

ABSTRACT

Language change is one of the common experiences of a linguistic community. There are various theories that explain the cause of language change in a linguistic community; one of the important causes being ‘borrowing or loanwords.’ The Bodo linguistic community too has had contact with many neighbouring language groups of Assam which has shaped the contemporary Bodo language. This dissertation investigates the phenomenon of use of English words among the Bodos while conversing in native Bodo language. A close observation and analysis of the samples from the interviews and news reports evidences the common practice of borrowing English words among the Bodos. To test the hypothesis of the research number of samples have been collected and analyzed to show how Bodos practically use English words to express themselves in the process of communicating to one another. Apart from other theories that explain the cause of language change, Edward Sapir’s theory of ‘loanwords’ as a cause for language Change is used in the research.

The first chapter of my dissertation is a general introduction which presents an overview of the entire research. The second chapter defines Language and attempts to explore its characteristics; it also discusses various theories of Language change. The third chapter discusses the role of ‘loanwords’ in language change. The fourth chapter explores the history and development of Bodo language. The Fifth chapter deals the influence of English ‘loanwords’ on the Bodo linguistic community by analyzing the interviews of Bodo politicians, artists, journalists and common folk. The sixth chapter of the dissertation is a conclusion; it presents the findings of the research in brief.