Chapter-1

Introduction

1.1. Importance of a Language: The Hindi equivalent of language is ‘भाषा’. It is derived from the Sanskrit root ‘भाष’. It signifies the articulated sounds and the system in which a message is conveyed with the help of a mutually accepted group of sounds. Sometimes man communicates with non verbal signs like facial gesture, movement of hand, head and eyes. But here, the non verbal communication is not a matter of study under the head ‘language’. The sound that carries a meaning, in a specific context, is called a word. The properly defined order of words used by man to express their feelings is called language. The Assamese dictionary ‘Hemkos’ describes language as under:

भाषा : वि. (सं. भाषा- भाषा, कथा क) कोणेक देशर बा जातिर मानुषिकालाके व्यवहार करा मात.1

(Sounds used by native people, race or mankind at large.)

"The method of human communication, either spoken or written, consisting of the use of words in a structured and conventional way."2

Various scholars have defined language in their own ways. According to Dr. Kapildev Dwivedi- "मानव अपने भाषाओं को व्यक्त करने के लिए जिस सार्थक मीटिय बाण को अपनाता है, वह भाषा है!"3

(Language is a meaningful oral medium that human being uses to express their feelings and thoughts.

According to Sweet: "ध्वन्यात्मक शब्दों द्वारा विचारों का प्रकटीकरण ही भाषा है!"4

(Language is the expression of thought with the help of articulated words.)

Language is an inseparable attribute of human civilization. It is language that has distinguishes human being from other living beings. Man is a social animal. In order to lead a social life and maintain mutual relationship along with expressing one’s views, man needs a medium. That medium is language. It is language that helps us in making relationship with our fellow human being. Ideas of a man connect him to his society. Besides, making men educated, cultured and civilized, language strengthens the bond of goodwill and helps building an atmosphere of peace.

1.Barua, Hemchandra (compiled) - Hemkoś, P. 842
3.Dwivedi, Kapildev - Bhāṣā Viśṭān Evam Bhāṣā Śāstra, P. 3
4.Das, Shyamsundar - Bhāṣā Viśṭān, P. 46
Language is found to be influenced by the geographical location, climatic condition and cultural identity of the area. There is a marked difference between language of an educated person and that of an uneducated one. Likewise, new branches and derivatives come out from the original languages. Standard language is used as a medium of instruction, literature, official work, mass communication, etc. On the other hand, 'Gramya Bhasha' being use in informal communication is called a dialect. Different parts of a region use a single language in a different style. There is great difference in pronunciation, stress, style and location in a given language spoken in a large area. The different forms of a language used in different areas is called dialect. Since, language undergoes constant changes, it gives birth to new forms. That is why it is rightly said:

"चार कोस पर पानी बदले
आठ कोस पर बानी।"

(ground water gets changed after every four miles and language after every eight miles)

A language has the following salient features:
(a) arbitrariness (b) creativity (c) cultural transmission (d) discreteness
(e) non-instinctivity (f) transitoriness (g) oral existence

1.2 Different units of Language

Units of a language means the structural analysis of that particular language. Structural analysis of a language is a linguistic description of the sounds at first step, morph at second stage and syntax at the third and last stage. Every language has some sounds. It gives expression to the feelings of a person with the help of meaningful sounds. Let us discuss the various units of language.

1.2.1. Sound :- On making an analysis of the structure of a particular language, we came across some morphs. These morphs are made with the help of sounds.

According to Dr. Upendranath Goswami- "एकोटा रूप आकौ एटा नामा अधिक ध्वनिर संजोगत है। गतिके रूपक विभेषण करिले आभि पाशों किन्हुगु ध्वनि।" 5

(A morph is made up of one or more sound. Thus, when we analyse a morph we get some sounds.) As:

Hindi - कैसे हुआ?
Assamese - कেনেकै हुल?

