PREFACE

It is heartening to note that the North-East region of India, along with Assam, is a miniature India where the much-hyped 'unity' is rightly met with its 'diversity', not only in natural resources, but also in ethnicity.

The Rabha tribe deserves such an ethnic group of the region, and they possess these traits.

The present study is a rapid sketch of linguistic variations of the Rabha language in the light of dialectal study. Though there lies an ample scope in this virgin field, I have endeavoured to make it possible as per practical. The study is envisaged with synchronic method of linguistics, and as such, this requires more speciculation in technical side, but due to personal constraints, I could not consult it, as envisagd in the Synopsis. But it is not deviating from that of other works of its kind: the linguistic data have been collected by both the primary and secondary sources, and this was done within the jurisdiction of the field work.

It is noteworthy that my NORMS, along with an aged-old woman native speaker, Smt. Sewani Rabha, 90 of Thabolpara, under Dudhnoi P.S. were very kind and liberal ones. Besides, some rare books, ur text, journals, magazines have been consulted as for secondary sources, and stray references have been taken from various sources. Besides, some social figures of the tribe have been met and consulted.

Some earlier works on Rabha are sporadic and these are synchronized here with great care, and patience. In this regard, this study may contribute a least towards the extant knowledge and concerning field.

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