

CHAPTER-I

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introductory note on Boro language

Language is the best medium to communicate human's feelings and thoughts. It is the main factor to human being and vehicle of developing a society and civilization. Language makes the different to human from other animates. Every language is changes in course of time. The language contact, social differentiation and natural processes in usage are the main factor of language changes. The impact of other languages in a particular language is a natural process. This happen is occurred in case of Boro language. The impact of Indo-Aryan languages on Boro language occurs in the linguistic levels i.e. Phonology, Morphology and Lexis. Among these linguistic levels the impact finds excessively in the lexical level. In this study the selective linguistic levels i.e. the impact of Morphology and Lexis of Indo-Aryan languages on Boro language has been attempted to analyze.

In this chapter it has been attempted to discuss a short description on historical development of Boro language and concentration of Boro language speakers. At present Boro language is an emerging language. It is flourishing in language and many genres in literature. The Boros of Assam is an important ethnic group which has their unique identity having language, literature and culture. Boro language is a highly developed in comparison with other Bodo group of languages found in Assam or other North Eastern States of India. There are four different major language families in India viz. Indo-European, Sino-Tibetan, Austro-Asiatic and Dravidian. Linguistically, Boro language belongs to sub branch of Assam Burmese of Tibeto-Burman (TB) group which is the major branch of Sino-Tibetan language family and this language family is occupied second largest place in the world. The main homeland of Sino-Tibetan speakers was China and through the passes of time they scattered in different places of the world. The famous linguist S.K. Chatterji remarks about the expansion of Sino-Tibetan speech family as follows:

“The area of characterization for the primitive Sino-Tibetan speech appears to have been North-Western China between the head-waters of the Huang Ho and the Yang-tsze Kiang rivers.....Mongoloid tribes from Western China speaking forms of Sino-Tibetan speech appears to have been pushing south and west from their original homeland from pre-historic times, but certain large-scale movements of which we have faint inklings seem to have begun in the early part of the first millennium B.C.”¹

Boro language belongs to the Bodo group of languages which is originated from Tibeto-Burman sub branch of Sino-Tibetan main family. Boro, Dimasa, Garo, Rabha, Tiwa, Kokborok, Hajong are the languages of Bodo group. Most of the languages of this group have similarities among each other in linguistic levels like phonology, morphology, syntax and vocabulary. The similarity is mostly occurred in vocabulary section.

Racially, the Boro belongs to Mongoloid stock and have some common features to this group. The similar appearance of physical structure of this group approximately exists in Boro group of people. In this regard Rev. Sidney Endle also remarks-

“In face and figure they show a distinct approximation to what is known as the Mongolian type, i.e. they have square set faces, projecting cheekbones, with almond-shape eyes, and scanty beard and moustache, the last mentioned being often wanting altogether.”²

The Boro language speakers are widely scattered in whole area of Assam. In Assam the concentration of this language speakers are found from Dhubri in the west to Sadiya in the east. At present, the large number of speakers of Boro language is basically found in B.T.A.D. (Bodoland Territorial Area Districts) area of Assam. Besides the state of Assam a few number of Boro speakers are scattered its neighboring states like Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, North Bengal and some adjoining countries like Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh. The number of Boro speakers in Assam

¹ Chatterji, S.K : Kirata Jana Kriti, PP-21-22

² Endle, Rev.S : The Kacharis, P-1

according to 2001 census report was estimated at about 12, 96,162³. About the concentration of Boro speakers Chatterji commented as follows:

*“The Bodos, who spread over the whole of the Brahmaputra valley and North Bengal as well as East Bengal, forming a solid bloc in North-eastern India, were the most important Indo-Mongoloid people in Eastern India, and they form one the main bases of the present day population of these tracts.”*⁴

Anil Kumar Boro has also discussed about the settlements and concentration of Boro language speakers. He remarks-

“The Bodos have their settlements and habitats in some scattered pockets throughout Assam. The following are the areas of concentration of Bodo people in the Northern tract:

- a. North and Eastern parts of Dhubri district, the whole of Kokrajhar district and parts of Goalpara and Bongaigaon district (now Chirang district)*
- b. Northern parts of Barpeta, Nalbari and Kamrup districts (now Baksa district)*
- c. Northern parts of Darrang and Sonitpur (now Udalguri district)*
- d. Northern parts of North Lakhimpur and Dhemaji.*

These areas of concentration in the northern tract covers an area of 10,000 square km. and about 10 lakhs of Bodo speaking people.