The Hindi sentence given above is made up of two morphs viz. ‘कैसे’ and ‘हुआ’. Now, the

5. Goswami, Upendranath- Asamiyā Bhasar Vyākaran, P-2
morph 'कैसे' is a combination of four sounds छ + ऐ + न + ए likewise the morph 'हुआ' is a combination of three sounds ह + ड + आ. Similarly, the Assamese sentence 'कener' हेल' is a composition of two morphs 'कener' and हेल'. The morph 'कener' is a combination of six sounds छ + ए + न + ए + छ + ए. 'हेल', again, is a combination of three sounds ह + ऑ + ल. Sounds of every words stand for a particular object or action. For example four sounds ह + ऑ + ऑ + ऐ makes a morph 'हाँ'. Here, the individual sound has no meaning. Different languages have different sounds for making reference to a single object. Let us take an example for making reference to a man we use आदमी in Hindi and मानुष in Assamese languages. ‘आदमी’ has four sounds आ + ड + ए + ई whereas मानुष has five sounds न + आ + ए + ड + ह. We may see that only one sound ‘आ’ is common in both the languages. When we wish to make reference to an object known as ‘man’ in English, rest of the sounds used in the said two languages are in way connected to each other. Sounds under a specific rule formed meaningful morphs, sentences, etc.

Phonetics makes study of these sounds. It deals with the definition of sound, their articulators and the two kinds of sounds- vowels and consonants. Thus science also takes into account the script of a particular language, intonation and stress. Study of sound can be made, in specific reference to linguistics, under the main heads of synchronic, phonetics, historical phonetics, comparative phonetics and contrastive phonetics. Articulatory phonetics is the main stream of phonetics, where study on articulation of a particular sound as well as the organ that helps in producing those sounds is made. On the other hand, under the stream of acoustic phonetics studies, the waves of a particular sound creates in the atmosphere. The final stage that comes in the study of phonetics is Auditory phonetics. It deals with the receptor organs. Naturally it is concerned with the receiving organ- human ears.

1.2.2.: Morph :- Morph is a sound or a composition of sounds that conveys us a meaning. It is the smallest meaningful unit of a sentence. Morph is used as independent and compound form. Let us take an example- words like धन (wealth), दया (kindness), कलम (a pen), कागज (paper) are used both in Hindi and Assamese as independent morphs. Whereas, धनवान (wealthy), दयामय (kindhearted) are compound morphs used both in Hindi and Assamese. Similarly कलम जो (the pen) and कागज-खन (the paper) in Assamese are used as compound morphs. We can observe that where words धन, दया, कलम, कागज etc, denote a meaning at their own, बान, मथ, टी, खन etc. do not do that, they are only added to words like धन, दया, कलम, कागज to express a meaning. According to Dr. Upendranath Goswami-

‘एटा चा तात्कालिक ध्वनिर्हस्त्त संज्ञा द्वारा सकल भाषात एकोटा अर्थ प्रकाशित हय. जैसी कोणते ध्वनि-संज्ञो न स्थानीतीत् भाषात वि अर्थ प्रकाश करे ताक न युक्त रूप आह कोणते ध्वनि वा ध्वनि संज्ञो न स्थायीत्त भाषे अर्थ प्रकाश नकारे आन स्थायीत्त रूप लगते जोत हे अर्थ प्रकाश करतो ताक युक्त रूप बुलिले पारि।’ 6

6. Goswami, Upendranath- Bhāśā Vilān, P-39
In every language, meaning is understood with the help of one or more than one morph. When a collection of sound independently express a meaning it is known as independent morph and when a sound or a collection of sound is incapable to express meaning at their own and depend on other independent morph it is called a compound morph.

In morphology, morphs used in a language are studied in different perspectives. Study of the process, how, in a given language, sound gets the status of a symbol is called morphology. In descriptive morphology the study is made of morphs of a given language in reference to a specific time span. In historical morphology the study is made of the morphs used during various stages of time. The comparative morphology deals with the morphs used in two or more than two languages. For example:

Hindi- अमर ने आकाश को मारा।
Assamese - अमर  आकाशক मारिल।

(Amar hit Akash.)

