Chapter-2

A Brief Introduction of Hindi and Assamese Languages

2.1. Introduction: Hindi and Assamese are two of the 22 languages (Hindi, Assamese, Bengali, Oriya, Marathi, Gujrati, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Kashmiri, Urdu, Sanskrit, Sindhi, Manipuri, Konkani, Nepali, Santhali, Maithili, Bodo and Dogri) recognised in the Eighth Schedule by the constitution of India. Besides Hindi is state languages of ten state in Northern India (Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi). Hindi has been accepted official language of India vide Article No. 343(i) of the Indian constitution. Moreover, Hindi is used as the link language of India. Hindi and Assamese, besides being modern Indian languages are, belong to the Indo European family of languages. Modern Indian languages have been developed from Indo Aryan branch.

2.2. Indo-Aryan Languages: Origin of Indo-Aryan languages are considered some times in 1500 BC. The history of this language since its origin has been divided into the following three ages:

(a) Old Indo-Aryan Languages (प्राचीन भारतीय आर्य भाषा): 1500 BC to 500 BC

(b) Meddle Indo-Aryan Languages (मध्य भारतीय आर्य भाषा): 500 BC to 1000 AD

(c) Modern Indo-Aryan Languages (आधुनिक भारतीय आर्य भाषा): 1000 AD to present time

"कालानुकम से भारतीय आर्य भाषागोष्ठी को तीन स्तरों में विभाजित किया गया है- (1) प्राचीन भारतीय आर्य-भाषा (Old Indo-Aryan) (2) मध्य भारतीय आर्य-भाषा (Middle Indo-Aryan) (3) नवीन भारतीय आर्य-भाषा (New Indo-Aryan). वैदिक और संस्कृत भाषा प्रथम स्तर को, पालि, प्राकृत और अपभ्रंश द्वितीय स्तर को और आधुनिक कठिन आर्यगोष्ठी की भाषा तृतीय स्तर को प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं। प्राचीन भारतीय आर्य भाषा ध्वनिगत और व्याकरणित परिवर्तन प्राप्त कर और आर्यता भाषाओं से कुछ प्रभावित होकर प्राकृत और अपभ्रंश के मध्य से आधुनिक भारतीय आर्यभाषा के रूप में परिवर्तित हुआ है।" 1

2.3. Origin of Hindi: During the Vedic Sanskrit period itself west-northern, central and eastern- the three local dialects have already developed. These dialects were responsible for the development of some six or seven apabhraṃshas in the Apabhraṃśa period. So far as development of Hindi, is concerned that is a group of five sub-languages or dialects (western

1. Sarma, Satyendranath- Asamīyā Sāhityar Samīkṣṣātmak Itibṛtta, P-3,4
Hindi, Eastern Hindi, Rajasthani, Pahari, Bihari) is concerned, it developed from the Shourseni, Ardhmagadhi, Magadhi forms of Apabhrangsha some times in 1000 AD.

आधुनिक आर्यभाषाओं का जन्म अपभ्रंश के विभिन्न श्रेणियों से इस प्रकार माना जा सकता है: ²

अपभ्रंश आधुनिक भाषाएं तथा उपभाषाएं
शौरसेनी पश्चिमी हिंदी, राजस्थानी, पहाड़ी, गुजराती
पैलायणी लहंदा, पंजाबी
ब्राह्मण खंडी
महाराष्ट्री मराठी
मागधी बिहारी, बंगाली, उड़िया, असमीया
अर्धमागधी पूर्वी हिंदी

Scholars like Grierson and Bholanath Tiwari consider Gadhwali and Kumayuni to have been developed from Shourseni. But Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee has a different view. He believes that the foundation of the Pahari languages is Paishachi, Darad or Khash Apabhrangsha. Dr. Udaynarayan Tiwari says-

“आधुनिक आर्य-भाषाओं की उत्पत्ति के सम्बन्ध में डॉ. सूर्यकुमार चट्टौर्जी का मत प्रियसंत में तटस्थ है। आपके अनुसार पहाड़ी भाषाओं की उत्पत्ति अपभ्रंश से हुई है। उत्तर हिमालय के निवासी किसी समय खस अथवा दरद भाषा-भाषी थे।” ³

(The opinion of Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee on the origin of modern Indian languages is little different from that of the Grierson. According to the latter, the Pahari languages has their origin in Khash Apabhrangsha. The inhabitant of the Northern Himalayas had been at some point of time spoken in 'Khash'.)

