Study On NocteLanguage:AnEndangered Language Of North-East India

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ABSTRACT:*Language is a medium of communication. A Language is contemporary only when it changes with time. The main reason behind the changes in language is due to the changes in the lifestyles of people along with time. Transportation, the necessity of fast development of communication, the demands of workplace or society compels a monolingual person to remain in touch with several languages. Therefore, one language influences the other and vice-versa. As a result of such changesthere arises the problem in the structure of the language and its usage and eventuallyfaces the danger of extinction. Such languages which are in crisis are categorized by the linguists as endangered language. According to UNESCO, A language is endangered when its speakers cease to use it, use it in fewer and fewer domains and use fewer of its registers and speaking styles, and or stop passing it on to the next generation. No single factor determines a language is endangered.[1]. As per this definition we can say that the crisis that forms due to the person who uses that language and the use of another language at the same time makes a language endangered. We can blame globalization, Neocolonialism and Linguicide (Language killing). There are 191 endangered languages in India according to the list published by UNESCO in 2010. Nocte language is one of them. Nocte is the language mainly used by the Nocte tribe living in Arunachal Pradesh. Apart from Arunachal Pradesh, Nocte tribe people can be found in small groups in Assam and Nagaland. 9 dialects of the Nocte language can be found at present. But there is no scientific research on the language till now. Therefore the language is on the verge of crisis. In this paper we will be studying the Nocte language as an endangered language.*
Key words: North-East, Nocte, Language, Dialect, Assamese, Migration, Population

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I. INTRODUCTION:

India is a linguistically diverse country. Like many ethnic groupCaucasoid, Mongoloid, Austric and Dravidetc. are migrated to India science pre-historic time. Therefore India's language and culture have been developing. The linguistic and cultural side of North-East India is full of wonder. The North-East comprises of Assam, Nagaland, ArunachalPradesh, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura, Meghalaya and Sikkim. Recently Sikkim has got the recognition of being an indispensable state of North-East.

Assam is one of the indispensable state of North-East India. The threshold of North-East is popularly known as Assam. In Assam many ethnic group has been living and each group has its own distinguished language and culture. Therefore, sometimes Assam is regarded to be the hub of linguistic Assimilation. The different regional language from families, such as- Indo-European, Chinese-Tibetan, Austric and Dravidian are circulated in Assam. One of the language which descendent from 'Tibbet-Burma' is Nocte. Nocte is considered as the important tribe of Naga origin. The Noctes mostly live in Tirap district, which is situated in the South-West part of Arunachal Pradesh. The Nocte tribes are seen living there in Assam and Nagaland state.

II. OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives of the research paper are as follows:
1. To introductory study of Nocte language.
2. To study the origin of Nocte people, Migration and there's language and literature.
3. To study the origin of Nocte language and its current situation.

0.3 Importance of the study:

Through the scientific study of a language, it helps to establish and identity of its own and can be examined status of that language. George A. Grierson, K.Das, ParulDutta, Dr. P.C.Dutta, Pramod Chandra BhattacharjiandKhanikarMautarestuding and analysis this Nocte language, but this analysis are not sufficient. In the research book 'NocteBhasarNampdargathanaruRupsadhan'(2013) of Amar Saikia has been expanded

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1. Moseley**,** Christopher (ed.): Atlas of the world's Language in Danger -3rd edition; page no-40

discuss the word structure and word derivation of Nocte language. So that through in these research paper helps to introduce as a one of endangered language is Nocte language.

III.   RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:

   In this paper, descriptive and analytical method has been adopted.

1.0 Introduction to an ethnic group of Nocte

1.1 Introduction to Noctepeople:
          The Noctes are the second largest Chinese Tibetan language family group of the world. They inhabit mostly in North-East, particularly in Arunachal Pradesh, have their own ethnic, linguistic and cultural identities. So far as Ethnic identity is concerned, they belong to the Mongoloid species. The root meaning of the word 'Nocte' is 'Noc' (নক) which means Human (মানুহ) and 'Te' means Village, i.e. those who live in village. As per the folk tales, they believe that Zauban (জাউবান) is the creator of their race. Due to many commercial and social factors, a good relationship has been developed between Noctes of Arunachal Pradesh and Assamese people of Assam. The most important fact that needs to be highlighted here is that such relationships are still in continuance.

