3.00 Stress.

Dr. Kakati has been discussed about the stress of the Kamrupi dialect in Assamese its Formation and Development (PP. 83-87). On the basis of the discussion a special treatment about the stress of the Barpeta dialect has been given here. 'Syllables which are pronounced with a greater degree stress than the neighbouring syllables in a word or sentence are said to be stressed or (more accurately) pronounced with strong stress. Syllables pronounced with a relatively small degree of stress are said to be unstressed or (more accurately) pronounced with weak stress'. Stressed syllables or strong stresses are marked by placing ' immediately before them. The weak stress are unmarked. It is found needfull to postulate 'secondary stress in polisyllabic word' preceding the main stress. The sign, may be used to denote the secondary stress.

3.01 Stress in word classes:

In Kamrupi dialect the stress always falls on the first syllable in all classes of words. Barpeta dialect has a strong stress in the initial syllable in a word. It shortens the word and the medial vowel is lost. For instance we can take the following examples from nouns and adjectives; e.g.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Std. Assamese</th>
<th>B.D.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/fialdhi/ 'turmaric'</td>
<td>/'faldhi/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/zukhola/ 'ladder'</td>
<td>/'zakhla/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/bhomora/ 'black-bee'</td>
<td>/'bhomra/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. ibid : ibid.
In case of verbs and adverbs the stress possesses the initial syllable in the Barpeta dialect as opposed to medial syllable in the standard Assamese. The initial stress shortens or loss the unstressed medial syllable, e.g.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Std. Assamese</strong></th>
<th><strong>B.D.</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/pulai/ 'flees'</td>
<td>/'poloi/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/uthai/ 'raises'</td>
<td>/'uthoi/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/bisare/ 'searches'</td>
<td>/'bisre/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/omale/ 'sports'</td>
<td>/'omle/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/ubhale/ 'up-root'</td>
<td>/'ubhle/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/bhitprat/ 'inside'</td>
<td>/'bhitre/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/xidina/ 'on other day'</td>
<td>/'xidna/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/enkevi/ 'in this way'</td>
<td>/'enke/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/upprat/ 'above'</td>
<td>/'uprot/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.02 Stress in causative verbs.

In standard Assamese the causative morpheme {-a} is suffixed to the non-causative very root as opposed to {-o} in the Barpeta dialect. This causative morpheme '-a occupying a position of medial stress remains but shortens the preening -a- of the transitive base. Where as in the Barpeta dialect it is found different; e.g.

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1. Kakati, B : 'A.F.D', 1987, P.84
3.03 Stress in substantives.

Due to initial stress vowel variation are seen in the following substantives.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Std. Assamese</th>
<th>B.D.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/zoai/ 'son-in-law'</td>
<td>/'zaːe/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/bopai/ 'a term of endearment'</td>
<td>/'baːa/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/endur/ 'rat'</td>
<td>/'indur/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/xendur/ 'vermilion'</td>
<td>/'xindur/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/kapor/ 'cloth'</td>
<td>/'kapur/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/mako/ 'shuttle'</td>
<td>/'maku/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/kopal/ 'fore-head'</td>
<td>/'kapal/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/pohor/ 'light'</td>
<td>/'pohor/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/gobor/ 'cowdung'</td>
<td>/'gobor/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/dokan/ 'shop'</td>
<td>/'dokan/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/sotal/ 'court-yard'</td>
<td>/'sotol/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/kpthal/ 'a kind of fruit'</td>
<td>/'kpthal/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.04 Stress in vowel clusters:

The strong initial stress shortens the vowel clusters 'ai', 'ai' to 'e', and 'ou' to 'o', 'u' occurring in the final position of the word; e.g.
When the penultimate stress from the Std. Assamese is shifted to the initial syllable of the word in the Barpeta dialect we get double forms medially due to strong initial stress; e.g.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Std. Assamese</th>
<th>B.D.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/kəra/ 'coarser flour of parched rice'</td>
<td>/ˈkare/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/akha/ 'fried paddy'</td>
<td>/ˈakhe/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/kərdə/ 'a kind of fruit'</td>
<td>/ˈkədə/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/gəre/ 'a kind of fish'</td>
<td>/ˈgəre/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/kəbo/ 'supplication'</td>
<td>/ˈkəbo/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/fəlu/ 'a species of monkey'</td>
<td>/ˈfəlu/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Vowel with Secondary Stress:

'There is a secondary stress on the final vowel if the final syllable is an open one and the medial vowel is then slurred over; e.g.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Std. Assamese</th>
<th>B.D.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>/stpta/ 'flat'</td>
<td>/ˈstptə/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/pakhra/ 'spotted'</td>
<td>/ˈpakhra/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/bhomora/ 'black-bee'</td>
<td>/ˈbhomora/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/tukura/ 'piece'</td>
<td>/ˈtukura/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Kakati, B : 'A.F.D' 1987, P. 86
3.05 **Stress in Prefixes:**

Words formed by adding prefixes have initial stresses on the prefixes. The suffixes do not affect the stress. Examples of certain such prefixes are given below:

- **d-bat,** /′tbat/ 'wrong way'
- **d-mat,** /′mat/ 'speechless'
- **b-buz,** /′buz/ 'ignorant'
- **ku-kam,** /′kukam/ 'bad work'
- **ku-mat,** /′kumat/ 'abusive language'
- **ku-nam,** /′kunam/ 'defamation'
- **xu-ph l,** /′xuphol/ 'good result'
- **xu-nam,** /′xunam/ 'fame'

The negative prefixes are added to the verb roots. These negative Prefixes Possess strong initial stress. After Prefixation some verb forms are shortened and some are not, e.g.

- n -sina, /nisina~/′nisna/ '(you, inf.) donot know.'
- n -dikha, /ndikha~/′ndkha/ '(you, inf.) donot see.'
- n -mata, /namata~/′namta/ '(you inf.) donot call.'
- n -kora, /nkora~/′nkra/ '(you, inf.) donot do'.
- n -xia, /′nixia/ '(you inf.) donot sew.'
- n -ura, /′nura/ '(you, inf.) donot wear.'
- n -xuna, /′nuxuna/ '(you, inf.) donot hear.'

3.06 **Stress in Compound Words:**

One word in a sequence of two words which are called compound words alone requires the initial stress; e.g.
In a sequence of two words the first word requires the initial stress; e.g.

'/burfati/ 'one of the twenty-two haties of Barpeta satra'.
'/phatafati/ 'the name of a 'hati' of Barpeta satra'.
'/bhokapara/ 'a division of the Barpeta town'.
'/gonoikkusi/ 'a division of the Barpeta town'.
'/meutakusi/ 'a division of the Barpeta town'.

'When the second element of a compound is felt to of special importance double stress is used'¹. e.g.

'/bela'bathi/ 'afternoon'.
'/borer 'pua/ 'very early in the morning'.
'/bhur 'dipra/ ~ /'bhod'dipra/ 'noon'.
'/sara 'rati/ 'all night'.
'/sopn'rati/ 'all night'.

3.07 Stress in sentence:

Generally we stress those words in sentences that are important for meaning. The meaning of one sentence having the same words may be changed.

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¹ Jones, D: 'An outline of English Phonetics,' 1979, p.259
by using stress in any word of the sentence, e.g.

'/xi ghorok zae/ 'he only goes home'.
/xi ghorok zae/ 'he goes home itself'.
/xi ghorok zae/ 'he goes only home'.

The weak stress occurs in the next immediate syllable of the strong stress in a word. In the above examples the weak stress occurs in the second syllable of the stressed word. In a sentence the stresses of other words become weak except the word in which the strong occurs.

The adverbs are stressed when occur in the initial position in a sentence. In such a sentence the subject is optional; e.g.

/‘ithen nazra/ '(I) donot go now'.
/xulkante ahibhi/ '(you, inf.) will come soon'
/nitte ane nite zae/ '(he) always comes and goes.'
/'kitchen gel kuba noru/ '(I) can't say when (he) left.'
/'kitchen zaua koi zabi/ '(you) will inform when (you) go'.

The conjunctions/kintu/ 'but'/ar/,/ar> /'and' are stressed when link up two independent clauses; e.g.
/xigel 'kintu moi negolu/ 'he left but I did not.'
/moi itu anim 'ar nanu/' I will bring this only and will bring nothing.
/moi zam 'ar> kamtu korim/ 'I will go, and will do the work'

The conjunction/tøthapi/ 'even then' is stressed when link up one dependent clause with one independent clause; e.g.
/tak 'emn matlu 'tothapi xi nahi/ 'I called him so much even then he did not come.'