There are three morphs each in both the sentences taken from Hindi and Assamese language respectively. They are अमर ने / अमरे subjective form, आकाश को / आकाशक the objective form and मारा / मारिल past participle of verb मारना (to hit).

1.2.3. : The 'Sentence' : A sentence is a basic unit of a language. It is the fundamental unit of the structural composition of a language. A language is based on the sentences it carries.

According to Dr. Bholanath Tiwari-

"वाक्य भाषा की सहज इकाई है। भाषा का लघुतम इकाई ध्वनि है, क्योंकि ध्वनियों के योग से प्राप्त शब्द बनते हैं और शब्द अथवा शब्दों के योग से वाक्य।" 7

(A sentence is the basic unit of Language. Sound is the smallest unit of a language. As a group of sounds make a word, a group of words make a sentence.)

Syntax is a branch of linguistics. It deals with the analytical study of a sentence. The study is done mainly on dicronic, comparative, theoretical as well as contrastive aspects of sentences. A sentence is studied with reference to the order of gloss, parging, subject and predicate, etc. It is also studied with reference to its structural features, semantics attributes and the like. Due consideration is also made with reference to reasons of change in sentence forms and its direction. A sentence is a pattern of arrangements of gloss to give expression to someone's feelings. A sentence is composed when a specific order of various categories of words are made. All the languages have their own arrangement of words in their sentences. In English, we find subject, verb and object arrangement. But this is not true with Hindi and Assamese. Let us take an example:

7. Tiwari, Bholanath- भाषाविज्ञान, P- 222
We can see that in Hindi sentence mentioned above, there is a verb ‘है’। This verb is absent in Assamese sentence giving similar meaning.

Sentences of a given language can be divided broadly into two forms- written language and spoken language. With reference to intention and meaning, sentences are divided into many kinds. They are- Assertive, Negative, Optative, interrogative, etc. On the basis of composition, they can be divided into at least three types. These types are simple sentences, compound sentences and complex sentences.

1.2.4. Meaning: If language is a body, soul is its meaning. Expressing meaning is the fundamental objective of a language. According to Dr. Bholanath Tiwari—‘किसी भी भाषिक इकाई का रूप, रुप, मुहावरा आदि को किसी भी इन्द्रध्वनि (प्रमुखतः कान, आँख) से प्राप्त करने पर जो मानसिक प्रतीति होती है, वही अर्थ है’।

[Meaning is the mental perception of a linguistic unit (a sentence, part of a sentence, morph, word, idiom, etc.) through sense organ (mainly ears and eyes)].

Semantics is an important branch of linguistics. It studies the meaning conveying potentialities of a language. What is the meaning according to semantics? How a meaning is derived? How many types of meaning may be there? What are the factors that determine a meaning? What is the dimension of meaning? What are synonyms, antonyms etc, is the area of concern for the subject called semantics.

Under semantics, study of meaning can be made under dicronia, comparative, contrastive heads. Study of morphs prefixes, suffixes, words, sentences, idioms and phrases are made in this study. Some linguists believed that study of 'prokti' (discourse) is the field of pragmatics where as some of the linguist believed this is the field of semantics.

Besides the four units of linguistics viz sound, morph, sentence and meaning, some of the linguists have indentified word and discourse to be the other units of linguistics. If meaningful and independent group of sound is a word, coherently related group of sentences are called discourse.

1.3. Parts of speech in Hindi and Assamese

Meaning containing independent small fractions of a sentence are called 'Padas'. While being used in a sentence, 'Padas' come in a defined order. They perform different functions, like defining a noun or pronoun or a verb etc. On the basis of the function, in making sense to a sentence, they are identified with different names. In other words, they are identified as the parts

8. Tiwari, Bholanath- Bhāṣā Vijñān, P- 261
of speech.

"वाक्यर भितर थका सर सर गाहुगुटिया खंडबोरक पद बोले।" 9

(Padas are the small as well as independent parts of a sentence.)

