Chapter XVIII.

Word Order.

201. The position of the definitives, indefinitives, case-endings, emphatic forms, negative particles, interrogative particles, compound verbs etc., has been indicated in the foregoing chapters of morphology. In this chapter other cases of word order have been shown in general.

The Kamrupi sentence normally is small. Complex ideas are expressed by combining together sentences by means of conjunctions. (§ 182.) For example:

\[ \text{māi sāhtor gharok sām āra sādī mok boihā kāne teñāholi bohim nahli thii thii kathā kheni koi gusi bhim 'I will go to their house and if they ask me to sit then I will sit otherwise expressing my views standing I will come back'} \]

202. In a Kamrupi sentence the demonstrative precedes a noun; the adjective precedes a noun, the possessive precedes a noun and the adverb precedes the adjective but when all of them come together the order becomes this: demonstrative + possessive + adjective + noun and demonstrative + possessive + adverb + adjective + noun; e.g.

- kitāp 'book'
- ekhān kitāp 'this book'
- mor kitāp 'my book'
- bhāl kitāp 'good book'
- bar bhāl kitāp 'very good book'
- ekhān mor kitāp 'this is my book'
- ekhān mor bhāl kitāp 'this is my good book'
- ekhān mor bar bhāl kitāp 'this is my very good book'.

The adverb generally precedes the verb. The infinitive also does the same, e.g. māi kāli sām 'I will go to-morrow'. xi xainbā āhe 'he comes to hear'.
203. The normal order of words is subject + verb or subject + object + verb. The indirect object generally precedes the direct one. Examples:

mài khāā 'I eat'.
māi bhāat khāā 'I eat rice'.
māi garām bhāat khāā 'I eat hot rice'.
māi bar garām bhāat khāā 'I eat very hot rice'.
māi tāk dāh tākā deū 'I give him ten rupees'.

204. When two pronouns of different persons stand as the subject, the order is 3rd, 2nd, 1st and the verb also agrees with the first in preference to the second or third and with the second in preference to the third, e.g. xī, tumī āru māi sām 'he, you and I shall go'. tumī āru māi sām 'you and I shall go'. xī āru tumī sābā 'he and you will go'. xī āru māi sām 'he and I shall go'.

205. The normal order of words in the dialect is, however, not rigidly fixed. Except for the post-positions which must follow the noun or pronoun concerned, other parts of speech may have a different order for emphasis and for expression of emotion. Thus the subject may come at the end of a sentence, e.g. āk āsil rāsā 'there was a king'. tāik āru mox kāre rāsāi 'the king loves her'. The vocative which generally comes at the beginning, may come after or last just for emphasis, e.g. bāpā māi dāktāri okhūd nākhāū '0 my dear boy, I do not use medicines of a medical practitioner'. bhōhu rāsār sāal khālū bāpā māi '0 my dear boy, I have seen the changes of many kings'. tāke to kośū pītī 'I am saying that my boy'. So also the verb may come before the subject, the adverb may go after the verb, the infinitive may go after the verb and the persons of the pronouns may change place. The adverbs of time and place particularly has the least fixed place. Examples: āse bākrār māk 'mother of Bakra is living'. bhōhu sāgāt phuissifū māi 'I travelled in many places'; mēk khaḷāk aṣjārī 'in this way he did harm to me'; tēr kathāō laīgbo mūnbā 'his words also will have to be heard'; tumī, gāpal āru māi sām 'you, Gopal and I shall go'; māi kālī guaḥātik sām or māi guaḥātik kālī sām 'I will
go to Gauhati to-morrow', 
etu bostu nalbārit bar xastā or nalbārit etu bostu bar xastā 'this thing is very cheap at Kalbari.

Predicatively the possessive and the adjective will come after the noun, 
e.g. etu ghar mor 'this house is mine'; etu bostu bhāl 'this thing is good'.

206. In a Kamrupi sentence the verb is always not essential. It is left out
generally in the following patterns of sentences, e.g.

(a) demonstrative + noun : eglā kathā 'these are the things'
    ehnāi xākhi 'these are the witnesses'.

(b) demonstrative + adjective : eglā baia 'these things are bad'.
    ehnā xoru 'these are juniors'.

(c) demonstrative + possessive + noun : etu kār ghar 'whose house is this'.
    etu mor salā 'this is my shirt'.

(d) possessive + noun + interrogative pronoun : tor nāu ki 'what is your name'.

(e) possessive + noun + noun : mor nāu hori 'my name is Hari'.

(f) possessive + noun + adjective : mor din baiā 'my days are bad'.
    tār pitāktu bhāl 'his father is good'.

(g) possessive + noun + adverb : gapālor ghar tātei 'Gopal's house is there
    itself'.

207. The subject is also omitted in a sentence in Kamrupi in the following
situations :

(a) in imperative constructions : parh 'thou read'
    xetu kām kar 'thou do that work'.
    bhāithbeila āihbā 'you please come in the
    evening'.
(b) in asking questions: měktor gharok sa nā nēsa 'you go to their house or not'.
ālu kenke loli 'at what price you have purchased potatoes'.
kot thākāh 'where do thou stay'.

e) in expressing doubt: kali bā ki kāne 'said this much what he says (is not certain)'.
gali na ki bhāibbo 'If I go there what they will think of me (is not certain)'.

d) in general statements: tāk iskulet khēdbā nero 'I cannot send him to school'.
itā ekē āhsū ale 'now I have come here'.
dnilāg khāisū sāh 'I have taken tea twice'.

208. If once something or some body is referred to and the following statement is concerning that person or thing, then generally that thing or person is omitted, e.g.

xi āpi bāī dīlāk datē āru tīntā āse 'he has given two daughters in marriage again three daughters are remaining'.
tumār na bāih kinān hal, mar tinkuri das mān hal 'how much aged you are? My age is nearly seventy'.
tāi sāh khābi nā, khān de 'will thou take tea, I will take'.