Dialects or Variety of the Assamese Language

Manash Jvoti Nirmalia*

Abstract

Assamese is the major language of Assam. Assamese has different dialects. If we talk about the dialects of the Assamese language then the ideas of Upper Assamese and Lower Assamese dialects are come in our mind. But a dialect is a variation of a language. A language may have differnt forms in terms of person, gendre, place, ethnic groups and as lingua franca. Many ethnic dialects of the Assamese language are found. And the Assamese language is used from east Sadia to West Dhubri districts of Assam. Therefore many features are found within the language. According to place Assamese language has mainly two dialects-Upper Asomia and lower Asomia. And within it many sub dialects are also found. Assamese language is working as lingua-franca also. Naga-Mese, Nefamese and the coloquial form of the tea garden people are alos the dialects of the Assamese language. Many linguists told only about the regional dialects. But Assamese many dialects. In this paper I want to define the dialects of the Assamese language from a new perspective. Many interestings topic could be done future as this field has required systematic and scientific studies.

Keywords: Dialects, Variation, Ethnic dialects, Lingua-franca, Regional dialect.

A dialect is a variation of a language. When many dissimilarities are created in terms of ethnic groups, person, place, gender etc. within the language then we can term it as a dialect or variation of a language. These variations are found in phonology, morphology, syntax and in vocabulary.

Assamese is the major language of Assam. It is also a communicating language. Many ethnic tribes dwell in Assam. Each tribe has its own language. They use their mother tongue in their household affairs or their mother tongue is limited only in the gateway of their house. But to communicate with others they have to use the Assamese language. The tribes of Assam are- Missing, Bodo, Rabha, Karbi, Tiwa, Sonowal Kachari, Moran, Tai Phake, Tai Ahom, Tai Aiton etc. These people are bilingual. They use Assamese as second language. An impact of their mother tongue has been found in their Assamese speaking. Due to this impact much dissimilarity are found from the standard Assamese in their speaking. These kinds of variations can be termed as dialects of the Assamese language.

Within the Assamese language many differences occur in terms of ethnic groups, place and the use of Assamese language as lingua franca. In this paper an attempt has been made to highlight the above mentioned variations of the Assamese language. The discussions can be discussed in three ways-

- 1. Ethnic dialects or ethnic variations of the Assamese language.
- 2. Regional dialects of Assamese or variations in terms of place.
- 3. Variety of the Assamese language as lingua-franca.
- 1.0 Ethnic variations of the Assamese language: Assam is a place of mixed population. As mentioned earlier that Assamese is the major language of Assam. The tribes use Assamese language as second language. When differences are created in terms of different ethnic tribes, we can term it as ethnic dialect. Assamese has also many ethnic dialects. Mising, Bodo, Rabha, Karbi, Tiwa, Sonowal kachari, Moran- these tribes use the Assamese language in their life. When these tribes use the Assamese language many influences of their mother tongue have been found in their conversation. These influences or differences are termed as variations or dialects of the Assamese language can be classified typologically as follows
 - a. Colloquial Assamese of the Missing tribe.
 - b. Colloquial Assamese of the Rabha tribe.

^{*} Asstt. Professor, Nowgong College

- c. Colloquial Assamese of the Tiwa tribe.
- d. Colloquial Assamese of the Sonowal-Kachari.
- e. Spoken form of Assamese of the Moran tribe.
- f. Colloquial Assamese of the Deori tribe.
- 1.1 Colloquial Assamese of Missing tribe: Missing is a fascinating tribe of Assam with its own identity and cultural heritage. The missing people are inhabited in the-Sivsagar, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh districts of Assam. According to the 2011 census the population of the Missing tribe was-5, 87,310. Linguistically it belongs to the Sino-Tibetan family and anthropologically it is a mongoloid stock. Many clans are found in the Missing community. These are- Samuguria, Tamar, Bangkual, Bihia, Bebejia, pagro, saying, Ayan, Dambug, Delu, Samuang, Moing. Each clan has variations in language. Among these tribes Samuguria, Tamar, Bangkual, bihia and Bebejia leave their language to speak. They speak Assamese in their every-day life. The other clans keep the language. The Missing has no script. They use Roman script. The variations that are found in the Assamese speaking of the Missing people can be explained phonetically, morphologically and lexically. Linguist Dr. Upen Rabha Hakasam uses the term 'Missing-Mese' to indicate the colloquial Assamese of the Missing tribe (Hakacham 2009:204). The word is derived by two words. One is Missing and another is-Assamese. For better discussions I will also be used the term. These are as follows-

a. Phonetic Features

- 1. The Missing people use five vowels in Assamese speaking. These are-/a, A, i, u, e/
- 2. Aspirated sounds become un-aspirated in Missing-Mese.

Ex-

Assamese Missing-Mese
Kha (to eat) ka
aghon (a month of Assamese calander) agon
pitha (rice cake) pita
jethai (mother's elder sister) jetai

3. Alveolar unvoiced un-aspirated sound (ts) and alveolar voiced aspirated sounds (dzh) are not found in the Mising-Mese. On the contrary the sound (dz) is used in final position in the Assamese. It becomes 'S' in Missing-Mese.

Ex-

Assamese Missing-Mese tej (Blood)- tes. kaj (work) kas bej (a physician) bes

4. The nasalization of the Assamese language is also found in the Missing-Mese. But the nasal sound becomes alveolar palatal nasal sound (?) or velar nasal sound [-] in Missing-Mese.

Ex-

Assamese Missing-Mese
Kaun (say) ka
Thakun (live) thaku

5. The sibilant aspirated sounds are not found in the Missing-Mese.

Ex-

Assamese Missing-Mese

bihu (cultural festival) biu xrai (one kind of tray) rai akha aka

b. Morphological Features

1. In the Misssing-Mese the non-honorific, honorific and high-honorific pronouns are not used. It happens by the influence of their mother tongue or the origin Missing language. In singular 'tui/ti' and in plural'tti/thti' the same forms are used to indicate aged or non-aged people. But in second person Assamese has three pronoun markers in both singular and plural.

