PREFACE

Karbi Anglong, which was known previously as Mikir Hills, is a small district within the state of Assam with its Karbi population, occupies an important position in the cultural and linguistic domain of the state. The Karbi people have their own spoken tongue but they have adopted Assamese as their first language for all purposes, and the education is also provided to them through the medium of Assamese.

The Karbi language is highly influenced by the neighbouring languages of Indo-Aryan and non Indo-Aryan groups of languages. One cannot ignore the importance of Karbis and till now no serious study has been done on the Karbis. Therefore an attempt has been made to prepare this thesis. It is necessary, however, for developing mutual understanding and goodwill, to increase bidirectional communication between the tribal and non-tribal people of this eastern most part of the country.

Accordingly, I prepared the scheme of this thesis, where I try to present a critical study of the Karbi people and their language as spoken mainly in the Diphu Sub-Division of this district. So, I have visited some important areas of these two sub-divisions i.e. Diphu and Hamren Sub-Divisions and finally selected Karbi villages
of these two sub-divisions - on the instructions and guidance of my Research guide Professor S. N. Goswami. My present work is completed in four different parts: Introduction, Karbi people and their culture, Karbi language and Bibliography and Appendix. Introduction part covers the general information of the Karbis, linguistic elements and cultural elements of the Karbi people in brief. In the second part i.e. the Karbi people and their culture an attempt has been made to present a brief history of the community, their life and society, their tongues and literature etc. The language part is actually a descriptive analysis of the phonology and morphology of the Karbi language. Besides that, a list of Karbi words, few sentences, poems, proverbs, songs and short-stories etc. as specimens are also added in the Appendix part. This is an humble attempt to give a history of the Karbi people and an analysis of the Karbi language. In doing this analysis the principles and the methods of modern descriptive linguistics have been followed in the line of my predecessors.

I must admit that the above work will always inspire me as a light to go ahead with this type of linguistic analysis in future.

Sibsagar College, Joysagar
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(Arpana Konwar)
Lecturer,
Department of Assamese.