Parts of speech of Hindi as well as Assamese grammar are not quite identical. There are eight parts of speech in Hindi Grammar:

1. संज्ञा (Noun)
2. सर्वनाम (Pronoun)
3. विशेषण (Adjective)
4. क्रिया (Verb)
5. क्रिया विशेषण (Adverb)
6. संबंध सूचक (Postposition)
7. समुच्चयोपक्रम (Conjunction)
8. विस्मयादिप्रश्न (Interjection)

With respect to the structure of morphs or variable, Hindi 'Padas' are divided into two kinds:

(1) विकारी (Declinable)
(2) अविकारी (Non declinable)

When gender, case, number etc. changes a 'Pada' it is called declinable 'Pada'. For example, मेरा → मेरे → मेरी; सुना → सुनना → सुना, सुनकर, सुनी etc. Nouns, pronouns, Adjectives and verbs are declinable 'Padas'. On the contrary, when gender, number, case, etc. do not change a 'Pada' it is called a non declinable 'Pada'. For example, पर, लेकिन etc. Adverbs, Postposition, Conjunction and Interjection are not declinable 'Padas' Hindi language.

Assamese Padas, i.e. part of speech are divided into five parts:

(1) बिशेष (Noun)
(2) बिशेषण (Adjective)
(3) सर्वनाम (Pronoun)
(4) अघ्य (Conjunction) and

9. Goswami, Golokchandra- AsamīyāVyākaran Praveś, P-110
1.4. Significance of Adjectives: Parts of speech in a language have their own importance. Adjective of a sentence is not in any way less important than a noun in a sentence. An Adjective is an important tool in giving a complete and clear meaning to a sentence. If an individual is not well vested with the meaning and use of an Adjective of a given language, he would not be able to speak or write that very language. An Adjective qualifies a noun or a pronoun with respect to quality, number, quantity etc. Besides, it makes a sentence more clear. Let us taken an example:

Hindi: बालक लड़का है।
Assamese:  
(बालक लड़का है।) Sentence without an Adjective

These sentences donot attribute to the boy who is referred to. If we substitute these sentences with the following:

Hindi: बालक आलसी लड़का है।
Assamese: बालक एलेहुआ लें।

(Bharat is a lazy boy.)

In the Hindi sentence given above ‘आलसी’ qualifies the noun ‘लड़का’. The word ‘आलसी’ is an Adjective and specifies a drawback that is in the boy. With the use of the Adjective ‘आलसी’ the Hindi sentence becomes more specific about the boy. Likewise, in the said Assamese sentence the word ‘एलेहुआ’ (lazy) qualifies the noun ‘लें।’ ‘एलेहुआ’ an Adjective makes the sentence clearer. It helps us in knowing more about the boy in question. It shows that a sentence without an Adjective is not very clear. In comparison to that a sentence with an Adjective is more specific about the attributes of a noun or a pronoun referred to in the sentence. Some more examples can be taken:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sentence without an Adjective</th>
<th>Sentence with an Adjective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>हन आदमी है।</td>
<td>हन नियोगी आदमी है।</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. Talukdar, Priyadas - Uccamānar Asaṁyā Bhāṣā Bodhikā, P-172
In Hindi and Assamese sentences, as many as there are Adjectives used, so much so the sentence acquires meaning. The profound use of Adjectives makes the sentence greatly informative regarding the noun or pronoun. As:

Hindi: लीला लड़की है।
Assamese: ।लीलা छोटाली।

If we say the sentences as below:

Hindi: लीला एक लड़की है।
Assamese: ।लीला एजनी छोटाली।

Hindi: लीला एक बुद्धिमती लड़की है।
Assamese: ।लीला एजनी बुद्धिमती छोटाली।

Hindi: लीला एक बुद्धिमती और गुणवत्ती लड़की है।
Assamese: ।लीला एजनी बुद्धिमती आह गुणवत्ती छोटाली।

Hindi: लीला एक बुद्धिमती और गुणवत्ती लड़की ही नहीं, विदुषी भी है।
Assamese: ।लीला एजनी बुद्धिमती आह गुणवत्ती छोटालीयेह नयन विदुषीयो।

(Lila is not only a wise and virtuous girl, she is learned too.)

