Chapter-3
Theoretical Analysis of the Visheshanas (Adjectives) in Hindi and Assamese

3.1. Definition of a Viṣeṣaṇa: The word Viṣeṣaṇa (Adjective) is a Tatsam word. The Sanskrit dictionaries describe its origin as below:

(विशेषण : [वि + शिष + तुट] describing a quality.

It shows the following primary meanings:

1. विभेदन, विभेदन (differentiation, evaluation) 2. अंतर (distinction, difference) 3. शब्द जो किसी दूसरे शब्द की विशेषता प्रकट करता है, गुण वाचक शब्द, गुण विशेषता (a word qualifying a noun, describing quality, significance of a noun) 4. विभेदक लक्षण या चिह्न (distinctive character or indication) 5. जाति, प्रकार (group or kind.)

Scholars have given definitions of Adjectives. The great grammarian of Hindi Pandit Kamtaprasad Guru says: "जिस विकारी शब्द से संज्ञा की व्यापि मयादित होती है उसे विशेषण कहते हैं" (The declinable word that limits the pervasion of the meaning of a noun is an Adjective). Dr. Vasudevnandan Prasad has defined Adjective in the following words. "जो संज्ञा या सर्वनाम की विशेषता बताए, उसे 'विशेषण' कहते हैं। दूसरे शब्दों में विशेषण एक ऐसा विकारी शब्द है, जो हर हालत में संज्ञा या सर्वनाम की विशेषता बताता है।" (The word that qualifies a noun or pronoun is an Adjective. In other words Adjective is such a declinable word that at all times it qualifies a noun or a pronoun.) According to another great scholar of Assamese language Dr. Kaliram Medhi- "जि शब्द संज्ञा गुण या अवस्था प्रकाश करे तार नाम विशेषण।" (The word that expresses the quality and condition of a noun is an Adjective.) Dr. Upendranath Goswami says- "बावदत ब्यवहार होते किशुषामन शब्द सचराचर विशेष शब्द आगत वह अह विशेष-शब्दटहर लगत एटा विशेष सम्बंध स्थापन करे एने शब्दों विशेषण-शब्द।" (While being used in a sentence some words come before the words that are to be qualified and establish a special relationship with that word. Such words are called Adjectives.)

Assamese Grammarian Satyanath Bora defines an Adjective in the following words: "जिमलक शब्दे विशेषर गुण प्रकाश करे स्थितक विशेषण बोले।" (The word that indicates the

1. Apte, Vaman Sivram - Samskrt- Hindi Koś, P-957
2. Guru, Kamataprasad- Hindi Vyakaran, P-97
3. Prasad, Vasudevnandan- Ādhunik Hindi Vyākaraṇ Aur Racanā, P-114
4. Medhi, Kaliram- Asamiyā Vyākaraṇ Āru Bhāgāṭattwa, P-190
5. Goswami, Upendranath- Asamiyā Bhāsār Vyākaraṇ, P-39
6. Bora, Satyanath- Bahal Vyākaraṇ, P-71

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quality of a noun is called an Adjective.) Dr. Golokchandra Goswami has defined Adjective somewhat on the like the other grammarians have done. He says—"जिथे आन पदर विषये विशेषणके बुद्धा वा विशेष दिक्षा देनगुण आदि प्रकाश करे, तेने पदके विशेषण पद बोले।" (The word that explains other words more elaborately, or indicates virtue-vice is called an Adjective.)