2.3.1. Development of Hindi

Originated some 1000 years ago, Hindi language with regard to the development of the language is now a matured language. Her 1000 years long span of life can be classified in three ages:

(1) अदि काल - 1000 AD - 1500 AD
(2) मध्य काल - 1500 AD - 1800 AD
(3) अधुनिक काल - 1800 AD - till date

2.3.1.1. The अदि काल: In her अदि काल of development, Hindi had been very close to the Apabhrangshas in all respects. In the literature of this age Dingal, Maithili, Dakhini, Awadhi, Braj

2. Nagendra (Editor)- Hindi Sāhiya Kā Itiḥās (Introduction). P-7
3. Tiwari, Udaynarayan- Hindi Bhāṣā Kā Udgam Aur Bikās, P-228

(14)
and mixed forms are found dominating. There are evidences of Tatsam (Sanskrit), Persian, Arabic, Turki etc. elements in 'Adi Kāl' of Hindi. Gorakhnath, Vidyapati, Narapati Nalh, Chandbardai etc are representative literary personalities of this age.

2.3.1.2. The Madhya Kāl: The Madhya Kāl of Hindi literature is found very friendly with Turkish, Arabic, Persian words and expressions. Literature in this age was mainly composed in Braj and Awadhi languages. Jaisi, Sur, Mira, Tulsi, Keshav Das, Bihari, Bhushan etc. are shining stars of the literary skyline of this age.

2.3.1.3. The Ādhunik Kāl: By the advent of the Ādhunik Kāl of Hindi literature, grammatical form of languages like Braj, Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Maithili etc. assumed distinct identity. More and more words found place in Hindi language. The Khariboli Hindi emerged as the same vehicle of literary expression of entire Hindi belt, leaving behind the one time favourite languages like Braj and Awadhi.

The standard form of Hindi is the basis of this research.

2.3.2. The name 'Hindi' - Almost all linguist have found that the Sanskrit word 'Sindhu' (Indus) is related with the name of 'Hindi'. The word 'सिंधु' (Sindhu) became ‘हिन्दु’ (Hindu) in Iran. This was a case of change of sound Ś > ह and श > द. This change was accepted in old Persian and a word ‘हिन्द’ denoting India came into use. The ‘इ’ suffix made the word ‘हिन्दीक’. Thereafter, the elision of ‘क’ took place and the word ‘हिन्दी’ came into use, whose actual meaning is 'Bharat Ka' (Indian). With passage of time, Hindi became the central language of India.

According to Dr. Bholanath Tiwari-

‘हिन्दी’ का मूल अर्थ ‘हिंद (सं. सिंधु > फा. हिन्दु > हिंद) का’ है। इसीलिए हिंद की केन्द्रीय भाषा के लिए इस नाम का प्रयोग हो रहा है। 4

‘Hindi’, the term is not always used to denote a language. It has been used to denote the people of India (हिन्दुस्तान का निवासी). The famous line from Tarānā by Ekbal can be a good example:

‘‘हिन्दी हैं हम वतन हैं, हिन्दोस्ताँ हमारा।’’

[We are the people of Hind (India) and the land ‘हिन्दोस्ताँ’ (India) is our country.]

2.3.3. Meaning of the term ‘हिन्दी’: The term ‘हिन्दी’ is mainly used in three main different contents—

4. Tiwari, Bholanath- Hindi Bhasa, P-21
(A) The broadest meaning of 'Hindi' is the 17 odd dialects being used in Hindi belt.

(B) In linguistics, only the 'पश्चिमी हिंदी' (Western Hindi) and 'पूर्वी हिंदी' (Eastern Hindi) is recognised as 'Hindi'.

(C) The most conservative meaning of 'Hindi' is the 'Khariboli' Hindi or the literary form of that language or the standard Hindi.

