

## CHAPTER-2

### LINGUISTIC SITUATION OF KOKRAJHAR DISTRICT

#### 2.1 Introduction of Kokrajhar District

Kokrajhar is one of the District of the Bodoland Territorial Region among 33<sup>rd</sup> District of Assam. Before 1983, Kokrajhar was a part of the undivided Goalpara District. In 1957, Kokrajhar was recognized as a civil sub-division under Dhubri sub-division of the undivided Goalpara District. On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1983, Kokrajhar was upgraded into a separate district and at that time there were four Police Stations which are kokrajhar, Bijni, Sidli and Gossaigaon. The boundary of the kokrajhar District during that time was from the Manas river in the East to the Sankoch river in the west.

At present, Kokrajhar is an administrative district of the North Eastern state of Assam with a total area of 3,169.22 Sq k.m. As per the census of 2011, the total population of kokrajhar district is 8,87,142. Kokrajhar town is located near the beautiful river of Gaurang river. The North East Indian Railway divides the city into two sides, North and the South. Kokrajhar town is the headquarter of Kokrajhar District. It is also the capital of the Bodoland Territorial Council which was established on 10 February 2003. Kokrajhar district is situated on the northern bank of the Brahmaputra river. At present, kokrajhar district has three sub-divisions. They are- kokrajhar, Gossaigaon and Parbotjhora. Gossaigaon town is the headquarter of Gossaigaon sub-division.

The map of Kokrajhar District is given below:

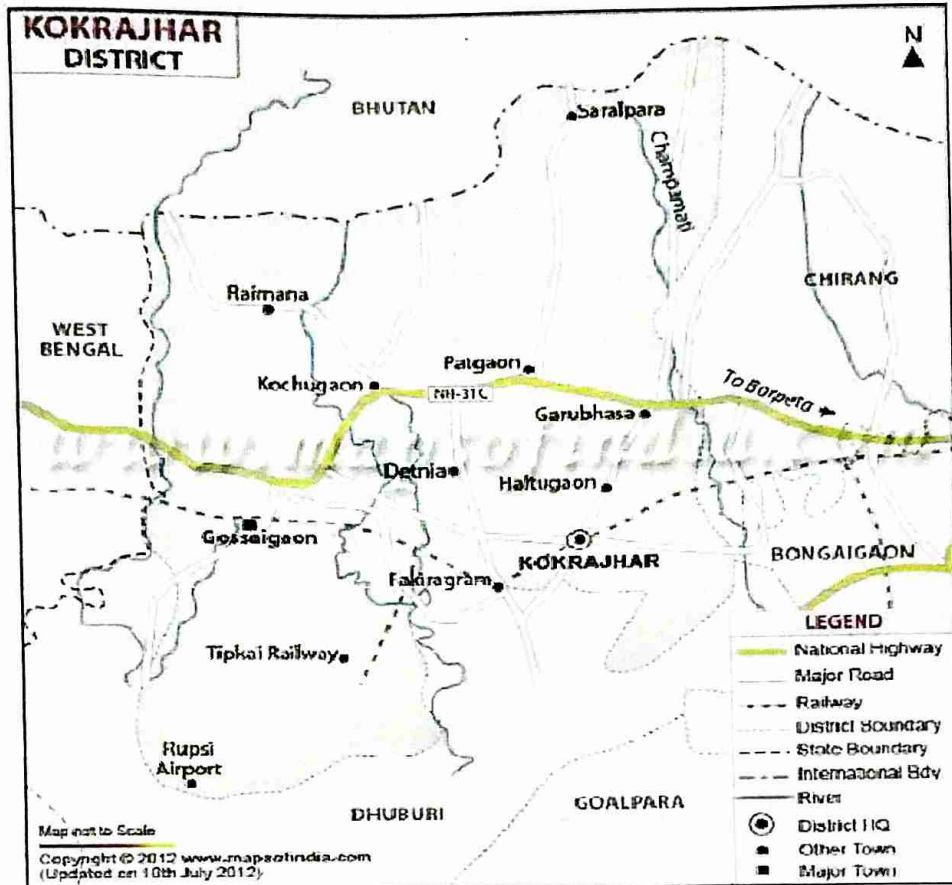


Figure 1.6

(Extracted from www.mapsofindia.com)

