CHAPTER V
ROLE OF HINDI AS OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN ASSAM
5.1. **The Concept of the official Language**

The term 'official language' indicates that it is the language used in official works. Now-a-days monarchy has almost become non-existent. So, it is used for democracy. In fact, it is a language that has been accepted for administrative purpose. It can also be made to be accepted by the royal order. 'Prussian' language, for example, got this position in Germany by the attempt of Bismarck. In India the British established English as the language of administrative affairs which is more or less in practice till to-day.

The official language may not be wide-spread and accepted by all as it has got its limitations. Its practice is not desirable in the areas of other languages. It may not, even be essential for this language to carry on the culture of the country, though, in general it is supposed to perform this duty. It is not necessary that barring those belonging to the lowest strata in society, those of the highest status should use English. Any language of a limited range can be converted into the official language. It is not necessary that every official language should also take the place of the national language but the national language of every country may take the place of the official language of the country. Even a foreign language can be granted the status of the official language.

In medieval India Persian occupied the place of the official language but its scope was confined only to the Mughal Court and royal edicts. That was not the national language. In modern times English became the official language and is presently being used as the link language. But it is not the national language of India, but of England contrary to this, during the
time of Emperor Ashoka 'Pali' had got the status of a national language as well as of the official language. Emperor Ashoka had offered it the status of the official language as it was the most popular language spoken and understood by the whole country at that time. He also used this language in those inscriptions written for propagating the utterances of Lord Buddha. Today, Hindi occupies the status of both the national and the official language. But it is the official language only according to the constitution of India.

5.2. **Difference between the national language and the official language**

Language plays the primary and dominant role regarding man's greatness and progress of his culture and civilization. It is not only the medium of expression and communication but also a powerful medium of acquiring knowledge and the means of conveying the ideas of culture and nationality. We come across the multifarious aspects of language in the affairs of our daily life -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Spoken</th>
<th>Literary</th>
<th>Scientific</th>
<th>Commercial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prose</td>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thus we come to know several other forms of the language besides its literary form. The same language can play the roles of the common language, link language, National language, official language and the medium of instruction.
The language that is used on a large scale by common people in their day to day affairs is known as the common language which is simple, easily understood and widespread in the society. Its widest form which is the means of exchange of ideas in different spheres of life is that of the national language. It crosses the frontiers of all the provinces. A nation whether big or small encompasses the people's unity and the common national feeling. On the basis of this word 'Nation' or 'Rastra' the essential and ornate symbols of the country such as National Anthem, National Flag, National Leaders (Rastra Nayak) etc. have emerged. A nation is sovereign. A nation has got its own geographical boundaries, its own population and also a single administrative system, over and above which, it has got its own national language. The common language used by the whole country attains the status of the national language which changes its form with the changing time, place and circumstances. It is a very powerful language. It proves useful in communicating and conveying the social, political, religious and economic ideas. The national language is being used widely in all the states. It has got some special characteristics. It is a means of conveying the feeling of social consciousness and integrity of the whole nation. It expresses the hopes and aspirations of the people as a whole. It fills the minds of the people with courage enthusiasm and alertness during a time of crisis. A country's glorious tradition and cultural heritage can be realised through the national language. So all the languages that are prevalent or most widespread in different parts of the nation cannot achieve the honour of the national language in spite of their existence in those areas of the nation.

On the other hand the official language is meant for conducting the affairs of the government. So it is the language of the administration. Its
function is to facilitate the correspondence between state Governments and the central government with regard to the affairs of the executive, legislature and judiciary. Administration is directly related to the people and the citizens.

Here again the official language is used as a medium (i) for corresponding with the people (ii) for preparing government and parliamentary reports, (iii) for government resolutions and for legislative acts and rules, (iv) correspondence with the states (v) treaties and agreements, (vi) Correspondence with the foreign governments, ambassadors and international organisations, (vii) and for the official documents declared against the names of the Indian representatives in the political and international organisations.³

Some times even a foreign language may occupy the place of the official language. Whenever a foreign rule was established in India the language of that race, tribe or community became the official language of the country. But that does not mean that the people completely gave up their national language or languages. They might have accepted such foreign languages for financial gains and specially for the sake of livelihood but the achievements of their important aspects of life were always expressed through their national language. The difference between the national language and the official language is that the former is wide spread among the common mass reflecting the common and authentic picture of India and the latter is limited to the administrative affairs reflecting the importance of power. Even a foreign language can become an official language in the context of administration but only an indigenous language can become a national language of the country. This fact is fully revealed during the British period where English remained the official language up to the end of the British rule in this
country, whereas 'Satyarth Prakash' (Swami Dayanand) 'Sanskrit ke char Adhyaya' (Sri Ramdhari Singh Dinkar) 'Khandit Bharat' (Deshratna Dr. Rajendra Prasad) besides, dozens of top ranking literary creation which are for all times and all lands, were written in the common language Hindi.

The necessity of the national language for the first time in India was felt by the people of the non-Hindi speaking region whereas the people of Hindi-speaking region never realised this necessity. They could smoothly conduct their activities from one part of the country to the other through their own language. But a non-Hindi speaking person going out of his state to the other had to face the difficulty of understanding others and also of making them understand his own ideas. Similarly those Dutch, French and English traders who came to India for trade, felt the necessity of a language that could help them to carry on their trade through out India. The people of this class can be divided into two categories. Firstly those who belonged to the trading class and the administrative group, felt the need of a language most widespread and easy to understand. The second category included those leaders, thinkers and social reformers of the non-Hindi speaking regions who felt impelled to give a clarion call for the reawakening of a renaissance and a cultural consciousness among the people.

The official language is dependent on the administration, while the national language is dependent on the people. The inhabitants of different states of the Indian union such as, the Assamese, the Bengali, the Oriya, the Marathus, the Gujrat, the Telegus and the Karnatakis use Hindi whenever they happen to meet on a common platform. It is so because Hindi is the
language of modern India dependent on the people. It has been recognised as the language of the people whenever the question of unity or diversity came up in India. It was considered to be indispensable for the national and emotional unity of the country by the foreign traders, administrators, the religious preachers of the non-Hindi speaking regions, social reformers and the national leaders.

In the 8th schedule of the constitution of India there is a reference to 15 Indian languages in the English alphabetical order. At the time of the framing of the constitution, there were 14 states in the Indian union with their respective languages. All these 14 languages belonged to the nation. So they were known as the language of the nation or National languages. But according to Article 343(1) of the constitution, Hindi written in the Devnagari script is the official language of the Indian union. Thus, the Hindi written in the Devnagari script, in various articles of the constitution became the official language, not the national language of the Central Govt. Some explanations have been provided in the constitution as to which language should be the medium or link language for inter communication among the states and of the states with the central Government. It was decided that Hindi would serve the purpose of that medium for 15 years (from 1950 to 1965) and English too, would be used for conducting the affairs of the states. During this period of 15 years the president would constitute the official language commission in the 5th and again in the 10th year of the enforcement of the constitution. The representatives of those Indian languages included in the 8th schedule of the constitution would be the members of this commission who would provide comments on the progress, use and preservation of Hindi.
and the president would order upon them. Besides, the constitution has also made the provision of reports for the portrayal of the essential structure of the official language 'Hindi'. However, Hindi cannot become the official language even if one of the states would like to keep English as the official language. English would continue to function as the link language of the country. Hindi had to face a lot of hurdles as per this provision in the constitution. Since it made provision for two official language instead of one, Hindi was recognised automatically the most prevalent language at the all India level for discharging various activities, though there are 15 language referred to as national languages. It is hoped that in course of time Hindi will be fully recognised as the official language and English will be replaced by it. Presently, the bilingual situation is prevalent in the country. Both Hindi and English are used in government offices and it is not possible to remove English and retain Hindi. No incentive is being provided for the spread of Hindi by the Central Translation Bureau. To remove English completely is impossible as the official language Amendment Act, 1963 is still valid. That is why government papers, circulars and common orders are issued both in Hindi and English. This amendment Act is preferred, though it has clearly mentioned that Hindi is the official language of India. It implies that Hindi is being neglected as the official language of India as the provisions of the constitution are hardly followed in practice. But in the near feature Hindi will be the only official language and the option of English as a link or associate language will be lifted.4

5.3. **Official Language in the constitution**

The constituent Assembly was constituted in 1946 mainly with the members of the Indian National congress and the Muslim League, with
some independent members. Its first sitting was held on 01.12.1946 and 11.12.1946 in which Babu Rajendra Prasad was elected its president. India attained its freedom on 15.08.47 and the members of the Muslim League went across the border with the formation of Pakistan. The Regulation committee of the constituent Assembly had already taken the decision in 1946 that the affairs of the Assembly would be conducted in Hindi or in English, but any member would be allowed to deliver his or her speech in his or her mother tongue. On July 24, 1947, on fourth session of the second day of the constituent Assembly, an amendment was produced that the word 'Hindustani' should be replaced by 'Hindi'. The congress party had discussions on it. In the ensuing Polls, 63 votes were cast in favour of 'Hindi' and 32 for 'Hindustani'. Similarly in the context of Devanagari, 63 votes were cast in favour and 18 against it.

