Language is the most important means of communication in human society. Human beings throughout the globe express their ideas, feelings, thoughts etc. by means of a language either in spoken or in written form. Our country i.e., India is very rich in linguistic resource. This can be rightly observed in the multilingual society of India. There are hundreds of languages and dialects in the emerging Indian society. Among these languages and dialects, 22 languages are recognized as major languages in the 8th schedule of the Constitution of India.


As mentioned in the above list Hindi and Assamese are two recognised languages in this schedule of which the former is the official language of India as well as lingua franca of this country and the latter is the state language of Assam.
as well as serves the purpose of lingua franca among the speakers of various tribal languages inhabited in Assam and its neighbouring states. Hindi is also the state language of as many as ten states of the country. It is worth mentioning that according to many linguists both the languages have the same origin i.e. Sanskrit and thus they are sister languages. Being originated from the same language many similarities may be observed between Hindi and Assamese. But there are many differences too as both the languages have been influenced by different linguistic elements in course of time. Thus, a comparative study of the two languages would reveal the similarities as well as the differences in various linguistic components which will certainly contribute a lot in the fields of linguistic study, teaching-learning process of languages, translation and transliteration works, etc. Moreover, this type of comparative study may contribute towards national integration and unity amongst the various linguistic communities of our country.

In a comparative study of two languages all of the components should be studied. But the task is very big as it has a wide span and it may not be possible to cover all the units exhaustively in a single thesis. Moreover, comparative studies of some aspects of Hindi and Assamese have already been done by many research scholars. So, this research work has been confined to comparative study of the ‘Pronouns’ (sarvanamas) in these two languages which still remains almost untouched.

The Pronoun plays a very important role in any speech. The basic function of the Pronoun is to substitute the Noun in a sentence. Another important role of the Pronouns is that they establish interlinks with the other parts of speech in a sentence as well as among the sentences in a complete speech. Again, though the Pronouns are limited in number, they are more frequently used in a speech rather than the nouns which can be said as innumerable. Moreover, the Pronouns make a speech more appreciable in aesthetic sense. In fact, Pronouns are the vital factors in understanding the meaning and structure of a sentence. Further, unless one is well
acquainted with the meaning and usages of the Pronouns, he may not be able to speak and write correct sentences in any language. Such roles of the Pronoun make it clear that it occupies a very important place in a speech and so it has been chosen as the subject for the present research work.

To make the present research work systematic and scientific, it has been divided into 12 (twelve) chapters. Brief contents of the chapters included in the thesis are as the following:

The first chapter, which is an introductory one, contains the points which prepare the field for the present study, like - importance of language; various elements of language such as phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, etymology and grammar; primary grammatical categories i.e. parts of speech in general (pada), parts of speech in Hindi and Assamese; secondary grammatical categories such as person (purush), case (karak), number (vachan), gender (ling) etc.; essence of the pronouns; relationship of pronouns with other grammatical categories; scope of the study; the methodology adopted in this research work; works done in this field till now etc. These points have been dealt in brief in the thesis.

The second chapter includes brief descriptions of the origin and development of both Hindi and Assamese languages. As it is often said that Hindi and Assamese are sister languages because they belong to the same linguistic family i.e. the Indo-Aryan family, and in the parental tree both are decendent of Sanskrit, there are certainly many linguistic similarities. But due to the various influencing elements there are certain variations also. For example, though Assamese language is confined to a smaller area comparative to the area of Hindi language, it is very much influenced by the indigenous tribal languages such as Bodo, Khasi, Tai etc. of Tibeto-burman and Austric families. The personal inflection for nouns of relationship is a unique characteristic of Assamese language due to the influence of indigenous tribal languages. This characteristic is not observed in the Indo-Aryan languages like Sanskrit, Bengali, Hindi, Marathi etc or in the Dravidian languages.
like Tamil, Telugu etc. Moreover, many linguists observed presence and preservation of many ancient elements in Assamese such as Vedic elements and even pre-Vedic elements in Assamese language. In the study of etymology, i.e., to trace the origin of the words (including the pronoun) these factors help a lot. So, in this chapter, a brief historical description of the origin and growth of Hindi and Assamese is given as the background.

The **third chapter** contains the theoretical analysis of the Pronouns. The points like the definition of the Pronoun, its classification, essence and importance, characteristics, general usages etc. have been taken up here in detail.

It is found that most of the definitions put forward by various grammarians and scholars of both the languages vary from each other and they in many cases do not properly reflect the characteristics of pronoun in a collective form. Therefore, the *definition of the pronoun is modified* on the basis of the general characteristics of pronoun. Again it is found that in the grammar books and in the books of linguistics the characteristics of the pronoun are not discussed in detail and in a systematic and logical manner. So, the *general characteristics of the pronouns are discussed in detail* in this chapter. Moreover, the classification of the pronoun is presented in different ways in the grammar books of Hindi and Assamese, even in the Hindi grammars there are some variations and the same is found in Assamese grammars also. Thus, a *system of classification of the pronouns is also highlighted on the basis of logical analysis* and to be followed up in the successive chapters for uniformity. The *general usages of the pronouns* irrespective of the kinds are also discussed in this chapter.

