

## NUMBER IN MAO

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### Abstract

In this paper, attempts will be made to discuss the occupations and the categories of number in Mao. The language belongs to Tibeto Burman language family and is a SOV word order language. An interesting discussion will be made that the abstract noun does not require an affix to indicate number unlike the many other languages and also the numeral is a grammatical class forming a sub-group of nominal taking case markers that which cannot be undermined. An attempt will be made that both the noun and pronoun shows the number distinction. Require discussion will be made of how the words ‘top’ and ‘bottom’ cannot specify uniformly with the number markers of ‘first’ and the ‘last’.

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Number is simply an opposition of singular versus plural. Corbett stated that number is the most underestimated of the grammatical categories. It is deceptively consider the number as simple, and is much interested and varies than most linguists realize. The analysis of the category of number in one particular language is a very complex matter.

Number categories in Mao have three such as singular, dual, and plural. Morphologically, the numbers are marked by a bound morphemes *-na* ‘singular’, *-nhei* ‘dual’, and *-khru* ‘plural’. The demonstrative pronouns *he*, *le*, *titi*, and *sii* can take any number marker. Other nouns are morphologically unmarked for singular numbers. See the examples given below.

#### *Singular*

- (1) a. he-na  
Dem-Sg  
‘This one’
- b. le-na  
Dem-Sg  
‘That one’
- c. tti-na  
Dem-Sg  
‘That one’ (interlocutor and the listener have seen before and are now talking about)

- d. sü-na  
 Dem-Sg  
 ‘That one’ (interlocutor and the listener may or may not have seen yet and are talking about it)
- Dual*
- (2) a. he-nhei ‘these two’  
 Dem- Dul
- b. le -nhei ‘those two’  
 Dem- Dul
- c. t̥i□-həi ‘those two’  
 Dem- Dul
- d. sü-nhei ‘those two’  
 Dem- Dul
- Plural*
- (3) a. he-khru  
 Dem -Pl  
 ‘These’
- b. le-khru  
 Dem -Pl  
 ‘Those’
- c. tti -khru  
 Dem -Pl  
 ‘Those’
- d. sü -khru  
 Dem -Pl  
 ‘Those’

Illustrations (2) show that the suffix marker *-nhei* is derived from the numeral *kanhei* ‘two’, and they can occur only when a specific number is required. Concrete nouns do not have a singular suffix in Mao language. Examples are given below.

(4)	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Dual</b>	<b>Plural</b>
	rashi ‘fruit’	rashi-nhei ‘fruits’	rashi-khru ‘fruits’
	oshi ‘dog’	oshi-nhei ‘dogs’	oshi-khru ‘dogs’
	lokhabvü ‘bag’	lokhabvü-nhei ‘bags’	lokhabvü -khru ‘bags’
	rahu ‘bird’	rahu -nhei ‘birds’	rahu - khru ‘birds’
	onapfutto ‘boy’	onapfutto-nhei ‘boys’	onapfutto-khru ‘boys’

It is interesting that abstract noun does not require a suffix marker to denote any number as shown in (5) illustration below.

(5)	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Dual</b>	<b>Plural</b>
a.	cupe ‘word’	*cupe-nhei	*cupe-khru
b.	itsü ‘idea’	*itsü-nhei	*itsü-khru
c.	lemazhe ‘sadness’	*lemazhe-nhei	*lemazhe -khru
d.	asa ‘happiness’	*asa -nhei	*asa -khru
e.	kakra ‘cry’	*kakra-nhei	*kakra-khru

For instance, in English, a noun consisting of two or more elements in a single entity shows a number expression, but that is not the case in Mao language as shown in (6).

	<b>Singular</b>	<b>Dual</b>	<b>Plural</b>
(6) a.	mani 'trousers'	*manin-nhei	*mani- khru
b.	bibi 'scissors'	*bibi -nhei	*bibi - khru
c.	phishuada 'stairs'	*phishuada -nhei	*phishuada –khru

If the numbers added to the noun then it will give a different meaning. Observe the examples given below.