After examining various definitions of Adjective put forward by various scholars we can in brief give a definition of Adjective in the context of Hindi as well as Assamese languages in the following words: विशेषण वह विकारी (कभी-कभी अविकारी भी) शब्द है, जो संज्ञा या सर्वनाम के आगे-पीछे बैठकर उसके विशेषण गुण, प्रभेदक लक्षण, संख्या, परिमाण आदि का बोध कराके वाक्य को और अधिक अर्थपूर्ण, स्पष्ट और आकर्षक बनाता है। [Adjectives are those declinable (some times non declinable also) words which takes place either before or after the noun or pronoun, qualifies its speciality with respect to its quality, distinctive character, number, quantity etc. and makes the sentence more meaningful, clear and attractive.] For example—

1. Hindi: मोहसीन बदामा है।
   Assamese: মোহসীন বদামা।
   (Mohsin is naughty).
2. Hindi: तू मूर्ख है।
   Assamese: তুমি মূর্খ।
   (You are a fool).
3. Hindi: भाई कहता है—पुति काली है।
   Assamese: ভাইটিয়ে কহ—পুতি কালী।
   (Brother says—Puti is dark)
4. Hindi: वह गंडी औरत है।
   Assamese: সেখানে লেটেরি রিলোটা।
   (She is a dirty woman)

In the sentences given above we find that the first and second examples the non declinable Adjectives ‘बदामा’, ‘बदामा’, ‘दुष्ट’ तथा ‘मूर्ख’ मूर्ख qualifies a noun (Mohsin) and a pronoun (तू तह). By this way the said Adjectives, qualified the said noun and pronoun which makes the meaning of the sentence more elaborative.

Similarly, in the third examples the declinable Adjectives ‘काली’/’कালী’ follow the noun ‘पुति’ (Puti) and qualifies her complexion and in the fourth sentences, the word the declinable Adjective ‘गंडी’/’লেটেরি’ comes to qualify the noun ‘औरत’/’রিলোটা’ (woman). With the use of these Adjectives the sentences have become more elaborative and capable to give further meaning to the sentences.

7. Goswami, Golokchandra- Asamīyā Vyākaraṇ Praveś, P-259
8. Premchand- Mānsarovar-1 (Īddgāh), P-38
9. Choudhury, Rita- Māyāvṛtta, P-28
3.2. Essence of a Viśeṣaṇa: We shall discuss the meaning of Adjectives on the basis of the definition already given in the above paragraphs. We can highlight the features of Adjectives as given in the said definitions in the following words:

3.2.1. An Adjective can be a विकारी (declinable) and अविकारी (non-declinable), where the declinable Adjective get changed according to the gender, number and case, a non-declinable Adjective does not do so.

3.2.2. An Adjective comes before and after a noun. In Hindi and Assamese the Adjective, generally comes before a noun and a pronoun. But in both the languages an Adjective is normally used as a predicate when it used with a pronoun.

According to Dr. Vasudevnandan Prasad– With respect to its use, there are two kinds of Adjectives

I. विशेष विशेषण (Nominal Adjective)

II. विशेष विशेषण ¹⁰ (Predicate Adjective)

3.2.2.1. विशेष विशेषण (Nominal Adjective): According to Dr. Rajeswar Prasad Chaturvedi- "यदि विशेषण विशेषण के पहले आता है, तब विशेषण विशेषण होता है!" ¹¹ (The Adjective that comes before a noun is called a Nominal Adjective.) As:

Hindi: अच्छे लड़के को ईमान मिला।
Assamese: ।्मल लें।राजने पुरस्कार पाले।
Hindi: खिड़की के बाहर चुना कोहरा है।
Assamese: खिड़की बाहर चुना कूंवली ¹²।

In these sentences the Adjectives, 'अच्छे' 'लड़के' and 'चुना' 'कोहरा' have come before 'बाहर' 'लें' 'कोहरा' 'कूंवली' nouns respectively. Hence, they are Adjectives.

3.2.2.2. विशेष विशेषण (Predicate Adjective): According to Dr. Vasudevnandan Prasad- "जो विशेषण विशेषण और क्रिया के बीच आये, उसे विशेष विशेषण कहते हैं!" ¹³ (The Adjectives that come between a noun and a verb is called a Predicate Adjective). Such Adjectives normally comes in the predicate part of a sentence. As:

Hindi: उसकी गाय गोरी है।
Assamese: ताइर গাজিনী বগী।

(Her cow is white in colour.)

or

(a good boy got prize.)