2.3.4. Geographical extent of Hindi: With regard to the geographical spread of the people, those who use Hindi as a language, there can be three main divisions—Hindi region, other linguistic region and external region. The Hindi region may include—the states of India namely-Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Haryana, some parts of Punjab and some parts of Maharashtra.

About 46% of Indians used Hindi, Hindustani and Urdu.

2.3.5. Dialects of Hindi: With respect to the Hindi region dialects of Hindi can be divided into three groups. They are—

1. Dialects of Hindi region - Brajbhasha, Awadhi, Bhojpuri, Khariboli etc.

2. Dialects of other linguistic regions of India - Dakhni Hindi, Bombaiya Hindi, Calcuttia Hindi, etc.


2.3.5.1. Dialects of Hindi region: There are five broad division of the dialects spoken in the Hindi region. Further, they can be divided into 17 sub-groups. They are—Western Hindi, (Kauravi or Khariboli, Brajbhasha, Haryani, Bundeli and Kannauji), Eastern Hindi (Awadhi, Baghel and Chhattisgarhi), Rajasthan [Western Rajasthan (Marwari), Eastern Rajasthan (Jaipuri), Northern Rajasthan (Mewati), Southern Rajasthan (Malvi)], Pahari [Western Pahari, Madhyavarti Pahari (Kumayuni-Garhwali)], Bihari [Bhojpuri, Magahi, Maithili]. Besides these five dialects of Western Hindi, Dr. Bholanath Tiwari considers Tajujbeki and Nimadi as two more dialects of it.

"इस तरह हिंदी के अन्तर्गत ये सत्रह ओरियाओं मानी जाती हैं। मैं ताजुजबेकी तथा निमाड़ी मिलाकर उन्नीस मानता हूँ।" 5

(Thus these seventeen dialects considered to be under Western Hindi. I add two more to them—Tajujbeki and Nimadi.)

5. Tiwari, Bholanath- हिंदी भाषा, P-27
Dr. Hardev Bahari finds little difference between Khariboli (Kauravi) and Dakhni and placed them under Dakhni. He has made an introduction of Hindi dialects as below:

1. अभिभ
2. वंशाली
3. छतीसगढ़ी

पूर्वी हिंदी

1. भोजपुरी
2. मगही
3. मैथिली

बिहारी हिंदी

कौरवी

आकारबुला
हरियाणी
दलियानी

पश्चिमी हिंदी

ब्रजभाषा

ओकारबुला
बुंदेली
कन्नौजी

पश्चिमी हिंदी

राजस्थानी हिंदी

1. मारवाड़ी
2. जयपुरी
3. मेवाली
4. मालवाली

पहाड़ी हिंदी

1. कुमाऊँजी
2. गढ़वाली

While comparing with the other languages of the world Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee says-

“बोलनेवालों एवं व्यवहार करने तथा समझनेवालों को संख्या की दृष्टि से हिन्दुस्तानी का स्थान जगतु की महत्त्व भाषाओं में तीसरा है; इसके पहले केवल चीनी भाषा की उत्तरी बोली और अंग्रेजी, ये दोनों ही आती हैं।”

(With respect to the speakers, users and people who comprehend Hindi, Hindustani assumes third position amongsts the great languages of the world. Before this language only the Northern language of China and English comes.)

2.3.6. Script of Hindi Language: Devnagri is the script of the Hindi language. According to Suniti Kumar Chatterjee-

“हिन्दुस्तानी (हिंदी) आज कल तीन लिपियों में लिखी जाती है : देव-नागरी (नागरी हिंदी), ज़फ़रसी-अरबी (उर्दू) तथा रोमन (उर्दू)”

[Hindustani (Hindi) is now written in three scripts: Dev Nagari, (Nagari Hindi), Persian-Arabic (Urdu) and Roram (Urdu).]

Now, India is gradually preferring international numbers than Nagari ones.