The conjunction/zodi/ 'if' in the initial position is stressed when introducing two dependent clauses; e.g.

/'zodi xi ahe mo dim/ 'if he comes I will give.'

When /kuni/'who', /kar/ 'whose', /kot/, /kok/ 'where etc. are used as interrogative pronouns in question type sentences they are stressed, e.g.

/'kuni aihs/ 'who has come'.
/itu 'kar ghor/ 'whose house is this.'
/'kot thaka/ 'where do you live.'
/todi 'kok za/ 'where do you go.'

When introducing a question, /ar/ 'and' is stressed; e.g.

/'aro lage/ 'do you want again'? 
/'aro dim/ 'shall I give again'? 

In affirmative statements for the sake of emphasis the auxiliary and the modal is stressed; e.g.

/moi khai 'as/ 'I am eating'.
/xi khaba 'pare/ 'he can eat'.

In imperative type of sentence when the speaker expresses command, entreaty, warning, advice etc. it would be stressed; e.g.

4.00 Intonation.

'Intonation may be defined as the variations which take place in the pitch of the voice in connected speech. According to the variation intonation in the Barpeta dialect may be falling, rising, level, fall-in-rising and high-rising.

4.01 Variation of intonation.

4.01.1 Falling.

It is used in ordinary statements and in questions containing an interrogative word which are neutral such as /naki/, /ki/, /kuni/ etc; e.g.

/xi'ghorok gel/ 'he went home.'
/'tai zabo/ 'she will go.'
/xi 'zabo naki/ 'will he go'?
/te 'ki boise/ 'what is happened here'?
/itu 'kuni dilak/ 'who gave this'?

The utterance starts in low pitch. There is slight rise on the stress syllable and after that fall in the next syllable. The utterance starts in slight higher pitch when the stress occurs initially. In the final syllable pitch falls to lower level at the end.

The final vowel of the last word is short and the consonant ends voiceless.

4.01.2 Rising.

It is used in question requiring the answer 'yes' or 'no' and in polite requests; e.g.

/xi ghôrok 'gel/ 'did he go home?'
/tai 'zabo/ 'will she go?'
/moi zaba 'paruna/ 'may I go?'

The utterance starts in slight low pitch. There is a slight rise on the stressed syllable and after that pitch rises higher level at the end.

The final vowel is slight long and the final consonant ends in glottal closure.

4.01.3 Level.

It is used in command or requests and in other sense; e.g.

/tɔi t̪ən 'za/ 'you (inferior) go now!'
/apni 'khaːp/ 'you please eat!'
/tufun 'bhitre 'ah/ 'you please come in!'

/xiti 'kitar ghor/ 'that is kirtanaghara'.

The utterance starts in level pitch. It is followed by the same pitch into the last word. There is a slight fall on the final syllable.

The final vowel of the last word may be long or slight long and the final consonant ends voiceless.

4.01.4 Falling-Rising.

The pitch expresses the notions of doubt, unpleasant news, insult, happiness, reassurance etc. e.g.

/exi 'zabona/ 'will he go!' (but I cannot think).
/koinatu 'thoga/ 'the bride is beautiful!' (but she is not cultured).
/buratu 'gel/ 'Alas! the old man is dead!' (it is a sad news for me).
/tai 'zabo/ 'she will go!' (what a shame!).
/exi ghorok 'gel/ 'he went home!' (but I could not think that he will go).

The utterance starts in low pitch. It is followed by the same pitch before the last word. There is a very fall on the stress syllable and after that a gradual rise.

The final vowel is slight long and the final consonant ends in glottal closure.

4.01.5  **High-rising.**

It expresses the notion of surprise. In exclama-
tions of astonishment a high degree of surprise is expressed
e.g.

/ɪxi 'poril/ 'he is flung off !'
/ɪkʰaɾa 'zuk/ 'this is a leese'! (a leese on
my hand ; please drive it quickly)

The utterance starts in very high pitch. There
is a high rise in the stressed syllable and after that
pitch rises to higher level at the end.

The final vowel is short and the final consonant
ends in unreleased glottal closure.

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Foot notes :  Different Linguists have been analyzed
intonation pattern in different ways. Here
intonation pattern of the Barpeta dialect
has been prepared according to the traditional
method. We accept this method for the
advantage for discussion.