### 2.1.1. Language data of kokrajhar District:

Kokrajhar District is inhabited by people belonging to different multiple groups. Apart from Bodo, there are several other communities like Assamese, Muslim, Adivasi, Rajbongshi etc. In other word, Kokrajhar is a multi-lingual district of Assam. From the population of the district, Bodos are the majority of kokrajhar

district. According to the 2011 census, the linguistic population of kokrajhar district is as follows:

Bodos	28.39%
Assamese	23.78%
Bengali	17.78%
Santhali	11.09%
Rajbongshi	7.62%
Rabha	2.98%
Hindi	1.76%
Nepali	1.65%
Kurukh	1.42%
Garos	1.21%

extracted from [www.census2011.co.in](http://www.census2011.co.in)

#### 2.1.2 Influential places of kokrajhar district:

- i) **Chakrashila Wildlife Sanctuary:** Chakrashila wildlife sanctuary is a famous wildlife sanctuary, which is located at kokrajhar district. It is famous for golden langur and 2<sup>nd</sup> protected habitat for golden langur. In 1966, it was recognized as a Reserve Forest and on July 14, 1994 it was recognized as a wildlife sanctuary by the Government of Assam. It is about 6 km away from kokrajhar town. It has a total area of 45,568 sq km. Different species of wildlife are found here including 119 species of birds.
- ii) **Onthai Gwlo:** Onthai Gwlo is located at Chandrapara area of kokrajhar district near the beautiful bank of the Gaurang river. It is one of the beautiful holy shrines of kokrajhar district.

- iii) Mahamaya Temple: Mahamaya Temple is one of the oldest and famous temple of kokrajhar district. It is located at the boundary of the kokrajhar bordering Dhubri district.
- iv) Dwimalu Park: Dwimalu park is a memorial park named after Jwhwlaow Dwimalu. It is a famous park located at Karigaon area of kokrajhar district.
- v) Gaurang Park: Gaurang park is a famous park located near the bank of Gaurang river. It was constructed as a park in memory of late Daoki Brahma, one of the martyrs of Bodoland Movement.

#### 2.1.3 Economic of kokrajhar district:

Agriculture is the main source of income of the people of kokrajhar district. About 80% of the people of kokrajhar district are dependent on agriculture.

#### 2.1.4 Literacy rate of kokrajhar District:

According to the census report of 2001, the total population of kokrajhar district is 8,43,243 of which 4,33,360 are males and 4,09,883 are females respectively.

According to the 2011 census report, kokrajhar district has a total population of 887142 of which 434237 are females and 452905 are males respectively and the literacy rate of kokrajhar District was 71.89% males and 58.27% females respectively.

#### 2.1.5 Religious percentage of kokrajhar District:

Kokrajhar is a district having many different religions. As per the 2011 census report, the religious percentage of population of kokrajhar district is as follows:

Hinduism	59.64%
Islamism	28.44%
Christianity	11.40%
Sikhism	0.01%
Buddhism	0.19%
Jainism	0.04%
Others	0.01%
Not stated	0.27%

Extracted from [www.census2011.co.in](http://www.census2011.co.in)

## 2.2 Linguistic Situation of various places at Kokrajhar District:

Language is an undeniable part of the society. Relation between society and language is very close and inseparable. In between the societies a language is born. To live peacefully and make a living in a society, language is very important. With the medium of language by living in a society one can share his or her feelings to live in unity. Without a language a society cannot survive. That is the reason Anup Kr. Deka has stated that, "*Language is a socio-cultural phenomenon.*"<sup>7</sup> Where there is a language there is a society, and where there is a society there is a language. Depending on the societies a language can also vary because there are a number of different countries and languages. To live a better and peace life a person from one language has to build relationship with the people of other languages and with time and place a person from a community becomes compelled to learn the languages of

