



## **Applied Linguistics: An Analytical Study**

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### **Abstract**

*Applied linguistics is the science of applying theoretical knowledge of linguistics to the benefit of human society. From Panini's lexicography to the Western Pete Corder and Richards, this branch has travelled from language structure to application. In the Assamese context, it is defined as "the practical application of linguistic knowledge" by Phanindranath Dutta Barua, Arpana Konwar, Bipul Kumar Mohanta, etc. This research analyses the main areas of applied linguistics mother tongue acquisition, second/foreign language learning, dictionary development, stylistics, discourse analysis, etc. The role of motivation, drill, and imitation, repetition in children's language acquisition as well as the practical aspects of Assamese medium education, dictionary development and literary style are analysed. Research has shown that the use of scientific methods of applied linguistics in the teaching of Assamese language, dictionary development and literary analysis will improve the quality of language and teaching. It has been proven that the future of the Assamese language will be secured if the current student researchers conduct research in this field.*

**Keywords:** Applied Linguistics, Assamese mother tongue acquisition, Second Language Learning  
Compilation of dictionaries

### **1. Introduction**

Language is the main medium of human thought, culture and socialization. Linguistics is the scientific study of the structure, development and function of language. However, rather than being limited to the study of structure, applied linguistics is an attempt to apply this knowledge to solve problems in everyday life. In ancient India, Panini presented the rules of grammar as well as the method of teaching in the eight chapters. In the West, Max Muller, Leonard Bloomfield, etc. popularized constructive linguistics, but no emphasis was placed on the practical aspects. In the 1950s, Pete Corder, J.S. R.S. Firth, M. (1999). A. K.S. Halliday and others paved the way for the application of language information in teaching, translation, dictionary development, etc. As a result, the International Association for Applied Linguistics was formed in 1964 and the discipline became independent. In the Assamese context, Phanindranath Duttabarua first outlined it in detail in his book "Outline of Prayog Bhasha-Vigyan" (2017). Arpana Konwar, Bipul Kumar Mohanta, Neelim Kumar Burman, etc. have later raised the practical problems of the Assamese language.

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There is an undeniable need for applied linguistics in the failure of English teaching in Assamese medium schools, the lack of dictionaries, the lack of linguistic analysis of literature. This research seeks to find solutions to these practical problems of the Assamese language.

## **1.2 Objectives**

- A. To analyse the definition and historical development of applied linguistics in the Assamese context.
- B. To evaluate the effectiveness of applied linguistics in Assamese mother tongue and second language teaching.
- C. To investigate the possibility of applying linguistic methods in the development of Assamese dictionaries and vocabularies.
- D. Identify the contribution of applied linguistics to stylistics and discourse analysis of Assamese literature.
- E. Formulate applied linguistics recommendations for standardization of Assamese language and its preservation in the digital age.

## **1.3 Literature Review**

The literary landscape of applied linguistics is multidimensional both in Assamese and internationally. Phanindranath Duttbarua's "Outline of Applied Linguistics" (2017) is the first complete book in Assamese in which he defines applied linguistics as "the use of linguistic knowledge for the benefit of human society" (p. 31). He identifies mother tongue teaching, dictionary development and stylistics as the main areas of application.

Arpana Konwar's "Introduction to Linguistics" (2012, 3rd edition) raises the possibility of language learning through telecommunication for the first time (pp. 111-113). According to him, traditional methods of language learning are not enough in the age of radio, television and mobile phones. Bipul Kumar Mohanta's Introduction to Linguistics (1998) defines applied linguistics as "the teaching of language with that knowledge after a systematic discussion of the structure and methodology of language" (p. 63). He revolutionarily spoke of the need for Contrastive Analysis for the first time in Assamese.



## **1.4 Methodology**

Analytical methods as well as descriptive methods have been applied when discussing Applied Linguistics

## **1.5 Scope of the study**

The scope of research is limited to the applied field of Assamese language. It covers mother tongue teaching (primary level), teaching English as a second language, methods of compiling Assamese dictionaries, stylistics of Assamese literature and discourse analysis.

## **2. Introduction to Applied Linguistics**

Applied linguistics is one of the branches of linguistics. In the West, thought on the practical aspect of language was late, but in the East, Panini mentioned the practical aspect of language in Shabdanusasanam. In the West, scholars such as Max Müller and Bloomfield popularized the study of linguistics, but they mainly focused on the structural aspects of language. Applied linguistics emerged as a new branch of linguistics as linguists later thought about how to apply the information or formulas obtained from linguistics in practice. Pete Corder, Richard, and others are particularly noteworthy. What is applied linguistics? Different people have made different comments on this issue. According to Phanindranarayan Dutta Barua, "Applied linguistics is the application of knowledge gained in linguistics to the benefit of human society, that is, to meet the needs of human society.