In the examples of Hindi and Assamese sentences cited above, ‘एक’/‘एजनी’ qualifies the noun ‘लड़की’/‘छोटाली’ with its number. When the sentences say- ‘एक बुद्धिमती लड़की’/‘एजनी बुद्धिमती छोटाली’, the noun ‘लड़की’/‘छोटाली’ is further qualified. Now the sentence makes clear that the ‘लड़की’/‘छोटाली’ in question is not only one in number, she is wise in deposition as well. Further when the sentences say- ‘एक बुद्धिमती और गुणवत्ती लड़की’/‘एजनी बुद्धिमती आह गुणवत्ती छोटाली’ the noun ‘लड़की’/‘छोटाली’ the third set of sentences give third attribute to the girl in question. It is ‘विदुषी’ (learned). Now the sentences are found to be more informative about the girl. These Adjectives ‘बुद्धिमती’ (wise), ‘गुणवत्ती’ (virtuous) and ‘विदुषी’ (learned) have made the meaning of the sentence more clear and expansive.
An Adjective qualifies a noun or a pronoun and makes a sentence attractive. For example:

**Sentence without an Adjective**

**Hindi:** रघु लड़का है।

**Assamese:** रघु लেন।

**Sentence with an Adjective**

**Hindi:** रघु भयातर लेन।

(Raghu is a timid boy.)

**Hindi:** रघु बहुत भयातर लेन।

(Raghu is a very timid boy.)

**Hindi:** बह शराब चीता है।

**Assamese:** ICLEп сF огд|М |т |М

(He drinks)

**Hindi:** तेंब खाँ।

**Assamese:** तेंब मदाह।

(He is a drunkard)

In the Hindi and Assamese examples mentioned above the Adjectives like ‘डरपोक’/ ‘भयातर’ and the adverb ‘बहुत डरपोक’/’बहुत भयातर’ had added further meaning to the sentences. Similarly the Adjectives ‘शराबी’/ ‘मदाही’ had qualified the pronoun ‘वह’/’तेंब’ (he). Thus the sentence have been more communicative about the noun/pronoun used in the sentences.

An Adjective cuts the long story short. We can take some examples to elaborate:

**Hindi:** जानवरों में से शेर, भालू आदि जंगल में रहते है।

**Assamese:** जंकूबंबर भीतरत चाष, भालूक आदि जंकूबंबर जंगलत थाक।

(Animals like lion, bear live in the jungle.)

**Hindi:** गीता कान से नहीं सुनती है।

**Assamese:** गीता कानेर सुना नामाय।

(Gita is unable to hear with her ears)

If we use the following sentences in place of the said sentences:

**Hindi:** शेर, भालू आदि जंगली जानवर है।

**Assamese:** बांश, भालुक आदि जंगली जान।

(Lions, bears are wild animals)

**Hindi:** गीता बहरी है।

**Assamese:** गीता कारप।

(Gita is deaf)
The examples cited above show how Adjectives help in making a long sentence short.

An Adjective expresses the subtle meaning hiding in the sentence and expand the range of meaning. 'लड़का' / 'लड़का' (a boy) a noun denotes the universal boy. But if we say 'छुट्टीला लड़का' / 'छुट्टीला लड़का' (a frail boy) the area of consideration gets smaller and more specific. If we further add another Adjective 'नक्का' / 'चापा' (short) the meaning becomes more explicit and the area of consideration becomes more close. This shows that the more Adjectives are used in a sentence the more specific the meaning gets and the sentence enable to give a more concise meaning.

But, an Adjective denoting common characteristic of a common noun does not contract its meaning. It only clears the meaning of a noun. For example -

Hindi: हरा पेड़
Assamese: सेतु जीया गঠ

(A green tree)

Hindi: सफेद बगुला
Assamese: बगुली

(A white stork)

Hindi: गर्म चाय
Assamese: गर्म चाह

(Hot tea)

Hindi: ठंडा पानी
Assamese: ठंडा पानी

(cold water)

Hindi: काली आँख
Assamese: कंला चक्क

(Black eyes)

In these examples, the Adjectives used have not contracted the area of consideration.