Here, it must be mentioned to avoid confusion that as the classification of the Pronouns in Hindi and Assamese is done in different ways, to make the study clear and more reasonable the *widely accepted Hindi classification with necessary modification has been taken as the base* in the present thesis.

The **fourth chapter** includes a detailed discussions on the Personal Pro-
nouns (puruśvācak sarvanām) of Hindi and Assamese. The nomenclature, definition and essence of the Personal Pronouns are discussed in the beginning.

The sub-classification, etymology and discussion with reference to various grammatical categories – case, number, gender, person, verb etc. of the personal pronouns of Hindi and Assamese also are taken up here.

It is worth mentioning that there are two grammatical categories attached with the Assamese personal pronouns namely the definitives and the inflection of the nouns of relationship, which are not observed in case of Hindi pronouns, are also discussed in this chapter.

The personal inflection for nouns of relationship is an unique characteristic of Assamese language due to the influence of indigenous tribal languages. This characteristic is not observed in the Indo-Aryan languages like Sanskrit, Bengali, Hindi, Marathi etc or in the Dravidian languages like Tamil, Telugu etc.

The meaning and usages of the Personal Pronouns in both the languages with examples quoted from the published textual materials and also taken from the use in day-to-day life also have been included.

The fifth chapter includes a detailed discussion on the Demonstrative Pronouns (nicchāyvācak sarvanām) of Hindi and Assamese. The nomenclature, definition and essence of the Demonstrative Pronouns are discussed in the beginning. The Third Personal Pronouns also behave like Demonstrative Pronouns both in singular and plural forms.

The sub-classification, etymology and discussion with reference to various grammatical categories – case, number, gender, person, verb etc. of the Demonstrative Pronouns of Hindi and Assamese also are taken up here. The grammatical categories attached with Assamese personal pronouns namely the definitives and the inflection of the nouns of relationship, are used with the Demonstrative Pronouns too. Moreover, the meaning and usages of the Demonstrative Pronouns in both the languages with examples quoted from the published textual materials and also taken
from the use in day-to-day life also have been included.

The **sixth chapter** contains a detailed discussion on the *Indefinite Pronouns* (aniccāyāvāca karvanām) of Hindi and Assamese. The *nomenclature, definition* and *essence* of the Indefinite Pronouns are discussed in the beginning.

The sub-classification, etymology and discussion with reference to *various grammatical categories* – case, number, gender, person, verb etc. of the Indefinite Pronouns of Hindi and Assamese also are taken up here. The grammatical category namely *the definitives* is also attached with the Assamese Indefinite Pronouns. The *meaning and usages* of the Indefinite Pronouns in both the languages *with examples* quoted from the published textual materials and also taken from the use in day-to-day life also have been included.

The **seventh chapter** includes a detailed discussion on the *Interrogative Pronouns* (praṇāvāca karvanām) of Hindi and Assamese. The *nomenclature, definition* and *essence* of the Interrogative Pronouns are discussed in the beginning.

The sub-classification, etymology and discussion with reference to *various grammatical categories* – case, number, gender, person, verb etc. of the Interrogative Pronouns of Hindi and Assamese also are taken up here. The grammatical category namely *the definite* is also attached with the Assamese Interrogative Pronouns. The *meaning and usages* of the Interrogative Pronouns in both the languages *with examples* quoted from the published textual materials and also taken from the use in day-to-day life also have been included.

The **eighth chapter** includes a detailed discussion on the *Relative Pronouns* (sāmvandhāvāca karvanām) of Hindi and Assamese. The *nomenclature, definition* and *essence* of the Relative Pronouns are discussed in the beginning.

The sub-classification, etymology and discussion with reference to *various grammatical categories* – case, number, gender, person, verb etc. of the Relative Pronouns of Hindi and Assamese also are taken up here. The grammatical category namely *the definite* is also attached with the Assamese Relative Pronouns. The
meaning and usages of the Relative Pronouns in both the languages with examples quoted from the published textual materials and also taken from the use in day-to-day life also have been included.

The ninth chapter contains a detailed discussion on the Reflexive Pronouns (nijvācak sarvanām) of Hindi and Assamese. The nomenclature, definition and essence of the Reflexive Pronouns are discussed in the beginning.

The sub-classification, etymology and discussion with reference to various grammatical categories – case, number, gender, person, verb etc. of the Reflexive Pronouns of Hindi and Assamese also are taken up here. The meaning and usages of the Reflexive Pronouns in both the languages with examples quoted from the published textual materials and also taken from the use in day-to-day life also have been included.

The tenth chapter includes a detailed discussion on the Compound Pronouns (saṃyukta sarvanām) of Hindi and Assamese. The nomenclature, definition and essence of the Compound Pronouns are discussed in the beginning.

