Several eminent scholars of Assamese literature have traversed the field of Assamese Mahābhārata from different angles. Apart from mentioning a few lines on Kavindra's Mahābhārata, none has shown keen interest in the Mahābhārata written by Kavindra.

The discovery of three copies of the manuscript of Kavindra's Mahābhārata bearing Assamese letters in the library of Gauripur Rāj Family encouraged Sri Gaurināth Sastri of Dhubri to compiled a copy out of three copies. The compiled and edited Assamese copy was transliterated to Bengali script by the editor ignoring the rightful place of Assamese Literature. Ultimately this Bengali transliterated copy was printed in 1931 with the financial assistance of Rājā Prabhāt Chandra Baruā of Gauripur Rāj family.

The topic of the present research is 'A Critical Study of Kavindra's Mahābhārata' under the guidance of Dr. Sadānanda Bezbaruā, Retd Professor of Assamese, B.N, College, Dhubri.

The printed book of Kavindra's Mahābhārata in Bengali letters (the compiled Bengali transliterated copy from Assamese original manuscript)
contains all the 18 parvas of the Sanaskrit Mahābhārata. In addition to this printed Mahābhārata, the researcher has got the opportunity of consulting one compact Tulāpāt copy upto the middle of Asvamedha parva, a few folios of Kavindra's Mahābhārata and two folios of Tulāpāt copies of the manuscript bearing Assamese character and alphabet from the "The Asiatic Society", Calcutta.

In the absence of any authentice work from any quarter on the Mahābhārata of Kavindra, the researcher has to go through the available manuscript copy of Kavindra's Mahābhārata which shows the Assamese version of the Mahābhārata in the early part of the 16th century. It is rather an adaptation than translation of the original and the author is able to present the production of the legends, episodes of the Sanaskrit Mahābhārata in his own style and ability. Nevertheless, the Mahābhārata has covered the 18 parvas of the origin in a nutshell.

The object of the present thesis is to provide a study of the version of the Assamese Mahābhārata in the early part of the 16th century showing peculiarities of Assamese language prevalent during that period in the westernmost part of old Kāmarūpa.

Adequate measure is taken to reflect the socio-religious conditions of the period in discussion through the work. The narrative is based on the
It is acknowledged that meagre information and controversial expressions of learned persons like Dr. Sukumār Sen, Dr. Ashit Kumār Bandopadhyāy are studied along with available information of Assamese authors like Dr. Satyendra Nāth Sarmā, Dimbeswar Neog. Their views are also given due weight in due place inside the work.

So far Language Chapter (Chapter VI) is concerned, I have followed mainly Dr. B.K. Kākati's Assamese, its Formation and Development (A.F.D.) Dr. P.C. Bhattāchārya's A Descriptive Analysis of the Boro Language and Dr. U.C. Goswāmi's Introduction to Assamese. The researcher acknowledges his deep sense of gratitude to these eminent authors specially to Dr. B.K. Kākati for the extensive use of his authoritative book 'Assamese, its Formation and Development'.

The researcher does not claim that he is able to cover all the angles of the said Mahābhārata yet he asserts and claims his sincerest endeavour to provide a scope for the further studies in the field of the Mahābhārata literature of Assamese language.

I received financial assistance for 2 years from the University Grants Commission, New Delhi which encourages me to pursue the work that
In course of my research project, Sri Alakesh Barua, M.A. (now deceased) the son of late Pramathsh Barua of Gauripur Rāj family and Retd professor of Philosophy, vice-principal Pramathesh Barua College, Gauripur, has extended his helping hand in lending the Tulāpāt manuscript copy of Kavindra’s Mahābhārata temporarily to make the Photostat copy. The research scholar acknowledge his gratitude to the departed soul.

To reach the goal of the research the researcher has taken much pain to collect relevant datas from various sources. As there is no other literary work focusing Kavindra as one of the Assamese Mahābhārata poets so the researcher has to depend on the sources available in the libraries- the K.K. Handique library (formerly Gauhati university Library), The Department of Historical ands Antiquarian studies, Assam, Guwahati, the District Library Dhubri, the B.N. College Library, Dhubri, ABILAC (Anundoram Barooah, Institute of Language, Art & Culture) and the P.B. College Library Gauripur. Addition to these, the researchers has got an opportunity to study at the National Library, Calcutta, The Asiatic Society, Calcutta and the District Library, Cooch-Bihar, the research scholar records deep sense of gratitude to all the librarians for their kind co-operation and help.

The researcher acknowledge his deep gratitude, especially to Mr. Debesh Chandra Biswas, Librarian, P.B. College Gauripur who helped the scholar with books and valuable suggestions, Dr. D. Das, Retd. Head of the
Dept. of Assamese, P.B. College, Gauripur has been constantly inspiring me in pursuing the research project. The researcher extends his deep sense of gratitude for his honest and proper advice.

The research scholar acknowledge his deep sense of gratitude to Dr. N.C. Sarmā, Retd. Head of Folklore Department G.U. for all kinds of help and valuable suggestions in pursuing in this present research project.

The researcher will fail in his duty if he fails to acknowledge his debt to the scholars of Assamese, Bengali, Sanskrit, English and Hindi authors who have indirectly given ample scope to utilize their works frequently. He has also shown his indebtedness to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi for extending the financial assistance to his research scholar.

In fine, the researcher acknowledges his indebtedness to Dr. S. Bezbaruā, Retd. Professor of Assamese, B.N. College, Dhubri who unhesitantly comes forward to help me in all respects inspite of his preoccupations.

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