HISTORY OF LANGUAGE STUDY IN ASSAM AND INDIA

Written by Daisy Saikia

M. Phil Research Scholar Guwahati University Assam India

ABSTRACT

'History of language study in India and Assam' through this subject mainly try to discuss about the language related study that continuing in India and Assam and also about the language scholars who extended language study from time to time. On account of India, it seems that language related thought practice running from Vedic age. On other hands in Assam language study started after British officers and American missionaries came. In the main discussion part try to discuss how linguist study a language by writing and publishing grammar, dictionaries also by discovering language theory.

INTRODUCTION

From ancient age there is a glimpse of Language study in India, but or account of Assam the history of Language Study is not so old. It can be say that Language study started in Assam after british officers and Missionaries came. They create the history of language study by composing and publishing Assamese grammar and dictionary.

William Robinson the path maker of Assamese Grammar Composition, His book “A Grammar of Assamese Language” published in 1836 from Sri Rampur is the first grammar of Assamese Language. In 1846 Nathan Brown wrote the second grammar namely “Grammatical notices of the Assamese Language” Though Hem Chandra Baruah was the first person who compose the first Assamese Grammar Completely in Assamese medium His “Ax Omiya Bashar Byakoron” is the grammar where he established the rules of character pairing for the first time. Later on this grammar newly published as “Ax Omiya Byakoron” in 1873 and Ax Omiya Lorar Byakoron” in
1882. It’s worthy to mention that latter on Assamese grammar that composed ware according to ideology of Hem Chandra Boruah.

Other hand in 1867 Miles Bronson composed 14000 words dictionary namely “Assamese and English Dictionary Ax Omiya aru Engraji Abhidhan”

As like this from the middle of 19th Century we got serial history of language thought practice in Assam. Language thought practice of this century was mainly grammar centric. Where we see two approach of grammar composition First one is grammar for practical use published by British and missionaries and 2nd one is Hem Chandra Boruah grammar approach which published for school according to Sanskrit grammar ideology.


Upendranath Goswami, Axomiya Byakoran (1981), Axomia Bhasa aru Upobhasa(1986) Axomiya Lipi are the books that gave nutrition in the field of language study in assam. More over Bhagwan Marals Bhasartho Vigyan(1986) has importance in semantics study that published in this decade.


**HISTORY OF LANGUAGE STUDY IN INDIA**

When we study the history of Language study in India, it seems that the language study in India is running from Vedic age 2500AD in Rig-Veda it seems the discussion of meaning of Language.

After the Vedas we found analysis of language in Brahman book. In this book we got basic discussion on (Phonology), junction, affix, number system etc. After this in “Vedanta’s” and
“Niruktaa” gave some information on Language, Yascarya, the author of Nirukta who originate the method of meaning analysis and derivatives by forming the Vedic word Yascaryas this effort gave an amen to dictionary composition.

In 5th AD Panini wrote Sanskrit Grammar “The Ashtadhyayi” European and American Scholar got new source of Language study by Learning this grammar. After Panini Katyaan and Patanjali gave close attention on Language study. Panini, Katyaan, Patanjali Started Language study in descriptive and historical aspect. After them some other grammarian Chandragomi, Vatrihari, Hemachandra etc. Originate Some approach by recorrecting Panini’s law of Grammar. Those are

1) Aeindra Approach.
2) Chandra Approach
3) Jainendra Approach
4) Shaktayaan Approach
5) Hemchandra Approach
6) Katyaandra Approach
7) Sarswata Approach.

Certaining though creating these approaches they were not succeed to bring novelty in Grammar writing.

As Like the east, West also has history of Language study. Dr Arpana Konwar in her book “Bhasa Vijanan Upakramonika – An Introduction to Linguistics” differentiated western history of Language study from 5th AD to present like this

1) Ancient Age “Grammar Approach”
   a) Plato – Aristotle’s Philosophical Grammar Approach.
   b) Alexzendrial Grammar Approach
   c) Latin Grammar Approach of Roman Grammian Cam my
2) Muddle Age (Grammar Approach)
   Modistate or Speculative approach
3) The Renaissance Age (Philology approach)
   a) Missionaries (Language study) approach
   b) Port Royal Approach
   c) New Grammarian Approach
4) Modern Ages (Linguistics approach)
   There four we can classify the above mentioned approach in to tree categories i.e.
   1) Grammar approach
   2) Philology approach
   3) Linguistics approach

GRAMMAR APPROACH

a) Philosophical Grammar approach
In the world European Language study Plato was the first person who originate the concept of Language study. That is why Plato is Known as “First investigable the potentialities’ of grammar. After Plato Aristotle progressed language study. Aristotle’s gave new dimension to Language study. Plato in his book “Dialogues” gave so many logic full thought on the relation of mind related to production of language and relation between word and meaning. Also in Plato’s “Cralylus and Aristotle’s” poetics we get information of about language study later this Philosopher were separate in to two different type as Resemblances and inconsistence party.

Resemblance team think Language is disciplined and traditional and on other hand inconsistence team think Language is non-regulated and normal.

