Chapter VI

CONCLUSION

6.1. Ethnically the Rabhas belong to the Mongoloid stock and linguistically they are the speakers of Bodo group of languages under Tibeto-Burman languages. Their languages is closely related to the Garo language. The Rabhas are distributed in Kamrup, Goalpara and Darrang districts of Assam. A section of the Rabhas also inhabits the northern region of the east Garo Hills district of Meghalaya adjoining the Rabha habitat in Kamrup and Goalpara districts of Assam.

The Rabhas comprise a number of socio-cultural linguistic groups viz. the Pāti, Rangdāni, Māitorī, Totlā, Bitoliā, Dāhuri, Shongā etc. The first three groups constitute the major Rabha population.

The Rabhas of the Kamrup district are inhabitants of plain areas and they are surrounded by the caste Hindu populations. They have lost their Tibeto-Burman dialect long back, and at present they identify as the speakers of Assamese. They are now, known as Assamese speaking tribal community of Assam.

The Rabha family is based on patriarchal pattern, father or in his absence the next male elder is considered to be the authoritative head of the family. Sometimes women bear the responsibility as heads of their families, but they are mostly widows with or without children.
6.2. The primitive Social Systems are still well preserved by the Rabha people. They select one person (elderly) as the village head man, whom they call 'gaon burah'. They tackle their local problems by themselves under the guidance of the village head man. Even now many of them are afraid of the police.

Their traditional System of religion in the worship called 'Langa puja' (Shiva), 'Marai puja' and the festivals 'Bāikho' and 'Khokchi puja'. They also worship other Gods, and Goddesses with sacrifice of animals and birds as other sections of Hindu people.

6.3. The Rabha dialect forms a part of the Bodo language, which again belongs to the Assam-Burmese branch of Tibeto-Burman linguistic group. No separate script of this dialect, the Assamese script is used for writing. The Rabha dialect is more akin to the Garo-dialect then to any other of the Tibeto-Burman linguistic group.

In respect of language, it has been observed that the Rabhas possess a different dialect, which is called 'Rabha language'. The Rabha language is now confined among the Rangđāni and the Māitorī groups. The 'Koch' or 'Kochā' another groups of Rabha is also speak the same language spoken by the two former groups but their word structure and phonetics differ slightly\(^1\). The pāṭis, Totlās and the Dāhuries has already lost their own dialect\(^2\).

Efforts have been made to standardize the language and to impart education at the primary level through the mother tongue. ‘The Bebak

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1. Rava, Hareswar, 'Rava Bhasa Aru Eyar Gathán' – an article.
2. Rava, heremba, 'Rava Samaj Sanskritir Gabesanar Dhara' – an article.
Rabha kraurang Runchum’ is a literary organization for the development of the Rabha language.

The ‘Rabha Bhasa Parishad’ of Dudhnoi, another literary organization has taken up seriously the case of developing this language in a scientific nature.

6.4. Here, in this analysis covering six different chapters, an attempt has been made to give a picture of the grammar of the Rabha language. Besides that a brief identification of the Rabha people alongwith their culture, customs and their dialectical verifies and elaborated with proper illustrations.

6.5. The Rabha language, now has been taught in the primary level in the Kamrup and Goalpara district. Moreover, the Rabha Bhasa Parishad has also taken up some teaching programmes of the Rabha language in the live of Hindi teachings implemented by the Asssam Rashtra Bhasa Prasar Parisad. This is widely accepted by the Rabha Community.

6.6. Most of the Rabha people are actually bilingual as they use both Rabha and Assamese in both the domestic and social situations. But due to the small number of the Rabha community and their scattered settlement people afraid that the language may not be developed as desired, because of the wide spread growth of the English and Assamese medium schools.

6.7. In this analysis the grammatical aspects of the Rabha language is given with sufficient illustration for better understandings. This study is also supported with sufficient materials given under Appendix and Bibliography.

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