- (7) a. mani -nhei  
trousers –Dul  
'Two pairs of trousers'
- b. bibi -nhei  
scissors - Dul  
'Two pairs of scissors'
- c. phishuada -khru  
stairs -Pl  
'Three or more stairs'

In some situations, if perceive three or more objects as a single entity, as in a pile or bundle, then the occurrence of plural number *-khru* is possible after the numeral. Examples are given below.

- (8) a. larübvü padei-khru  
book four -Pl  
'Four books'
- b. rǎhu kosü-khru  
bird three -Pl  
'Three birds'
- c. lokhabvü kia-khru  
bag ten -Pl  
'Ten bags'
- d. otookrü padei-khru  
cow four -Pl  
'Four cows'

## 0.2 NUMERAL

Mao numeral is a grammatical class, which forms a sub-class of nominal, capable of taking case markers. In many cases, the numerals occur with a noun and form a noun phrase where the noun is the nucleus of the phrases. Observe the examples given below.

- (9) a. kohu kahei  
spade two  
'Two spades'
- b. larübvü padei leno kanhei pfo -lo  
book four Abl two take -Imp  
'Take two books out of four'
- c. ikhramei okhe kanhei leno kozhu to-le

we plate two Abl share eat -Part  
'We will eat from two plates'

There are four numeral categories, namely, Ordinal, Cardinal, Arithmetic, and Fraction numerals.

## 2.1 ORDINAL NUMERALS

To form the ordinal numerals in Mao language, the suffix bound morpheme *-na* can add to any numerals as in (10). Examples are given below.

(10)	kali na	'first'
	kahnei na	'second'
	kosü na	'third'
	padei na	'fourth'
	pongo na	'fifth'
	choro na	'sixth'
	chani na	'seventh'
	chacha na	'eighth'
	chakoo na	'nineth'
	kia na	'tenth'

To specify the first one and the last one is as follows:

(11)	karei na	'first one'
	kono na	'last one'

Mao has unique words to specify the *opimodu* 'top' and the *okhroomodu* 'bottom', apart from the first and the last. Although first and last is understood that nothing is more ahead or behind. But these two usages are in different way as the first and last are used when the numerals are in line or in rank, whereas, the top and the bottom are used when things are loaded, piled up or stairs. Examples are given below.

(12)	a.	opimodu	'top most'
	b.	okhroomodu	'bottom'

In Mao, 'first' and 'last' as well as 'top' and 'bottom' are expressed by different morphemes - *karei*, *kono*, *opimodu*, and *okhroomodu* as shown in (11 and 12), the rest are expressed by their own numeral names.

## 2.2 CARDINAL NUMERALS

Cardinal numerals may be Classify as (i) primary numerals, and (ii) secondary numerals. They are discussed with illustrations.

### (i) PRIMARY NUMERALS

Mao has fifteen primary numerals and they are monomorphemic words. Examples are given below.

(13)	kali	'one'
	kanhei	'two'
	kosü	'three'
	padei	'four'
	pongo	'five'
	choro	'six'

cani	‘seven’
chacha	‘eight’
chakoo	‘nine’
kia	‘ten’
makei	‘twenty’
shia	‘thirty’
krei	‘hundred’
thoo	‘thousand’
zü	‘lakh’

## (ii) SECONDARY NUMERALS

The constituents of a secondary numeral may have different types of relationship with the other constituents. Depends upon the association, the secondary numerals can be sub-classified into four types. The following illustrations describe these sub-classes along with their relationships among the constituents:

(i) The constituent numerals showing the relationship of summing up as in unit of *kia* ‘ten’ are shown in examples (14 and 15) here below.

(14)

<i>kia</i> <i>kaliu</i>	‘eleven’
<i>kia</i> <i>kanhei</i>	‘twelve’
<i>kia</i> <i>kosü</i>	‘thirteen’
<i>kia</i> <i>padei</i>	‘fourteen’
<i>kia</i> <i>pongo</i>	‘fifteen’
<i>kia</i> <i>choro</i>	‘sixteen’
<i>kia</i> <i>chani</i>	‘seventeen’
<i>kia</i> <i>chacha</i>	‘eighteen’
<i>kia</i> <i>chakoo</i>	‘nineteen’

Now, the examples in (15) depict how the unique suffix *-u* is added to *kali* ‘one’ for tenth unit within ninety-one.

