Standard Bodo Language and Process of Standardization: A Brief Study

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Abstract:

Language is a medium of communication amongst the people of society. Without language people cannot express their thought, feeling, emotions etc. People can understand among each other by conversation, discussion, sharing their own wish orally and written through the language. Without language people cannot develop and uplift the society. Only the language is differentiated us in between animal and people and raised us today's stage. Every language has varieties of dialect. The language of Bodo has also four types of dialect. Amongst the four dialects, a dialect is standardized to get its formality. Thus, the process of standardization of a language is made in a formal way. Because a particular language community can identify and develop themselves to the world through the language. The process of language standardization is done in various ways that is selection, codification, elaboration of function and acceptance.

Aims and objectives:

The aims and objectives of the study are given bellow-

a) The aims and objective of the study is to identify the Bodo standard language.

b) The aims and objectives of the study is to find out the reason behind recognition as standard form of Kokrajhar dialect.

c) The aims and objectives of the study is to analyse the process of standardization.

Methodology:

The analytical method is taken for the study of this topic. This method is used because how the language of a community is processed for standardization is discussed.

Source of data:

The data of the study are collected from the both primary and secondary sources. As primary sources the data has been collected from the books and the secondary sources are collected from the research papers and articles appeared in various journals, magazines, periodicals and the thesis already awarded the degree.

Keywords: Language, Standardization, Bodo Language, Language Standardization Process.

1.0 Introduction:

Language is a medium of communication. Through the language a person can share his/her emotion, feelings, desires, thinking to each other. They understand the language amongst themselves. But only human beings have language. Though animals do have communication system it cannot be called language. "Language is a purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of voluntarily produced symbols."[1] – Sapir, Language, 1921. "A Language is a symbol system based on pure or arbitrary conventions…infinitely extendable and modifiable according to the changing needs and conditions of the speakers."[2] – R.H. Robins, General Linguistics.

A standard language is that variety of a particular language which is widely used by people in their public discourse. Standard language has its dictionary, grammar, and a standard pronunciation. The rules of standard language emerge as an implicit consensus within a virtual community of writers, reader and speakers. The standard language is the version of a language that is taught to the learners to the language.[3] (Anup Kr. Deka, p-105) A standard variety is generally one which is written, and which has undergone some degree of regularisation or codification, it is recognised as a prestigious variety or code by a community and it is used for H functions alongside a diversity of L varieties.[4] (Janet Holmes, p-78)

A standard language is formed from the dialect. While a dialect of a community gets high status in politically, economically, socially, culturally, educationally and accepted by the society then it is considered as a standard language of the community. The standard language is used in education, writing books, literature, official works, administration, media, news paper, advertisement and in all formal lectures. A regional dialect of a community may form of standard language and may remain as dialect. There may have

some reasons behind getting standard form of language or dialect. The reasons may be in educationally, politically, economically and socially.

2.0 Discussion:

2.1 Bodo Standard Language:

In a language community there may have more dialects or regional dialect. A dialect or regional dialect is standardized from them. It is depended on the use, acceptance and development of a dialect. The Bodo language also has four types of dialect area according to Bodo writers and scholars. According to P. C. Bhattacharya the Bodo dialects are as follows-

a) Northern region of Goalpara and Kamrup district area is called the North-West Dialect Area. This North-West dialect area mainly contains two forms of speech of sub dialects, the North-Kamrup and the North-Goalpara. There are phonological, morphological, glossarial differences found by him in this dialect area.

b) The South-West Dialect area: The dialect area comprises South Goalpara, Garo hills and few places of South-Kamrup. Differences have been found in between the North West and South West dialect areas in the matters of phonology, morphology and vocabulary.

c) The North Central Assam Dialect area: This dialect area comprises the district of Darrang, Lakhimpur and few places of NEFA.

d) Southern Assam dialect area: This dialect area comprises Nogaon, North Cachar and Mikir hills, Cachar and adjacent areas of Assam.

On the other hand, Phukan Chandra Basumatary another scholar of language says that the Bodo dialects spoken in Assam can be broadly sub-divided into three major groups. These are as given bellow-

a) The Western Bodo dialect (swnabari): The Western Bodo dialects are spoken in the districts of Kokrajhar, Chirang, Bongaigaon and Dhubri.

b) The Estern Bodo dialect (sanzari): The Eastern Bodo dialects are spoken mainly in the districts of Barpeta, Nalbari, Baksa, Kamrup and some parts of Darang as well.

c) The Southern Bodo dialect (hazari): The Southern Bodo dialects are spoken in the district of Goalpara including Rani and Krishnai on the southern bank of the river Brahmaputra.