<sup>7</sup> Deka, Anup Kumar: *Linguistics & Sociolinguistics*, p.104

other community. It is because a language is a medium of communication and by living together in a society makes a person learn other languages. In today's generation one can find different situation from different place in a society. These are:

**i) Bilingual Situation:** When a person's mind is filled with two languages and can understand and explain with both the languages then it is called Bilingual situation. When a person conveys his thoughts, understandings and feelings to other with two languages, it is called Bilingualism. Bilingual can be divided into two parts:

**a) Co-Ordinate Bilingual:** When a person with two languages can read, write and speak without any mistake then that person is called as co-ordinate bilingual person.

**b) Dominant and subordinate bilingual:** When a person learns two languages, but only strong at any one of the language and able to read, write and speak that language fluently, then that person's language is called dominant language. Apart from that the other language in which the person is less expert is called as subordinate language.

No matter what a person can be strong at both the language and any either one of them and less fluent at the other language, it is called bilingual. Bilingual situation forms in a person's life in many ways. When a person from a language of one community lives with the person from other language and community then they learn each other's language and become bilingual. After bilingual the situation compels them to be strong at both the languages and their thoughts of the mind strikes with both the language. This makes a person bilingual and they speak by mixing up the language to express their feelings, and code-mixing and code-switching takes place at this point. When a person becomes bilingual, code-switching and code-mixing takes place.

## **ii) Multilingual Situation:**

When a person can express his/her thoughts and feelings in many languages it is called multilingual situation. When a person lives in a society of different languages, cultures and traditions, he has to learn the other languages in order to communicate with them and this forms the multilingual situation. When a person becomes multilingual different languages strikes the person's mind and when he tries to express his feelings and thought he speaks by mixing the languages. Being aware and discipline makes a person to learn different languages. With increase discipline and standardization people has become more multilingual. The moment a person steps out of his home, he has to become multilingual. It is because to live in a society one has to keep communications alive. That is why people has to learn different languages and becomes multilingual.

### **2.2.1 Linguistic Situation of Kokrajhar district:**

Kokrajhar is a place of Bodo speakers in B.T.R. (Bodoland Territorial Region). Along with Bodo speaker different speakers like Garo, Rabha, Rajbongshi, Nepali, Hindi, Bengali, Santhali, Muslim, Assamese peoples also lived in Kokrajhar. Kokrajhar is a huge place which is filled up with different people belonging of different communities and languages. This place is priorly a living place for Bodo people. Now a day along with Bodo people others also started moving in for a living and survival in Kokrajhar town. Kokrajhar being a capital of B.T.R. this place is very advanced and developed and for this reason this place has become a place where people can make a living. Due to people living with various communities and languages in this place, people have become bilingual and multilingual. And for the same reason Bodo speakers started learning other languages switching themselves as bilingual or multilingual speakers. In 2011 the population of Kokrajhar was 8,87,142. And in present the population is increasing rapidly. Some of the major linguistic situation of Kokrajhar district is given below:



**i) Social Relation:** Kokrajhar is covered with wide area involving not only Bodo language speakers but also with different communities. With the social relation, the scope of language is broad and it has been mixed up. In this place, apart from Bodo language society is also filled with Assamese, Bengali, Rabha, Garo, Rajbongshi, Hindi, English, Santali, Nepali etc. In a large whole society, maintaining social relation is necessary to create peace atmosphere and for their survival among different communities. A community or social language speaking community cannot survive alone without maintaining a social relation with another community. One need to adopt different social languages to live in peace and harmony in a mixed up society. Likewise, Kokrajhar as a place is also filled with people speaking different languages and they are connected with societies of Bodo peoples. The close connection of Bodo speakers with other communities has made them to adopt social relation with other communities. This is because a good social relation brings a peace atmosphere in the society. Thus, for maintaining social relation Bodo language speakers has adopted different languages and other communities has also maintained social relation with Bodo community. This leads all the communities towards bilingual and multilingual personality.