(15)

a.	<i>kia</i> ‘ten’ + <i>kali</i> ‘one’ + <i>u</i> (suffix)	>	<i>kia</i> <i>kaliu</i>	‘eleven’
b.	<i>makei</i> ‘twenty’ + <i>kali</i> ‘one’ + <i>u</i> (suffix)	>	<i>makei</i> <i>kaliu</i>	‘twenty- one’
c.	<i>shia</i> ‘thirty’ + <i>kali</i> ‘one’ + <i>u</i> (suffix)	>	<i>shia</i> <i>kaliu</i>	‘thirty- one’
d.	<i>reipadei</i> ‘fourty’ + <i>kali</i> ‘one’ + <i>u</i> (suffix)	>	<i>reipadei</i> + <i>kaliu</i>	‘forty- one’
e.	<i>reipongo</i> ‘fifty’ + <i>kali</i> ‘one’ + <i>u</i> (suffix)	>	<i>reipongo</i> <i>kaliu</i>	‘fifty- one’
f.	<i>reichoro</i> ‘sixty’ + <i>kali</i> ‘one’ + <i>u</i> (suffix)	>	<i>reichoro</i> <i>kaliu</i>	‘sixty- one’
g.	<i>reini</i> ‘seventy’ + <i>kali</i> ‘one’ + <i>u</i> (suffix)	>	<i>reini</i> <i>kaliu</i>	‘seventy- one’
h.	<i>reicha</i> ‘eighty’ + <i>kali</i> ‘one’ + <i>u</i> (suffix)	>	<i>reicha</i> <i>kaliu</i>	‘eighty -one’
i.	<i>reikoo</i> ‘ninety’ + <i>kali</i> ‘one’ + <i>u</i> (suffix)	>	<i>reikoo</i> <i>kaliu</i>	‘ninety- one’

To form secondary numerals from eleven to nineteen, add the primary numerals. Likewise, the different multiples of *kia* ‘ten’, *krei* ‘hundred’, *tho* ‘thousand’, *zü* ‘lakh’, and so on, we can write upto billions by adding the primary numerals.

(ii) The constitutional numerals show the relationship of multiplication with decimal notation *kia* ‘ten’. Below are some paradigms.

(16)

a.	<i>makə</i>	‘twenty’
b.	<i>shia</i>	‘thirty’
c.	<i>rei padei</i>	‘forty’

- |    |           |           |
|----|-----------|-----------|
| d. | rei pongo | ‘fifty’   |
| e. | rei choro | ‘sixty’   |
| f. | rei ni    | ‘seventy’ |
| g. | rei cha   | ‘eighty’  |
| h. | rei koo   | ‘ninety’  |

In the above examples (16 c-h), *rei* the initial syllable is understood to be *kia* ‘ten’ to which the primary numeral is suffixed. Moreover, in the same way in the above examples, the multiples of *krei* ‘hundred’, *thoo* ‘thousand’, and *zū* ‘lakh’ show these types of relationship between their constituents as in examples (17) given below.

- |      |      |   |       |   |           |                 |
|------|------|---|-------|---|-----------|-----------------|
| (17) | krei | x | padei | > | kreipadei | ‘four hundred’  |
|      | thoo | x | padei | > | thoopadei | ‘four thousand’ |
|      | zū   | x | padei | > | zūpadei   | ‘four lakh’     |

### 2.3 FRACTIONAL NUMERALS

In Mao language, to do mathematical calculations we use the fractional numerals and write in the partitive form x/y expression. In this formula, it is possible to write any type of fraction. We find fractional numerals in the words *dapo* ‘half’, *dakre* ‘quarter’, and *ozhe* ‘share’ in this language. The three fractional numerals can be used with numeral from one to infinite number. Examples are given below.

