The topic that I have selected is "Hindi in Assam: Past, Present & Future" - a topic which drew my attention as being a necessary project for study. The completion of research on this topic has filled up a long felt gap.

Hindi is our official language and to some extent it is our national language. Although Hindi is going ahead in other parts of India, it is still lagging behind in Assam. In my research I shall try my best of to find out the root causes of the tardy development of Hindi in this region. We shall have to review its past as we cannot release the present without the past. Keeping in view the development we imagine the future project, so that we can cooperate on its development.

The tradition of my family has been to study Sanskrit as a compulsory subject. But because of my keen interest in Hindi, I studied Hindi as a subject from my early days, thus, acting against the established tradition. I studied Hindi up to the post-graduate level and successfully passed the M.A. examination. In the meantime it has often struck me that the language which is used by a huge mass of this great country in its day to day life in spite of having a regional language in respective areas, which is the official language of this vast country and also, which is under consideration as the national language, has not been developed in this region as it was expected to. After completion of M.A. I got appointment as a lecturer in K.R.B. Girls' college, Guwahati. At the outset, I faced some difficulties in teaching, being a non-Hindi speaking person, but everything became normal in due course. I was helped and encouraged immensely by my teachers in this regard.
Then I got a suitable environment for the study of the position of Hindi in Assam to satisfy my inquisitiveness. So, I met my respectable teacher Dr. Dharmdeo Tiwari one evening at his quarter in the University campus and requested him to grant me an opportunity to work on this topic which appealed to me greatly. He readily agreed to it and put the topic before me. From that very day I devoted myself to the work.

It is expected that this work will be able to present a clear picture of the past, present and the anticipated future position of Hindi in Assam. Since this is the first work of its kind, it is quite possible that many aspects of the topic may remain untouched.

I have divided my thesis into seven chapter including the conclusion. A brief synopsis of the chapter is given below -

The first chapter 'Introduction' embodies the necessity and importance of research on the topic. It also includes the methodology that I have used in preparing the thesis.

The second chapter, entitled 'Hindi in Assam, Its Past', discusses the past position of Hindi in Assam. This chapter is of great significance as without knowing the past, it is unless to study the present and the future. It discusses the gradual development of Hindi from Bhaktikal or from the time of Sankardev to the attainment of Indian independence and after.

The third chapter 'Development of Hindi in Assam' deals with the growth and development of Hindi in Assam. It discusses the significant
contribution of various government, semi-government and private institutions in propagation and development of Hindi in this region.

The fourth chapter 'Hindi in Its Creative Stage' discusses the creative situation and the contribution of the non-Hindi speaking and Hindi speaking writers in their respective fields. It is for their contributions that Hindi has been able to achieve the present satisfactory position.

The fifth chapter 'Role of Hindi as Official Language in Assam' presents a detailed study of the role of Hindi as an official language and the constitutional policies of the government regarding the official language Hindi, its difference with the national language Hindi and its present position in Assam etc.

The sixth chapter 'Future of Hindi in Assam' provides a glimpse into a future state of Hindi in Assam. Here the present role and future policies of the central and state governments and the voluntary organisations have been discussed.

The seventh chapter 'Conclusion' sums up the discussions of the previous chapters and provides an analysis for the future course of action so that Hindi may develop further in the times to come.

I am thankful to those persons who spared their valuable time for me for the successful completion of my work. The help and assistance that I have received from many of my friends, colleagues and teachers (Guru)
have proved to be immensely helpful in the preparation of my thesis. My indebtedness towards them cannot be individually acknowledged, yet a few of them must be mentioned here.

First of all, I am thankful to my guide Dr. Dharmadeo Tiwari 'Shastri' Prof. of Gauhati University, who encouraged me to undertake this work. I had a free access to him irrespective of time and date. I am highly indebted to him for his constant guidance & co-operation in my task.

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This task would not see the light of day without library consultation. I would like to express my gratitude to Sri Maruwari Hindi Pustakalaya, State Library Assam, Teachers Training College Library, North Guwahati, Gauhati University Library, Guwahati, District Library, Kokrajhar, Asom Rastrabhasa Prachar Samiti Library, Guwahati, K.R.B. Girls' College Library, Guwahati, for their kind help.

The Central Hindi Institute Assam, the Hindi Cell of Brahmaputra Board, Hindi Cell of Oriental Insurance Company, Regional Office Guwahati, Examination Branch of Asom Rastrabhasa Prachar Samiti also deserve my thanks for their help.

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In the end, I must confess that whenever anything is appreciated in this thesis, it shall fill me with great pride and satisfaction, not so much because of what I put in, but more so, because it would be a tribute to my teachers.

Research Scholar

Date: 07/09/99
Place: Guwahati