Similarly like the above examples, an Adjective used with a proper noun only qualifies the noun. Kamta Prasad Guru writes in this context "व्यक्तित्वात्वक संज्ञा के साथ जो विश्लेषण आता है वह संज्ञा की व्याप्ति मयादित नहीं करता, केवल उसका अर्थ स्पष्ट करता है!" 11

(An Adjective, that comes with a proper noun does not, limit the area of consideration it only makes the meaning clear.) Let us take some examples:

Hindi: सत्यवादी हरिशचंद्र
Assamese: सत्यवादी हरिशचंद्र

(The truthful Harishchandra)

The Adjectives in the above examples emphasized the attributes of the proper noun in the respective sentences. Here the Adjective truthful qualifies none other than the proper noun ‘Harishchandra’. ‘Harishchandra’ and ‘सच्चार्थ हरिष्चन्द्र’ is one and same person. Similarly, ‘अर्जुन’ and ‘धनुधर अर्जुन’ as well as ‘युधिष्ठिर’ and ‘धर्माराज युधिष्ठिर’ are not separate identities.

Therefore, we can say that an Adjective specifies a noun or a pronoun and give complete and desirable meaning to a sentence, making it beautiful and attractive.

1.5 Methodology adopted in the study

With respect to the historical development of languages, scholars have put Hindi and Assamese languages under the Aryan family of languages. Both the languages have developed from Sanskrit through various regional ‘Apabhrangshas’. Thus its similarity to some extent is quite natural. Inspite of that, there are considerable dissimilarities in the languages at form related considerations. The present work mainly rests on comparative study. Hindi and Assamese languages are compared in this study and conclusions are drawn on this comparative study. Analysis and explanation has been done to find out the similarities as well as dissimilarities between the Adjectives used in those two languages. Necessary charts, tables etc. have been added as and where required. Examples have been taken mainly from the published literature and if found necessary some examples have been created.

1.6. Works done in the field

Tradition of doing research work on different aspects of Hindi as well as Assamese literature is very old. Since long research work have been done on various ages of Hindi and Assamese literature and the representative personalities of the respective literatures. In comparison to that, the study of linguistics and grammar has been lagging behind. Though some scholars have done research work on various aspects of grammar, I donot think any one of them has taken the field of comparative study of Hindi and Assamese Adjectives. This study with an objective to remove deficiency, is a completely new and original attempt. It would help the scholars of comparative study of Hindi and Assamese and moreover support emotional integration. The finding on the dissimilarities would help the users to avoid linguistic interference. In other words, Hindi speaking people would be able to speak Assamese correctly and Assamese speaking people would be able to speak Hindi correctly. For example: this study would help a user speaking ‘वह लड़की’ (that girl) in Assamese as ‘সেইজনি ছেলেলা’, the correct form of the term and not ‘সেই ছেলেলা’ (the wrong expression). This study would show how according to Assamese grammar, the determinative suffix ‘জনি’ would be correct and appropriate and not demonstrative
pronoun 'सेह'. To highlight and underline such Adjective distinctively used in Hindi and Assamese grammar is the objective of this research. It is important to note here that the standard used in Hindi and Assamese literature alone are considered in this work.

The comparative study of linguistic categories of Hindi and Assamese languages done so far as below :-

1. मानक हिंदी और असमीया व्याकरण आधारण का तुलनात्मक अध्ययन
   - Dr. Pareshchandra Dev Sharma

2. हिंदी-असमीया: व्याकरणिक कोटियाँ [व्याकरणि अध्ययन]
   - Dr. Ramlal Verma

3. A comparative study of the Karakas in Hindi and Assamese-
   - Dr. Achyut Sarma

4. Hindi Aoxomiya Vākyā - Samracana
   - Dr. Krishna Kumar Prasad

   - Dr. Bhamati Devi

   - Dr. Abdul Mannan.