Though some time debate happened between them they all wrote grammar on philosophical point of view.

b) Alekzendrial (Grammarians Community) Grammar Approach
Alexzendrial Grammar approach started after philosophical grammar approach. Diancious thrrqux wrote “Techno grammar-like in Greek. This is the first complete Greek grammar which consist of grammatical/ aspects like Tense, Gender, Object etc. It is remarkable in the history of traditional grammar.

c) Roman (Grammarian Community’s) Latin Grammar Approach
Romans wrote Latin grammar on pattern of Greek grammar. Varro is the first Roman Grammarian. Donates and Priscian were two famous grammarian of 4-5 century. Who wrote Latin grammar Principals “Instituliones Grammatical” is a remarkable grammar. Robins gave statement about this book as. It is the product of Roman and Greek’s long term unity”

It is worthy to mentioned that Greek Literature also faded simultaneously with Roman density collapse. After the Roman density Collapse Meditate or Speculative grammarian’s community provide contribution/ contribute grammar. They concentrate on writing a class of grammar that useful for all language. They discovered the relation between word and literature.

PHILOLOGY APPROACH.

a) Missionaries (Language study) approach
In 15th-16th century renaissance start in Europe. Renaissance impact also in Language Scholar (of that time) was concentrated to write Grammar normally (by) breaking the tradition of middle age. That time Missionaries were started composing grammar dictionaries in different language.

b) Port Royal Approach
In 17th Century, a new approach of grammar written in France Namely “Port Royal” Lancelot and Arnold were two grammarians of this approach In 1663 they jointly compose France Grammar.

This Grammar gave an amen to Moan Smokiess “Transformational generative grammar”

c) Comparative Philology Approach
Grammar Composition got attention fill 17\textsuperscript{th} century but in 18\textsuperscript{th} century a new era started in the field of language study. After the British colonization/faded in India two new discretion developed i.e.

a) European scholar gave attention on language study by learning Sanskrit.

b) They started comparative study of Sanskrit, Greek and Latin Language. Sir William Jones was the first person of this approach on 2\textsuperscript{nd} Feb. 1786 William Jones addressed a written lecture on third Annual Establishment day of Royal Asiatic Society. Where he gave (made) an open statement that “How Much Sanskrit is ancient, but its formation is wonderful, it is without defeat these Greek and Vas than Latin Language On the basis of his statement a new approach of Language study started by studying ancient Literature in entire Europe.

**LINGUISTICS APPROACH**

In real Systematic and scientific language study start from middle of 19\textsuperscript{th} century. On this account a new grammarian community which was influenced by lay August Compel Played a major role (which) formed in 1900 This new grammarian community start study of growth change and formation of language More of that study of Michel Bell’s “Historical Semantics” also started for the first time France philologists used the term historical linguistics instead of comparative philology on the basis of this account of language study from historical point of view. On this account philologist Atowan Mayes “Historical and general Linguistics” and “The comparative method of historical linguistics are remarkable book.

Linguistics approach progressed in 2\textsuperscript{nd} decade of 20\textsuperscript{th} century. As soon as swidich linguist Ferdinand De Saussure’s “Course in general Linguistics” Published language study got the dianmision in scientific way. He gave attention on the aspects of systematic discussion of symatical phonological, morphological and semantically character it’s of a language. That is why Saussure is called “Father of modern linguistics”

Saussure’s fundamental thought of linguistics mentioned below

a) Saussure/ Classified linguistics into two category Namely
Diachronic

Symphonic and he gave importance on symphonic language duly.

b) Saussure classified presence of language into long parole and gave importance an analysis of lag.

c) Saussure gave statement of the relation of two directions (aspect) in constructional aspect i.e.

- Syntagmatic
- Paradigmatic.

d) Saussure explained that language is a sign method he gave importance on finding mutual relation of elements or sign of language Creating awareness of constructive relation.

Saussure language study is well known as constructive linguistics because of his attention on analysis of constructive aspect of language after Saussure linguistics progressed by linguist like Farm, Boas, Edward Sappy, Leonard Bloomfield Noam Sam ski etc. Franz Boas brought a new thought in the field of Language study analysis According to him analysis and description of a language should be done on the basis of Phonological aspects of a Language. Boas was accompanied by Edward sappy Bloomfield in 1921 Sappy published a book namely “Language. An Introduction & the study of speech” in 1933 Bloomfield’s Language published This two book influenced all the linguist to take descriptive point of view in 1957 As soon as Noam Sam ski's book Synthetic structure published a new theory developed in linguistics which is known as Transformational Generative theory According to him the aim of language analysis should discovery of rules How a sentence transform and being creative by internal thinking or internal knowledge According to Smokiest theory there is an universiality in human language Because the process of talking and listening is same the main objective of Saussure’s Transformational Generative Theory is analysis of language by moving down word from a large syntactic group to a small phonologic group Saussure’s constructive thought got most popularity till 8th decade of 20th century. Now a days in the field of Linguistics Philosophy, Physcology, Anthropology also
combined as consequence of new information relative to language literature and culture is discover day by day.

Discovery of modern machine/ and theres development linguist give language study a bigger dimension.

**FINDINGS**

It seems that language study serialy extended in India also in Assam.

Language study gets important in different ways in different time. Now a days as consequence of academic recognition of this subject research work also start on language.