There was no section of the official language bill (legislative) in the draft of the constitution that was produced in February 1948, except the reference that the language of the parliament would be English or Hindi. There different opinions in favour of Hindi and against it in the draft of 1948. Pandit Nehru emphasised the need of an All India language and also stressed that an independent country should conduct its official affairs in its own language. This must have its growth and progress through the activities of the people. On November 10, 1948 the steering committee decided that the constitution should be prepared in Hindi. There was a special discussion on it in August and September. In August there was a good deal of discussion in the congress working committee in which resolutions were passed on the bilingual situation and it was also expressed clearly that there should be a
state language for all India activities. In the meantime 'Rastriya Bhasa Sammelan' was organised in the supervision of Hindi Sahitya Sammelan in which the Hindi written in the Devanagari script was accepted unanimously and an interim period of 10 years earmarked for it. After a lot of discussion on amendments, when voting took place in the constituent Assembly, 82 votes were cast in favour of Hindi and a period of ten years was considered to be enough for the continuance of English as a link language where as the second group opted it for 15 years. There was a general consensus on the Devanagari script. But the main point of discussion was regarding the form of Hindi. A committee was formed to that effect with Sri Ayengar, T.T. Krishnamachari Ayyar, Munshi, Ambedkar, Sadullah and Rao to be co-operated by Sri Azad pant, Tandan, Navin, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and K. Santanam. Ghanashyam Gupta, Satyanarayan in as members of the committee and Smt. Amrita Kaur were also taken several resolutions were adopted on August 8, and 82 members signed on one of the resolutions. Many of them who signed the resolution were from South India, among whom the name of Acharya Jugal Kishore comes to the fore, as he was the Mahamantri of the congress party. As a reaction to this a committee of 44 members was formed out of which 28 members were from Madras and South India. K. Santanam, one of the members of the committee, presented a resolution where there was an arrangement for the Arabic members which became the topic of discussion. Heated discussions were held from 10th August to 17th August and the Drafts committee presented a report on 16th August. Which sanctioned the continuance of English for ten years, further a provision was made to keep it in the parliament for 5 years by two-thirds majority. The international numeral were recognised along with this. Later on Ambedkar Saheb put
forward a new formula on 22nd August in which (1) The period was extended to 15 years, which could be extended even further by the Parliament. (2) There were good provisions for international numeral (and) (3) English was to remain in the High Court (4) The schedule of the regional language was made (5) The provisions of language commission were drafted.

The main discussion continued from 12th to 14th September. The amendments, effected till 10th December contained 45 pages. The number of amendments increased to four hundred and at last there was an agreement between the two parties on 24th September. The sitting was postponed at 1 P.M. Attempts were made for an agreement among the parties and they arrived at some compromise at about 5 P.M. At 6 P.M. the Munshi Iyengar formula was accepted with some modification after considering all aspects. It was hoped that all the 400 amendments would be taken back. Eventually the five amendments - three of congress and two of league were not taken back. Rajarshi Tandan presented the amendments after giving resignation to the party (which he withdrew on 16th September at the request of the party). Thus, Hindi was established as the official language amidst great applanpe after the Munshi-Iyengar formula was accepted.

The famous Article known as Munshi Iyenger formula can be found in the article 343 (27th part) of the constitution. On this occasion the president of the constituent assembly declared rather touchingly that for the first time a language was going to be recognised by the constitution which would be the language of administration in the union of India. This implied the political unity of the country. Hindi as the official language of the country would strengthen the unity of India from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari. The
establishment of an Indian language instead of English would certainly help us to come nearer to each other.5

5.4.1. The Official Language Commission, 1955

As per the article 344 of the constitution the president was empowered to appoint an Official Commission after five years of the enforcement of the constitution. Accordingly, an official language commission was formed on 7th June 1955 by the President of India. Late Balgandadhar Kher, the ex-chief minister of Bombay, became the president of this commission which included 20 representatives from various states of India. The first sitting of this commission took place on 15th July 1950. It visited several government and non-government persons, representatives and organisations. At last in 1956 it prepared a detailed report and presented it to the President of India. The following are some of the chief suggestions put forward by the commission –

1. It is not possible to accept English as the medium of instruction, taking into view the democratic basis of the country. The compulsory primary education can be imparted through the medium of the Indian languages. It is true that the knowledge of English is essential in the spheres of science, research and international affairs, but it is not proper to use a foreign language so far as education, administration, social life and the day-to-day affairs are concerned.

2. Although all the languages of India are rich from the literary point of view. Yet Hindi is more suitable and expressive as a language medium since it is spoken and understood by the majority of the people of India.
3. It is necessary to pay heed to the clarity of meaning, simplicity, discarding of learned language and the use of more and more indigenous and popular words. At the time of building technical vocabulary, the international vocabulary should be accepted with some modifications here and there. The speed of building technical terminology should be expedited.

4. Every student up to the age of 14 should be taught Hindi so that he or she may understand the activities of social life as well as those of the government.

5. Hindi should be made compulsory at the High school level. The commission is reluctant about making the study of South Indian languages compulsory in Hindi speaking areas.

6. All the Universities in the country should be in closer touch in order to know which medium should be deemed fit for the proper imparting of knowledge of the subjects, keeping in view the facilities for instruction in different faculties for those students willing to sit in the examination with Hindi as their medium of expression.

7. There should be some rules formulated and promulgated for administrative officers so that they may earn some essential knowledge about Hindi and those neglecting it should be penalised. Again those who can learn more than what has been targeted must be encouraged by some rewards.

8. Those departments and organisations having direct link with the public should use Hindi in their internal activities and the regional language
should be used for communicating with common people. Knowledge of Hindi along with the regional language should be made compulsory for appointments in such departments. Later on the knowledge of Hindi should be increased through departmental trainings.

9. The topic related to the constitution should be published as far as possible in Hindi. Every attempt should be made by the government for the progress of Hindi.

10. The knowledge of Hindi must be made compulsory for the offices of the state and the union government and they should be encouraged by rewards when their performances are better.

11. Both Hindi and the regional languages should be used for conducting the affairs in the parliament and the Assemblies. The admitted law of the Govt. should be made in Hindi and they should be translated into the regional languages for the convenience of the people. Moreover all the constitutional writings should be published in Hindi after there is a complete change in the medium of instruction.

12. All the activities relating to justice should be conducted through the language of the country. For this it is essential that all the activities and proceedings decisions and orders as far as necessary and practicable should be translated into the regional languages. The judge of the High Courts should be authorised to pass judgements even in regional languages along with English.
13. The medium of the competitive examinations should be taken into consideration. Those who are employed in All India and Central Services should possess the knowledge of Hindi. There should be a compulsory paper on Hindi for the Hindi-speaking candidates, but for the non-Hindi speaking candidates, an optional paper on their own regional language should be provided, so as to maintain the balance.

14. The government should adopt solid steps for the spread of Hindi in the voluntary Hindi institutions. They should provide financial aid to those institutions.

15. The Devanagari script will be suitable from all points of view of there is the proposed of only one script for all the languages of India. There will be no gain by adopting the Roman script. The government should adopt essential steps for the improvement of the Devanagari script.

16. The government should provide facilities to the newspapers published in Indian language and create institutions providing news in Hindi and the regional languages for standardising the vocabulary of Hindi and the regional languages.