Areas of Bodo concentration in the southern tract:

- a. Dudhnoi and Dhupdhara areas in the Goalpara district.*
- b. Boko-Chaygaon and Rani areas and south Guwahati- Sonapur Khetri areas in the southern part of Kamrup district.*
- c. Jagiroad- Morigaon areas in the Morigaon district and Rupahi Dhing areas in the Nagaon district.*
- d. Most of the southern part of Sibsagar district.*

³ <https://nenow.in> > north-east-news

⁴ Chatterji, S.K : Kirata Jana Kriti, PP-45-46

- e. *Howraghat- Langhin areas of Karbi Anglong distric.*
- f. *North-Eastern part of Dibrugarh district.*

Areas of Bodo settlement in the neighbouring states:

- a. *Tikrikilla area of Garo Hills in the state of Meghalaya.*
- b. *Dimapur area in Nagaland.*
- c. *Northern part of Jalpaiguri in West Bengal.”⁵*

The Boro people of north Bengal of west Bengal state are known as Mech or Mechi. In Assam non-Boro speakers identified Boro people as Boro or Kachari or Boro Kachari. Now a days in Assam they identify themselves as Boro (Bodo). The term ‘Boro’ identifies both the language as well as community.

1.2 Aims and Objectives of the Study

The aims and objectives of the present study is to discuss the impact of lexical and morphological elements of Indo-Aryan languages e.g. Assamese, Bengali, Hindi and Sanskrit languages in Boro language and in what context the native speakers have used linguistic elements have been attempted to analyze from linguistic approach. Besides these languages the linguistic elements of English language has been attempted to analyze. The required data are collected from both written form and spoken discourses. The data has been collected from writings of Boro literature from inception to present day. In this study an attempt has been made to find out the linguistic elements from other sources and it has been discussed mainly in two major point i.e. lexical and morphological approaches.

1.3 Significance of the Study

The proposed topic “Impact of Lexical and Morphological Elements of Indo-Aryan Languages on Boro” has a very much significance which will highlight about various linguistic elements and adoption process from other sources in Boro language. In this study the adoption of lexical and morphological elements from other sources in Boro language is identified. In this research area no one has attempted a proper study. A

⁵ Boro, Anil Kumar: A History of Bodo Literature, P-6

few scholars have studied a little part concerned with this topic. Therefore, it is assumed that the study will give proper knowledge of linguistic elements among those who interested in language and linguistic as a whole. This type of study will give the way to researchers for further extensive study. The students as well as researchers will also able to know the origin of words and linguistic affinity among the languages or linguistic communities as a whole.

1.4 Area of the Study

Indo-Aryan language family is the sub family of Indo-European language family which is the largest language family in the world. The Indo-Aryan language family is of different categories. This language family comprises several languages. In this study the impact of sub languages under the Indo-Aryan languages e.g. Assamese, Bengali and Hindi languages in particular has been discussed. Besides these languages the old Indo-Aryan language i.e. Sanskrit and other European e.g. English elements have also been discussed under consideration. The area of this study is confined within the different written documents of Boro literature from the early to contemporary period as well as oral literature and spoken discourses as well as dialect form of Boro language. The research work has been done within the confined of linguistic level of lexis and morphology. The study has been attempted based on both written document as well as spoken discourses.

1.5 Methodology

Methodology is the part and parcel of a Ph.D thesis. The researcher needs methodology to prepare a thesis and to solve the research problems. The researcher has essentially applied the descriptive method in this study.

The relevant data are collected from both primary and secondary sources. The primary data are collected from the spoken discourses by using observation method and note down the necessary data. For collecting this primary data the researcher has chosen different Boro majority areas and visited there and observed their conversation and whenever found the relevant data for the very present research topic these were note down and applied the data as necessary at the time of thesis writing. The data collection

of this research study is also based on secondary sources. As secondary sources many of the required data of the relevant research work have been collected based on written documents of literatures, print and electronic media i.e. various books of literature, journals, magazines, academic text books, dictionaries, glossary books, Bodo daily newspapers, audio and video songs, movies, television and radio talks etc. For collecting secondary data, the researcher has also visited to various academic libraries, especially, K.K. Handique Library of Gauhati University, Madaram Brahma Central Library of Bodoland University, Bodo department library of B.U., College library of B.H. College, Howly and District Library of Kokrajhar District.

