CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This chapter contains a conclusive and short comment of research work of the researcher. The proposed research work entitled ‘Noun Phrase in Assamese and French Language: A Comparative Study’ has been discussed under five chapters including General Introduction and Conclusion Chapter. The present study deals with the general description of the comparative structures of certain aspects of the Noun Phrase in Assamese and French. It is an attempt to investigate the elements that form the structure of noun phrase in both the languages.

The Chapter I is an attempt to give the meaning of Noun Phrase by analyzing the various definitions of NPs. Moreover, the relevance of the research topic, aims and objectives, review of necessary literatures, methodology have also been carried out under this chapter.

The Chapter II entitled ‘Introduction to Assamese and French Languages: History of the Languages’ gives a general introduction of Assamese and French languages, its origin and development, dialects, script, geographical location and population.

This chapter is very crucial as it is trying to throw a light on the phonology of Assamese and French language. The study of phonology covers vowels, consonants and diphthongs of both the languages. But this section does not provide any comparative comment on the phonological study of both Assamese and French since our main concern is to study the grammatical aspect of noun phrases in both the languages. The purpose of giving an account of the phonemes of both these two languages is to present the language data phonetically.

The Chapter III entitled ‘Heads of Noun Phrase in Assamese and French’ is mainly concerned with the head elements of the Noun Phrases in Assamese and French. This chapter studies head positions of NPs must be filled by a noun or pronoun or numerals (cardinal and ordinals). Apart from these, some of the adjectives can also occur as the noun in the noun
phrases in both the languages which are illustrated in this chapter. There are certain similarities and dissimilarities are observed in relation to the element occupying the head noun position in noun phrases in both Assamese and French languages:

**SIMILARITIES**

- The common element in the head position of a noun phrase in Assamese and French is a noun. It is an obligatory element in both the languages. In fact, the different types of nouns (like common, proper, abstract, collective nouns etc.) can fill the head noun positions. This head noun position can also replaced by other items like different types of pronouns (like personal, possessive, demonstrative pronouns etc.), some of adjectives and numerals in both the languages. This obligatory head noun may occur either independently or with group of elements in these two languages. In fact, there are other elements that characterize noun phrases in these two languages which carry the morphosyntactic features of the languages are discussed in greater detail in chapter VI.

**DISSIMILARITIES**

- In Assamese, the head noun may not necessarily accompanied by a determiner. But in French, determiner is an obligatory element that must precede a head noun in a NP. In fact, Proper names in French also do not require a determiner before it.

- Besides, in French, gender is inherently present in nouns. It is an obligatory feature of the noun. French nouns are either masculine or feminine. In fact, gender in French is grammatical. On the other hand, Assamese nouns do not possess any inherent gender system.

- In Assamese, the second person personal pronouns have three forms Informal (তুই /tɔi/ ‘you’), Formal (তুমি /tumi ‘you’) and Honorific (আপুনি /apuni/ ‘you’). But in French,
there are only two forms for persons of personal pronouns, viz., Informal (tu /ty/ ‘you) and Honorific (vous /vu/ ‘you’).

The Chapter IV named ‘Elements or Constituents In The Order of Noun Phrase Construction in Assamese and French’ mainly focuses on the constituents or elements that can occur in a noun phrase in both Assamese and French language. This study finds out some of the important points of similarities and dissimilarities in respect to constituents occurring in a NP in both the language. These are mentioned below:

- Determiner is an important element that can occur in a NP in Assamese and French. In French, determiner (like Definite Article, Indefinite Article, Partitive Article, Possessive Adjective, Demonstrative Adjective, Interrogative Adjective, Quantifiers) always must precede the head noun in a NP. It is to be mentioned here that pronouns in French do not take determiners. But in Assamese the term determiner is replaced by the term Determinatives which are added postpositionally to the head noun in a NP. Pronouns can also take some of the determinatives.

- Moreover, Cardinal numerals do not take indefinite articles, except the number 1 (one) in French. On the other hand, in Assamese, the numerals can take most of the determinatives postpositionally.

- Gender system in French is grammatically marked. It has two genders, viz., Masculine and Feminine. Nouns, in French, are classified depending on their genders and also the articles and adjectives have different forms to agree with gender of noun they precede or modify. But Assamese gender system is not grammatical, it possesses natural gender system. These are: Masculine, Feminine and Common genders.

- Number is another morphological constituent that can occur in a NP in both the languages. Assamese does not possess grammatical number system. There are mainly
two kinds of numbers, viz., Singular and Plural. To make singular and plural, in Assamese, there are certain suffixes added to the head noun in a NP. In fact, Sometimes proper name, some of personal and demonstrative pronouns occur independently without taking any suffix to refer to their singularity. On the contrary, French possesses grammatical number system. Articles and adjectives must agree with the number of the head noun in a NP. There are two number systems i.e., Singular and Plural. In French, to show plural number, ‘-s’ form is suffixed to nouns. There is no overt marking on nouns for singularity. It is understood from the article the noun takes before it.

- Case is another grammatical constituent that can occur with the head noun in a NP. Assamese is rich in case system. There are six cases in Assamese those are suffixed to the noun, pronoun or adjectives. But it is found in modern French language cases have almost been disappearing. Only the personal pronouns are marked for subject and object (direct and indirect) of the verbs.

- Preposition and postposition also constitute another major element in a NP in both Assamese and French. Assamese possesses postpositions like like পথ /ppra/, দ্বারা /dwara/, হতুত্বই /hətuwai/, সৌন্দৰ্য্য /xoite/ etc. follow noun, pronoun and adjective which take genitive case ending -ব /-ব / or –অব /-অব/ (of). Besides, Assamese is characterized for a few numbers of prepositions also which occur before nouns. On the contrary, in French, prepositions are very frequent that occur before a noun or pronoun. Postpositions are not seemed to be found in French.

- Adjectives are also one of the important constituents of NPs in Assamese and French. In Assamese, adjectives are invariable in form. They can precede or follow the head noun or pronoun. When the adjectives follow the head noun, the noun must be accompanied by determinatives to make them definite. Besides, adjectives are not marked for number and gender. On the other hand, in French, adjectives must agree with the gender and number
of the noun they modify. Besides, adjectives follow the head noun most frequently. Sometimes it may precede the head noun also. In fact, the positions of the adjectives modifying a noun signal the difference in meaning.

The Chapter V entitled ‘Summary and Conclusion’ presents the overview of all the preceding chapter discussed above. This chapter is very crucial part of the thesis as the findings of the research work is discussed.

In this thesis, it is trying to compare noun phrases between two languages – Assamese and French. Though Assamese belongs to the Indo-Aryan language group and French belongs to the Romance languages, they originate from the same proto language i.e., Indo-European language family. For the present study data have been collected manually from the secondary sources i.e., the written texts of the languages, even though some of the Assamese data are cited from the researcher’s intuitive knowledge as the researcher is native speaker of this language. The analysis of the data relating to noun phrase constructions results in some of the interesting points of similarities and differences between these languages.

It is to worth mentioning here that scholars and linguists have tried to discuss noun phrase constructions in Assamese as well as in French separately or with other languages, but no comparative study have made between these two linguistically rich languages. The researcher takes this initial attempt to compare the noun phrases between these two languages. In fact, the complete analysis of the noun phrase is not a simple task to study. But the researcher has limited the analysis to some important areas like head position of noun phrases, the six elements or constituents of noun phrases in both the languages. Thus, this area of study is quite extensive and further researches by the present researcher or others are expected on the topic that will take the present research to its apex.