2.4. Importance of Assamese Language: Assamese is the New Indo-Aryan languages mainly used in the northeastern part of India. It is the state language of Assam. The region of Assamese is bounded with Tibeto-Burman and Austric languages. Besides Assamese many other languages such as Bengali, Bodo, English, Vishnupriya Manipuri (in the district of Cachar), Nepali, Tiwa, Rabha, Dimasa, Garo, Hindi, Karbi, Mishing and Tai languages are spoken in Assam. The great Indian linguist Dr. Banikanta Kakati has said-

"Assamese is the easternmost New Indo-Aryan language spoken in the Assam Valley districts with Lakhimpur in the extreme east and Goālpāra in the extreme west. It meets Bengali in the west and is surrounded on all sides by speeches belonging to altogether different families of which the principal are the Tibeto-Burman and the Khâsi (of the Mon-Khmer family). In the area in which it is spoken it is not the only vernacular.”

With respect to the New-Indo Aryan Language Dr. Dwarika Prasad Saxena says- “केवल सिंधी, लहौंडा, पंजाबी, गुजराती, राजस्थानी, पश्चिमी हिंदी, पूर्वी हिंदी, बिहारी, ज़िड़िया, बंग्ला, असमीया और मराठी नामक बारह भाषाओं को ही आधुनिक भारतीय आर्य भाषाओं में प्रमुखता दी जाती है।”

(Only the twelve languages namely- Sindhi, Lahanda, Punjabi, Gujarati, Rajasthani, Western Hindi, Eastern Hindi, Bihari, Oriya, Bengali, Assamese and Marathi are considered to the prominent Modern Indo Aryan languages).

7. Chatterjee, Suniti Kumar- Bharatiya Aryabhasa Aur Hindi, P-159
8. Chatterjee, Suniti Kumar- Bhāratīya Āryabhāṣā Aur Hindi, P-233
9. Kakati, Banikanta- Assamese, Its Formation And Development, P-1
10. Saxena, Dwarika Prasad- Hindi Bhāṣā Kā Bikṣātmak Itiḥās, p-36
2.4.1. Origin and Early form of Assamese Language: Assamese language originated from the Aryan language of greater Indo European family through Pali, Prakrit and Apabhraṃśa. It originated from Prachya Magadhi Apabhraṃśa that has its origin in Magadhi Prakrit. It is believed that the Aryan language attained its distinct form in the western Assam some times during seventh century. It is also believed that during the 10th and 11th century this language had spent its initial stage. The two centuries that followed, saw the development of Assamese language. Dr. Upendranath Goswami, one of the renowned Assamese linguist had said—

'Assamese is a Magadhan speech. Coming from the regions of Videha-Magadha through North Bengal, Assamese entered into Kāmarūpa or western Assam where this speech was first characterised as Assamese. This is evident from the remarks of Hiuen Tsang who visited the kingdom of Kāmarūpa in the first half of the seventh century A.D., during the reign of Bhaskara Varman. He remarked: ‘The men (of Kāmarūpa) are of small stature and their complexion a dark yellow. Their language differs a little from that of Mid-India.’ Thus the antiquity of the speech of Kāmarūpa from which the Assamese language was derived, goes back to the seventh century A.D.'

In the period between the 7th and 12th centuries A.D. the Copper plates of ancient Kāmarūpa Kings has mentioned the names of places, trees, rivers, men and women. In these copper plates we find the first glimpse of Assamese language. Though the language of those plates is Sanskrit, it has resemblances with modern Assamese, so far as its form and content is concerned.

According to Dr. Upendranath Goswami—

'साम शताब्दी से डादस्त शताब्दी तक राज करनेवाले हिंदू राजाओं के ताम फलकों में असमीय भाषा का प्रथम निदर्शन मिलता है। संस्कृत भाषा में रचित होने पर भी इनमें कुछ जगहों के नाम, वृक्षों के नाम, व्यवहारों के नाम आदि के प्रयोग से असमीय भाषा के गठन-काल के कुछ धारणा स्पष्ट होता है। इसके रूप और अर्थ भी विभिन्न-सुन्दर के असमीय के साथ एक है। ऐसे कुछ नाम हैं—‘सौभाग्य’ (बलबाल २०वीं शताब्दी), ओडियाम ‘हरिजाम’ (धर्मपाल १२वीं शताब्दी), जरी, जरी, पाकर्ति ‘जरी, पाकर्ति, पाकर्ति’ (बलबाल, धर्मपाल), जैन (तत्पाल ११वीं शताब्दी), विलल ‘विलल’, माकृष्णदास विलल ‘मानीजान विलल’ (इन्द्रपाल ११वीं शताब्दी), साध, ‘साल’, ‘सौभूम’ ‘थरी’, ‘अंि ‘थरी’ (इन्द्रपाल)।’

In addition to that Assamese has close link with the 'Caryāpada' with regard to syntax etc. 'Mantraputhris' and 'Dāk-Vacana' are available that has been attributed to the period between 'Caryāpada' and Pre Vaishnavite poets.