1.6 An Outline Study of Boro Grammar or Linguistic

The Christian Missionaries were took firstly initiatives on linguistic study of Boro language. This study began since the last few years of the 19th Century. *An Outline Grammar of the Kachari (Baro) Language* (1884) is the pioneer work in this field which has been done by Rev. Sidney Endle. He was written this book based on the dialect as spoken in the district of Darrang. Rev. L. O. Skrefsrud was written the book *A short grammar of the Mech or Boro Language* (1889). A. Christiansen was also written a book titled *Grammar and Dictionary of Kachari Language* (1904). *Boro Grammar* (1959) was written by Rev. S. Holversrud. Dr. D.N.S. Bhat was also compiled a *Boro Vocabulary* which was published by Deccan College. Dr. Pramod Chandra Bhattacharya has contributed a lot to Boro language and linguistic. Bhattacharya's *A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language* (1977) is a great contribution in this field. This is a Ph.D thesis under the Gauhati University written in English language. In this book, he discussed the Boro language under the linguistic levels of Phonology, Morphology, Syntax and Vocabulary based on descriptive study. In the Introduction part he deals with aim and scope, sources, method and approach, Boro speech community, population, area and dialects, race, script and literature, elements of culture and importance of the study. Bhaben Narzy has also remarkable contributed in this field. He was written a Boro grammar titled *Boro Rao - Boro Bhasha* (1990) in Assamese language. *Boro Bhasha Siksha* (1996) was also written in Assamese language by Mohini Mohan Brahma. Besides these two books, some grammar books which were written in Assamese language have been contributed a lot

in Boro language and in the field of Boro grammar. These books are- Kailash Chandra Choudhury's *Boro Bhasha Songgroh* (1932), Bankim Chandra Gosai's *Boro Bhasha* (1937) and B.N. Bismith's *Kachari Matri Bhasha* (1951).

Kamal Kumar Brahma and Madhu Ram Baro have been dedicated and contributed a lot in Boro linguistic studies. Kamal Kumar Brahma was written Boro grammar in Boro language. *Gwnang Raokhanthi* (1972) is a remarkable work in this field. Madhu Ram Baro was also written Boro grammar in Boro language. *Gwzwu Raokhanthi* (1996) is a great work in this area. His *Structure of Boro Language* (1990), *The Historical Development of the Boro Language* (1990), *Assamese and Boro: A Comparative and Contrastive Study* (1990) are valuable contribution in this field.

Swarna Prabha Chainary wrote a Boro grammar in Boro language. *Boro Raokhanthi* (2006) is an important contribution in Boro linguistic study. Phukan Chandra Basumatary's *Boro Raoni Mohorkhanthi* (2000) is written in Boro language which is a remarkable work in Boro linguistic study. His *An Introduction to the Boro Language* (2005) is another contribution in this regard. Aleendra Brahma has written a grammar book *Modern Bodo Grammar* (2013).

The pioneer work of compilation of Boro dictionary had been done by Rajendra Lal Narzary. His great contribution in this regard is bilingual dictionary *Boro-Asamiya Abhidhan* (1962). Halvorsrud and Maguram Moshahari were jointly compiled a dictionary *Boro-English Dictionary* (1968). *Bodo-English Dictionary* (1985) was compiled by Maniram Mochari. Heramba Narzary and Nil Kamal Brahma were jointly compiled the dictionary book titled *Anglo-Boro Dictionary* (1986). Pramod Chandra Brahma was compiled *Boro-Ingriji-Hindi Swdwbbihung* (Bodo-English-Hindi Dictionary, 1996) and this dictionary was published by the Bodo Sahitya Sabha. *Standard Anglo-Bodo Dictionary* (2005) was compiled and edited by Mintu Narzary and published by Nilima Prakashani, Baganpara.

1.7 Review of Literature

An extensive study has not been done as yet on this research area. But only few research works have been done on loan vocabulary, lexical borrowings and reception of morphological elements from Indo-Aryan languages. This review of literature is based on various published books which is partial relation to this research work. It is trying to discuss extensively from lexical and morphological aspects.

Banikanta Kakati has written the book titled **‘Assamese its formation and development’** (1941). The topics are incorporated mainly on phonology and morphology. Kakati has discussed about the suspected Bodo origin found in Assamese words. He also studies the languages of Tibeto-Burman influences on Assamese language. He gave an argument that a few number of affixes used in Assamese language are mainly of Bodo origin.