17. An administrative unit of the central government should be handed over the responsibility for the successful progress and development and proper supervision of Hindi. The establishment of a national academy of the Indian languages, for Hindi and the regional languages will prove immensely helpful in this regard.
18. The principle of multilingualism should be encouraged in order to bring about an intensive and deep similarity in the linguistic and cultural structure of India, and to reduce the distance among the different languages of the country and there should be a proper arrangement in the education system at the High school and the University levels.

In view of the suggestions put forward by the official language commission, it can be said that the commission stressed the need of the effective use of Hindi in the best possible way. The government did not initiate any effective steps with regard to the suggestions advanced by the Kher commission for the development of Hindi as an official language. The official language Hindi is reaping the consequences of the negligence of these suggestions but forward by the commission. Hindi would have been in a much better position if those suggestions had been materialised at that time.

5.4.2. Parliamentary Official Language Committee

Parliamentary official language commission according to the Article 344 (part 4 & 5) of the constitution formed a parliamentary committee with 20 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 members from the Rajya Sabha in order to deliberate the report of the official language commission. Sri Gobinda Ballabh Pant, the then central Home Minister was elected president of this committee. It submitted its final report to the president of India on 8th February 1959 after several confinious meeting. In April 1959 this report was produced in the parliament for discussion. Some of the important suggestions put forward by the committee were as follows :-
1. The knowledge of Hindi for government services and posts during the transition period will be considered even if it is slightly lower than the standard fixed for English.

2. It will be injustice to penalize an employee, if he or she fails to acquire the knowledge of Hindi as targeted within the stipulated time.

3. English should not be used for an indefinite period of time for maintaining relations with foreign countries, even if there may be a derivation of native words for use in the administration of the union Govt. of India.

4. The govt. employees beyond the age of 45 should be exempted from the training of Hindi.

5. Such schemes should be adopted by the union government so that Hindi may be used to spread more and more as an official language.

6. The government should maintain similar policy to use Devanagari numeral along with the Roman numeral in respect of publications of the government and the ministers.

7. The language of bills passed in the parliament and the states assemblies should be in English till Hindi takes its place. The laws should be translated into Hindi and they should also be translated into the regional languages as far as practicable.
8. The state assemblies may formulate laws in their respective languages. But according to the Article 348 of the constitution their authorised reading should be published in English.

9. The official language of the state or Hindi can be used in the High Courts with prior permission of the president. But the decisions, acts and orders passed by them should be in English. Also the decisions, degrees and the orders passed in other languages should have their English version side by side.

10. The knowledge of Hindi and the regional language may prove useful for the judges but no examination relating to language should be considered necessary for them.

11. A high level permanent committee of law experts of various languages should be formed for the translation of the constitutional books and for the formation of the legal technical vocabulary.

12. English should be allowed to continue as the medium of all India and the central services examination and Hindi should be adopted as the optional medium. After that both Hindi and English should be used as the optional medium.

13. English should be used as the chief language for official activities of the government of India till 1965 and Hindi should occupy the secondary position during this period. After 1965 Hindi should be used as the chief
language and English should become the associate language. English should be used as required till the parliament limits the scope of its use by its Act.

Rajarshi Purusottam Das Tandon and Seth Gobind Das were dissent to the suggestions of the parliamentary official language committee. They were quite dissatisfied with those suggestions and alleged that the government had failed to adopt proper steps to establish Hindi as an official language.

These two leaders vehemently opposed the idea of allowing English to continue as the official language. The parliamentary Committee requested the President to accept the majority of suggestions put forward by the official language commission. Accordingly the President made a declaration on 27 April, 1960 regarding the official language of the union.

5.4.3. The President Made a Declaration on 1960 regarding the Official Language of the Union

After discussion of these Parliamentary Committees reports, the President made a declaration on 27th April, 1960 regarding the official language of the union, with some important directions which are as follows:

1. English should continue as the medium for the examinations conducted for selections in the all India Services and higher central services departments and after a certain period of time Hindi should be adopted as the optional medium. Later on, different regional languages should be used as the medium of the examinations.
2. Both Hindi and English should be the medium for the admission in training institutions.

3. Attempts should be made to establish co-ordination between Hindi and other Indian languages for the formation of the scientific and technical vocabulary within the fixed principles. For this the Ministry of education should form a commission by making proper and necessary arrangements.

4. All the literature relating to administration should be translated and there should be similarity in them.

5. The Ministry of Education should make arrangement for the propagation of Hindi and should also help those non-government institutions engaged in such works.

6. In the departments of central government the local offices should use Hindi for their internal works and while dealing with common people, the regional language should be used. This should also be taken under consideration at the time of recruitment and decentralisation of employees.

7. Parliamentary Acts and laws should be made in English but their authoritative translations should be available in Hindi.

8. The language of the Supreme Court should be Hindi. The Ministry of law should take necessary steps to use Hindi and the state languages optionally for the decisions, decrease and orders of the High Court.
9. The in-service training of Hindi should be made compulsory for all the central government employees below the age of 45 years on 1st January 1961, barring those employees below the third grade, the employees of the industrial concerns and those who are in-charge. The Home Ministry should also make proper arrangements to provide training to the Hindi typists and the stenographers.

10. A permanent commission comprising lawyers who will be the representative of various national languages, shall be established for a standard legal dictionary for forming law in Hindi and for preparing legal vocabulary.

5.5. The Official Languages Act, 1963

Pandit Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India, provided some consolation to the people of non-Hindi speaking regions in the wake of the controversies and doubts relating to language in various part of the country. In order to provide them consolation, the official language Act 1963 was formed which made the provision for the use of the English along with other matters. The Act came into force in 1965 and there were some amendments in it in 1967 a provisions of this Act are analysed as follows -

1. Short title and Commencement

   (i) This Act may be called the official languages Act 1963.

   (ii) Section 3 shall come into force on the 26th day of January, 1965 and the remaining provisions of this Act shall come into force on such date as the central government may by notification in the official Gazette appoint and different dates may be appointed different provisions of this Act.
2. **Definitions**

   In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires -

   a) 'Appointed day' in relation to section 3 means the 26th day of January 1965 and in relation to any other provision of this Act, means the day on which that provision comes into force.

   b) 'Hindi' means Hindi is Devanagari Script.

3. **Continuance of English Language for Official purposes of the Union and for use in Parliament**

   I. Notwithstanding the expiration of the period of fifteen years from the commencement of the constitution, the English language may, as from the appointment day, continue to be used in addition to Hindi -

   a) For all the official purposes of the Union for which it was being used immediately before that day, and

   b) For the transaction of business in parliament:

      Provided that the English language shall be used for purposes of communication between the union and a state which has not adopted Hindi as its official language.

      Provided further that where Hindi is used for purposes of communication between one state which has adopted Hindi as its official language and another state which has not adopted Hindi as its official language. Such communication in Hindi shall be accompanied by a translation of the same in the English language.

      Provided also that nothing in this subsection shall be construed as preventing a state which has not adopted Hindi as its official language
from using Hindi for purposes of communication with the Union or with a state which has adopted Hindi as its official language or by agreement with any other state and in such a case, it shall not be obligatory to use the English language for purposes of communication with that state.

2. Not withstanding anything contained in sub-section
   (i) Where Hindi or the English language is used for purposes of communication -

Language
   a) Between one Ministry or department or office of the Central government and another.
   b) Between one Ministry or department or office of the Central government and any corporation, or company owned or controlled by the central government or any office thereof.
   c) Between any corporation or company owned or controlled by the central government or any office thereof and another a translation of such communication in the English language or as the case may be in Hindi shall also be provided till such date as the staff of the concerned Ministry department, office or corporation or company aforesaid have acquired a working knowledge of Hindi.

3. Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section
   (i) both Hindi and the English language shall be used for -
   (a) Resolutions general orders, rules, notification, administrative or other reports or press communiques issued or made by the central government or by a Ministry, Department or Office there of or by a
corporation or company owned or controlled by the central government or by any office of such corporation or company.

(b) administrative and other reports and official papers laid before a House or the House of Parliament.

(c) contracts and agreements executed and licence, permits, notices and forms of tender issued by or on behalf of the central government or any Ministry, Department or office thereof or by a corporation or company owned or controlled by the central government or by any office such corporation or company.