11. Chaturvedi, Rajeswar Prasad- Hindi Vyākaraṇ, P-88
12. Choudhury, Rita- Mayavṛtta, P-2
13. Prasad, Vasudevnandan- Ādhunik Hindi Vyākaraṇ Aur Racanā, P-116
Hindi: मनीराम के बिषय में तरह तरह की बातें सुनती थी— मराठी है, लिखितकार है, मुख्य है, चर्चारें है; लेकिन पिता की इच्छा के सामने सर झुकाना उसका कार्य था।

Assamese: მანირामმეტყველი რიცხოვნობები არსებობდა— მადაჰი, მწუხარო, მუქ, ახასიათებს როგორც კი მასთან დააქვრებით, ისიც მისი მიზეზი უფრო მკურნალი რჩებოდა।

(She was aware of the various things that were told about Maniram, as he was a drunk, adulterer, stupid, proud etc. But it was her duty to accept the wishes of her father).

In the examples cited above the Adjectives such as ‘गोरी’/’बगी’, ‘बगा’; ‘शराबी’/’मदाह’, ‘द्रोही’/’द्रोह’, ‘दुसाही’/ ’आढ़कारी’ are used after the nouns ‘गाह’ and ‘मनिराम’ and before the verb ‘है’ Therefore ‘गोरी’/’बगी’, ‘बगा’; ‘शराबी’/’मदाह’, ‘द्रोही’/’द्रोह’, ‘दुसाही’/ ’आढ़कारी’ are Predicate Adjectives.

With respect to Predicate Adjective, it is worth mentioning here that in Hindi and Assamese, a predicate Adjective comes only for qualifying a noun or a pronoun. As :

Hindi : वह आदमी कैन्हा है।
Assamese: ।

(That is a tall man)

In the sentences cited above ‘वह’ and ‘अध्याय’ has restricted the meaning of ‘आदमी’/’मानुष’. The Predicate Adjective ‘कैन्हा’/’अध्याय’ are qualifying the size of these nouns. These sentences speak only one quality of that man. And that quality is his being tall.

3.2.3. Adjectives in Hindi as well as in Assamese denotes about the virtue, vice, condition, size, quantity, number etc. of a noun or pronoun they speak about. We may take some examples :

virtue—भाली औरत/भाल तिरोलत (a good woman)
vice—बुरा लड़का/बुरा लड़ (a bad boy)
condition—बुरी औरत/बुरी तिरोलत (an old lady)
size—लंबा बैंस/ दीमुल ग्रिह (a long bamboo)
quantity—बहुत दूध/बहुत गर्मियार (sufficient milk)
number—पाँच लड़कियाँ/पाँच छोइ (five girls)

3.2.4. An Adjectives make a sentence more clear in content, informative and attractive. It means that a sentence with Adjectives is meaningful, clear and attractive than a sentence without Adjectives.

3.3. Kinds of Visheshanas: Grammarians of Hindi and Assamese languages have dealt with Adjectives in their respective languages in independent way. We shall be discussing the similarities and dissimilarities between them.

14. Premchand- Karmbhumi, P-226
The pioneer grammarian of Hindi language Pandit Kamta Prasad Guru has with respect to
its utility, divided Adjectives in three parts:15

I. सार्वनामिक विशेषण (Pronominal Adjectives)
II. गुणवचक विशेषण (Adjectives of Quality)
III. संख्यावचक विशेषण (Adjectives of Numbers)

Dr. Vasudevnandan Prasad, too accept this division.16 Further, on the basis of 'रूप रचना' (structure), he divides Adjectives in two kinds:17

I. विकारी (declinable)
II. अविकारी (non-declinable)

Morphologically, Dr. Hardev Bahari, too accepts these two kinds of Adjectives विकारी and अविकारी.18 On the basis of ‘रचना’ (formation) of Adjectives Dr. Bahari divides them in two kinds:19-

