

# INTRODUCTION

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## INTRODUCTION

The Arabs have had commercial relations with India almost since the dawn of the history. They were indeed the first to attempt an invasion on India, though they were unable to proceed beyond the frontiers of Sind and Lower Punjab for certain reasons. But the Arabs developed relations with India in the spheres of culture and commerce, which ultimately had influenced the lives and languages of the Indians. On the other hand, it is well known that the Persians and the North Indians belonged to the same racial stock viz., the Aryan, and the relations between these two races continued uninterruptedly throughout the long period of no less than two thousand years. But the advent of Islam opened the fresh developments in the Indo-Persian relations. As the Persians and the Persianized Turks or Afghans conquered India for Islam and ruled over it for about six hundred years, hence forward the culture, politics and religion of these Persian speaking peoples had deeply influenced the lives and languages of mass people of India including Assam.

After passing M.A. Examination in Arabic, I became surprised on finding a large number of Arabic and Persian words frequently being used in Assamese language and literature, which encouraged me to study thoroughly the impact of Arabic and Persian on Assamese language and the background of different causes through which such words penetrated into Assamese language and in course of time became part and parcel of this language. I became more curious to enter into the depth and decided to

take a research project on this particular subject. When I studied in detail I came to know that a number of researches have been made on the influence of Arabic and Persian languages on Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Kashmiri, Gujarati, Marathi, Tamil and Bengali etc. But to the best of my knowledge no work has been done so far in this field. I expressed the idea of the said project to my honourable teacher **Dr. Faiyazul Haqq**, formerly Reader & Head, department of Arabic, Gauhati University. He appreciated my desire and agreed to give me proper guidance on the same.

I have selected the topic of my research project as ***Perso – Arab Relations with Assam and their Impact on Assamese language***. By the term Perso – Arab I have meant here the Perso – Arabic knowing peoples who visited this area and due to the paucity of materials and sources, I have decided in consultation with my supervisor to include a chapter on Indo – Muslim invasions of Assam and their impact on Assamese language, which was the main factor through which the Assamese people came into contact directly with the Perso – Arabic knowing people. As a result of which the Assamese language assimilated a large number of Persian words and through Persian more or less equally a large number of Arabic words. I have tried my best to contribute something new to the Indian linguistics.

I have divided my project into six chapters. In the first and the second chapters I have explained how the Arabs and the Persians developed their relations with the Indians from the pre-historic period and as a result of their relations with the Indians, most of the Indian languages were

influenced by Arabic and Persian languages. However, I have separately described ***Indo-Arab Relations*** in the first chapter and ***Indo – Iran Relations*** in the second chapter in respect of commerce, religion and culture.

In the third and the fourth chapters I have discussed how the contact of Perso – Arabic knowing peoples developed with the Assamese people. Particularly in the third chapter the conflicts between the Perso – Arabic knowing Turks, Afghans and Mughals, and the Assamese people and their impacts on the language of the area have been described entitling the chapter as ***Indo-Muslim invasions of Assam and their impact on Assamese language***. The fourth chapter contains the discussions of Arabic and Persian knowing Muslim sufis who established their relations with the Assamese common people by adopting the native language for propagation of Islam. It has also been narrated that how these sufis deeply influenced the mass people as well as their language and literature. This chapter is given the title ***Propagation of Islam in Assam***.

I have tried to make elaborate discussions of linguistic influence of Arabic and Persian on Assamese language in the last two chapters, which is the main target of my investigation. I have depicted the Arabic and Persian words being used by Assamese people in the different spheres of their language in the fifth chapter naming it as ***Linguistic Influence***. In the sixth chapter a detail list of different Arabic and Persian words current in Assamese language is inserted in alphabetical order with their English

transliteration and meaning as well as their Assamese use. This chapter is called as *The list of Arabic and Persian words used in Assamese language.*

My project would not have been completed if my respected guide **Dr. F. Haqq** would not have properly guided and fully helped me. I am very much indebted and ever grateful to him for his sincere guidance, who spared a lot of time for responding to my questions and re-correcting the draft of my research project.

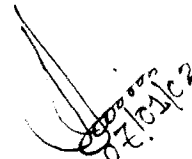
I have a pleasant duty to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all those who willingly helped me in preparing the thesis. In this connection, I express my gratitude to the staffs of Khodaboksh Oriental Library, Patna, and Departmental Library of Arabic Department, Aligarh Muslim University for their kind co-operation in lending me rare and valuable books. I shall be ungrateful if I do not offer my sincere thanks to the staffs of Allahabad University Library, Krishnakanta Handique Library, Gauhati University and Rangia College Library, Rangia, who assisted me by providing with valuable books and periodicals.

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