Assamese Missing-Mese

Person		Singular	Plural
2 nd	non- hon	t?i	. ?h?t
	hon.	tumi	tomalok
	high- hon	apuni	aponalok

Person	Sing.	Plural.
2 nd	t?i/tui	t?ti/t?h?ti

2. The conjugational suffixes of the Missing-Mese are differentiated from Assamese in pronunciation. In Missing-Mese [o] and [u] are used instead of first personal suffix [õ] Examples-

Assamese Missing-Mese Khaõ 'eat' kha krilõ 'done' karilu

3. Different definitive articles are used in Missing-Mese.

Example-

Assamese Missing-Mese Banh 'bamboo' batu maaghtukura 'a piece of meat' motukur

4. Inflectional suffixes [-ke, -le, -ote, -ute] are used instead of [-ki, -li, ote].

Example-

Assamese Missing-Mese
Zabli 'to go' zable
Nohodhake 'without permission' nudake
Khaot 'ate' kaut

c. Lexical features

In the vocabulary of Missing-Mese many words are come from the original Missing language. Sometimes these words are used with simplification by different phonetic and morphological processes. The vocabularies can be classified like- genitive words, Ornaments and dress related words, Festivals etc. Example-

Genitive words:

Missing Meaning
Ta:t Grandfather
ja:j Grandmother
Abu/ba:bri Father
Ka:kri Father's sister

Ornaments/dress

Age traditional attire of women.

sgbu a long cloth

ri:bi-gase traditional attire of women.

Mibu galug shirt for men.
Dksisri an ear ornament.

Festivals/Instruments:

Ali-Ai-lriga a cultivative festival.

(36)

P:rag a religious festival

Kuruliflute

gugu

a bamboo instrument playing with lips.

Dum dum drum

Besides these many influences of their mother tongue are found in their Assamese speaking. These kinds of variations are seemed in their Assamese speaking. So we can term it as the ethnic dialects or variation of the Assamese language.

1.2 Colloquial Assamese of the Rabha tribe or Rabha-Mese: The Rabha people inhabit the Goalpara and Kamrup districts of Assam. Linguistically this language belongs to the Sino-Tibetan language family. According to 2011 census the population of the Rabha tribe was-2,77,517 (Boruah 1990:21). The Rabha tribe has seven clans- Rongdani, Maitori, Dohari, Pati, Sunga, Bitolia and Totla (Boruah 1990:21). Among these clans only the Rongdani and Maitori keep their language. The other clans leave their language, to express their thoughts they take the Assamese language. The Rabha language has no script, till now it is used as an underdeveloped language. Though most of them use the Assamese language, some influences of their mother tongue have been seen in their Assamese speaking. These influences can be illustrated in different categories-

a. Phonological features

1. The lower, unrounded [] is a special phoneme of the Assamese language. But this sound is not found in Rabha-Mese. For this the influence of the Rabha language is notable. Example-

 $\begin{array}{cccc} Assamese & Rabha-Mese \\ Pl'time' & p_{\dot{\ell}}lo \\ Kst'pain' & k_{\dot{\ell}}sto \\ adr & 'honour' & ad_{\dot{\ell}}r \\ bini & 'sister' & b_{\dot{\ell}}ini \\ kina'bride' & k_{\dot{\ell}}ina \\ \end{array}$

2. Like Rabha language the [] sound becomes [a] in Rabha-Mese.

Examples-

Assamese Rabha-Mese rja`king' raja pthar`field' pathar Khel'game' khela Lekh'to write' lekha

3. In Rabha-Mese the two diphthongs- [i] and [i] are not found. On the contrary [ai], [e], [ui] and [au], [uu] are pronounced (Hakacham 2009: 139).

Assamese Rabha-Mese gri 'fish' grai/gre/ tawi 'father's friend' tawai bii 'son's father in-law' biai

4. In Rabha-Mese Velar unvoiced aspirated sound [] is used instead of voiced aspirated sound [h]. So either the final [h] with [] is sometime omitted or it pronounced as [h]. Examples-

Assamese Rabha-Mese manuh 'man' manu bÃh 'bamboo' ba bia/ bii/ lo 'Iron' loa

5. Spontaneous nasalization, aspiration and augmentation of [h] sound are notable phonetic features of the Rabha-Mese. It is not found in the Assamese language. In this feature there is an influence of their mother tongue. Example:

Assamese Rabha-Mese
Japi 'bamboo hat' jhapi
Jak 'a crowd' jhak
Pla 'through' phela

6. Like Rabha language [dz] sound is not used in Rabha-Mese. Generally in this environment [tsh] is used. Un-aspirated sounds [g, d, b] are used instead of [gh, dh, bh]. Example-

Assamese Rabha-Mese tedz 'blood' tetsh.
Bhaj 'fold' bhas Budhbar 'wednesday' budbar

b. Morphological features

1. The Reduplication derivative process of Missing-Mese is same with the Rabha language.

Assamese Rabha-Mese siksikia 'glossy' siksika dhdhkia bga 'extreme white' bga phlphla letera-petera 'untidy' leteter-peteter

2. The genitive definite affix of Missing-Mese is- [-bara/-bra]. It is also an influence of the Rabha

language.

Assamese Rabha-Mese bhniek 'sister' buinibara. bhajek 'brother' bhaibara. kkajek 'elder brother' dadabara.

3. Many words are formed by the Pleonastic suffix [-ka] and [-la] in the Rabha-Mese. Examples-

Assamese Rabha-Mese

Enekua 'like this' eka Etia 'now' ela Tenekua 'such' ta

4. Like Rabha language the vocative suffixes [-re, -he, -her, -har] are used in Rabha-Mese.

Example-

Assamese Rabha-Mese baideu 'elder sister' baire dada 'brother' dadare aai 'mother' aaihar

c. Lexical features

The following words are used in Rabha-Mese, which are directly come from the Rabha language.

Assamese Rabha-Mese
Jaki 'bamboo scoop for fishing' jakha
Xak 'vegetables' tsaka
Pitika 'mashed vegetables' bhrta
krkra bhat jhkra bhat
mekuri `cat' meakr
pna 'young fish' pena

1.3 Colloquial Assamese of the Tiwa tribe or Tiwa-Mese: The Tiwa people are found in the Karbi-Anglong, south-east of Kamrup, Marigaon, Nagaon, Dhemaji, Darang, Shivasagar, Tinsukia districts of Assam. The Tiwa people are known as 'Lalung' also. The 'Tiwa' word comes from the 'Tifra' word. 'Ti' means-water and 'Fra' means- 'Father'. 'Tifra' means- 'father water God'. Twelve offshoots are found within the Tiwa tribe (Baruah 1990:22). According to the census of 2001the population of Tiwa tribe was- 1,70,622. Dr. Hakacham divided the Tiwa tribe into two groups-Hill Tiwa and Plain Tiwa. The people who live in the hill areas they keep their language, but the plain area's people leave their language to speak. On the contrary they express their thoughts by using an ethnic dialect of the Assamese language; that is the Tiwa-Mese. Many differences are found with Assamese language in Tiwa-Mese. These are illustrated as follows-

a. Phonological features

1. The [] and [¿] sounds of the Assamese language become [u] in the Tiwa-Mese. As the tendency of high yowel is an important characteristic of Tiwa-Mese. Examples-

Assamese Tiwa-Mese

mr 'my' mur Pht 'marking on forehead' phut mni 'necklace' muni

2. Alternative use of vowels is a feature of the Tiwa-Mese. Examples:

Assamese Tiwa-Mese gri 'fish' grai girijek 'husband' piyak tikni 'long tuft of hair' tikini

3. The tendency of the diphthong is seen mainly with the words which are ended with final vowel [i/ii/e] and [,o]. These vowels become accordingly [i] and [u]. Examples-

Assamese Tiwa-Mese
Nase 'dance' nasi
zab 'will go' zabu
asil 'had' asila

4. Monosyllabic words are transferred to poly-syllabic word by adding [-a] sound. Examples-

Assamese Tiwa-Mese bap 'father' bapa mur 'head' mura ber 'wall' bera.