4. Without prejudice to the provisions of sub-section -
(i) or sub-section (ii) or sub-sections (iii) the central government may by rules made under section 8, provide for the language/languages to be used for the official purpose of the union including the working of any Ministry, Department, section or office and in marking such rules, due consideration shall be given to the quick and efficient disposal of the official business and the interests of the general public and in particular the rules. So made shall ensure that persons serving in connection with the affairs of the union and having proficiency either in Hindi or in the English language may function effectively and that they are not placed at a disadvantage on the ground that they do not have proficiency in both the languages.

5. The provisions of clause (a) of sub-section (i) and the provisions of sub-section (ii) sub-section (iii) and sub-section (iv) shall remain in force until resolutions for the discontinuance of the use of the English language for the purpose mentioned there in have been passed by the legislature of all the
states which have not adopted Hindi as their official language and until after considering the resolution aforesaid a resolution for such discontinuance has been passed by each House of Parliament.

4. **Committee on Official Language**

   1. After the expiration of ten years from the date on which section 3 comes into force, there shall be constituted a committee on official language on a resolution to that effect being moved in either House of Parliament with the previous sanction of the president and passed by both Houses.

   2. The committee shall consist of thirty members of whom twenty shall be members of the House of the people and ten shall be members of the council of states to be elected respectively by the members of the House of the people and the members of the council of states in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

   3. It shall be the duty of the committee to review the progress made in the use of Hindi for the official purpose of the union and submit a report to the president making recommendations thereon and the president shall cause the report to be laid before each House of Parliament and sent to all the state governments.

   4. The president may after consideration of the report referred to in sub-section (3) and the views, if any expressed by the state govt. Thereon, issue directions in accordance with the whole or any part of the report.
[Provided that the direction so issued shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of section 3]

5. **Authorised Hindi translation of Central Acts, etc.**

1. A translation in Hindi published under the authority of the president in the official Gazette on and after the appointed day -
   a) of any central Act or of any ordinance promulgated by the president, or.
   b) of any order, rule, regulation or bye-law issued under the constitution or under any central Act. shall be deemed to be the authoritative text there of in Hindi.

2. As from the appointed day, the authoritative text in the English language of all Bills to be introduced or amendments. There to be moved in either House of Parliament shall be accompanied by a translation of the same in Hindi authorised in such manner as may be prescribed by rules made under this Act.

6. **Authorised Hindi translation of state Acts in certain cases**

   Where the legislature of a state has prescribed any language other than Hindi for use in Acts passed by the legislature of the state or in ordinances promulgated by the governor of the State, a translation of the same in Hindi in addition to a translation there of in the English language as required by clause (3) of article 348 of the constitution, may be published on or after the appointed day under the authority of the governor of the state in the official Gazette of the state and in such a case, the translation in Hindi or
any such Act or ordinance shall be deemed to be the authoritative text there of in the Hindi language.

7. **Optional use of Hindi or other official language in Judgements etc. of High Courts**

As from the appointed day or any day thereafter the governor of a state may, with the previous consent of the president, authorise the use of Hindi or the official language of the state, in addition to the English language, for the purposes of any judgement, decree or order passed or made by the High Court for that state and where any judgement decree or order is passed or made in any such language (other than the English language), it shall be accompanied by a translation of the same in the English language issued under the authority of the High Court.

8. **Power to make rules**

1. The Central government may by notification in the official Gazette make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

2. Every rule made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of parliament while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions, and if before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the session immediately following both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall there after have effect only in such modified form or be of on effect, as the case may be so, however that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.
9. Certain provisions not to apply to Jammu and Kashmir

The provisions of section 6 and section 7 shall not apply to the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

5.6. The Official Languages [use for official purposes of the Union] Rules, 1976 [As Amended, 1987]

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 8, read with sub-section (4) of section 3 of the official languages Act, 1963 (19 of 1963), the central government hereby makes the following rules, namely -

1. Short title, extent and commencement

(i) These rules may be called the official languages [use for official purposes of the union] Rules, 1976.

(ii) They shall extend to the whole of India, except the state of Tamilnadu.

(iii) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the official Gazette.

2. Definitions

In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires -

(a) 'Act' means the official language Act, 1963 [19 of 1963]

(b) 'Central government office' includes -

(i) any Ministry Department or office of the central government.

(ii) any office a commission, committee or tribunal appointed by the central government and

(iii) any office of a corporation or company owned or controlled by the central Government.
(c) 'Employee' means any person employed in a Central Government Office.

(d) 'Notified Office' means an office notified under sub-rule (4) of rule (10):

(e) 'Proficiency in Hindi' means proficiency in Hindi as described in rule 9.

(f) 'Region A' means the states of Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and the Union Territories of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Delhi.

(g) 'Region B' means the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Punjab and the Union territory of Chandigarh.

(h) 'Region C' means the states and the union territories other than those referred to in clause (f) and (g). (l) 'working knowledge of Hindi' means working knowledge of Hindi as described in rule 10.

3. Communications to states etc. Other than to Central Government Offices

1. Communications from a central government office to a state or a union territory in Region 'A' or to any office (not being a central government office) or person in such state or Union territory shall, save in exceptional cases, be in Hindi and if any communication is issued to any of them in English it shall be accompanied by a Hindi translation thereof.

2. Communications from a central government office -
   a) to a state or union territory in Region 'B' or to any office not being a central government office in such state or union territory shall ordinarily...
be in Hindi and if any communication is issued to any of them in English, it shall be accompanied by a Hindi translation thereof.

Provided that if any such state or union territory desires the communications of any particular class of category or those intended for any of its offices, to be sent, for a period specified by the government of the state or union territory concerned, in English or in Hindi with a translation in the other language, such communication shall be sent in that manner.

(b) to any person in a state or union territory of Region 'B' may be either in Hindi or English.

3. Communication from a Central Government office to a state or union territory in Region 'C' or to any office (not being a central government office) or person in such state shall be in English.

4. Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rules (i) and (ii) communications from a central government office in Region 'C' to a state or union territory of Region 'A' or Region 'B' or to any office (not being a central government office) or person in such state may be either in Hindi or in English.

Provided that communications in Hindi shall be in such proportion as the central government may, having regard to the number of persons having working knowledge of Hindi in such offices, the facilities for sending communications in Hindi and matters incidental there to determine from time to time.
4. **Communications between Central Government Offices**

(a) between one Ministry or Department of the Central Government and another may be in Hindi or in English.

(b) between one Ministry or Department of the Central Government and attached or subordinate offices situated in region 'A' shall be in Hindi and such proportion as the central government may, having regard to the number of persons having a working knowledge of Hindi in such offices, the facilities for sending communications in Hindi and matters incidental there to determine from time to time.

(c) between central government offices situated in Region 'A' other than those specified in clause (a) or clause (b) shall be in Hindi.

(d) between central government offices situated in region 'A' and offices in region 'B' or region 'C' may be in Hindi or in English.

Provided that these communications shall be in Hindi in such proportion as the central government may having regard to the number of persons having working knowledge of Hindi in such offices, the facilities for sending communications in Hindi and matters incidental thereto, determine from time to time.

(e) between central government offices situated in region 'B' or region 'C' may be in Hindi or English.

Provided that these communications shall be in Hindi in such proportion as the central government may having regard to the numbers of persons having working knowledge of Hindi in such offices. The facilities for sending communications in Hindi and matters incidental thereto determine from time to time.
Provide that a translation of such communication in the other language shall -

(i) Where the communication is addressed to an office in region 'A' or region 'B' be provided, if necessary, at the receiving end.

(ii) Where the communication is addressed to an office in region 'C' be provided along with such communication.

Provide further that no such translation in the other language shall be required to be provided if the communication is addressed to a notified office.

5. **Replies to communications received in Hindi**

Notwithstanding anything contained in rules 3 and 4, communications from a central government office in reply to communications in Hindi shall be in Hindi.

6. **Use of both Hindi and English**

Both Hindi and English shall be used for all documents referred to in sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Act and it shall be the responsibility of the persons signing such documents to ensure that such documents are made, executed or issued both in Hindi and in English.

7. **Applications, representations etc.**

1. An employee may submit an application, appeal or representation in Hindi or in English.

2. Any application appeal or representation referred to in sub-rule (1) when made or signed in Hindi shall be replied to in Hindi.
3. Where an employee desires any order or notice relating to service matters (including disciplinary proceedings) required to be served on him to be in Hindi or as the case may be in English it shall be given to him in that language without undue delay.