          According to the ethnic studies, the Nocte belongs to the Mongolian race. The Noctes are especially full of Traditional folk-culture.Traditional cloths and ornaments, the habit of diet, the autonomy of the lifesaving system has given a different introduction to the Noctepeople.The prior adorable God of Nocte peoples is 'Zauban', although in present time Hindu and Christian religion has been in circulation among Nocte people.

1.2 Migration of Nocte people:
          Many views have been prevailing regarding the migration issue of Noctes. By analyzing those views, it can be estimated that, the Noctes have come to Tirap by crossing thePatkai Mountain long ago. Firstly, they lived in high hilly areas. But later on, they immigrated to the plain area and started living by constructing villages. In the book 'The Noctes', Parul Dutta describe briefly about how the Noctes have crossed the Patkai Mountain.

          The legends have it that Namchang, Borduariya and Laptang –these three kingdoms have their king from the same family.According to these legends a king of these people crossed the 'Patkai' Mountain and came from 'Hukongvalley'. Firstly, he tried to from his own state at 'Laptang'. But unfortunately, the native rebelled against him and therefore he ran away with his family to 'Khunsa'. He came back through the regions of Ninu, Kamhua, Nyanu, Sanu, Banphera etc. and met with the king of Ahom. Later on, the Ahoms exerted their power over him and again made him their subordinate. Soon after that, disputes broke out among the king's sons and Laptang, Namchang and Borduariya became three Kingdoms.

          According to the view provided by Parul Dutta on the migration of the Noctes, we can access that they were originally from Myanmar. There is a huge possibility that the Noctes came to Tirap district of now Arunachal Pradesh even before the Ahoms, i.e, 800 years from now.

0.3 Residence of Nocte people in present time:
          Nowadays, the Noctes are living in the 63 villages of Tirap district and three villages of Assam. The Nocte villages are under the sub-divisions ofJaju,Deumali,Soha,Khunsa,Dadam etc. The inhabitants of Nacte ethnic group are seen in the DihingKinarNocteGaon(Dibrugarh), PaniduwariyaGaon(Namrup) and SiloniGaon (Sivasagar) of Assam.

1.4 Population of Noctepeople:
          According to the census of 2001, the populations of Noctes living in Arunachal Pradesh are 33,680.There are 10 villages wherein 'Hawa' dialect is in practice. It should be noted that, the people of DihingKinarGaon also use 'Hawa' dialect to some extent.

2.0 Introduction to Noctelanguage:
2.1 Origin of Noctelanguage:
          TheNocte language that is spoken in Arunachal Pradesh is the second largest Chinese-Tibetan language group of the world. Most of the linguistic place Nocte language in the Tibet-Burman branches of Bodo-Naga sub-branches of the Chines-Tibetan family. Suniti KumarChatterji has divided the Bodo-Naga sub-branch in to Bodo and Nagas.Subsequently the 'Linguistic situation of North-East India', Book edited byMrinal Miri, 'Sino-Tibetanlanguage of North-East India, social Aspects' byPramod Chandra Bhattacharji gives opinion on the origin of Nocte language. His opinion is- Chinese-Tibetan>Tibet-Burma>Assam Burma>Naga>Nocte is the order in which the Nocte language originated. In other words the main branch of Chinese-Tibetan language is Thai-ChineseandTibet-Burmese.

The Tibetan sub-branches of Tibetan-Burmesegroupare- Tibet-Himalayan, Uttar-Assam and Assam-Burmese.The branch let of Assam-Burma sub-branches is- Kachin, Burmese,Naga and Kuki-Cin. Of these branchlet the Fourth branchlet is Naga.In Nagabranchletincludes the 18 language, of which Nocte language is one of the important language which is circulated in Arunachal Pradesh.Through these observation made by different scholars on the origin of the Tibetan-Burmese language, we can come to the conclusion that Nocte is one of the most important language of the Tibetan-Burmese sub-branches of the Chinese-Tibetan language family.

2.2 Literature and Manuscript of Noctelanguage:
Nocte language is a verbal or oral language. Due to the nonexistence of scripts of their own, there are no written literary outputs are found. It is in practice in oral forms, though traces of oral or verbal literature have also been found.