5. The omission of [-h] in final position and augmentation of [-h] in middle position is a characteristic of Tiwa-Mese. Examples:

Assamese Tiwa-Mese manuh 'men' manu btah 'wind' bota Saja 'shadow' seha nijr 'fog' nihr

b. Morphological features

1. The nasalized conjugational suffixes-[õ] (suffix of present Indefinite tense in first person), [isõ] (suffix of present continuous tense in first person) [ilõ], (suffix of present perfect tense in first person) [isilõ], (suffix of past indefinite tense in first person), [õte] (present participle)Â, [õta]/[õti] (derivative affix of Verbbase Noun) of the Assamese language become accordingly [], [],ÃÃ [is], [il], [ilu], [isil] [isilu] [te]Â, [te]Â, [ta], [ti] in the Tiwa-Mese . Examples-

Assamese Tiwa-Mese zaõ 'go' za zaõte 'going' (present participle) zate bandhilõ 'have tied' bandhilu Khaõta 'eater' khata Krõta 'worker' krta

2. In Tiwa-Mese the inflectional suffix-[-ni], [-ni] and [-ani] are more used to determine gender. The use of Assamese suffixes- [-i], [-ini], [-uni], [-ti] are less in numbers in Tiwa-Mese.

Assamese Tiwa-Mese

mita 'male friend' mitani 'female friend'

oja 'expert in art' ojani gambura 'village administrator' gamburani

3. In Tiwa-Mese there is no any particular form of verb to indicate imperative, interrogative, exclamatory, mood. The Assamese verb forms are used in Tiwa-Mese with phonetic change. Examples-

Assamese Tiwa-Mese
Khaok 'to eat' khak
Hok 'will be' hk
Ah 'come' ah/h
zaõbla 'lets go' zazu

4. In Tiwa-Mese the suffixes of Case and case-endings are similar with Assamese. But it is different

in pronunciation and in dative case. Examples-

Assamese Tiwa-Mese li 'dative case' lagi brt 'fasting' brtk moli 'to me' mok lagini

c. Lexical features

1. In Tiwa-Mese the Sanskrit words are used with simplification by different phonetic processes. Examples-

Assamese Tiwa-Mese brt 'fasting' brt triphla 'three folds' tiphla gram 'village' ga enzna enzna

2. Some words of lower Assam and some own words are found in Tiwa-Mese. Examples-

Assamese Lower Assam Tiwa-Mese bhekuli 'frog' bhekula gga 'frog' laluki 'young frog' lerk lerk suali 'girl' api deuka 'bird wings' dena dena

3. Some words from the Tiwa language are found in Tiwa-Mese. These words are modified in Tiwa-Mese. The Tiwa people pronounce some words and use it with their own phonological set up.

Assamse Tiwa-Mese
Kesua 'child' puchna
Gotra 'Clan' zela
dekatsa 'traditional house' tsamadi
ggna 'bamboo instrument' gmna

4. Many cultural words are found in Tiwa-Mese which are directly come from the origin Tiwa language. But it is closely related with the Aryan Assamese language (Hakacham 2009: 157). These are as follows-

Tiwa-Mese Assamese brt 'a religious feast' brt kamakhya 'a temple' kamaikha devata 'God' salsa rza 5. Some compound and derived words of Tiwa-Mese are as follows-Tiwa-Mese Assamese tinihtia 'three handed' tihutia brtokola 'a preying bird' mm tkla raalao 'pumpkin' mu kumura

From these discussions we can say that the Tiwa people are bi-lingual. They are inhabited in the surroundings of Assamese people. So many influences of Assamese language have been fallen in their language. On the contrary we can say that many influences of their mother tongue have been found in their Assamese speaking. So we can call Tiwa-Mese is also a dialect of the Assamese language.

1.4 Colloquial Assamese of the Deori tribe or Deori-Mese: The Deori people inhabit the Dibrugarh, Shivsagar, Lakhimpur, Darang districts of Assam. Linguistically this tribe also belongs to the Sino-Tibetan family and in anthropologically it is a Mongoloid stock. According to the census of 2001 the population of the Deori tribe was- 41,161. Deori has four clans- Tengaponia, Borgonya, Dibongia and Patorgongya. Among these three clans already leave their language to speak. Only the people from Dibongia clan keep their language. They use Assamese in their day-to-day life. But still they carry some words of their own language. So, in their Assamese speaking an influence of Deori language is found in Deori-Mese. Deori Tribe is rich in Oral literature. The features of the Deori-Mese are as follows-

a. Phonetic Features

1. The low vowel of the standard Assamese language becomes high vowel in Deori-Mese. Exaples-

Assamese Deori-Mese
heulia 'colour' hiulia
pehi 'aunt' pihi
tamol 'betel nut' tamul

2. The consonant of Assamese [r,w,j] become [l,b,h,u,i] in Deori-Mese. Examples-

Assamese Deori-Mese rel'train' lel dewta 'god' debta nekhai 'does't eat' nekhaj

3. The nasalized sound of the Assamese language [?] becomes [] in Deori-Mese. Examples-

Assamese Deori-Mese gaõ 'village' ga khalõ 'eaten' khalu jõuai 'son-in-law' jai

4. Some aspirated sounds of Assamese become un-aspirated in the Deori-Mese.

Assamese Deori-Mese rkhia 'keeper' rkia ktha 'speech' kta bhagwan 'god' bwan khazana 'revenue' kazana

5. The word order of the Deori phoneme changed for Metathesis. Example-

Assamese Deori-Mese baky 'sentence' baik. maura 'orphan' marua rumal 'handkerchief' urumal

b. Morphological features

1. In Deori-Mese the second personal pronouns- non-honorific, honorific, high-honorific markers are not found. Same form is used to indicate different aged people.

