CHAPTER - V

LINGUISTIC INFLUENCE

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CHAPTER-V

LINGUISTIC INFLUENCE

The back ground of Arabic and Persian loanwords in Assamese language is a remarkable event in the linguistic world. The loan-words are perfect words which express complete ideas, viz., substantives and adjectives. The Arabic and Persian loan words in Assamese include not only nouns and adjectives but also prefixes, adverbs, conjunctions, interjections and verbs besides fragmentary words which are quite numerous.

(1) Words relating to Administration:

The largest number of the Arabic and Persian words is used in Assamese concerning administration. In recent times, there has been made an effort to use the Assamese terms. But it is not quite easy to replace the terms which have been used for centuries. The common people prefer to use such Arabic and Persian words than the Assamese terms. We find number of words which have no living significant and suitable parallels in modern Assemse language e.g. intances:-

'adālat', court darbār, court

amanat, deposit dewani, civil side

banām, versus faujdāri, criminal side

baramad, found dafa, section

barkhäst, dispersed hirasat, custody

bayan, statement insaf, justice

baligh, major iqrarnamah, bond of confession

khārij, dismissed shāh, king

muqaddamah, law-suit, case

mulzim, accused

muwakkil, client zamanat, bail

dastawezm document

dayer, submit,

ijlās, meeting, sitting

khānātalāshi, house search

mansūkh, cancelled

musammat, woman, (by name)

nālish, law-suit

bahas, discussion

dalil, proof, agreement paper

darkhäst, petition

faisla, judgement

haq, right, hissedar, partner

khuni, murderer

manzur, granted

haziri, presence

hisab-kitab, account

jāydād, property

qaida, rule

miyad, limitation

rasid, receipt thabut, proof

shart, conditon

caprāsi, peon,

nawab, Prince

zamindar, landlord

subedar, a non commissioned military

officer

sardar, chief

hākim, officer, judge

mulāzim, employee

munsif, judge

mukhtar, attorney

munim, clerk

sultān, sultan, wazīr, minister

taluqdar, estate holder

jāgirdār, estate holder

darogha, police officer

dafteri, record keeper

sipāhī, conistable

munshi, writer

tahsildar, collector

sifarish, (siparish), recommendation

jabardasti, forcibly

jurmānā, fine

sarkār, government

qaidi, prisoner

zanjīr, chain

abkārī, excise

jarip, a measuring chain

khāghaz, document

mahsul, tax

wakil, pleader

khushamad, flattery

diwan, head

qaidkhana, prison

badshah, king

nazarbandi, confinement

hisab-nikas, accounts

gasht, round

dastur, custom

bāqī, arrears

gawah, witness

bandobast, land settlement jamabandi, land records

namjari, name recording

mal, revenue

The following names of weapons have come from Perso-Turkish sources:-

banduq, Gun

kaman, bow

neza, spear

tir, arrow

top, machine gun

habildar, conistable

gola barud, ammunition

chabuk, whip etc. etc.

Some administrative units are even today known by their Arabic or Persian names e.g. following words:

shahar, city

mahalla, locality

tahsil, sub division

pargana, sub division

mahkama, sub division

dila, district

jagir, estate

mauda, mauza

rāyat, wakalatnama, mukhtar-nama, sukti-nama, nafar, dastakhat, kotowal, azad, diwan, ghulam, shahzada, amir, umara, kruk, ardi, jari, muqaddama, zaban, fariyad, fariyadi, asami, bazeyapt, istifa, kaifiyat, farar, madhur, khushamad, abkari, etc. are being frequently used by the Assamese people.

(2) Words relating to Religious ceremonies, prayers and Ideologies:

Islamic terms connected with religious ceremonies, prayers and ideologies, have entered into Assamese language from Arabo-Persian, mostly from Arabic.

These technical terms are mostly used by the Muslims, e.g. following instances:-

Allah, God, (Eng. Use) Rasul, Apostle

auliya, saints sayyad, a caste (claiming them-

din, religion selves the descendants of the

dua, prayer Prophet)

fatwa, religions verdict shaykh, a muslim caste

hāji, pilgrim of Makkah sunnat, circumcision

id, id festival wali, saint

kalimah, formula of faith farishta, angel

khalifah, caliph imam, leader in prayer

khānqah, monastery iman, faith

mazar, mausoleum khairat, charity

maulvi, a theologian khuda, God

maulānā, a theologian rab, lord

mulla, priest roza, fasting

haj, pilgrimage of makkah janab, honourable person

adhan, proclamation of shariat, religious law

shab-e-barat, a festival

dargah, shrine chilla, worship for a period of

masjid, masque forty days.