2.3 The act of staying in Nocte language:
Like many other 'Tibet-Burma' Language, which are prevalent in Arunachal Pradesh, the Noctelanguage is also the language spoken by 'Tibet-Burma' branch. The Nocte language prevalent among almost 33,000 Noctepeople is a linguistically diverse language. The Dialectical form of Nocte language can be found as well. The Dialectical form of Nocte language is- Hawakhun, Khapa, Hawa,Dalmak, Phutung, Jopa, Tutu, Laju and Dadam.Thedifferencesbetween these Dialects of Nocte language is distinct. They use the word 'JAP' to imply the different languages of the people of Nocte.For these Dialectical differences, second language is required to substitute the differences the other Dialects of the same Noctelanguage.Like the second language, the majority of the Noctepeople have adopted the Assamese language. Nocte language is prevalent in a limited geographical area among very few people. There has been lot of problems regarding the Nocte language. For these problems, Dialectical difference and linguistic diversity is the main key. The limited scope of the Nocte language and its obscurity gradually declines the future of the language. Above all, the scarcity of scripts, problems of textualization, the absence of scientific language study or problems of speech and interpretation due to lack of study of grammar and Dictionary of the language, Nocte language cannot expand even at present time due to the lack of enthusiasm of the young generation towards their own language.

3.0. Universal characteristics of NOCTE language:
People who speakNocte language mainly live in Tirap district of Arunachal Pradesh. Common characteristics of the Nocte language are–
1. It is rhythmic language. Meaning of a sentence is changed in terms of the tune of the pronunciation. Primarily, this language has three tune or rhythm. These tunes are as follows – Level, Raising and Falling.
2.Nocte language is a Monosyllabic language. Certainly this language has two-one disyllabic word.
3. Nocte language has 6 vowels. These are -/ i,e,ə,a,u,ɔ /
4. Nocte language has 22 Consonant. These are- /d, p, pʰ ,b, t, tʰ, k, kʰ, g, ʔ, m, n, ɲ, ŋ, s, z, h, ʦ, l, r, ʋ, j/
5. The Bound Morpheme is written after the main word in Nocte language. For instance-

English	Nocte
By Pen	kɒlɒm—ma
Group of pig	ʋak - he
Group of Dog	hu – he

6. To make plural form, the Bound Morpheme is added to the neutral noun. For instance-

English	Nocte	English	Nocte
Singular form	Plural form	Singular form	Plural form
People	Minjaŋ	Group of People	minjaŋ– he
Cow	Man	Group of Cow	man – he
Dog	hu	Group of Dog	hu – he
Grass	ʋan	Herd of Grass	ʋan – he'

7.In case of gender, different words are used and with the help of Personal affix, the gender is determined. For instance:

English	Nocte	English	Nocte
Masculine gender	Feminine gender	Masculine gender	Feminine gender
Male People	dala	Female People	Dehijak
Old man	taka	Old women	Yiku
Male tiger	sa –ppŋ'	Female tiger	sa - ɲipŋ

8. There are 7 case indicating forms in the Nocte language. For instance:

CASE FORM

English	Nocte
Nominative	ma
Accusative	naŋ
Instrumental	ma
Dative	naŋ
Ablative	ʋa
Genitive	ɸ
Locative	naŋ

9. Structure of sentence of the Noctelanguage in regular series is: S +V + O

10. Nocte language is rich in word collection. Along with the Nocte language, the combination and use of English and Hindi words has increased the word stock of the Nocte language.

11. Like the language of Chinese-Tibetan family, the special method is used in the formation of Numerical words in Nocte language. The Noctelanguage is formed of the Numerical word group of 4 methods. These are:

A) Through the use of special word
B) Through the use of Organic system
C) Through the use of Multiplication system
D) Through the use of Organic and Multiplication system

12. One of the Inclusive Pronoun or signifying group of Pronoun of the Nocte language is:

English	Nocte
Everyone	tʰɔʋat-raŋma

13. The formation of Present tense and future tense in Nocte language are the same process.

IV. CONCLUSION:

One of the major tribes of North East India is Nocte. Dialectical differences are visible within Nocte people. Through this paper titled 'Study on NocteLanguage: An Endangered Language of North-East we have come to these conclusion-

1. Nocte language does not have scripts of its own. So thatreason no written documents have been found about Nocte language.

2. Due to the lack of interest shown by young generation, it is in practiced within limited people.

3. As no scientific and systematic study has been done yet onNocte language.

4. As the people are not conscious regarding their language, it is considered as endangered language.

5. It is seen that, nowadays Hindi and English language have a great impact in Nocte populated areas.

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