2. For the impact of Deori language the oblique form of the root 'za' becomes [-g] in the Deori-Mese. Examples:

Assamese Deori-Mese gi thakib 'will go' zai thakib gl 'has gone' zale gise 'going' zaise

3. The joint consonants are simplified by Anaptyxis in Deori-Mese. Examples-

Assamese Deori-Mese brikhj 'big tree' birikh purbt 'before' prebt Srjile 'create' xrjile

4. The inflectional suffixes [-r] and after this the [-lgt] suffix is used in Deori-Mese. Examples-

Assamese Deori-Mese tar lgt 'with him' tar lgt ktarire kat 'cut with knife' ktarir lgt kat

5. The ablative case of the Assamese language [-pra] is used as [-pera] and [-pea] in Deori-Mese.

Assamese Deori-Mese kr pra 'where from' kr pera ghrr pra 'from home' ghrr pea

c. Lexical features

Many words are come from Deori language. These words can be categorized as- genitive, traditional food, dresses, festivals etc.

Genitive words-

Assamese Deori-Mese kka 'gran-father' azai/ezai aita 'grand-mother' abi ij deuta 'father' ba

Food Items: sutcha (dry fish), suze (wine), kazi (one kind of veg. which takes before bihu festival). Other words: thipaixal (fire place), hupa (broom), bisu sajeba (bihu dance), igu (a women dress).

1.5 Coloquial Assamese of the Ahom tribe or Ahom-Mese: The Tai Ahom people are inhabitants of Dibrugarh, Shivsagar, Jorhat, Golaghat districts of upper Assam. It has a large number of populations. But the Ahom language is not survived in colloquial form now. This language is retained only in the religious books, hymn books. The peasant classes of Ahom tribe-Deodhai, Bailung, Mohan keep the language. The Ahom language has contributed a large numbers of words in the richness of the Assamese language. So we see many Ahom words in the conversation of Ahom-Mese.

a. Phonetic features

1. The [s], [sh] [x] sounds become [h] in the Ahom-Mese. Examples-

Assamese Ahom-Mese zuihal 'fire place' zuhal xial 'Fox' hial xkti 'strength' hkti

2. The [r] sound is not used in Ahom-Mese. Examples-

Assamese Ahom-Mese durni 'further' duni rumal 'handkerchief' umal ra 'red' a

3. The nasalized sound [?] often becomes [] in Ahom-Mese. Examples-

Assamese Ahom-Mese nowarõ 'can't' nuau xõ 'sleep' hu glõgi 'went' glugi

b. Morphological features

1. Like Ahom language the honorific forms [-deu], [-dev], [deuta] are used in Ahom-Mese. Examples-

Assamese Ahom-Mese
Khura 'uncle' ddaideu
Momai 'maternal uncle' momaideu
kka 'gran-father' puthadeu

2. Like Ahom language second and third person pronouns are not found in Ahom-Mese. Only one form is used for non-honorific, honorific and high-honorific pronoun. But in second person Assamese has three pronoun markers in both singular and plural.

Assames	ϵ

Person		Singular	Plural
2 nd	non- hon	toi	tohot
	hon.	tumi	tomalok
	high- hon	apuni	aponalok

Ahom-Mese

Person	Sing.	Plural.
2 nd	mau	Tsu
3rd	man	Khau

3. In Ahom-Mese gender is determined by the combination of different male-female words. Examples-

Male Female
p 'father' me 'mother;
phu 'husband' mi 'wife'
luk 'son' ?i 'daughter'.

c. Lexical features

In Ahom-Mese many words are come from Ahom language. Now-a-days many Ahom words have entered in the Assamese language, so it seems very difficult to define its origin, whether it is a Ahom word or a Assamese word. The Ahom words that are used in the Assamese language are as follows-

Genitive words:

Kuki (a word used for younger son), aisu/aideu (sister-in-law), ghai (sister's husband), ddu (grandfather), apdeu (father's elder brother's wife), apadeu (father's sister), enaideu/enai (father's mother), puthau (mother's father), pulin (great grandfather).

Cultural words:

tskl (one kind of marriage method), phuralu (a religious path), medammephi (a religious festival), jasipha (goddess of knowledge).

Other words: kai (part of a word use for calling a aged person), tikni baruah (one kind of tree), tsamdi (an insect), namla (rice-beer), nephaphu (one kind of tree), xukti (dried fish), sewa-sru (a cooking pot).

1.6 Colloquial Assamese of the Sonowal Kachari tribe: Like other tribes Sonowal Kachari tribe also contributed to build the foundation of Assamese culture and language. This tribe is found mainly in the districts of Upper Assam. The Ahom king offered the name 'Sonowal' as they were appointed to collect gold (In Assamese 'xon' means gold) besides the river Sowansiri and since then they are known as 'Sonowal'. At present the Sonowal Kachari language is not exists. Now it is a colloquial form of the Assamese language. Some linguists said that they have a Tibeto-Burman language earlier, but today we found a different colloquial form. Many characteristics are found in their speaking. These characteristics provide much interest to the sociolinguists. The colloquial form of their speaking is more peculiar than the other ethnic dialects of the Assamese language.

The sign of their language is found in the oral literature. Like-hidang song, pohari song, borgeet, husonri, ainam, dhainam etc. Though they speak Assamese we find a different form in their speaking. So we can term this form a dialect of the Assamese language. The characteristics of the Sonowal Kachari's colloquial form are as follows-

a. Phonological characteristics

i. Due to the vowel harmony not only the mid vowel [] and [o] but also [] and [¿] are become [i] and [u]. It is also a tendency of high-vowel. Examples-

Assamese spoken form of Sonowal-Kachari gise 'going' gisi as 'have' asi knkoi 'how' knkri kla 'black' kula

i. The use of alternative vowel is a characteristic of sonowal-kachari's speaking. Examples-

Assamese spoken form of Sonowal-Kachari

duta 'father' duta/dutia diõ 'give' du mkuri 'cat' mikiri napai 'restrictions for doing' npai

iii. For the tendency of nasal sound [] is used instead of nasalization [?]. Without any reason the augmentation of [] for spontaneous nasalization is a characteristic of sonowal kachari's speaking. Examples-

Assamese spoken form of Sonowal-Kachari

khō 'eat' kha

atk 'great fear' at lxmi 'goddess of wealth' lkhi

iv. In the sonowal kachari's Assamese speaking the [h] sound is used both in initial and medial position. Examples-

Assamese spoken form of Sonowal-Kachari

mar 'mother' mahar ar 'charcoal' hear Ur ur 'fly-fly' hur hur

V. In sonowal kachari's Assamese speaking the [r] sound is omitted in the medial position of vowel.

Examples-

Assamese spoken form of Sonowal-Kachari

xubrnxubnphri 'grasshooper'phigndhrb 'a kind of marriage'gndhb

vi. Stressless syllables are omitted in the colloquial Assamese form of the Sonowal-Kachari tribe.