**ii) Market Place Situation:** Market place is a place where different language speakers are free to buy and sell all the material to satisfy their needs and wants without opposing to each other. The societies of Kokrajhar are also mixed up with different language speakers. The market place is a place where people gathered morning to evening in the market place to buy their needs and wants. For the sake of maintaining mutual relationship between buyer and seller, the language is necessary for communicating due to people belonging to other communities. For instance some of the market places of Kokrajhar are Gangzema Market, Daily Market, Maiki Bajar, Kokrajhar Main Town Market, Tinali Market, Titaguri Bazar etc. In this place along with bodo language speakers different language also gathers everyday to purchase their needs and wants. So, for the importance of mutual understanding, different communities adopted each other language in this locality.



**iii) Education:** In modern technology era, education is the biggest abstract towards the growth of community. It is an era of competitions. In this era, education is the biggest weapon of every situation. People can have high dignity and respect only when they are well educated and also people who can gain different knowledge or ideas from the different part of the world. Thus, all the parents take cogent responsibilities of their children from the very beginning of their education life. In the field of education, not only mother language are taught but also offers different languages courses for upgrading the knowledge of the students. In the field of education, different language speakers join together to learn and gain knowledge. Likewise, in the locality of Kokrajhar, due to mixed up communities along with Bodo language speakers all other different communities of different language speaker students altogether learn and gain knowledge. Everyday they gather altogether in school, institution etc. So, for the sake of social relation and mutual understanding they have to learn different language among themselves. Other than this, different languages like Hindi, English, Assamese etc. are included as a subject in the schools. Therefore, different language speakers have to learn these languages adopting bilingual and multilingual languages.

**iv) Classroom Situation:** Languages should be observed necessarily in terms of classroom situation. In a classroom, not only one language speakers exists but also different language speakers altogether come to same school. They all learn and gain knowledge in same classroom, from the same chapter and on the same time. Since, they are in the same classroom, and they get to meet each other almost everyday and building like a small society among them, where they have to maintain unity and they have learn different languages for the purpose of mutual understanding between them. Apart from this, in college level, English are most commonly used language. Thus, every student has to adopt this language, which leads them towards bilingual and multilingual personality.

Apart from this, a teacher has to make different language speakers understand in the same class room and at the same time. It is very difficult for the teachers to make

them understand at the same time specially when there are students present from different language speakers. This is because every student may not be able to understand completely a particular language. Thus, a teacher has to adopt different language to make understanding better to the students. So, it will lead the teachers towards bilingual and multilingual personality adoption.

**v) Literature:** In human life, the situation of sad moments can only be cured with the medicine of literature. Literatures are born from life. Therefore, the way life is full of wonders, the same is the literature. It is that part of life through which the art of real life reflects. Literature reflects beauty, contempt, astringent, good, bad etc. of human life. The author must fill the real juice of literature in the heart of students and he must be aware of his words to create literature in the heart of students. Therefore, along with his mother language, the author should also be good enough to understand different languages as well as high standard languages. So, the author having a deep knowledge of mother language is not good enough. He should also have a deep knowledge of different literature languages. The author should have the knowledge of different literature languages of the world. He should have knowledge of techniques, using of words, etc. Only if he have the knowledge of high standard literature language, then only he will able to create strong literature and will be respected by the readers. Thus, the authors have to study a lot of literatures and have to learn multiple languages which will make them bilingual and multilingual.

Apart from this, the philology should also have to learn different languages because if he studies only same language of literature and does not learn other languages, he would not be able to gain knowledge of high standard literature. Thus, philology is bind with bilingual and multilingual situation.

**vi) Service/Job:** As a mini society, service or job situation should be kept close eyes in terms of language. In a particular job or service, there are different language speakers. Every communities or different language speakers have to work together. So, every office will be considered as a mini society. Therefore, in a particular place

everyone have to work together for the purpose of creating peace atmosphere and all language speakers maintain social relation among themselves by adopting different languages. Kokrajhar is also language mixed up society and as a capital of B.T.R, many government and private offices includes not only one language speakers but also from different communities speaking different languages. Thus, making them a bilingual and multilingual personality.