

## PREFACE

The Title of the Topic undertaken for the research is A STUDY ON PHONEMIC PROCESS AND SCRIPT GRAMMAR OF THE BODO LANGUAGE. The importance of the Topic lies in the fact that it has focused the Special characteristics as well as uses and applications of phonemic process and script grammar of Standard Bodo language. The study demands highly an academic as well as linguistics value of the concerned language. This research analyzed the phonemes and its script of Bodo language. In Phonemes it is determined and identified Segmental and Supra-segmental features thoroughly. In Script it is described and analyzed about Historical perspectives of scripts in Bodo Language. It is mainly focused on the analysis about Devanāgarī Script and its mātrās, diacritics, allograph, uses and applications with proper examples with script grammar.

The data used for this Thesis are taken primarily from interviews, recordings and observations. Secondary data are taken from the various written materials available in the form of Books, journals, E-books, E-journals etc. Designing of this Thesis includes the Front Matter, Body and End Matter. In Front Matter: Title page, Contents, Certificate, Acknowledgment, Preface, Abbreviations are included. In the Body of this Thesis six Chapters are included i.e.

The first chapter opens up the Thesis with introduction about the Bodo people and their language. Bodo language is one of the 22 scheduled languages of India. Bodo language has its own typological features in the levels of linguistics. It has many similarities in phonology, morphology as well as in structural features with the features of T.B languages. This chapter is dealing with introductory description of Bodo language and its salient features, demography, present status of the Bodo language, area of the study, aims and objectives of the study, methodology, hypothesis and review of the previous work on Bodo language.

The second chapter gives an introduction about the Identification and Classification of Phonemes. This chapter determines and identifies the articulated Bodo phonemes consisting of segmental and supra-segmental features. In segmental phonemes there are

six vowels, i.e. / i, u, e, o, a /, and sixteen consonants, i.e. / p<sup>h</sup>, b, t<sup>h</sup>, d, k<sup>h</sup>, g, m, n, ŋ, s, z, h, r, l, w, y /. All the six vowels are voiced and short vowel. All the vowels have initial, medial and final occurrences. All the six vowel phonemes have Contrasting pairs to each other in minimal pairs. There are eight diphthongs in Bodo language i.e. / iu, ui, eu, oi, ai and au/. All the diphthongs except /iu/ vs /oi/ have contrasting pairs. The diphthongs /iu, ui, oi/ have no initial occurrences. In Bodo vowel sequences are occurs in four types i.e. two vowel sequences, three vowel sequences, four vowel sequences and five vowel sequences. On the other hand, all the sixteen Consonant phonemes have also Contrasting pairs to each other in minimal pairs. The Consonant phonemes / p<sup>h</sup>, b, t<sup>h</sup>, d, g, m, n, s, r, l / have occurrences in the three positions i.e. initial, middle and final position. On the other hand, /ŋ, w, y/ phonemes are occurs only in the two positions of the word i.e. middle and final; they do not occurs in the initial position. Apart from occurrences in the final position of a word the phonemes / k<sup>h</sup>, h, z/ has occurrences in the initial and middle position of a word only.

Consonant cluster in Bodo are occurs only in initial and middle positions of a word. It is also assumed that clusters are always occurs only between in two consonants. In Bodo, Gemination sequences are occurs in two consonant sequences only which is merely used in middle position of a word and non-gemination sequences are occurs in two consonant sequences as well as three consonant sequences. These are occurs only in middle position of the word. The syllabic classification of Bodo language is of three types i.e. mono-syllabic, di-syllabic or bi-syllabic and poly-syllabic and from the structural form of syllable it is of two types open syllable and closed syllable.

In supra-segmental phonemes juncture, tone, intonations are identified with proper examples. Two types of juncture i.e. Close juncture and Open juncture are commonly occurs in Bodo language. In Bodo two tones are occurs high tone and low tone. In intonation patterns three types of intonations are occurs i.e. High falling, Low rising and Level.

The third chapter deals with the some aspects of Allophonic Process of the Bodo language. This chapter analyzed the process of allophones of the Bodo language. There are minimum two different types of allophones in each phonemes which are defined

based on the manner of articulation in Bodo language and also Environments responsible for allophonic variations their phonetic values and distribution are identified.

As far as fourth chapter is concerned the Historical perspectives of scripts in Bodo Language is described as well as analyzed in diachronic manner. Different kinds of scripts have been used in writing the Bodo language since long years back. In the Missionary period of Bodo language and Literature Christian missionary was the pioneer for introducing Roman Script. They used Roman Script with some changes and modifications to make convenient the writing system of Bodo language. They also used some peculiar types of diacritic marks to represent the manner of articulation. Script used in inception period of Bodo Language and Literature was Bengali and Assamese scripts. Script used in Modern age of Bodo literature was Assamese script as well as Roman Script and Script used in introduction of Bodo as Medium of Instruction was Assamese script. Assamese script was used in the place of Roman script for teaching Bodo language in primary schools. In present days Devanāgarī script has been recognized and used in writing Bodo language and literature from 1975.

The chapter five analyzed the Use of script and process of script Grammar in Bodo. In this chapter the structure of script used in Bodo language, its main domains, mātrās, diacritics and its uses and applications are analyzed according to linguistic point of view with proper examples. Also the allograph used in writing Bodo is presented in this chapter.

Then lastly, in Chapter six the Thesis concludes with concluding remarks, in this chapter an attempt has been made to summarize the whole chapters discussed in the Thesis. The study is summarily described all the rules governing for suitable writing of the scripts in Bodo. End Matter of this Thesis includes Bibliography of the research. The outcomes of this research throw a new light and detail information of the linguistic description on this very topic. This study contributed on the area of linguistic studies of Bodo language and helped to understand about Bodo Phonemes and its Script in broader and better way.