‘A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language’ (1977) has been written by a reputed linguist, Pramod Chandra Bhattacharya. In this book, he discussed the Boro language under the linguistic levels of Phonology, Morphology, Syntax and Vocabulary. In the vocabulary section he represented basic lexical items of Boro language along with loan words as he mentioned from Assamese, Bengali, Hindi, Urdu and English. He discussed the linguistic elements of Boro language from a structural view point.

Madhuram Baro has written the book **‘Assamese and Boro: A Comparative and Contrastive Study’** (1990). In this book he has worked on Boro and Assamese languages with a comparative and contrastive study. In the introductory part he has discussed origin and development of both the languages. The various linguistic levels viz., Phonology, Morphology, Syntax and Vocabulary are comprises in the book. In morphology part, he stated that some Boro prefixes are taken as loan from Assamese or Sanskrit languages. He also discusses the process of formation of compound words of both the languages. In syntax part, he has discussed about the sentence structure of both the languages. In vocabulary part, he has listed comparative basic vocabulary of Boro and Assamese languages with English glossary.

‘Asamiya Aru Asamar Tibet-Barmiya Bhasa’ (2000) is written by Upen Rabha Hakacham. In this book he has discussed about Assamese and Tibeto-Burman languages having in Assam. In his study Hakacham tried to show the affinity of the words among the Assamese and other Tibeto-Burman languages like Boro and Rabha etc. He has chiefly discussed the impact (upadan) of Tibeto-Burman languages on Assamese language. He has also studied the impact of Assamese language on other Tibeto-Burman languages. Discussion of sentence structure among the languages can be found in his study. However he studied of languages from comparative and contrastive point of view.

‘An Introduction to the Boro language’ (2005) is written by Phukan Chandra Basumatary, who has contributed a lot in the field of Boro linguistic. In this book he has worked on Boro language with a structural analysis. He discusses the identity, present status, written literature and linguistic studies of Boro language in the introductory part. Besides this introductory part it includes different linguistic levels, viz., Phonology, Morphology and Vocabulary. In vocabulary part he has discussed on basic vocabulary of Boro language as well as loan vocabulary. In the discussion of loan vocabulary he has discussed about the linguistic elements of Assamese, Arabic and English languages. He stated the reasons of adapted words through other sources into Boro language.

‘Boro and Garo: A Comparative Linguistic Analysis’ (2005) is a Ph.D. thesis by Swarna Prabha Chainary who has worked on comparative study of Boro and Garo languages. The contribution of Chainary in the field of Boro linguistic is very remarkable. In this thesis she has studied various linguistic levels viz., phonology, morphology, syntax and vocabulary of Boro and Garo languages from a comparative view point. In the vocabulary part, she discusses the two types of vocabulary viz., Tibeto-Burman origin and Non Tibeto-Burman origin. In Non Tibeto-Burman vocabulary section, she stated the Aryan Assamese words, English, Portuguese and Arabic etc. words borrowed in both the languages. She also briefly discussed the reasons of borrowing.

Madhura Baro has written the book titled **‘The Historical Development of Boro Language’** (2007). In this book he attempted to discuss the Boro language from linguistics view point. This book contains of introduction, Boro language: Its

development in history and vocabulary. In this book he discussed about language and linguistics as a whole. In the vocabulary part he has shown active and passive vocabularies, types of Boro words, non-Boro/Boro words constructed loan words and vocabulary and dictionary-their difference. The writer discusses the influence of Assamese and Boro languages due to close contact with each other. However he mentions that Bengali language has also influenced on Boro language. In the vocabulary part he has shown Boro vocabulary consists of indigenous words, newly coined words and loan words from within the state and nation and foreign words.

‘Structure of Boro Language’ (2008) is written by an enthusiastic Boro scholar, Madhram Baro. He discusses the Boro language from the linguistic aspects of Phonological structure, Morphological structure and syntactic structure with a structural view point. In the morphological structure he discusses the word formation and morphemes of the Boro language. The newly coining words of Boro language are discussed through some morphological processes i.e. affixes, samasa, compound, apabhrangsa (corruption) and hybrid. Besides this he discussed the grammatical categories i.e. noun, pronoun, the gender system, the number system, the verbs, the tense system, the adjectives and the adverbs.

The book **‘Asomiya Bhasar Itihas’** (2014) has been written by Ramesh Pathak. In this book, he chiefly discussed on the origin and development of Assamese language. He also attempted the affinity of Assamese words among the Bodo group of languages. He strongly identified that some of the rivers name and the name of particular places used in Assamese language are Boro origin.