I. रूढ़ि (Fundamental)
II. वैषयिक (Compound)

With respect to the meaning of the term Dr. Bahari has divided Adjectives in four kinds:20-

I. गुणवोधक विशेषण (Adjectives of Quality)
II. संख्यावोधक विशेषण (Adjectives of Numbers)
III. परिमाणवोधक विशेषण (Adjectives of Quantity)
IV. सार्वनामिक विशेषण (Pronominal Adjectives)

With respect to 'संरचना' (composition), Dr. Bholanath Tiwari had divided the Adjectives
in two kinds:21:

I. मूल (Fundamental): like काला बाल (black hair), उजाई भूमि (barren land)- where there
is only one meaningful unit.

II. यौगिक (compound): like कुणालु व्यक्तिः (a kind man), 'कुना+आलु', धार्मिक बाल (religious
affair), 'धर्म+इक' etc. There are more than one meaningful units.

Dr. Bholanath Tiwari has divided the Adjectives in five kinds:22—

15. Guru, Kamataprasad- Hindi Vyakaran, P-98
16. Prasad, Vasudevnandan- Adhunik Hindi Vyakaran Aur Racana, P-114
17. Prasad, Vasudevnandan- Adhunik Hindi Vyakaran Aur Racana, P-117
18. Bahari, Hardev- Vyavaharik Hindi Vyakaran Tatha Racana, P-97
20. Bahari, Hardev- Vyavaharik Hindi Vyakaran Tatha Racana, P-93
21. Tiwari, Bholanath- Hindi Bhaṣa Kī Samracana, P-127
22. Tiwari, Bholanath- Hindi Bhaṣa Kī Saruracana, P-127

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I. गुणवाचक (Adjectives of Quality)- As: अच्छा लड़का (good boy), सच्चा आदमी (truthful man)

II. संख्यावाचक (Adjectives of Numbers)- As: पहली लड़की (the first girl), दो लड़कियाँ (two girls)

III. परिमाणवाचक (Adjectives of Quantity)- As: कमा पानी (little water), दो बीचा गाँव (two bigha of land)

IV. सर्वनामिक (Pronominal Adjectives)- As: कितने लोग (how many people) यह लड़का (that boy)

V. सम्बन्धवाचक (Relative Adjective)- As: श्याम का भाई (Shyam's brother), सीता की बेटी (Sita's daughter)

Dr. Bholanath Tiwari has further, on the basis of "structural change", divided into two kinds:

I. आकर्षति विशेषण (The Adjectives ending with ' आ ')- As: चाटिया चाय (bad quality of tea), नया वर्ष (new year)

II. अन्य विशेषण (Other Adjectives)- As: क्षेत्रीय भाषा (the regional language), फूली रंग (the violet colour)

Scholars of Assamese language, too, have classified Adjectives on different basis. Dr. Kaliram Medhi, has divided Adjectives on the basis of gender. He has divided Adjectives in to two kinds:

I. परिवर्तित (Variable)

II. अपरिवर्तित (Non-variable Adjectives)

Satyanath Bora has in 'Bahal Vyākaran' made three different kinds of adjectives:

I. विशेषय विशेषण (Nominal Adjective)

II. विशेष्यत्वीय विशेषण (Adjective to Adjective / Adverbial Adjectives)

III. क्रिया विशेषण (Verbal Adjective / Adverb)

On the basis of forms and uses, Dr. Golokchandra Goswami has divided Adjectives in three kinds:

I. नाम विशेषण वा विशेष्य – सर्वनाम विशेषण (Adjectives qualifying a noun or Adjectives qualifying a noun-pronoun)

II. क्रिया विशेषण (Verbal Adjective / Adverb)

23. Tiwari, Bholanath- Hindi Bhasa Ki Sarinacana, P-127
24. Medhi, Kaliram- Asamiya Vyakaran Aru Bhashatattwa, P-190
25. Bora, Satyanath- Bahal Vyakaran, P-71, 73
26. Goswami, Golokchandra- Asamiya Vyakaran Praveś, P-260