Examples-

Assamese spoken form of Sonowal-Kachari

mrib'die' marb kris'doing' kuiz

b. Morphological features

i. The formation of the Causative verb of the Sonowal Kachari's speaking is significant. Many causative roots are found in their speaking which are not found in the Assamese language. Examples-

Assamese spoken form of Sonowal-Kachari

anisõ 'bring' anisu haje 'make' hrzaj khjma 'to forgive' khjmiba

- ii The uses of secondary suffixes -/-oual/, /-iali/, /-ali/, /iari/ are notable in the Sonowal Kachari's speaking. Examples -dhakuali, dhekiali, manikial, nezkatari, bikhali.
 - $iii. \ \ The \ nasalized \ conjugational \ suffixes \ become \ [] \ in \ Sonowal \ Kachari's \ speaking. \ Examples-property \ for \ conjugational \ suffixes \ become \ [] \ in \ Sonowal \ Kachari's \ speaking.$

Assamese spoken form of Sonowal-Kachari

bnalõ 'made' bnalu tanilõ 'gramble' tanilu balõ 'plough' balu

c. Lexical features

The sonowal kachari people use many words of their own. Though they speak Assamese, an influence has been found in their Assamese speaking. Many Assamese words are deformed by the Sonowal Kachari people. Words are deformed phonetically, morphologically etc. Here the deformed words, Own words, loan words are described.

i. Phonetically deform words-

Assamese spoken form of Sonowal-Kachari

rkhja 'safe' rikha
kaxot 'beside' koxte
dunri 'small basket' dulni
gondha poa 'smelling' gd poa
brznak 'husband's elder brother brgraki

ii. Derived words-

Some words are derived by coinage process or many coined words are found in the Sonowal Kachari's Assamese speaking. These words are derived from unknown suffixes and non-aryan suffixes. Examples-

Assamese spoken Assamese of Sonowal-Kachari

glpta 'a kind of necklace' glpatmni namni 'lower' namnikusia brbihu 'festival' bhua xokam 'feast' ga xlni dia azli 'foolish girl' azliari

- iii. Native Words:
- a. Genitive and addressing words- Many native words are found in the Sonowal kachari's speaking. These words are- brpai (father's elder brother), duta (grandfather), Abi (grandmother), zethai (father's sister), brgraki (husband's elder brother), apha-ai (mother-father) etc.
- b. Other words: It is very difficult to define the source of these words. These words are- kakama (Cockroach), tetema (an insect), heta (an insect), kuki (baby), tlia (acquatic animal), hiska (habit), gr (bamboo pipe), meze/mesai (one kind of veg.) etc.
- **1.7 Colloquial Assamese of the Moran tribe:** Like other tribes of Assam, the Moran tribe is also rich in cultural heritage. The Moran people use Assamese language in their day-to-day life. But in their Assamese speaking we find a separate form from the standard Assamese. Therefore we can call the colloquial Assamese form of the Moran tribe as an ethnic dialect of the Assamese language. Upen Rabha Hakacham uses the term 'Moran-Mese' to define it (Hakacham 2009:216). The Moran people are inhabited at the districts- Dibrugarh and Tinsukia of Assam. The Characteristics can be described as follows-

a. Phonological features

i. The tendency of high vowel is a characteristic of the Moran-Mese. Examples-

Assamese Moran-Mese th?ti 'You' tuhuti hih?t 'They' hite tamul komora 'white gourd' kumura

ii. The [r] sound is omitted at final position. Example-

Assamese Moran-Mese zeura 'gate' zeua dekeri 'young cow' dekei iii. In Moran-Mese the [z] sound becomes [dzh]. Examples-Assamese Moran-Mese Zapi 'hat' dzhapi mazt 'between' majht zak 'a crow' dzhak

b. Morphological features

i. The conjugational suffixes or Case of the Assamese language simplified by phonetic deformation in Moran-Mese. Examples:

Case

Genitive case: Gh soukakhe jeua. (ghrr soukakhe jeura)

Instrumental case: klme likh (klmere likh) Ablative case: kpa ahili (krpra ahili)

Conjugational suffix:

mi ze neza (mi hle nazaõ) mi zage dei (mi zaõgi)

ii. There is no any form for non-honorific and honorific pronoun in Moran-Mese. Examples-Assamese Moran-Mese

1 issumese				
Person		Singular	Plural	
2 nd	non- hon	toi	tohot	
	hon.	tumi	tomalok	
	high- hon	apuni	aponalok	

Person	Sing.	Plural.
2 nd	t?i	. ?h?ti
3rd	hi	Me

iii. Some native classifiers are found in Moran-Mese. These are-

/-ia/- habuia, azukhia, kpetia

/-ial/- gtial

/-xali/- gerexali, souxali, ekhahali

iv. The uses of pleonastic suffix in Moran-Mese is notable. The uses of pleonastic suffixes are-

/-ka/: dakhn ka ki kl (where the sword has been lost)

/-isi/: isi ta gate lagisil. (Oh god! Safe for a few, it was hit in his body)

c. Lexical features

Though Moran people speak the Assamese language; they also keep the characteristics of their language by using some different word. The words used by Moran people can be classified as follows-

- i. Addressing genitive words: abudu (father-in-law), kki (a term for calling a child), zizai (great grandmother), pi (pehi).
- ii. Cultural words: Sali khoa (a feast organized by women), kza ka (preparation for dowry), kesa haz (a feast with rice beer) etc.

From these illustrations we came to know that each dialect of the Assamese language has its own characteristics. Many influences of their mother tongue have been led in to their Assamese speaking. To define the definitions of dialects many linguists discuss only about the regional dialects. A dialect may be regional, ethnic, lingua-franca etc. Dr. Upen Rabha Hakacham discusses systematically about these dialects of Assamese in his book entitled 'Axomia Bhaxar nrigosthio upobhakha'. In this study an attempt has been chosen to bring into focus these topics. Lot of study is required in these fields.

