

CHAPTER: VI

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The Bodos of Assam generically belongs to the Tibeto-Burman sub-family within the great Sino-Tibetan family of languages and racially they are belongs to Sub-cast of great Mongoloid family. They are recognized as Scheduled Tribes as per the constitution of India 1950 and amended modification order in the year 1956 and S.T orders (Amendment) Act. 1976. Bodo language has its own phonological features. It has many similarities with the features of T.B. languages. In the Modern era, Bodo language has developing not only in the field of linguistics but also progressing in the field of designing Script grammar.

Phonemic inventory of Bodo language consist of six vocalic phonemes i.e. / i, u, e, o, a /, eight diphthongs and sixteen consonantal phonemes i.e. / p^h, b, t^h, d, k^h, g, m, n, ŋ, s, z, h, r, l, w, y / where /w/ and /y/ are Semi vowels of Segmental features. Except this some other phonemes are used in various loan words too. In Bodo language **व** /w/ and **य** /y/ Semi vowels has some specific manner in their uses. If a word is open syllable with **इ, ए, आ, ऐ** and added ‘-आ’ suffix then due to glide **य** consonant is occur as semi-vowel and mātrā ा of **आ** vowel is used. On the other hand, if a word is open syllable with **उ, अ, औ** and added ‘-आ’, suffix then due to glide **व** consonant is occur as semi-vowel and mātrā ा of **आ** vowel is used.

There are eight diphthongs used in Bodo language i.e. / iu, ui, uu, ui, eu, oi, ai and au/. All the diphthongs except /iu/ vs /oi/ have contrasting pairs. In Bodo vowel sequences is occur in four types i.e. two vowel sequences, three vowel sequences, four vowel sequences and five vowel sequences. Consonant cluster in Bodo is 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 sequence is occur in two consonant

sequences only which is merely used in middle position of a word and non-gemination sequence is occur 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 polysyllabic and from the structural form of syllable it is of two types open syllable and closed syllable.

Two types of juncture i.e. Close juncture and Open juncture are commonly occurs in Bodo language. As Bodo is a tonal language, two types of tones are occurs in this language i.e. high tone and low tone. In intonation patterns there are three types of intonations in Bodo language, i.e. High falling, Low rising and Level. It is also observed that Morphophonemics occur in this language due to some phonologically and morphologically conditioned changes.

It is observed that environments which lead to allophonic variation in Bodo language are not complex. There are different types of allophones in each phonemes defined based on the manner of articulation. All the relevant six Bodo vowel phonemes i.e. /i, u, e, o, a/ have the occurrences in all positions of the word and all the six vowel phonemes have three allophones by its manners of articulation. All the six respective vowels of Bodo have the nasalized allophones if preceded by the nasal consonants, i.e. /m, n, ŋ/. It is observed that the fourteen Consonants /p^h, b, t^h, d, k^h, g, m, n, ŋ, s, z, h, r, and l/ have changed in manners of articulation in word level differently in different Positions and Pitch contour as well as Intensity contour are also occurs differently in each positions. It is observed that /ph, th, kh, s, h, ŋ/ consonant phoneme have two allophones in each and /b, d, g, m, n, z, r, l/ have three allophones in each phonemes by its manners of articulation.

From the analysis on historical perspectives of scripts in diachronic manner, it is observed that different kinds of scripts have been used in writing the Bodo language since long years back. Roman, Assamese, Bengali and Devanāgarī scripts were used to write the Bodo language. In the Missionary period of Bodo language and Literature Christian missionary was the pioneer for introducing Roman Script. 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 only. 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 since 1975.

It has been observed that Christian missionary was the pioneer for introducing Roman Script with some changes and modifications to make convenient the writing system of Bodo language. They used some peculiar types of diacritic marks to represent the manner of articulation. Especially they used three types of diacritics marks, i.e. to mark long and short sounds like /', ` , ^ / and to mark the segmental features (particularly vowel phonemes). It is also observed that Missionaries attempted to translate some portions of the 'Bible' and the religious books from English version into Bodo. Transcription was also made in respect of Bodo oral literature.

During inception period of Bodo literature Bengali as well as Assamese scripts were used for writing Bodo language and literature. Variation of mātrā may be found for representing pitch variation at the time of articulation during this period. For example: ি, ী, ু and ূ. It is also observed that High back un-rounded vowel ओ or ो or /u/ was not used in the writings of inception period before 'Hathorkhi Hala'. Pramod Chandra Brahma was used ओ or ो or /u/ vowel with modified form as অী or ৌ for the first time in 'Hathorkhi Hala' magazine. Before that, in some writings ু mātrā of উ was used to represent the ओ or ो. In the book 'Boroni phisa O Ayen', ু diacritic mark was used in place of ो but it is remarkable that in 'Bibar' magazine ু was used neither in Bengali nor in Assamese script. In Modern age of Bodo literature Bodo writers were used Assamese script as well as Roman script to write the Bodo text frequently and conveniently. In this period, /õ/ is the representation of vowel /u/; and used for marking High back un-rounded vowel and /ñ/ is used for marking voiced velar nasal phoneme /ŋ/.

