Research Paper   Language

Negative Features of Purulia Bangla

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ABSTRACT   *Purulia ia a small district in the western part of West Bengal which is almost 350 kms from Kolkata. There are certain areas of sentence construction in the Bangla spoken in and around Purulia which differ from the Standard Bangla. Negation is one such area. The negative markers in Purulia Bangla are /loi/ and /noi/. In Purulia Bangla negation is generally used before the verb. This is perhaps because of the influence of Hindi on Purulia Bangla.*

KEYWORDS : Standard Bangla, Purulia Bangla, negation, negative marker

Purulia ia a small district in the western part of West Bengal which is almost 350 kms from Kolkata. Generally the process of sentence construction in Purulia Bangla (henceforth PB) are similar to the Standard Bangla (henceforth SB). But there are certain areas of differences also. Negation is one such area where we find such differences. This paper will try to locate some such differences and try to explain the causes for the same.

In SB, the negative markers are /noi/, /na/, and /ni/. In Standard Colloquial Bangla /nai/ is often used. The equivalents in PB are /loi/ for /noi/, and /nai/ for both /na/ and /ni/. PB /notoi/ is the negative marker which is used in certain areas only.

eg. SB   ota   gari   = That is a car.
          (that   car)
     PB   uto gari bote = That is a car.
          (that car   is)
     SB   ota gari noi   = That is not a car.
          (that car not)
     PB   ota   gari noi   =   That is not a car.

So we find that in PB, the word /bote/ is very similar to the auxiliary verb 'is'. But in the case of negative sentences /loi/ is the negative marker and /bote/ the auxiliary verb is not used. We can find the same thing when the answer to a question is in the negative.

eg. SB   rina tor ke   = Who is Rina to you?
          (Rina your who)
          rina amr keu na = Rina is none to me.

     PB   rina tor ke bote = Who is Rina to you?
          (Rina your who is)
          rina amar keu na   = Rina is none to me.
          (Rina my nobody not)

In PB /nai/ is used in almost all tenses and it is mostly used before the verbs. But in SB /ni/ indicates past tense and /na/ is used for both present and future.

eg. SB   Past Tense kheli ni   = (I) did not play.
          (play not)
          Present Tense kheli na = (I) do not play.
          (play not)
          Future Tense khelbo na = (I) will not play.
          (will not play)
     PB   Past Tense nai kheli = (I) did not play.
          (not play)
          Present Tense nai kheli = (I) do not play.
          (not play)
          Future Tense nai khelbo= (I) will not play.
          (not will play)

In SB, the verb is used before the negative marker but in PB, the negative marker is used before the verb.

Sometimes /nai/ may be used after the verb in PB, but in such cases the tense turns to present perfect.

eg. PB   kheli nai =   (I) have not played.
          (play not)
          nai kheli =   (I) do not play.
          (not play)

Negation in compound sentences are of the similar structure both in SB and PB.

eg. SB na ram khabe na khelbe   = Ram would neither eat nor play.
    PB na ram khabek na khelbek = Ram would neither eat nor play
    SB ram khabeo na khelbeo na = Ram would neither eat nor play
    PB ram khabeko nai khelbeko nai = Ram would neither eat nor play
    *PB   ram nai khabeko nai khelbeko

So in the case of negation in compound sentences in PB, the negative marker /nai/ is used after the verb.

In case of interrogative sentences, a similar sort of difference between SB and PB is noted.

eg. SB tora ki khelbi na   = Will you not play?
    You plural Q marker will play not
    PB tora ki nai khelbis   = Will you not play?
    You plural Q marker not will play

A similar sort of difference is noticed in sentences consisting of a compound verb (infinite verb + auxiliary verb). When the negative marker is added to a sentence consisting of verb + auxiliary verb, the auxiliary verb is dropped in both SB and PB, but the negative marker occurs after the verb in SB and before the verb in PB.

eg. SB   ram   kore   nobe   =   Ram will do.
          (Ram   do   will)
          ram   korbe   na   =   Ram will not do.
          (Ram   will do not)

     PB   ram   kore   libek   =   Ram will do.
          (Ram   will   do)
          ram   nai   korbek   =   Ram will not do.
          (Ram   not   will do)

It has already been mentioned that the negative marker /notoi/ is used in certain areas only.

eg. SB ami ruti khabo na   =   I will not eat bread.
    (I bread   will eat not)
    PB ami ruti notoi khabo   =   I will not eat bread.
    (I   bread   not   will eat)

So even with the use of /notoi/ in PB, it is used before the verb unlike the use of the negative marker after the verb in SB.

Kheria is a sub-dialect of PB which is spoken by the Kheria and Sabar community in a particular area. Interestingly, in this sub-dialect /nai/ or /na/ often render the sentence into an affirmative one.

eg. bera dubit nai   =   The sun is setting.
     (sun is setting not)
     aadhar hit na   =   It is becoming dark.
     (dark becoming not)

Some linguists consider the Kheria sub-dialect as the admixture of corrupt Bangla and corrupt Oriya. The area where this sub-dialect is used is very close to Orissa and perhaps because of this geographical proximity, the influence of Oriya on the Bangla of Sabars and Kherias is observed.

Purulia was earlier called Manbhum and it was in Bihar. In the then Manbhum, both Hindi and Bangla were spoken. In 1956, Manbhum was renamed Purulia and on the basis of language it was merged with West Bengal. But the influence of Hindi remained on the Bangla of Purulia. In Hindi, the negative marker is generally present before the verb and perhaps because of this influence the negative markers are used before the verbs in PB. At the same time SB has also been influencing PB for the last five decades and as a result of which in some cases the negative markers are also used after the verbs in PB.

eg. SB jeo na = (You) don't go.
     (go not)
     PB jeo na = (You) don't go.
     (go   not)

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