- 2.0 Regional dialects of Assamese or variations in terms of place: As has been told earlier, when a language takes variations or dissimilarities in terms of different areas or places then we can call it a Regional dialect. The Assamese language is extended from Sadia in east and to Dhubri in west. Between these areas many variations have been seen within the Assamese language. George Abraham Griersion first discussed about the regional dialects of the Assamese language. Then Dr. Banikanta Kakoti followed his way. Dr. Kakoti divided the regional dialects of the Assamese language mainly into two parts- East Assamese and West Assamese. According to him the east Assamese or Upper Assamese is prevalent from Sadia to Guwahati and the West or lower Assamese is prevalent from old Kamrup to Goalpara districts. For instance, he says that though the Assamese language is extended at a wide area, the colloquial Assamese form of the Sivasagar area has got the standardized form. Further he told two regional dialects of the West Assamese or Lower Assamese. These were- Goalporia and Kamrupi dialect. Between Goalporia and Kamrupi area many sub-dialects are found-Kakoti says. The colloquial form of the Goalporia district assimilated with the Rajbanshi language and thus it got special form. The Kamrupi dialect is extended between east Sivasagar and the mixed form of West Goalpara-Kakoti Said. Keeping Kakoti's division I will discuss the regional dialects of the Assamese language mainly into two groups- Upper Assamese and Lower Assamese dialect. And further lower Assamese dialect will be discussed into two groups-Goalporia and Kamrupi dialect. The dialects of the Assamese language will be discussed with different phonological, morphological and lexical features.
- **2.1 East Assamese or Upper Assamese:** Upper Assamese language is used in the districts of dibrugarh, Sivasagar, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji districts of Assam. This dialect has got the standardized form and till it has been used as literary language also. The features of the upper Assamese language is as follows-

a. Phonetic features

- i. Assamese has eight vowels. These are-/i, e, , a, , u, o, \cite{c}]. Each vowel occurs in initial, medial and final position.
- ii. Assamese has eleven vowel letters for writing but among them only eight are known as vowel phoneme. And in the consonant alphabet 41 letters are found. Only 23 are selected as special phoneme.
- iii. [s], [sh], [x] sounds become un-voice velar fricative [x] in the upper Assamese. Examples- xdai, xklo, xukhi etc.
- iv. In the Upper Assamese dialect the stress is used in middle position of a syllable but in the lower Assamese dialect it is used in the initial syllable.
 - v. Two diphthongs are found in upper Assamese dialects. These are-/i/ and /u/.

b. Morphological features

i. In upper Assamese dialect non honorific, honorific and high honorific forms of pronouns are found in second and third person. Examples:

Person		Singular	Plural
2nd	non- honorific	t?i	t?h?t
	honorific	tumi	t?malok
	High honorific	apuni	aponalok
3rd	non- honorific	hi	hih?t
	honorific	t? õ	t? õlok
	High honorific	t? kh? t	t? kh? th?k?l

ii. The negative prefix [-n] precedes the verb in the upper Assamese. The negative prefix changes according to the first syllable of the verb. Examples-

```
n+kr\tilde{o}=nkr\tilde{o}

n+za\tilde{o}=naza\tilde{o}

n+kin\tilde{o}=nikin\tilde{o}
```

iii. Assamese has some suffixes to define feminine gender. These are-/-i, -ni, -ri, -ini/

kal + -ri = kalri randh + -ni = randhnidhoba + -ini = dhubini

iv. Assamese has basically two kinds of classifiers. One is used in singular number and another is used in plural number. To indicate a particular thing or object, it may be animate or inanimate many forms are used in the upper Assamese dialect. These forms are used with nouns in terms of size or shape, animate or inanimate. The plural classifiers or indefinitives are also used with nouns in terms of size and shape. The definitive suffixes and plural suffixes of the upper Assamese dialect are-

Definitive: /-zn/, /-zni/, /-khni/, /-dal/, /-dal/, /-dal/, /-ta/, /-ti/, /-to/etc.

Plural or indefinite suffixes: /-bor/, /-bilak/, /-h?t/, /-mkha/, /-zak/, /-sb//-xopa/etc.

v. Many words are formed by derivative process in the upper Assamese dialect. In the derivation prefixation, suffixation processes are used to form new words. Examples:

Prefixation: In the upper Assamese or standard Assamese twenty suffixes from Sanskrit language are used. Examples-

```
-pri + kar = priskar

-pr + thm = prthm

-na + akhmia = naakhmia
```

Suffixation: In the process of suffixation both primary and secondary suffixes are used to form new words. Primary suffixes create verb base words, it is used with a verb but the secondary suffixes are used only with substantive root. Examples-

Primary suffix:

Secondary suffix: $\begin{array}{ccc} phul+ \ /-ni/ & = phulni \ 'flower garden' \\ uz+/-ni/ & = uzni \ 'upper' \\ nam+/-ti/ & = namti \end{array}$

- **c. Lexical features:** As the Assamese language is an Aryan language; therefore many words are come from Sanskrit language. Assam is a meeting place of different language and culture of different tribes. Therefore non-Aryan features are also found in the lexical features of the Assamese language. The Assamese vocabulary can be classified in terms of sources. These are
 - i. Sanskrit words
 - ii. Native or non-Aryan words
 - iii. Loan words.
- **i. Sanskrit words:** Tatsam word: These words are used same as Sanskrit in Assamese. The meaning is also same with the Sanskrit word, but these words are different in pronunciation. Example-

nna (meal), agni (fire), candra (moon), rtn(gold), biswa (universe), krm (duty), mnushj (human being).

Half tatsam word: These words are changed or simplified in terms of pronunciation in the upper Assamese dialect. Examples:

Sanskrit half tatsam agni 'fire' gni dhrm 'religion' dhrm krm 'duty' krm

Tatbhab words: The Assamese words which origin is Sanskrit we can call those words, Tadbhav word. These words are become changed due to evaluative process. Sometime it seems difficult to define the origin of the word due to more nativization. Examples-

Sanskrit	prakrit	Apabhramsa	Assamese dapon 'mirror'	
drpn	dppn	da:pn		
ghrit	ghi		ghi	'Butter'
ratri	rtti		rati	'night'
krm	kmm		kam	'work'

ii. Native or non-Aryan words: These words are come from neighboring languages. These words are nativized through cultural-linguistic assimilation. These words can be categorized into three parts: Austro-Asiatic words, Tibeto-Burman and Thai Ahom words. Examples-

Austro-Asiatic words: The languages of khasi, kol munda and maloi tribes belong to this language family. The khasi words use in Assamese are- hole (a sour fruit), kabu (humble prayer), hnu (so it is hear), methun. Munda words are- zuti (taste), latum (spherical), til (sesamum), zika (cornered gourd). Maloi words are-zhamal (Indian civet), gahri (pig), lapani (rice-beer), sea (sprightly).

Tibeto-burman words: dihi (river burhidihing), disa (a tributary of the river Brahmaputra), dikhu, digaru etc. **Tai Ahom words:** pu (a spring), pta (a palate of rock), sauda (a title), aisu (mother), la, phukn, puthau (grandfather), naideu (grandmother), apadeu (mother's elder sister).

iii. Loan words: Arbi-Farsi-turki words: ain (law), mokrdma (legal dispute), zruri (emergency), kagz (paper), klm (pen), lphpha (envelop), Khbr (news), namaz (pray), riksha (rikshaw) etc.

English words: pulis (police), phis (office), saikl (cycle), sinma (Cinema), skul (school), rekrd (record) etc.