The evolution of Bodo language was started from the 20th century. The Bodo language was introduced as medium of instruction in the primary level of education system in

18th May, 1963. From this year Assamese script was used in the place of Roman script for teaching Bodo language in primary schools. During the time of writing text of medium of instruction of Bodo language and literature eleven (11) vowels, i.e. ই, ঈ, ঐ, ঔ, উ, ঊ, ঋ, ঌ, এ, অ, ও, ঔ and আ were used with its secondary form or mātrā. Twenty two (22) consonants i.e. ফ, প, ব, থ, দ, ক, খ, গ, ঘ, ম, ন, ঙ, স, চ, ছ, শ, জ, হ, ঝ, ঞ, ঝ and ঞ were used with its some diacritic marks i.e. ং, ঃ during this period.

During this period Variation of mātrās may be found for representing pitch variation at the time of articulation during this period. For example: ি, ী, ু and ূ. In present days, to write Bodo Language and literature there are six vowel phonemes representing with Devanāgarī script i.e. ই, অ, উ, এ, অ, আ and Sixteen consonantal phonemes i.e. ফ, ব, থ, দ, খ, গ, ম, ন, ঙ, স, জ, হ, র, ল, ব, য are used. It is observed that secondary form or mātrā of all the six vowels are used conveniently in the writings of present days. For example: ি : mātrā of vowel ই /i/, ী : mātrā of vowel ঐ /u/, ু : mātrā of vowel উ /u/, ে : mātrā of vowel এ /e/, ' : mātrā of vowel অ /o/, া : mātrā of vowel আ /a/ and diacritic mark of consonant হ /ɳ/ : ং (Anuswar), diacritic mark of consonant র /r/ : ঃ and ঄ are used.

In Script grammar খ, গ, ঙ, জ, থ, দ, ন, ফ, ব, ম, য, র, ল, ব, স, হ sixteen consonantal scripts are used to write Bodo basic vocabulary and ক, ঘ, চ, ছ, ঙ, জ, ট, ঠ, ড, ঢ, ণ, ত, ধ, প, ভ, শ, ষ are the script used for loan words in Bodo language. It is observed that through borrowing words from different languages the letters which are not articulated are also used to write in Bodo language. As for example ী mātrā of ই is the unsound vowel and ঞ, ঋ, ত, প, ক, চ etc. are the consonants which are not articulated in Bodo language but these are used in writing the loan words. Six pure vowels অ, আ, ই, উ, এ, ঐ along with diphthongs ऐ, औ are used in Bodo Script Grammar. ऐ, औ are valid and ई, ऊ, ऋ are invalid vowels in Bodo Script Grammar. In Bodo ি, ী, ু, ে, ' , া, ঐ, ঔ are valid vowel mātrās, which are always occurs in medial

and final position of a word in cluster form. Invalid vowel mātrās ी ू ृ are used to write loan words. The ि Active or Displaced Catenator is commonly used in Bodo script grammar. Anuswar ो, Halanta ् are valid and Chandrabindu/Anunasika ँ, Visarga ː are invalid diacritics in Bodo Script grammar. Top rafar and Side rakar shape i.e. ्र and ्र are valid allograph of र and Bottom rakar is invalid allograph in Bodo Script grammar. Both valid allograph of र are occurs only by consonants and not occurs by vowels and semi-vowels. Top rafar and Side rakar is occur in medial position of the word only. Both have no occurrences in initial and final position of the word. On the other hand, Bottom rakar is invalid allograph in Bodo Script grammar. It has occurrences during the time of writing loan words only. Punctuation markers used in Bodo language are almost same to Latin sets i.e. , ; : ? ! “ ” ‘ ’ - / () [] { }. But it is observed that in case of full-stop it has some variation. In Bodo instead of full-stop symbol small dot ‘ . ’ they used the danda represented by one small straight vertical line equal to ‘ | ’. Numerals or Digits used in Bodo language are similar to Latino-Arabic set i.e. 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9. In Script grammar Mātrā combination is of three types. In which CM: Consonant + Mātrā and CMD: Consonant + Mātrā + Diacritic (Anuswar) is valid Mātrā combination and CMD: Consonant + Mātrā + Diacritic (Chandrabindu) Mātrā combination is invalid in Bodo Script grammar. In Bodo Script grammar Single glyphs क्ष, श्र, त्र etc. and Stacked consonant ॠ, ॡ, ॢ etc. are invalid consonant combination. These are used to write loan words only.

From the overall analysis and research on the Topic, It is observed that Bodo language has its own phonemic features as well as uses and applications of script grammar. It has long history of using different kinds of scripts. As Bodo language is belongs to the Tibeto-Burman branch of the Sino-Tibetan language family, it has many similarities with the features of other T.B. languages.