2.4.2. Development of Assamese Language: After the age of 'Caryāpada', 'Mantra Sāhitya' etc. the age of written Assamese literature began sometimes during the 13th and 14th century. Since that point of time to the present time the development graph of Assamese languages passess through following three stages:

11. Goswami, Upendranath- An Introduction To Assamese, P-1
12. Goswami, Upendranath- Bhāṣā Vijñān, P-210, 211
2.4.2. Prācīn Asamiyā: Hem Saraswati, Harihar Vipra, Kaviratna Saraswati, Madhav Kandali, Rudra Kandali, Sankardev, Bhattadev, Madhavdev, etc. are the names worth mentioning who built the strong foundation of Assamese. Origin of Assamese prose is one of the main characteristic of this age. The use of 'ebb' to denote future tense and that of the 'ebb' to denote past tense is a notable feature of old Assamese 'Vaishnavite' age.

2.4.2.1. Madhyāyugīn Asamiyā: Madhyāyugīn Asamiyā is the period of the development of prose literature that was written under the patronage of the Āhom monarchs. In the first stage of this development, the Chronological details were written in Sino-Tibetan language. But since Assamese was accepted as the court language of the Āhoms, the Assamese language replaced the medium being adopted so far. In the language of this literature of Chronology we find the glimpse of modern Assamese. The use of suffixes denoting the meaning of plural as 'ōer', 'ēnt' is found in the literature of this age. Such uses are found for the first time in this literature.

2.4.2.3. Adhunik Asamīyā: The representative literature of this age is found in books published by American Baptist Missionary. The publications include, Assamese Bible (prose), 'Aruṇodoi' (Monthly magazine), Grammar of Assamese Language, Assamese-English Dictionary, etc. The style of language in these works is an adoption of East Sibsagar dialect of Assamese language. The language made rich by various authors of Eastern Assam has now become the literary language of Assam.

The standard form of this language has been adopted as the basis of this work. Dr. Banikanta Kakati says- "The distinctive Assamese period of literature, to speak from the materials hitherto discovered, begins with the 14th century. For the convenience of grouping linguistic peculiarities, the history of the Assamese language may be broadly divided into three periods:

(i) Early Assamese: from the fourteenth to the end of the sixteenth century. This again may be split into (a) The Pre-Vaishnavite and (b) the Vaishnavite sub-periods.

(ii) Middle Assamese: from the seventeenth to the beginning of the nineteenth century. It is a period of the prose chronicles of the Āhom court.

(iii) Modern Assamese: from the beginning of the nineteenth century till present times."13

2.4.3. 'Asam' and the Name 'Asamiyā': In ancient times Assam was known as Pragjyotishpur and after that, as, Kamrup. After the advent of 'Ahoms' to this part of India the

region earlier known as Kamrup began to be known as Assam. There are many theories suggesting the development of the names 'Asam'. In this regard, opinions expressed by Sir Edward Gait, Dr. Grierson, Dr. P.C. Bagchi are considered important, they suggest that the name 'Asam' has relation with the 'Ahoms'.

The linguist Dr. Banikanta Kakati has said "Grierson notes that the word Shan is a Burmese corruption of the original word Sham (L.S.I.. Vol-II, p. 59). Dr. P.C. Bagchi equates Shan with Sien-Syam (Syam of the Khmer inscriptions and Sien of the Chinese source) and traces Ahom, modern Assamese designation of the Tai people, to Sien-Syam." 14

The word Assam was initially used for the people of the invaders invading the Brahmaputra valley. With passage of time, it began to be used for the collective population of the Brahmaputra Valley. The word 'Asam' (Assamese) is derived by prefixing 'हा' with 'अस'. This word is used as Adjective and stands for the people and language of 'अस' (Asam).

