL

The indefinite numerals are given below.

Example:

Aimol	Gloss
$\leftrightarrow \omega \epsilon \rho \tau \epsilon$	"some/few"
$\tau \upsilon \tau \upsilon$	"anyone"
$\leftrightarrow \tau \leftrightarrow \mu \beta \upsilon \kappa$	"too much"
$\sigma \iota \text{N} \lambda \upsilon \pi$	"group"
$\kappa \upsilon \tau \varphi \leftrightarrow \kappa \text{H} \leftrightarrow \tau$	"amount that one hand can grasp"
$\leftrightarrow \lambda \omicron$	"bunch"

12. DISTRIBUTIVE NUMERAL

The distributive numerals in Aimol are formed by reduplicating the cardinal numerals. Reduplication may be in two forms as given below.

Example:

Aimol	Gloss
$\leftrightarrow \nu \kappa \text{H} \leftrightarrow \tau \sqrt{\kappa} \text{H} \leftrightarrow \tau$	"one each"
$\leftrightarrow \nu \nu \iota \sqrt{\nu} \iota$	"two each"



↔ντΗυμ↔τΗυμ	“three each”
σομ↔σομ	“ten each”
ρεκΗ↔↔↔κΗ↔↔τ	“hundred each”
λίστΗκΗ↔↔↔κΗ↔↔τ	“thousand each”

13. RESTRICTIVE NUMERAL

The distributive numerals are formed by adding the suffix $\sqrt{\varphi\leftrightarrow\kappa}$ to the cardinals.

Example:

Aimol	Gloss
↔↔νκΗ↔↔τ $\sqrt{\varphi\leftrightarrow\kappa}$	“only one”
↔↔ννι $\sqrt{\varphi\leftrightarrow\kappa}$	“only two”
↔↔ντΗυμ $\sqrt{\varphi\leftrightarrow\kappa}$	“only three”
ρετΗυμ $\sqrt{\varphi\leftrightarrow\kappa}$	“only three hundred”
ρεμ↔↔νλι $\sqrt{\varphi\leftrightarrow\kappa}$	“only four hundred”

14. CONCLUSION

From the above discussion we come to know that the Aimol has rich numerical system which has been using in our daily life. It has every counting system. They can count and calculate the number from one to thousand, thousand to lakh, lakh to crore and million. Aimol has definite counting system except in indefinite counting like «*werte* ‘some/few’, *tutu* ‘anyone’, «*t«mbuk* ‘too much’, *kutj«kH«t* ‘amount that one hand can grasp’, «*lo* ‘bunch’ etc. So we can enrich this kind of endangered language before the elderly people who know on the language dies.

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