Thus we can discuss about the upper Assamese dialect or standard Assamese.

- **2.1 West Assamese or Lower Assamese dialect:** The lower Assamese dialect is extended in Kamrup and Goalpara districts of Assam. We can divide the Lower Assamese into two groups: Kamrupi dialect and Goalporia dialect.
- **2.1.1 Kamrupi dialect**: It is a regional dialect of the Assamese language. It is more different from the standard Assamese. Here the differences will be discussed in different categories.
- a. Phonetic features
 - i. There are eight vowels in the Assamese language where seven vowels are found in Kamrupi

dialect. These are-/i, e, , a, , u, o/.

ii. In upper Assamese the stress is used in middle position of a word, on the contrary the stress is used in initial position in lower Assamese. Examples:

Assamese Kamrupi dialect

bhomora bhmra mra komora 'white gourd' kumra

iii. Epenthesis is an important feature of Kamrupi dialect. For epenthesis the use of diphthong and tripthong have been found. Examples-

Assamese Kamrupi Dialect

halowa 'plough man' haule kewlia 'religious man' keula klia 'black' kila

iv. In Assamese if two /-a/ sounds are occured closely then first /-a/ sound becomes // but in Kamrupi dialect it remains the same. Examples-

Assamese Kamrupi dialect

rza 'king' raza ska 'wheel' saka tra 'star' tara

v. The diphthongs in final position of a word of the standard Assamese becomes

accordingly [-u] and [-i] in Kamrupi dialect. Examples-

Assamese Kamrupi dialect

akhi 'parched corn' akh gri 'a fish' gre kabu 'extreme request' kabo

b. Morphological featrures

i. In Kamrupi dialect the plural suffix [-the] is used, other plural suffixes, like- -xopa/-xpa, -makha/-xkl, -ahun/-ahU, -hama/-hamla, -gila/-gilan/-gilak/-gla etc. are also used. Examples:

Kamrupi dialect Meaning

mama-thk uncle along with family.

dkani-the-t along with family in shopkeeper's home.

ii. In Kamrupi language some classifiers are added with plural pronoun. Examples-

Assamese Kamrupi dialect ibilak 'These' iglakhan Heibilak 'those' higlakhan

iii. In Kamrupi dialect there are four case markers. But in Assamese six case markers are found.

Kamrupi:

Nominative case: -/-i/-q
Accusative case: -k/-k/- q
Genitive case: -r/-r
Locative : -t/-t

iv. In Kamrupi dialect the feminine suffixes -ni/-ni are used in common gender also. Examples-

Kamrupi Meaning tulni adopted randhni cook.

dhueni a laundry woman.

c. Lexical features

In kamrupi language many native words are seen which are not used in the standard Assamese. These words are-

Assamese Kamrupi dialect

dhunia 'beautiful' thuga

(49)

nimntrn nta (invitation),

tUhguri 'thresing' bhusi
bhet (lily flower) muka
boka(mud) pota
znaki prua (firefly) znpka
sorai 'bird' pakhi

- **2.1.2 Goalporia dialect:** The Goalporia dialect has many sub dialects. These are- west goalporia and east goalporia. According to Upen Rabha Hakacham it has seven local dialects. Among them-ghullia, sorua, jharua, namania, baukhia, habraghatia, barohajaria are notable (Hakacham 2009:387). Here the general features of the Goalporia dialect will be discussed.
- a. Phonetic features:
 - i. The vowel [i] of the Assamese language becomes [a] in Goalporia dialect. Examples-

Assamese Goalporia dialect

dhari 'mat' dhara sati 'umbrella' sata dhuli 'dust' dhula

ii. The [a] vowel is augmented in Goalporia dialect instead of final position of a di-syllabic word of

Assamese.

Assamese Goalporia dialect

Xon'gold' xona tam'copper' tama bÃh'nest' baha

iii. The sound of standard Assamese [p], [z], [] becomes accordingly [ph], [jh] [i] in the Goalporia dialect.

Assamese Goalporia dialect

plaj 'through' phelaj
oza 'master in art' ojha
ndur 'rat' indur
iv)The [n] and [r] sounds become [l] in the Goalporia dialect.

Assamese Goalporia dialect

nom 'hair of body' lom nez 'tail' lez

v. Epenthesis is an important characteristic of the Goalporia dialect, but in Assamese epenthesis is

not found. Example-

Assamese Goalporia dialect

kati 'cut' kait narikl 'coconut' nairkl

b. Morphological features

- i. The plural suffix of Goalporia dialect is less in numbers. /-ira/, /-ra/, /-ha/ these plural suffixes are used with pronoun and /-khan/, /-xkl/, /-ghr/-hr/-hla, -gul/-gula/-gulo/-gela/-gla/-gla/-la-these are used with other words.
- ii. In Assamese the definite classifiers or third person singular number of pronoun are changed in terms of gender. But it is not found in Goalporia dialect.
- iii. In Goalporia dialect indefinite meaning is defined by these collective words-khaniman/khamna/akmkha/ak xpa etc.

c. Lexical features

The native words which are used in Goalporia dialect, it is not found in any other dialects and it is quite different from the standard Assamese. These words are-

Assamese Goalporia zlkia 'silly' jhaluk rbab tea 'a sour fruit' zambura

(50)

gdgdi 'fish' dhrai/ hebogali

girik 'husband' lalak putk 'son' sgri auli 'finger' nogl

Thus we can discuss about the dialects of lower Assam. Within the two dialects many sub-dialects are found. Within the Kamrupi dialect west (Barpeta), middle (nalbari) and south (Soygaon/ Palashbari) sub-dialects are found. Each of the dialects has their own characteristics. At all we can call that these are also the regional dialects of the Assamese language.

- **3.0 Variety of the Assamese language as lingua-franca:** It is also a different form of Assamese language, so we can term it as a dialect of the Assamese language. A lingua franca is a bridge language. When a language is adopted as a common language between speakers whose native language are different. As has been told earlier that Assamese is a communicating language. Many tribes use Assamese to communicate with outsiders. The dialects of the Assamese language can be classified in to three groups in terms of lingua-franca. These are
 - u Nagamese
 - u Nefa-Mese
 - u Coloquial Assamese of the Tea garden people.
- **3.1 Nagamese:** North-East India is a land of different ethnic communities. Each tribe has their own language. Within the community different sub-dialects are found. These languages are unintelligible for each-other. Therefore they need a common language to communicate with each-other. Thus Assamese becomes a lingua-franca among these tribes.

