PREFACE

With the cordial guidance of Dr. S.N. Goswami, formerly Rabindranath Tagore Professor of G.U., a dynamic personality and linguist, I have taken up the study of the Rabha language for my doctoral research. Dr. S.N. Goswami accepted me as his research student with an open mind and guided me with keen interest in every step of my research work. His help and affection, careful guidance and encouragement pushed me to go ahead in preparation of my thesis. I am indeed greatly indebted to my teachers of the Department of M.I.L. as well as Assamese. I, therefore, with an open mind express my gratitude to my guide for his painstaking labour in going through the entire draft of my thesis.

The Rabha language is highly influenced by the languages of the neighbouring tribes belong to both the Indo-Aryan and non-Indo-Aryan groups. One can not ignore the importance of the Rabha language as a tribal spoken language, but till now a little serious study has been done on the Rabhas. Therefore, an attempt has been made to prepare this thesis. Such work is necessary for the mutual understanding and good-will to increase bi-directional communication between the tribal and non-tribal people of this north-eastern region of the country popularly known as the home of seven sisters’.

Accordingly, I prepared the scheme of this thesis, where I have tried to present a descriptive-Analysis of the Rabha-language as spoken mainly in the Goalpara district, and so I had to visit a good numbers of Rabha
villages in some selected areas within Goalpara and Guwahati sub-divisions. I have collected most of the data for my thesis from those villages with the help of informants as per instructions and guidance of my research guide, Professor S.N. Goswami. My present work is divided mainly into seven different parts: Introduction, Phonology, Morphology, Vocabulary, Syntax, Bibliography, and Appendix. The first two chapters cover Introduction, i.e., a general information of the Rabhas along with their linguistic and cultural life in brief, while I deal in others four chapters mainly the grammatical sides of the Rabha language. Besides these analysis a list of Rabha words, a few sentences, tales, proverbs, songs, short stories etc. are also added as specimens in the Appendix. This is a humble attempt to give an analysis of the Rabha language as spoken by the community. In carrying out this analysis the principles and the methods of modern descriptive linguistic analysis have been followed.

I must admit that the above work will always inspire me to undertake farther this type of linguistic analysis in future. Since this is my first attempts in the field of research I have nothing to boast of.

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