- |      |    |                       |                      |   |
|------|----|-----------------------|----------------------|---|
| (18) | a. | dapo kali             | half one             | ‘Single half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ )’               |
|      |    | dapo kanhei           | half two             | ‘Two halves ( $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}$ )’  |
|      | b. | dakre kali            | quarter one          | ‘One quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ )’               |
|      |    | dakre kanhi           | quarter two          | Two quarters ( $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{1}{4}$ )’ |
|      | c. | ozhe kosü leno kali   | share three from one | ‘One share out of three ( $\frac{1}{3}$ )’    |
|      |    | Ozhe kosü leno kanhei | share three from two | ‘Two share out of three ( $\frac{2}{3}$ )’    |

### 2.4 ARITHMETIC NUMERALS

In Mao language, there are four terms to calculate. They are (i) *kohrü* ‘addition’, (ii) *mata* ‘subtraction’, (iii) *madzümopro* ‘multiplication’ and (iv) *kozhu* ‘divide’. Examples are given below.

#### (i) *Kohrü* ‘Addition’

To take care of the communication needs, the word *kohrü* ‘add’ is used. Examples are given below.

- (19) a. kali pi -lekhi kanhei kohrü  
one above-Loc two plus  
'One plus two'
- b. kia pi -lekhi kanhei kohrü  
ten above-Loc two plus  
'Ten plus two'
- c. krei -kanhei pi -lekhi chakoo kohrü  
hundred - two above -Loc nine plus  
'Two hundred plus nine'

**(ii) Mata 'Subtraction'**

To express subtraction in this language, the word *mata* 'minus' (cause to go) and *leno* 'from' (remove from) together are used. The instrumental case *pfoo* is optional. Examples are given below.

- (20) a. pongo leno kanhei (pfoo) mata hio  
five from two (take) let go Imp  
'Minus two from five'
- b. makei leno kia choro (pfoo) mata hio  
twenty from ten six (take) let go Imp  
'Minus sixteen from twenty'
- c. krei pongo leno krei padei mata le  
hundred five from hundred four let go will  
'Four hundred minus from five hundred'

**(iii) Madzümopro 'Multiplication'**

For multiplication, the word *madzümopro* is used. However, it cannot occur alone without the expression *peitta* 'type' as shown in examples (21) which acts as a connective of the two numbers as well as a supplement to the multiplication. As an imperative expression the multiplication word *madzümopro* is use. Examples are given below.

- (21) a. kosü peitta kosü madzümopro hio  
three type three multiply Imp  
'Three multiply by three'
- b. pongo peitta pongo madzümopro hio  
five type five multiply Imp  
'Five multiply by five'
- c. kia peitta kia madzümopro hili chia?  
ten type ten multiply if Intr  
'If ten is multiply by ten, how much it will be?'

It is observed that in some context the expression of multiplication may be taken care of *peitta* alone without *madzümopro*. Examples are given below.

- (22) a. pongo peitta pongo sü makei pongo  
five type five that twenty five  
'Five multiply five is twenty- five'
- b. kanhei peitta pongo sü kia  
two type five that ten  
'Two multiply five is ten'

- c. kosü peitta kosü sü chakoo  
three type three that nine  
'Three multiply three is nine'

(iv) **Kozhu 'Divide'**

In doing division, Mao language has the collocation of the instrumental case *pfoo* 'take', verb *kozhu* 'divide', and agency marker *no* 'by' as well as an accusative markers *yi* which are obligatorily required for doing division. Examples are given below.

- (23) a. kosü -no chakoo -yi pfoo kozhu  
three -by nine -Acc take divide  
'Nine divided by three'
- b. kia -no reipongo -yi pfoo kozhu  
ten -by fifty -Acc take divide  
'Fifty divided by ten'
- c. krei kanhei -no thoo kanhei-yi pfoo kozhu  
hundred two -by thousand two -Acc take divide  
'Two thousand is divided by two hundred'

### 0.3 CONCLUSION

The above analysis with the Corbett statements make it cleared that number is simply an opposition of singular versus plural. It is the most underestimated of the grammatical categories. The analysis of the category of number in one particular language is a very complex matter. Number categories in Mao have singular, dual, and plural. Morphologically, the numbers are marked by a bound morphemes *-na* 'singular', *-nhei* 'dual', and *-khru* 'plural'. The demonstrative pronouns *he*, *le*, *tti*, and *sü* can take any number marker. Other nouns are morphologically unmarked for singular numbers. In many cases, the numerals occur with a noun and form a noun phrase where the noun is the nucleus of the phrases. Numerals categories showed the varied functions in this language.

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