8. **Noting in Central Government Offices**

1. An employee may record a note or minute on a file in Hindi or in English without being himself required to furnish a translation thereof in the other language.

2. No central government employee possessing a working knowledge of Hindi may ask for an English translation of any documents in Hindi except in the case of documents of legal or technical nature.

3. If any question arises as to whether a particular document is of a legal or technical nature, it shall be decided by the Head of the Department or office.

4. Notwithstanding any thing contained in sub-rule (i) the central government may, by order specify the notified offices where Hindi alone shall be used for noting, drafting and for such other official purposes as may be specified in the order by employees who possess proficiency in Hindi.

9. **Proficiency in Hindi**

An employee shall be deemed to possess proficiency in Hindi if:

a) He has passed the Matriculation or any equivalent or higher examination with Hindi as the medium of examination; or
b) He has taken Hindi as an elective subject in the degree examination or any other examination equivalent to or higher than the degree examination; or

c) he declares himself to possess proficiency in Hindi in the form annexed to those rules.

10. **Working knowledge of Hindi**

1) An employee shall be deemed to have acquired a working knowledge of Hindi:

   a) If he has passed:

      (i) The Matriculation or an equivalent or higher examination with Hindi as one of the subject; or

      (ii) The pragya examination conducted under the Hindi Teaching Scheme of the Central Government or when so specified by that Government in respect of any particular category of posts, any lower examination under that scheme; or

      (iii) Any other examination specified on that behalf by the central Government; or

   b) If he declares himself to have acquired such knowledge in the form annexed to these rules.

2) The staff of a Central Government office shall ordinarily be deemed to have acquired a working knowledge of Hindi of eighty percent of the staff working therein have acquired such knowledge.
3) The Central Government or any officer specified in this behalf by the Central Government may determine whether the staff of a Central Government office has acquired a working knowledge of Hindi.

4) The names of the Central Government offices, the staff whereof have acquired a working knowledge of Hindi, shall be notified in the official Gazette;

Provided that the Central Government may if it is of Opinion that the percentage of the staff working in a notified office and having a working knowledge of Hindi has gone below the percentage specified in sub-rule (2) from any that, it may by notification in the official Gazette declare that the said office shall cease to be a notified office from that date.

11. **Manuals, Codes, Other Procedural Literature, Articles of Stationery, etc.**

1) All manuals, codes and other procedural literature relating to Central Government offices shall be printed or cyclostyled, as the case may be and published both in Hindi and English in digolot form.

2) The forms and headings of registers used in any Central Government office shall be in Hindi and its English.

3) All nameplates sign boards, letter-heads and inscriptions on envelopes and other items of stationary written, printed or inscribed for use in any Central Government office shall be in Hindi and in English.
Provided that the Central Government may, that is considered necessary to do so by general or special order exempt any Central Government office from all or any of the provisions of this rule.

12. **Responsibility for Compliance**

1. It shall be the responsibility of the administrative head of each Central Government office:

   (i) to ensure that the provisions of the Act these rules and directions issued under sub-rule 2 are properly complied with and.

   (ii) to devise suitable and effective check points for this purpose.

2. The Central Government may from time to time issue such directions to its employees and officers as may be necessary for the full compliance of the provisions of the Act and those rules.

   The Central Government can announce an Act and its provisions and direct its employees for proper observance of these provisions.

After this Act in 1975 the Department of the official languages published several circulars in which there is a programme for the use of Hindi for 76-77. Moreover programmes are being chalked out in 1977-78, 78-79, 79-80, 80-81 for the gradual development in the use of time consequently Hindi is going ahead on the path of its progress.
In 1971 the central translation bureau was established under the Ministry of Homes for the translation of divergent manuals, set of rules, forms etc. This institution did a good job of enriching the official language Hindi by translating about 30,000 standard pages. Now its branches have been opened in Bombay and Bangalore.

A new department, namely official language department was established under the Home Ministry in 1975 for encouraging the use of Hindi. This department is rendering its service in this regard till now from the very date of its establishment.

5.7. **Constitutional Provisions regarding official language**

According to the article 343 (1) of the Indian constitution, the Hindi written in Devanagari script is the official language of the union, but there is also the provision that for a period of 15 years from the commencement of the constitution, that is till 25th January 1965, English will continue to be used for all official works as before. This provision was made so that those who did not know Hindi would be able to learn it and it would be made capable for all kinds of administrative works. The provision was also made that during this period, that is, before 1965, Hindi can be used with English by the order of the president.

**Official Language Policy of the Union**

Constitution of India - Part V (120), Part VI (210) and Part XVII

**PART - V**

**Language to be used in Parliament**

120 (1) Not withstanding any thing in part XVII, but subject to
the provisions of articles 348 business in parliament shall be transacted in Hindi or in English.

Provided that the Chairman of the council of states or speaker of the House of the people or person acting as such as the case may be may permit any members who cannot adequately express himself in Hindi or in English to address the House in his mother tongue.

(2) Unless parliament by law otherwise provides, this article shall after the expiration of a period of fifteen years from the commencement of this constitution, have effect as if the words 'or in English' were Omitted there from.

PART - VI
Language to be used in the Legislature

210(1) Notwithstanding anything in part XVII, but subject to the provisions of article 348, business in the legislature of a state shall be transacted in the official language or languages of the state or in Hindi or in English.

Provided that the speaker of the legislative Assembly or chairman of the legislative council, or person acting as such as the case may be, may permit any member who cannot adequately express himself in any of the languages aforesaid to address the House in his mother tongue (This article is not applicable to Jamu & Kashmir).
(2) Unless the legislature the state by law otherwise provides, this articles shall, after the expiration of a period of fifteen years from the commencement of this constitution have effect as if the words 'or in English' were omitted therefrom.

Provided that in relation to the legislatures of the states of Himachal Pradesh, Manipuri, Meghalaya and Tripura this clause shall have effect as if for the words 'twenty five years' were substituted.

PART - XVII

Language of the Union

343 (1) The official language of the union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script.

The form of numerals to be used for the official purposes of the union shall be the international form of Indian numerals.

(2) Not withstanding anything in clause (i) for a period of fifteen years from the commencement of this constitution, the English language shall continue to be used for all the official purposes of the union for which it was being used immediately before such commencement.

Provided that the president may, during the said period, by order authorise the use of the Hindi language in addition to the English language and of the Devanagari form of numerals in addition to international form of Indian numeral for any of the official purposes of the union.
(3) Notwithstanding anything in this article, Parliament may by law provide for the use, after the said period of fifteen years of-

a) The English Language, or

b) The Devanagari form of numerals, for such purposes as may be specified in the law.

Commission and Committee of Parliament on Official Language

344(1) The President shall, at the expiration of five years from the commencement of this constitution and thereafter at the expiration of ten years from such commencement by order constitute a commission which shall consist of a chairman and such other members representing the different languages specified in the eight schedule as the president may appoint and the order shall define the procedure to be followed by the commission.

(2) It shall be the duty of the commission to make recommendations to the president as to-

(a) The progressive use of the Hindi language for the official purposes of the union.

(b) Restrictions on the use of the English language for all or any of the official purposes of the union.

(c) The language to be used for all or any of the purposes mentioned in article 348.

(d) The form of numerals to be used for any one or more specified purposes of the union.

(e) Any other matter referred to the commission by the president as regards the official language of the union and the language for communication between the union and a state or between the state and another and their use.
(3) In making their recommendations under clause (2), the commission shall have due regard to the industrial, cultural and scientific advancement of India and the just claims and the interests of persons belonging to the non-Hindi speaking areas in regard to the public services.

(4) There shall be a constituted committee consisting of thirty members, of whom twenty shall be members of the House of the people and ten shall be members of the council of states to be elected respectively by the members of the council of states in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable votes.

(5) It shall be the duty of the committee to examine the recommendations of the commission constituted under clause (i) and to report to the president their opinion thereon.

(6) Not withstanding anything in article 343 the president, may after consideration of the report referred to in clause (5) issue direction in accordance with the whole or any part of that report.

Regional Languages

Official Language or Languages of a State

345, subject to the provisions of articles 346 and 347, the legislature of a state may by law adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the state or Hindi as the language or languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of that state.

Provided that, until the legislature of the state otherwise provides by law, the English language shall continue to be used for those official
purposes within the state for which it was being used immediately before the commencement of this constitution.

