NOTATIONS AND CONVENTIONS

Examples from Assamese are given in simple phonemic transcription which uses one symbol per distinctive sound i.e. phoneme and provides one with reading conventions. The symbols used are mostly in conformity with those of the IPA chart. Departures, explained below, were prompted by typographical considerations. The consonant and vowel phonemes are symbolized below with brief indications of the sound values attached to the symbols (the arithmetical symbol (=) is to be read as "Symbolizes").

Consonant phonemes:

/p/ = Voiceless bilabial stop
/pʰ/ = Aspirated bilabial stop
/b/ = Voiced bilabial stop
/bʰ/ = Murmured bilabial stop
/t/ = Voiceless alveolar stop
/tʰ/ = Aspirated alveolar stop
/d/ = Voiced alveolar stop
/dʰ/ = Murmured alveolar stop
/k/ = Voiceless velar stop
/kʰ/ = Aspirated velar stop
/g/ = Voiced velar stop
/gʰ/ = Murmured velar stop
/m/ = Voiced bilabial nasal
/n/ = Voiced alveolar nasal
/p/ = Voiced velar nasal
/s/ = Voiceless alveolar fricative
/z/ = Voiced alveolar fricative
/h/ = Voiceless pharyngeal fricative
/m/ = Murmured glottal fricative
/l/ = Voiced alveolar lateral
/r/ = Voiced alveolar flapped
/w/ = Voiced labiovelar approximant
/j/ = Voiced palatal approximant

Departures from IPA conventions: Typographical compulsions necessitate the following departures. The symbol ( ~ ) is to be read as "used in place of IPA prescribed".

/n/ ~ /ŋ/
/p/ ~ /ʰ/
/m/ ~ /ʰ̩/
/r/ ~ /ɬ/

Vowel phonemes:

/i/ = Front close unrounded vowel
/e/ = Front half-close unrounded vowel
/e/ = Front half-open unrounded vowel
/a/ = Front open unrounded vowel
Back open rounded vowel
Back half-open rounded vowel
Back half-close rounded vowel
Back close rounded vowel

Departures:

/g/   ->  /ɛ/
/o/   ->  /ɔ/
/ʊ/   ->  /o/
/ / enclose phonemic transcriptions
{ } enclose contentives and functors
/ choice of items e.g. I/We 'I or We'.

Abbreviations and other symbols will be clarified when they are first used in the text.

Intonational features used in this study are symbolized below:

stress : (symbolized by /'\*/)
: (unstressed syllables are unmarked)

Junctures : (symbolized by /+/)

pitch-levels : (a) rising tone = /\/
(b) falling tone = /\/

terminal contours (a) rising termination = /\!
(b) falling termination = /\!
(c) intonation unit boundary = /!/!

centre : (symbolized by underlining /\_\/)