The sub-classification, etymology and discussion with reference to various grammatical categories – case, number, gender, person, verb etc. of the Compound Pronouns of Hindi and Assamese also are taken up here. The grammatical category namely the definitive is also attached with the Assamese Compound Pronouns. The meaning and usages of the Compound Pronouns in both the languages with examples quoted from the published textual materials and also taken from the use in day-to-day life also have been included.

The eleventh chapter contains some special usages of the Pronouns in literature, everyday social life, idioms and phrases, proverbs etc. For example, Hindi idioms and phrases: tū dāl dāl maiṁ pāt pāt, tumbhare mūṁh me ghī jakkar, jiski lāṭā uski būṭā s, jaisā dej weisā būṭā, tū būṭā rāṁi maiṁ būṭā rāṁi kaun būṭarma kuweṁ kā pāṁi, etc.
Assamese idioms and phrases: tai bārere mai terere, āpon hāt zagannāṁh, zor zūr
muluk tār, tayo rañ̄销毁 mayo rañ̄销毁 bhālko poi dioⁿ ẓākat pāṇī, zene ražā rām siŋ tene mānṭri ɣītiŋ tiŋ, etc.

Some scarcely classified pronouns as Reciprocal pronoun (Hīn. āpas, ek dūsre, ....so; Asm. itowē ɣitok, izane ɣizanak, ezane ʻanzanak etc.), Distributive pronoun (Hīn. pratyek, har-ek ; Asm. pratyek, prati to/zan/kbān, ekbāno, etāo, ezāno etc.) and Collective pronoun (Hīn. sab, sakal ; Asm. sab, ɣakal, ɣawā, ʻātūi etc.); and the usages of some pronouns as adjectives (pronominal adjectives) and as adverbs (pronominal adverbs) have also been taken-up in this chapter.

The twelveth chapter concludes the study and it incorporates the achievements of the present research work and the practical utility in learning the languages under mention with an indication of the future prospect of the study.

A Bibliography has been incorporated in the thesis as annexure. In addition, as necessary reference charts and tables are also given in the annexure.

The findings of this research work may help the teachers as well as the learners of either languages using the pronouns in language teaching-learning process. The linguistic interferences faced by the learners of the two languages have been pointed out in the thesis with the differences in respect of the Pronouns. This will immensely help the above mentioned learners in taking proper precautions. At the same time the matter contained in this thesis may provide solutions for many difficulties faced in translation works from or to either of the languages. Moreover, the speaker of the either languages will know some points which are not in their language, but present in the other language, e.g. addition of definitives and personal inflection in the noun of relationships with the pronoun in Assamese language is absent in Hindi, again the Pronominal Adverbs i.e. adverb of time (kālvācak sarvanām) and adverb of place (stānvācak sarvanām) are included in pronoun in Assamese whereas they are included in Adverbs in Hindi.

During the research work I found many such matters which remain unseen or unfelt till now and these matters have been underlined in this thesis. There are (viii)
many theoretical matters which are untouched as they are out of the scope of this research work. But it is strongly felt that it is very much necessary to review the grammatical contents e.g. grammar should be uniform, but it is seen that there are ambiguities regarding definition, classification, number of pronouns and their recognition etc., and there are immense scope for research to deal with these problems. So, this research work may inspire the other research scholar to take up these matters to study in detail. Moreover, some interesting facts having greater importance in the field of linguistic study have come out of this comparative study, which will certainly be important for the growth and development of knowledge at large. I hope the present study will contribute in national integration too.

I express my heartiest gratitude to my research guide Dr. Achyut Sarma, because without his proper guidance and valuable suggestions throughout the research period, the present research work might not be completed. I also express my heartfelt gratitude to those persons who spent their valuable time with me giving necessary advice and suggestions during my research work. I must mention the names of a few great scholars in the linguistic field – Dr. Promod Chandra Bhattacharya, Dr. Ramesh Chandra Pathak, Dr. Prafulla Kumar Nath, Dr. Amulya Barman, Dr. Tarakant Jha, Dr. Lakshyanan Pathak, Dr. Dilip Kumar Medhi, who helped me a lot time to time with their scholastic talent to complete this thesis. My colleagues Sjt. Tarini Charan Kalita, HOD (Retd.), Sri Deben Bora, Associate Prof. and HOD, Dr. Satyajit Kalita, Asstt. Prof. Deptt. of Hindi and Debjani Taron Sarma, Associate Professor and HOD, Deptt. of Bengali, Guwahati College have always extended their helpful hand to me whenever necessary during my entire research period in various matters. I express my heartfelt gratitude to all of them.

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Finally, I hope, my effort will be fruitful, the thesis would be accepted by the scholars, as the effort and scholastic talent of many prominent personalities have enriched it. The errors and mistakes, if found, may be regarded as my limitation and I ensure to try my best to correct those in future.

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