**Official Language for Communication between one State and another or between a State and the Union**

346. The language for the time being authorised for use in the union for official purposes shall be the official language for communication between one state and another state and between a state and the union.

Provided that if two or more state agree that the Hindi language should be the official language for communication between such state, that language may be used for such communication.

**Special Provision relating to language spoken by a section of the population of a state**

347. On a demand being made in that behalf the President may, if he is satisfied that a substantial proportion of the population of a state desire the use of any language spoken by them to be recognised by the state, direct that such language shall also be officially recognised throughout that state or any part thereof for such purpose as he may specify.

**Language of the Supreme Court, High Courts Etc.**

Language to be used in the Supreme Court and in the High Courts and for Act, Bills etc.

348 (1) Not withstanding anything in foregoing provisions of this part, until parliament by law otherwise provides -
(a) All proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court.

(b) The authoritative texts -

(i) of all Bills to be introduced or amendments there to be moved in either House of parliament or in the House or either House of the legislature of a state.

(ii) of all Acts passed by parliament or the legislature of a state and of all ordinances promulgated by the president or the governor of a state, and

(iii) of all orders, rules, regulations and bye-laws issued under this constitution or under any law made by parliament or the legislature of a state.

Shall be in the English language.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in sub clause (a) of clause (i) the governor of a state may, with the previous consent of the president authorise the use of the Hindi language or any other language used for any official purposes of the state in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that state.

Provided that nothing in this clause shall apply to any judgement, decree or order passed or made by such High Court.

(3) Notwithstanding anything in sub-clause (b) of clause (1) there the legislature of a state has prescribed any language other than the English language for use in Bills introduced in or Acts passed by the legislature
of the state or in ordinances promulgated by the governor of the state or in any order, rule, regulation or bye law referred to in paragraph (iii) of that sub-clause, a translation of the same in the English language published under authority of the governor of the state in the official Gazette of that state shall be deemed to be the authoritative text thereof in the English language under this article.

**Special Procedure for Enactment of Certain Laws relating to Language**

349. During the period of fifteen years from the commencement of this constitution, no bill or amendment making provision for the language to be used for any of the purposes mentioned in clause (i) of article 348 shall be introduced or moved in either House of Parliament without the previous sanction of the president and the president shall not give his sanction to the introduction of any such bill or the moving of any such amendment except after he has taken into consideration the recommendations of the commission constituted under clause (i) of article 344 and the report of the committee constituted under clause (4) of that article.

**Special Directives**

**Directive for Development of the Hindi Language**

351. It shall be the duty of the union to promote the spread of the Hindi language to develop it so that it may serve as medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India and to secure its enrichment by assimilating without interfering with its genius, the forms, style and expressions used in Hindustani and in other languages of India specified in the English schedule, and by drawing, where ever necessary or desirable, for its vocabulary, primarily on Sanskrit and secondarily on other languages.
5.8. **The Necessity of Amendment in the Official Language**

It is unfortunate that the subject of using Hindi and other Indian languages in place of English for conducting the affairs of the country is still under consideration even after the expiry of five decades of independence. Why does this shameful attitude still continue even as even as on 14th September, 1949, Hindi was granted the status of the official language and the other languages of India included in the 8th schedule of the constitution were accorded the status of national languages. But why till now are the activities and affairs of both government and non-government carried out in English and Hindi is neglected by other Indian languages? The correspondence of some of the government letters may be found in Hindi in the offices of some institutions or even government offices. But such figures and data are mere exceptions. The fact is that any type of official work, such as the affairs of the parliament, the functions of the judiciary, the activities of the Universities and the technical institutions, the study activities in the Universities, the functions of the books and financial institutions, travelling, law and order situation or any other activities linked with common people are carried out in English without any hesitation.
The arguments put forward in favour of English that English has been in use for hundred of years, lack of dependable reference books in Hindi or provincial languages etc. provide sufficient ground for the use of English. But why is it so in non-government activities? Why is English made compulsory for getting jobs in big business concerns like the Tatas and the Birlas and even for petty jobs in small concerns?

Even the people in the society are prone to use English in the daily activities of their life. Today we have the tendency to send our children to English medium Schools. As a result of this there is a mushroom growth of English medium schools in every area. These examples are enough to prove our infatuation with English to the utter neglect of Hindi and other Indian languages. Our interest in Hindi is confined to the T.V. serials and cinema and to buying vegetables and milk. The suggestions given by Dr. Desh Bhandhu Rajesh Tiwari to the government and the society for the use of Hindi are worth mention here.

1. The official language (Act 1963 amended 1967) is applicable to the central government offices/ institutions not to the non-government or private sector. But Hindi is regarded to be the language of the whole country from the very inception of the freedom movement. So there should be amendment without any delay in the official language Act so that it may apply to the offices and institutions of the private sectors.

2. Presently, according to article 3(3) of the Official language Act some important documents/ papers such as circulars, orders of the offices
etc. should be circulated both in English and Hindi, that is, in bilingual form. According to the need and demand of time we should realise that we have to carry out our works in Hindi and other regional languages along with English. There should be amendment in article 3(3) to the effect that the meaning of bilingualism should not imply English and Hindi, but Hindi and one regional language, so that any circular that is notified in any office in Assam should be in Hindi and Assamese.

3. The provision of the official language Act should be so amended that it would imply that any employee can carry on his work either in English or Hindi or in his regional language.

4. In the sphere of education the prevailing trilingual system should be reduced to bilingual, one in which Hindi should be accompanied with any Indian language.

5. There should be provision in the official language Act. to imply that the business establishment companies and offices in the Hindi speaking areas should write their signboards only in Hindi and those of other areas should do so both in Hindi and in the regional language.

6. In all kinds of jobs both government and non-government, the compulsion of English should be done away with and there should be provisions for the officers to give priority to the person having knowledge of Hindi or other Indian languages, in the matter of his appointment or promotion.
7. If the employees are to be given training regarding the execution of official affairs in Hindi, the trainer should go to the offices to impart such training.

8. All bright prospects conveyed to the employees, such as the letter of increment, loan sanction letter, appointment letter, letter of deputation, promotion notice etc. should be given in Hindi or in the regional language of the employees. This will help the employees to be passionately and psychologically attached to Hindi and other Indian languages.

9. The proceedings of the parliament, the broad casts relating to the game of cricket and other broadcasts concerning the welfare of the people and advertisements should be broadcast in Hindi or in the regional language.

10. There is a keen competition among the guardians to send their wards to the English medium schools. Both government and the people will have to come forward to minimise or to end this competition by explaining to them that knowledge cannot gained by studying through the English medium but by studying the subject deeply and by becoming proficient in it.

11. The common people must be on the alert while electing their leaders who can work for the unity, Progress and welfare of the language.

5.9. The Department of the Official Language Scheme of the Central Hindi Training Institution -

There is a plan for sanctioning grant to the voluntary organisations for the training of Hindi typing and short hand to the non-Hindi speaking Hindi typist and short hander under the central government.
Under this scheme the arrangement of imparting training of official Hindi to the non-Hindi speaking officers/employees, training of Hindi typing and steno to the typists and stenographers is being conducted under the official language department, Central Hindi Training Centre, under the Home Ministry and also under the Hindi teaching scheme for several years. The government of India has chalked out a plan to expedite the speed of the training under which the voluntary organisations would be sanctioned loans. The voluntary organisations should be such that (i) it should be registered under the Society Registration Act 1860 (Act XXI) (ii) it should exist for 2 or more than 2 years (iii) It should not be conducted for the personal benefit of any individual or group (iv) It should be capable of teaching the prescribe syllabus (Probodh, Prabin, Pragya, Hindi typing and Hindi short-hand) of the Central Hindi training organisation and the Hindi teaching scheme.

The field (area) of Training

The area of training to be chosen by the voluntary organisations are chiefly the north east frontier states Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Assam, Sikkim and the four states of the south. where there are no training centres either full fledged or even periodic and there is no provision for intensive training by the Hindi training institute or sub-institute. The decision of the official language department will be to select and establish training centres.

Session of Training

Under the Hindi teaching schemes, the training session for Hindi language (Probodh, Prabin, Pragya) begins from January to May and again
from July to November. The training session of Hindi typing begins from February to July and also from August to January and the training session of Hindi short hand begins from February to January and also from August to July.