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Priyadas Talukdar has made classification of Adjectives in a unique way. He has divided Adjectives in nine kinds:

I. विशेषण (Nominal Adjective)

II. विकल्पस्तर विशेषण (Adjective qualifying a pronoun)

III. क्रियापदर विशेषण (Adjective qualifying a verb)

IV. विशेषणप्रकाशी विशेषण (Adjective like a noun)

V. विशेषणप्रकाशी विशेषण (Adjective like a pronoun)

VI. भावपदी विशेषण (Adjectives of 'Bhawa')

VII. कड़नपदी विशेषण (Participle Adjective)

VIII. संबंधपदी विशेषण (Relative Adjective)

IX. विशेषण पदर विशेषण या विशेषणोप विशेषण (Adjective to Adjectives)

The discussion made above shows that Adjectives in Hindi language are differently defined than the Adjectives in Assamese language. The Adjectives that are used in Assamese are broadly divided in three kinds – 'विशेषण विशेषण', 'विशेषण विशेषण' and 'क्रिया विशेषण' Some grammarians have accepted 'सर्वस्तर विशेषण' (Pronominal Adjective) or 'विकल्पस्तर विशेषण' (Adjectives like pronoun) as two other kinds of Adjectives in addition to what has already been stated above. Some of the grammarians of Hindi language says that Adjectives can be divided in three kinds namely- 'सार्वनामिक' (Pronominal Adjective), 'गुणवाचक' (Adjective of Quality) and 'संख्यावाचक' (Adjective of Number). Pronouns are the basis of 'सार्वनामिक विशेषण'. It is different from other kinds of Adjectives. That is the reason why it has been considered as an independent one. Further, an Adjective of Quality describes the virtue, vice, condition, etc. of a noun or of a pronoun, whereas an Adjective of Number deals with the numerical strength of a noun or a pronoun. Quality and number being two distinct attributes of a noun or a pronoun, they are distinguished as two kinds of Adjectives. Some grammarians have the view that the Adjective has one more category and that is Adjective of Quantity. This Adjective deals with the quantity of a noun. In Hindi, we have some Adjectives like 'कुछ' (some), 'अधिक' (many) , 'बहुत' (lots of), 'सब', etc. They are used as Adjectives of Quantity and Adjective of Indefinite Number. However, on account of Adjective of quantity being different from Adjective of Quality, Pronominal Adjective, Adjective of Number, if it is considered to be an independent kind of Adjective, there shall not be any objection to it.

With regard to the 'रूप' (structure) form Adjectives can be classified in two groups- 'विकारी' (declinable) and 'अविकारी' (non-declinable). Similarly, with regard to the 'रूप' (formation), they can be divided into two kinds- 'रूप' (Fundamental) and 'प्रणयक' (Compound).

27. Talukdar, Priyadas- Uccamānar Āsāmiyā Bhāśā Bodhikā, P-174
Though the classification of Adjectives of Assamese language is not in total agreement with that of Hindi, we, for our present study accept the classification of Hindi Adjectives as the basis for a scientific and extensive study. All the Adjectives of Assamese language shall be covered in this classification. There are some Adjectives in Hindi and Assamese languages that guide other ones. It means that these are Adjectives of Adjectives. They are classified as ‘प्रकोष्ठोत्तरण’ (Adverbial Adjective). On the basis of what has been stated above and on the features of various Adjectives like Quality, Number, Quantity the Adjectives of Hindi and Assamese are classified in four kinds namely— गुणवाचक विशेषणस (Adjectives of Quality), परिमाणबोधक विशेषणस (Adjectives of Quantity), संख्यावाचक विशेषणस (Adjectives of Number), सर्वनामिक विशेषणस (Pronominal Adjectives). We shall deal with all of them separately in separate chapters.