Contents

Acknowledgment iv-v

List of Figures and Tables x

Chapter I
Introduction: Linguistic History and Philology 1-40

1.1 Colonialism and language
1.2 Colonial discovery of Indian languages
1.3 Genealogy of Indian languages
1.4 Colonial language policy and Indian vernaculars
1.5 History of vernacularization in Indian subcontinent
  1.5.1 The starting point
  1.5.2 literarization of the vernaculars
1.6 Review of literature
1.7 Objective of the study
1.8 Methodology
1.9 Scope of the study

Chapter II
Colonial Enterprise: Predicament of a Language 41-110

2.1 Introduction
2.2 Colonial language policy of India
2.3 Language policy of colonial Assam
2.4 Impact of language policy
2.5 Response to the colonial language policy
2.6 The language debate
2.7 Conclusion

Chapter III
Orality, Traditional Writing and Imperatives of Colonial Printing 111-166

3.1 Introduction
3.2 Orality to print: the shift in Indian languages
3.3 Orality in Assamese literature
3.4 Orality and pre-colonial written tradition in Assamese literature
3.5 Print and colonialism in Assam
   3.5.1 Print and vernacular
   3.5.2 Coming of print to Assam
   3.5.3 Print and Assamese enterprises
   3.5.4 Categories of publications
   3.5.5 The transition
   3.5.6 Print technology and Assamese language
   3.5.7 Thematic preferences
3.6 Translation project
3.7 Pre-print Manuscript to print
Chapter IV
Printing Folklore: Negotiating with Traditional Forms of Communication 167-196

4.1 Introduction
4.2 Folklore and colonial intervention
4.3 Print and folklore in colonial India
4.4 Print and folklore in colonial Assam
4.5 The transition
4.6 Response to folklore in print
4.7 The nationalist Agenda
4.8 Creating a homogenous culture
4.9 Conclusion

Chapter V
Hybridity of Selfhood: Colonialism and the Cultural Reform 197-224

5.1 Introduction
5.2 Hybridity in Assam
5.3 Hybridity in Assamese language
5.4 Hybridity in Assamese literature
5.5 Hybridity in Assamese culture
5.6 Conclusion

Chapter VI
Conclusion 225-237

6.1 Introduction
6.2 Choice of a language
6.3 The colonial intervention
6.4 Standardization of the vernacular
6.5 Language as an identity marker
6.6 Assamese in the age of nationalism and ethnonationalism

Bibliography 238-269