The supply of Text-books

The supply of books required for imparting training to the central government employees by the voluntary organisations can be made available free of cost.

The Process of the Grant and Payment of money to the Voluntary Organisations

Grants will be given to these organisations on the basis of the number of Central Government employees trained under such organisations. The amount of the grant will be given in instalments. The first instalment is given on sending the application for examination by the employee and the second is given for sitting in the examination. The grant amount will be Rs. 500/- for each employee for Hindi language training and 750/- for Hindi typing and stenography.

Arrangement of Examination

The examinations will be arranged by Hindi Sikshan Yojana. The examinations for Hindi will be held in May and November and those for typing and short-hand will take place in January and July.

Note

The detailed information regarding this scheme, its conditions and application form can be had from the Deputy Director, Investigation and
5.10. The Importance of Official Language

India is a peculiar land where even after having diversities in languages, habits, customs and manners of the people the unity of thought and idea of the people exists. To strengthen this thought of national integrity or unity and also to bring the people much closer to each other we should have a link language spoken and understood all over the country.

Among the problems that our country had to face after independence the problems of the national or official language was of great importance and it needed a solution. India as we know, is a country of many and sundry languages. So after the independence the country needed a language which could culture the people afresh. At the same time the question of a national language and an official language which should be accepted by all became inevitable. As long as India was under subjection, the language of the ruler was the official language of the country. English is very important for its rich literature and international importance. There is no doubt about that. But it is a foreign language and to accept it as a national or official language is to expose our mental dependence as well as to ignore our national glory and honour.

Hindi was accorded the honour of the official language (or national language) as it was equipped with the integral antiquity historical charms, cultural consciousness, popularity, extention of word-Power, literary
gravity, broadness, beauty of script and simplicity. It is quite capable and suitable for maintaining the mental balance of any physical organisation of the nation as a whole. It can establish national unity by bringing the people together by its unbounded capacity.

In the Kanpur session of the congress, 1925 a resolution was accepted that the provincial congress committees should conduct their affairs in the regional languages or in Hindustani, but at the all India level, Hindi should be used for all purposes. Since that time on wards, Hindi became a means for fighting against the foreign rule. Moreover, Hindi was deemed fit for the language of communication for the whole of India. Hindi was established as the official language according to the constitution, for its varied merits and qualities. It has been called 'Sanghabhasa' or 'Rajbhasa' of the sangha, but not Rastrabhasa or the national language. But they both imply the same meaning. Many solid steps were adopted by the government for its propagation and extention and one among them is to encourage the use of Hindi in the government institutions. To commemorate this lofty mission, September 14 is celebrated as 'Hindi Dewas all over the country and some programmes are organised throughout the month so that people may understand the importance of Hindi and that the dream of national unity and integrity may come true.13

There is a re-awakening in India after the achievement of freedom. There has come about a great change with regard to language along with the change in the social economic and political fields. This is evident from the fact that Hindi has been accepted as the official language by the
Arrangements were made in the constitution became of India in 1950 that from January 26, 1965. Hindi would the official language of the whole of the country. This has fulfilled the hopes and aspirations of the Indian people. The constitution provided only the legal facility to Hindi. Infact, Hindi had occupied the glorious position of the national language much earlier. The Indian constitution has imprinted it with the legal seal immediately after establishing Hindi as an official language. It was essential for the Indian government to adopt bold steps for the use of Hindi in all official affairs, to maintain the sanctify of the constitution. But instead of doing so, a period of 15 years was reserved. The chief purpose of doing so was to allow a certain period within which the people of non-Hindi speaking states would learn Hindi faithfully to use it in all their day to day activities and social interaction. That would certainly help in spreading Hindi far and wide and make it easy to adopt by all the states.

As the language of the union, Hindi tries to establish the same relationship among the states which was done with the help of English. So. Hindi will be used for state correspondence. Hindi is used for the establishment of relationship among different states and the union government and also for bringing unity among them.

From the economic point of view too, it is essential to have a language for exchanging ideas and thoughts. There are seventeen languages referred to in the constitution of India. But it is essential for a country to have common language for communication in economic activities. No regional language except Hindi among these 17 languages is capable of establishing unity among different states in exchanging economic ideas and thoughts.
One will have to admit the importance of Hindi in the field of distribution. Hindi is the only language in India through which all the affairs can be smoothly carried out from one part of the country to the other. The majority of the people carry on their daily activities through Hindi. So the unity of a few in the fall of the unity of many is negligible. Hindi is such an important language of India that it has spread beyond the boundaries of India.

Hindi is the only language of the industrial and business areas. In this regard the number of those who speak English is almost negligible. In fact, the language of the whole trade and business is Hindi. Hindi is used in the jute mills of Bengal and the tea garden of Assam. So Hindi has its own importance in the sphere of business also. Here also it reflects a compromising and collective viewpoint. The workers in the industrial concerns speak Hindi and they use Hindi while talking to their officers.

Even if Hindi had not been settled by the constitution as the official language of the country, it would have enjoyed that status among the common mass. It would have continued as the chief language among the villagers, as a matter of fact it still continues to be so. It will be so even in the future though there may come about some change in its shape and structure. Being the official language of the union it has had to face certain restrictions and to accept different legal procedures.

Thus three distinct and clear phases of Hindi have emerged, namely the ordinary form which is spoken by the villagers, secondly, the
which is used in writing and education that is the purified and cleansed form
the third is the constitutional form which lacks the elasticity of the second
type, but is disciplined in strictness of form. It is also a refined form of Hindi
but with some difference.

5.11. The Condition of the Official language Hindi in Assam

In chapter two I have referred to the position of Hindi in Assam
in the past and have tried to underline the inception and development of
Hindi. In this chapter the present of Hindi in Assam will be discussed which
would help me to guess the future condition of Hindi in Assam. Here I cofine
my discussion on the propagations, extension, study and teaching, writing
and publication of Hindi in Assam.

The Present Condition of propagation of expansion of Hindi in Assam

It is chiefly Asom Rastrabhasa Prachar Samiti, Guwahati which
has should ered the responsibility of propagating and expanding Hindi in
Assam. It adopts two processes for discharging this duty. Firstly, by conducting
examinations and secondly, through its 'Pracharaks'. These two processes
are complementary to each other. The position of Hindi is being strengthened
with the amalgamation of the two.

Through the medium of examinations

The examinations in Hindi are organised by Asom Rastrabhasa
Prachar Samiti at various stages. They include 'Parichay', Prathama, Pravesika,
Probodh, Visharad and Praveen. About two lakh candidates appear in the
examinations (from parichay to Proveen) every year. The Samiti has established
about 900 Centres for conducting such examinations, it also proves that the Samiti performs its duty with great promptness we can guess from this that in the near future, Hindi will have a dominant role and that the people will accept it easily.

Through the Pracharaks

The Samiti appoints 'Pracharaks' who are engaged in the whole of Assam for the spread and expansion of Hindi. There are a considerable number of such pracharaks. The number of pracharaks will be about 13401. This is a work of great significance. These pracharaks are the backbone of the Samiti who try to attract the people towards Hindi and inspire the candidates to appear in the examinations. The people of Assam will face no inconvenience in accepting Hindi.

Miscellaneous

The Samiti also runs the typing and short hand classes and the translations which prepare many typists, stenos and translators of Hindi. This work requires incentive for its continuity.

Study - Teaching

The study and teaching plan can be divided into three groups (1) at the level of school (2) at the level of College and (3) at the level of the University.

At the School level

This also can be divided into two categories the schools running through Hindi medium and those running through non-Hindi medium, which
include even the Higher secondary schools. The schools run through Hindi medium need no elaboration since the majority of students in such schools are Hindi speaking. In non-Hindi speaking schools, Hindi is taught as a compulsory subject from class V to Class VII and it becomes an optional subject from class VIII to class X. This optional Hindi is studied in almost all the schools of Assam and about a lakh of students appear in the High school leaving certificate examination with Hindi as an optional subject. This tells us that the position of Hindi in Assam is firm and deeprooted. The students upto class X will be much more benefited if the subject is made compulsory upto class X and those possessing Hindi degree will not remain unemployed in most cases.