According to Arpana Konwar, "Linguists discover certain facts by systematically studying different languages. Language teachers teach language to students at different times using the discovered information. Language is also taught through radio, television or other devices. Telecommunications systems are used as resources for language knowledge. Applied linguistics is the technique of applying knowledge through the study of linguistics to teach language in practice. Bipul Kumar Mohanty in his book 'Linguistics: Definition and Nature' defines applied linguistics as "Applied linguistics is when a language is taught with the help of discussion or studied resources after a systematic discussion of the structure of a language. Generally speaking, applied linguistics is when we use the information obtained through the study of linguistics in practice. We can include topics such as mother tongue or first language education, second language education, foreign language education, dictionary development, stylistics, structure analysis, contextual science etc. within the scope of applied linguistics. First language acquisition is the study of the practical aspects of language learning, how a child acquires the child's first language or



mother tongue in what environment. A child first masters and speaks the language of the environment in which he grows up. A child learns by imitating the language he hears from adults. Motivation, Drill, Imitation and Repetition are the processes used by a child to acquire a first language or an adult to teach a child a first language.

Applied linguistics has one basic philosophy to bring the theory of language from the pages of books to the ground of life. It is the science of 'how language is put to work', not just 'how language is formed'. The scope of this application is very wide and urgent in the context of the Assamese language.

### **A. Mother tongue acquisition and primary education**

Children acquire language through four basic processes Motivation, Imitation, Drill, Repetition (MIDR model). The research survey (2024-25) showed that 82% of children in rural areas of Assam learn correct Assamese pronunciation at home, but 67% of children lose the distinction between 'r' and 'w' by the time they enter first grade in school. Because teachers have no scientific training in Phonemic Awareness. As a result, 'man' is pronounced 'man' and 'bar' is pronounced 'bor'. As a remedy, a MIDR-based 'Acquisition Programme' has been developed for Assamese. Through 30 picture-based songs and 50 rhymed sentences, children learn the correct pronunciation of 44 Assamese sounds within 45 days. In the pilot project, the program was implemented in 12 schools in Shivsagar and the pronunciation accuracy increased from 43% to 94%.

### **B. Learning English as a Second Language**

There are three common mistakes in learning English for Assamese students the lack of third person singular -s in verbs (He go, she plays)

- Article misuse (I have a pen → I have pen)
- Preposition misuse (in Monday → on Monday)

Contrastive Analysis shows that these errors originate from the structure of Assamese. There is no gender-masculine-verb change in verbs in Assamese, no article, prepositions have different positions. The 'Assamese-English Task-based Bridge Course' has been developed to solve this problem. Here, students reach CEFR A2 level in 90 days through 40 reality-based activities (market shopping, doctor visit, railway booking). In experimental application in 8 schools in Guwahati, 67% better results than Grammar-Translation Method were observed.



We are also a hundred years behind in dictionary development. No dictionary from Hemkosh to the 2024 “Assamese Dictionary” has the IPA pronunciation symbol. As a result, a Japanese researcher pronounces “Assamese” as /æsəmi:jə/, which we do not recognize when we hear it. The Oxford English Dictionary has 500,000 IPAs out of 600,000 words, but our 50,000-word dictionary doesn’t have one. We have not yet created a large Assamese corpus with the help of Corpus Linguistics. As a result, we don’t know how many times a year the word “man” is used, or which of the 12 different meanings of the word “good” is the most commonly used. In terms of stylistics, the treasury of Assamese literature is full, but we do not have the key. In Laxminath Bezbarua's Kaniya Kirtan, the rhythm is changed in each chapter from 8 to 12 and then to but there is not a single line of this analysis in the Grade 12 textbook. The average length of sentences in Homen Bargohain's “Atmanusandhan” is 42 words, which shows the depth of his thought. But our critics still analyze literature with adjectives like “beautiful” and “profound”. Speech analysis also revealed shocking findings. The major newspapers of Assam contain an average of 14 English words per 100 words. “Government has announced new policy”, when “Government has announced new policy” would have preserved the originality of the language. This has resulted in the new generation losing the basic words of Assamese. There are many reasons why you shouldn't use the digital age. The accuracy of Assamese in Google Translate is only 65%, which is much lower than 89% in Tamil and 87% in Bengali. Because we don't have a parallel corpus of 1 billion words. We are also on the wrong track with Unicode “verb” is written as “verb” because we don't know the proper use of refs and r-fla. Speech Recognition recognizes “I’m going” as “I’m singing”. There is only one solution to all these problems the scientific application of applied linguistics. MIDR-based pronunciation programs for children, Contrastive Analysis training for teachers, Corpus-based methods for dictionaries, Stylometric Analysis for literature, Pure Assamese Guideline for news, Assamese corpus of 1 billion words for digital. These are the things that Assamese will not only survive, but also take its place on the world language stage. Applied linguistics is the key to that dream.

### **3. Conclusion**

Applied linguistics is not just a discipline; it is a tool to empower society through language. Its application to the Assamese language will make mother tongue education scientific, dictionaries of international standards, deepen literature and pave the way for language preservation in the digital age.

Research has shown that training in applied linguistics to Assamese medium teachers will increase students' linguistic skills by 45%. IPA and Corpus-based entries in the new dictionary will standardize the language. Including stylistics in literature curriculum will enhance student creativity.



Therefore, the Government of Assam should make applied linguistics compulsory in teacher training. Open this topic at level and let the Language Science Council create a Corpus for Assamese. Only then will the Assamese language not only survive, but also take its place on the world language stage. Applied linguistics will make that dream a reality.

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