Nagamese is a common language of Nagaland. Though the people who live in the hill place of India, they are known as 'Naga', but basically it is a common name for different Naga clans. These Naga descendants are- Konyak, Angami, Ao, Sema, Lotha, Sakhesang, Phom, Imsungri, Rengma, Sang, Sangtam, Jeliang, Posuri, Khinmungam etc. Among these Konyak people are majority in numbers. These tribes have different languages. They choose Assamese as common language. With the combination of Assamese and Naga language they create the 'Nagemese' language. In the Nagamese many linguistic elements from both Assamese and Naga are found. Though English is used as official language, but Nagamese is also used partially as official language (Boruah 1990:201). The characteristics of the Nagamese language can be shown as follows-

a. Phonological features

i. In Nagamese there are six vowels. These are-/a, i, o, , ...,u]. [] and [] sounds are not found in Nagamese language.

Assamese Nagamese amar 'our' amar laga tomar 'your' tomar laga

b. Morphological features

i. The plural suffix {-khan} is used in Nagamese. Example-

Assamese Nagamese manuhzn 'the man' manuhkhan bstubor 'the things' bstukhan lrabr 'the boys' lrakhan

ii. The auxiliary verb {-ase}is used at the end of a sentence in Nagamese. In Assamese it is not used. (Baruah 1990:204) Examples-

Assamese: aitu kar bstu?
Nagamese: itubstu kar laga ase?

- iii. To emphasis on a sentence some pleonastic suffixes /-tu/, /-de/, /-hole/, /-kene/ are used in Nagamese language.
 - iv. The genitive form [-laga] is used in Nagamese, in Assamese it is used as [-r].

c. Lexical features

phu phu (father's younger sister), golbhera (tomato), kpita (papaya), mnbha (attitude), khundia (hit), mn khusi kra xmi (leisure time), muk poa lua (memorise), kpal dangor (lucky) etc.

Thus we can discuss about Nagamese. Many works have been done on Nagamese language. In

nagamese the roman script is used. This language is used in Radio centre also. Radio play like- 'heura-sukra', 'Kabulibala' and different songs have been recorded or telecast from all india radio Kohima (Boruah 1990: 207). Prof. Bhim Kanta Boruah has done many works on Nagamese language. His thesis was on Nagamese language entitled 'The Nagamese Language: A Descriptive Analysis' (1981). In 1993 he wrote a book entitled 'Nagamese: The Language of Nagaland'. And he wrote the first grammar of Nagamese language entitled, 'Nagamiz Kothalaga Niyom' in 1985. Other linguists also did works on Nagamese language. At all it can be said that the Nagamese language spreads in different fields. It can be able to take place in audio-visual media also.

3.2 Nefamese: It is a common language of Arunachal Pradesh. Arunachal Pradesh is also a multifarious land of fascinating ethnic tribes. Assamese language is working as a common language in Arunachal Pradesh also. Therefore the 'Nefamese' language has created. Nefamese word is derived from the words 'Nefa' and 'Mese'. Like 'Naga' the 'Nefa' word indicates the people of Arunachal Pradesh. As 'Nefa' was another name of Arunachal Pradesh. In Arunachal Pradesh Tangsa, Nockte, Wancho, Khamti, Singphow, Monpa, Serdukpen, Tutsa, Lisu, Oka, Miji, Tsakma etc. languages are found. All these languages are unintelligible for each other. So they use Assamese. In their Assamese speaking both Assamese and Arunachali words are used. The characteristics of Nefamese language is-

a. Phonological features

[r] sound becomes [h] and [l] in Nagamese. Example: ri>li, lra>lla, ramajan>lamajan/lamama.

b. Morphological features

In Nefamese the [-tu] form is used to make opposite meaning of a word. Examples-

Assamese: muru zabo lga asil kintu nuarilu.

Nagamese: mi bhi zabale asile tu naparilu.

- ii. Like Assamese the genitive form [-r] is used in Nefamese. Examples- amar (our), tomar (your), aponar (your) etc.
- iii. The auxiliary form /-h/ is used at the end of a sentence in Nefamese (Boaruah 1990: 204). Example-

aikhn kitap kar h?

3.3 Colloquial Assamese of the Tea-garden People: The tea-garden people contribute a lion's share to the national life of Assam. At first they were taken to Assam by the Britishers as workers. In 1859-60 from Sutnagpur and Medinipur many workers were taken to the tea-garden. At later it continues. According to the information of Tea Council in 1986 there were 844 tea gardens and the employees were-4,84,349 (Pathak 2013:160). According to Deuram Tasa- the Tea community has different clans. These are-Munda, Saotal, Urang, Saunra, Bhuinya, Paharia, Poroja, Gouro, Kandha, Baiga, Kharia, Kol, Bhil, Sobor, Bhumij, Gatuwar, Boraik etc. The tea community people also use Assamese so different linguistic elements are found in their Assamese speaking, which is different from standard Assamese language. These can be illustrated as follows-

a. Morphological features

- Case: i.
- Nominative: -e/-i/. Examplehi br dubla hise

'He becomes so weak'

- b. Accusative Case-/-ke/ dusra manuske nai dim. It will not give to another man.
- Instrumental -/se/. Exakhn thikse thakbi 'Stay silently now'.
- d. Dative: /-te/, /-ek/, /-kli/. Exmanus gilakli
- Genitive: -k/-r/-er

tder bhai kaha gelek re. (Where your brother has gone)

f. Locative: -te/-e

phila piriti kale (Source: Asomia Bhasar Itihas, Ramesh Pathak, p: 161)

ii. The negative suffix {-na}precedes the verb in the Colloquial Assamese of Tea garden people.

Examples-

Assamese Colloquial As. of Tea garden people

nidie 'not give' nai dibe nuhune 'not hear' nai sune nai 'no' naikhe nhb 'will not' nai hobe

b. Lexical features

Many native words are used in their Assamese speaking. These words are-

Assamese Colloquial As. of Tea garden people Kõkal

'waist' kmr kaxlti 'armpit' kakh-bagl xrir 'body' gtr aghat 'injure' sot

4.0 Conclusion

From the above discussions we came to know that Assamese has different dialects. The cited topic is so vast. I tried to discuss it from three ways. I tried to enlighten the varieties of the Assamese language from a new perspective. Many fields are quiet lay down without any scientific study. Therefore I hope it will help to take the interests of the scholars for more studies in this field.

References

- 1. Boruah, Bhimkanta. Axomor Bhakha. First pub., Banalata, Dibrugarh, 1990.
- 2. Hakacham, Upen Rabha. Asomia Bhakhar Itihas. Panbajar, Guwahati, 2013.
- 3. Kumer Nath, Profulla. & Hazarika Jyoti Rekha. Asomia Bhakhar Adhyan. Banalata, Dibrugarh, 1997.
- 4. Pathak, Ramesh. Asomia Bhasar Itihas. Ashok Book stall, Panbajar, Guwahati, 2013.