A dialect area is selected from above mentioned area to make standardization. As we know the Bodo standard language was standardized from the dialect of Kokrajhar district which is used for official

purpose, education, literature and media still date. The dialect of the Kokrajhar district was accepted by all Bodo people as standard Bodo language.

2.2 Reasons of Standardization of Kokrajhar's dialect:

The dialect of Kokrajhar area was selected due to the following reasons (165). These are-

a) The Kokrajhar dialect has the originality of structure.

b) It has the originality of culture.

c) The maximum number of educated Bodo people and leading and distinguished persons were from that area.

d) The maximum number of people used this dialect as a medium of communication and share their ideas in the field of different subject for the first time in different areas of the state and outside too.

e) The maximum written and printed books were first emerged in Kokrajhar area to encourage the people in the field of social, religious and education.

 f) The Bodo language was introduced as a medium of instructions in this area.

g) The Bodo language was introduced as an associate official language of Assam for the first time.

These are the reasons behind the standardization of Kokrajhar dialect as mentioned above.

2.3 Dialect variation in Bodo:

According to Phukan Chandra Basumatary, there are three major dialects area in Bodo language. In these three dialects area found dialect variation in phonology, morphology and vocabulary. The examples are given bellow-

Dialect variation in phonology:

English	Western Bodo Dialect	Eastern Bodo Dialect	Southern Bodo Dialect
Rice	wngkham	inkham	ekham
Ear	khwma	khwma	khama
Long	gwlao	golao	galao
Eye	megon	megon	mogon

Dialect variation in lexical

English	Eastern Bodo Dialect	Western Bodo Dialect	Southern Bodo Dialect
Moon	okhaphwr	ukhumbri	nokhaburi
Leech	bedlao	phansu	phanso
Guest	alasi	alahi/alasi	bunda
Milk	gaikher	gakhir	bundwi

2.4 Process of Standardization of Language:

Standardization is the process of making one dialect as a standard dialect or variety of that language. Standardization is a necessary and vital process in any language. Every language has its standard form which has usually gone through standardization process. A dialect of a language should be accepted by the peoples to get its standard form. There are some steps to standardise a dialect. These processes of standardizations are- selection, codification, elaboration and acceptance. These are discussed below-

2.4.1 Selection:

The first stage of standardization is selection. Every language has varieties of dialect. Amongst these dialect varieties a dialect variety has to select to form standard dialect or variety. A selected dialect should sound prestigious, should have large number of speakers, should somehow match with other dialect in same language.

2.4.2 Codification:

The second stage of making standardization of language is codification. The sociolinguist, educational institute, some social and literary organization are codified the selected variety. After selection a dialect of a language community have to be formulated the norms and rules of grammar and its use etc. And these are set down definitively in grammars, dictionaries, spelling, sound system, styles, texts etc.

2.4.3 Elaboration of function:

The third stage of making standardization is elaboration of function. In case a dialect is used in written, education, conversation, administration, media etc. and accepted by all in broadly then it is become a standard language.

2.4.4 Acceptance:

It is the fourth and final stage of standardization. Where we promote, spread, establish and enforce the standardized variety. A selected dialect may not get status of standard form in case it is not accepted by all the people. It will get status of standard form in case it is accepted by all and used in literature, education, administration, media, technology and other official works by all. So, the last one is very important in the field of standardization process. Without acceptance by all, a language may not become a standard language.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Language is a medium to communicate and interact with each other. Without language people can't share their feelings, thought, desires and understand the expression and feelings of others. Language helped the people to develop society. So, it is very necessary to standardise a language. Because a language has different varieties. Among these varieties a variety has to select to make a standard language. Because through the standard language people writes books, grammar, articles, use in education, administration, official works, public broadcasting and formal discussion and thought to learners. A standard language formulated norms, rules, grammar, pronounce amongst the varieties. But a standard language is not formed by alone. There is some stem and process to be made a standard from amongst variety. The steps are mentioned as above discussion namely selection, codification, elaboration of function and acceptance. Through these processes a dialect become a standard language of a community which are used for all activities that is official, education, political, religion and social.

End Notes:

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