Dr. Bholanath Tiwari says- "डो. बांकीकांत काकटी के अनुसार ताढ़ भाषा में एक धातु है 'चाम' जिसका अर्थ है 'हराया जाना'. हिंदी में 'अ' जुड़ जाने से 'असाम' और फिर 'आसाम' 'असाम' आदि बना है। इस तरह आसाम का अर्थ है 'अविजित' या 'विज्ञापन'। .... कुछ भी हो, इन्हें तो कहा जाया जा सकता है कि इन विभेदों का नाम 'आसाम' या 'असम' पड़ा और इन्हें के आधार पर, 'असाम' के अर्थ होते हैं। अध्ययन के माध्यम से, यह छोटे छोटे क्षेत्रों का उपयोग होता है और फिर यह आसाम इसी नाम से तापकर जाने लगा। इस समय आसाम के लोग शान या ताड़ लोगों को 'आहोम', अपने देश को 'असम' (इसका उच्चरण कुछ 'अखम' जैसा है) तथा अपनी भाषा को 'असमिया' की आयुक्त बनाने वाला प्रत्यय) कहते हैं!" 15

2.4.4. The Linguistic area of Assamese: Assamese is mainly spoken in Assam (Asam). It is used in the plain as well as hill areas of Assam. Presently, this language is being used as the link language of entire northeast region of our country. In Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland the popular tribal language with a mixture of Assamese is used as a link language for their respective state and known as Arunamese (earlier Nephamese) and Nagamese respectively. With the mixture of the languages of Meghalaya, it becomes Khasimese and Garomese and it becomes the link language of their people.

At present there is a population of 2 crores Assamese speaking people.

2.4.5. Dialects of Assamese: With respect to its dialects, Assamese is divided into two groups:

(a) Assamese dialects of Eastern Assam

(b) Assamese dialects of Western Assam

The western dialects can again be divided into two groups:

15. Tiwari, Bholanath- Bhāṣā Vijnān, P-203
I. **Kāmṛūpiā** dialect and

II. **Gowālpariya** dialect

There is a marked difference between the Assamese dialect of eastern Assam (the standard form) and the dialect of western part. There are some regional variations in the **Kāmṛūpiā** dialect of western Assam. Dr. Upendranath Goswami has, in this regard, observed as follows:

“उपभाषा की दृष्टि से देखने पर असमीया भाषा को प्रमुखतः दो भागों में विभक्त कर सकते हैं : पूर्व-अंचल की असमीया या ऊपरी अंचल की भाषा और पश्चिम अंचल की असमीया या नीचली अंचल की भाषा। नीचली अंचल की भाषा को फिर दो भागों में विभाजित कर सकते हैं: गोवालपनी जिलों में बोली जानेवाली गोवालपनीय उपभाषा और कामरुप-जिलों में बोली जानेवाली कामरुपी उपभाषा।” 16

2.4.6. **Script of Assamese Language**: Assamese is the script of Assamese language. There is a similarity between Bengali and Assamese scripts.

2.5. **Similarity and dissimilarity between Hindi and Assamese**

Following are the main similarity and dissimilarity between Hindi and Assamese:

1. Hindi and Assamese, both the language have their origin in Sanskrit. They have developed from Sanskrit through Pali, Prakrit and Apabhramsha. Hindi language (Western Hindi, Eastern Hindi, Rajasthani, Pahari, Bihari dialects) originated from the Saurasi, Ardhamagadhi and Magadhi Apabhramshas. Assamese has developed from Magadhi Apabhramsha.

2. With regard to the morphology, Hindi and Assamese both, the languages have elements from ancient languages such as Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian as well as foreign languages such as English, Turkish etc. Besides, words from the languages of Austric, Tibetan, Dravidian like non-aryan language families are also found in Assamese language. For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hindi</th>
<th>Assamese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>योग (Sanskrit)</td>
<td>जोड़ (jog)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| भे-इन्जत (Arabic Persian) | भे-इन्जत, भे-इन्जती (Persian ‘भे’ + Arabic ‘इन्जत’)

3. The syntax of Hindi and Assamese languages are more or less similar in nature. For example in the sentences of both the languages the subject comes first then the object and the verb, at the last. But unlike Hindi language verbs are not always explicit in Assamese. For example:

Hindi- यह मेरी पुस्तक है।

Assamese-এইখন মোর কিতাপ।

(22)

16. Goswami, Upendranath- Bhāṣā Vijñān, P-178
(4) There is a clear distinction between the dental and retroflex sounds of Hindi language. But in the standard Assamese language and in the Kâmrûpā dialect the retroflex sounds are also pronounced as dental ones. In Assamese ‘टाम’ (difficult) and ‘तान’ (musical tune) and ‘टन’ (100 kg) and ‘तन’ (body) have similar pronunciation, though the words have different meanings.

(5) Letters such as ‘स’, ‘श’, ‘स’ are distinctly pronounced in Hindi language. But, in Assamese, if they come in the beginning of a word, they are pronounced as soft ‘ः’. If they come as a joint letter they are pronounced as ‘स’. For example - ‘विक्रिया’, ‘दुर्यु’, ‘उत्साह’, etc.

(6) The ‘अ’ of the last consonant letter of a Hindi word is not pronounced. Similar is the case with Assamese. For example- ‘कलम’ is pronounced as ‘कलम’ and ‘कागज’ as ‘कागज्’. But at some places in Assam this is distinctly pronounced as in the case with ‘पार’ (a dove) ‘बार’ (twelve) etc.

(7) If there is a joint letter at the end in a word in Hindi language the last ‘अ’ is not pronounced. But this is not same with Assamese language. For example- ‘जुड़ा’ [Judha] (war), ‘कनिष्ठा’ (junior) etc.

(8) There is a clear difference in the pronunciation of ‘हृद्व स्वर’ (short vowel) and ‘दीर्घ स्वर’ (long vowel) in Hindi language. But this distinction is not there in Assamese language. In Assamese ‘ह’ and ‘ऊ’ are pronounced as ‘ह’ and ‘उ’, for example ‘इंश्वर’ and ‘ऊन’.

(9) In Hindi the letter ‘ख’ is pronounced as a union of two letters ‘क+च’. But in Assamese if ‘ख’ comes in the beginning of a word it is pronounced as ‘ख’. For example ‘क्षेत्र’ is pronounced as ‘खेत्र’ and ‘क्षीर’ as ‘खीर’.

(10) In Hindi both animate and inanimate nouns have distinctive genders. In Assamese only animate nouns have gender distinction.

(11) For giving a negative meaning ‘न’, ‘नहीं’ and ‘मत’ are used in Hindi language. Whereas, in Assamese only ‘न’ is used for the said purpose. When the negative meaning denoting ‘न’ is prefixed to a verb in Assamese, the first vowel of the verb is added to ‘न’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hindi</th>
<th>Assamese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>न कर</td>
<td>नकरिबि</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>नहीं जाएगा</td>
<td>नाजाज</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>मत खेल</td>
<td>नेखेलिबि</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>नहीं देता</td>
<td>निदिये</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>मत सोगा</td>
<td>तुशुबा</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In Hindi language ‘क्या’? ‘क्यों’? ‘कैसे’? ‘किस तरह’? etc. are used in the beginning of
as interrogative sentence or in the predicate of a sentence. Whereas in Assamese ‘कि’ ‘किय’,
‘के, ‘नेत’ ‘नेकि’ are used in the end of the sentence. For example:

हिन्दी — यह क्या है?

or

क्या है यह?

What is this?

Assamese — एहटो कि?

Conclusion : The discussion made above shows that Hindi and Assamese both are
modern Indo-Aryan languages and are connected with Indo European family of languages. Both
the languages have originated from Sanskrit. Hindi has been developed from Soureni, Ardha
Magadhi and Magadhi Apabhrangshas, whereas Assamese has bee developed from the Magadhi
Apabhrangsha. Thus Hindi and Assamese languages have got many similarities and some
dissimilarities between them. Hindi is the state language of ten state besides being the official
language of India and Assamese is the state language of Assam. Assamese is surrounded on all
sides by different families like Tibeto-Burman and Austric family of languages, that’s why
Assamese is concentrated in the North-East (mostly in Assam) unlike Hindi that has a very broad
base.