But the position of Hindi in Higher Secondary schools is not very satisfactory. It is so because the government appointed 23 Hindi teachers at the outset. Thereafter several Higher Secondary Schools were provincialised but the government did not appoint Hindi teachers in them. This shows the callous attitude of the government towards Hindi. If Hindi teachers are appointed in these schools then the students who are alert and eager to learn Hindi will be greatly benefited. But as a whole, the condition of Hindi is not satisfactory in such schools.

**At the college level**

There are three stages of college in Assam (1) Government College (2) Deficit college and (3) Non-deficit college.

There are three government colleges in Assam out of which only Cotton College, Guwahati has a Hindi department. There are no Hindi
departments in Diphu and Halflong Colleges. The students desiring to learn Hindi would have derived great benefits had there been Hindi departments in these colleges. The number of Deficit colleges in Assam is about 175 (one hundred seventy five) out of which at least 40 (forty) colleges have Hindi departments but rather partially, i.e. no college has the required number of teachers in the Department. Only the Pragijyotish College of Guwahati and Nowgaon College of Nowgaon have four teachers each on the staff. But there should be at least five teachers for the three years degree course, in the department. In most of these colleges only Hindi (M.I.L.) and elective Hindi is taught at the higher secondary & degree level. But there are at least 15 colleges in which the major course of Hindi is taught. The number of candidates appearing in the degree examination taking Hindi as the Major subject, in 1998 was about 160.

Incidentally, it may be noted that the colleges affiliated to Dibrugarh University have no Major in Hindi. The figures given above are only of Gauhati University which offers Major at the degree level. The facts and figures of the last few years show that the number of candidates appearing in Hindi is increasing gradually. These students will be much more benefitted if the government gives appointment to teachers in the departments of Hindi, which are running short of staff as per the requirements of the departments for teaching Hindi Major papers. Besides, there are some colleges with no department of Hindi, yet the alert and conscious students prepare the Hindi papers on their own and appear in the examinations.

The non-deficit colleges have Hindi departments owing to the alertness and vigilance of the people. This proves that the people of Assam
are curious to learn and read Hindi. This is an indication of the bright future of Hindi in this region. But a shade of gloom is also there because of the callous attitude of the government. But Hindi is bound to flourish automatically in a region where people are geared to learn it with full curiosity and in all earnestness.

**At the University level**

There are two universities at the state level in Assam and two at the central level, out of which Gauhati University is the only one where the teaching of Hindi is being conducted very smoothly. However, it is a heartening fact that the Assam University at Silchar, which is a Central University has established the Hindi department and the teaching of Hindi has just been started. The Hindi department of Gauhati University is playing a significant role. Here every year 60 students get themselves enrolled which is a fairly big number. Besides this, Cotton College - Guwahati, also has the post graduate department in Hindi where about 25 students are admitted every year. Thus about 85 students as regular candidates and 25 students as private students appear in the M.A. examination every year. This number is quite satisfactory. Gauhati University organises seminars from time to time besides its regular teaching. It also arranges symposiums by inviting people from other departments and students derive benefits from them.

The Hindi department of Gauhati University had prepared a syllabus of official Hindi which was approved by the faculty committee and the Academic council and it was sent to the Assam government for concurrence, but unfortunately it is still lying with the government. Had it
been brought into force, the students of Hindi translators and Hindi officers would have become qualified and consequently would have a bright future.

5.12. Conclusion

In the structure of education there are certain vital points which should draw the attention of those who are related to this sphere and specially, of those officers who are connected with the official language.

Firstly, there is no provision for the training of translation in our colleges and universities for the graduates and post graduates in the prevailing educational system. Such a course has been started in Gauhati University for imparting knowledge of practical Hindi with a syllabus of its own. But it is still in its beginning stage. Because of this, even the students passing in the first class find it difficult to translate anything in the practical field. It is so also because of the fact that in the practical field most of the things are done through English which occupies the supreme position even in the field of education.

Secondly, the use of Hindi was till now chiefly confined to literature, journalism and education, not in the practical field of life. Long back, in the feudal times, Hindi was used for trade and commerce. That is why we have a good stock of vocabulary relating to trade and commerce, at our disposal. We have genuine difficulty in translating matters concerned with law administration, trade and commerce and also social and practical life. The main cause of this difficulty is that for a long period. English was being used in the sphere of banking, commerce, business and law in India.
The purpose of this objective, analysis of the limits for those engaged in translation works is that they should be made conscious of the limits within which they are to work in the area of translation in the banking services, so that a practical attitude can be adopted for the training of translation at the institutional level.

In the education system at the University level, the following points may prove useful for the arrangement of training in translation.

1. Arrangement should be made for imparting training in all aspects of practical Hindi such as policy of official language, translation, correspondence, noting, drafting, technical vocabulary, legal terminology, advertisement, literature, administrative, reporting, programmes relating to meetings etc.

2. For the progress of the official language Hindi in the government offices a chair should be created in the Universities for preparing capable trainers for translation training in the financially fit institutions like Banking and Railways. This will prove to be a useful step in the promotion of Hindi in the govt. institutions. These chair can prepare specialists in their academic capacity for building vocabulary in the spheres of philology and translation. For conducting the degree and diploma curriculum co-operation of University Grant Commission can also be taken.

3. It will be useful to take help from the persons associated with translation work in the practical field for preparing the curriculum. A systematic
curriculum can be prepared with the advice of the high level officers of the Home Ministry, the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bureau of translation The Indian Reserve Bank of India, the banks of public areas and from the official language departments engaged in various activities. This can prepare capable original translators in the institutes of practical activities.

4. For the training of such a curriculum, the trainers selected should be persons who are not only connoisseurs, theorists, or academicians but also experts at translation work and practical Hindi who should be associated with such curriculum.

If such persons cannot be utilised as per the rules and formalities of the colleges and universities as full time trainers, their services can even be utilised as part time helpers.

5. A function lab faculty should be an important aspect of this curriculum. Such a lab should be equipped with written record, language disks, electronic type writer, bilingual computer, language slides and word processors and other modern instruments and equipment. There should be two or three faculties for it. Firstly, the academic faculty, which should help in preparing the reference materials and research papers. Secondly, the functional faculty which should be confined to training exercises and thirdly the technical faculty which should be engaged in preparing curriculum executives and technical experts.

6. A training programme should be prepared with the help of those persons who are engaged in the practical fields of translation work, lectures
on philology, grammar, literature, comparative philology and translation should be provided for the making of good trainees of translation.

The institutes and undertakings discharge various administrative activities to train their employees at various levels, according to the nature of the area of work. This training is based on both theoretical and practical principles. Those who are employed afresh should be acquainted with the curriculum related to the inductive principles of the institute in respect of the staff associated with the official language Hindi. So that they may acquire the practical knowledge of the chief departments such as administration law etc. This will help them to carry on their work with more confidence.

If our union government is really interested in making Hindi the official language of the country, it should adopt the following procedure.

The official language Act should be implemented strictly. Those foreign words and words coming into Hindi from other languages of the country, should be recognised. The official works should be conducted in original Hindi, not in its translated form. The students in schools and colleges should be acquainted with the practical and realistic form of Hindi. The employees and officers should be inspired to speak and write Hindi. Hindi symposia, Kavi Sammelan and other competitions should be organised by the government from time to time. Libraries should be opened in Head offices and in those affiliated to it and the employees should be inspired to study the books available there.
References

   Vani Prakashan, New Delhi, Page No 11
2. Dr. Rameswar Mishra. Rastrabhasa, Hindi ka SwarupVidhan.
   Bharatiya Granth Niketan, Delhi, Page No 54
   Vani Prakashan, New Delhi, Page No 12
4. Dr. Rameswar Mishra. Rastrabhasa Hindi ka Swamp vidhan.
   Bharatiya Granth Niketan, Delhi, Page No 55
5. Saptangan (Monthly Journal) - National Insurance Company Ltd.
   Regional Office, Guwahati, Page No 16
   Proveen Prakashan, New Delhi, Page No 150
   Delhi, Page No 177
   Govt. of India, Page No 78
   Delhi, Page No 184
10. Dr. Kailash Chandra Bhatia - Hindi Bhasa.
    Sahitya Bhavan Pvt. Ltd. Allahabad, Page No 147
11. Dr. Deshbandhu Rajesh Tiwari - The Sentinel (Hindi daily).
    Sentinel Group, Guwahati - 15th September'97
    Sentinel Group, Guwahati 5th July'98
    Lucknow - Page No. 33