nabi, prophet mannat, wish

nikāh, marriage madhhab, religion

paighambar, prophet musalla, a mat for prayers

rauza, tomb (raudah)

niyaz, holy offerings

shirini, offerings

taziya, effigy of martyrs

ziyarat, visit

jummah, Friday

zakat, poor tax

kafan funeral shroud

masala, matter, problem

abba, father

ammi, mother

bahisht, paradize

barkat, blessing

didar, sight

dozakh, hell faqir, mendicant

fazal, grace

gunah, sin

ghusal, bath

gosht, meat

janaza, bier, funeral

jinn, the Genii

khab, dream

khansama, cook

mubarak, congratulation

murid, disciple.

musalman, muslim

parhez, abstention.

namaz, prayer

pak, pure, chaste

pir, religious guide

salam, greetings

tilawat, recitation of holy Quran

taqdir, fate

tasbih, beads

tawiz, amulet

walima, feast

imandar, faithful

harami, bastard

wazu, ritual ablution (wadu)

fatiha-e-duwaz daham,

an islamic festival (birth day of

Prophet)

muharram, a festival (Islamic)

musalli, performer of prayer

qabar, grave

qurbani, sacrifice

Quran, The holy book, Quran

Sunnat, Tradition, practice of

the Prophet.

(3) Words relating to Education:

It should be noted that the Mughals were staunch patrons of learning. We know of libraries, schools and maktabs founded by them within their short time in Assam. The words qalam (pen), qalam dani, (pen box), siyahi, (ink), dawat (ink pot), kagaz (paper), daftar, (file) and such other words of Arabic-Persian origin indicate that the whole art of writing of Assamese language was radically changed. Kitab from Arabic is the modern book which is quite different from the puthi or grantha. The words haraf, (letter) imtihan (examination), lafz,(word), mane (meaning), parcha (paper) etc. have also come from the field of education. The postal system had been established long before the coming of the British into India and its impact had been seen lately in Assam also. The following terms are significant:

khat, letter 'ilm, knowledge

pata, address ustad, teacher

lifafa, envelope mudarris, teacher

khabar, news madrasah, school

akhbar, newspaper majlis, meeting

mehfil, conference, meeting aljabra, algebra

hisab, accounts talim, education etc.

aql, intelligence, mind

(4) Words relating to Clothes:

In ancient times the women taken more clothes than men. They have had Sari, dhoti, mekhla chadar, etc. as lower garments. The Persians introduced an elaborate variety of clothes, especially for men in Assam.

The following list of clothes for both men and women adopted from Arabic Persian would be interesting e.g.

parda, veil moza, socks

burkha, veiling gown lungi, interwoven cloth

kurta, long shirt sadar(chadar), cloth sheet

salwar, trouser guluband, muffler

tahband, lower cloth qamis, shirt

paijama, drawers shiriwani, hollow shirt

kamarband, waist band jubbah, gown

shāl, shawl kafan, a shroud

rumal, handkerchief makhmal, velvet

bistara, beding resham, silk

toshak, cushion pasham, wool

lihāf, blanket jama, a tunic

The Assamese people not only use these words but they are using these garments also in their daily uses.

(5) Words relating Utensils:

The following names of utensils have come from Persian and Arabic:

degci, boiler, quras, disc

chammach, spoon

mekhraz, scissors

peyala, cup

(6) Words relating to Foods and Dishes:

The names of foods and dishes clearly express the influence of Arabic and Persian, The foods and dishes prepared from meat rice and other materials came to be introduced only by the Mughals.

qimah, shorba (soup)

biriyani,

qorma, kaliya,

khasi, nashta

kabab, kofta

baraf,

roghan-josh, polao

masala, (spices)

murabba (jam), gulāb jal (rose water), achar (Pickles), Chini (sugar), rasad (provision) maida, (wheat flour), sūjī (wheat flour), besan (gram flour), namak (salt), ālūchā (small plum), badām (almond), khurmā (dates), kishmish (currants), angūr (grape), amrūd (guava), tarkāri, sabzi, podīnā (mint), piyāz (onion), tarbūz (melon), gajar (carrot), kharbūzā (musk-melon).

The following names of sweet preparations are well known amongs the Assamese people.

balushahi, barfi, gajak, haluwa, jalebi, kalakand pera, sharbat, samosa (sambosah), balai (cream), misri, sharab (wine) etc.

nisa (nasha) intoxication and afim (afyun), opium hoqqa, chilim, khamer, nahru, chalgam, manakka are also derived from Arabic and Persian.

(7) Words relating to Cosmetic Articles:

Regarding cosmetic articles the following additions of Arabic-Persian words are used in Assamese-

gulab, rose shisha, mirror

hammam, bath aina, mirror

sabun, soap chashma, spectacles

surma, collyrium arshi, mirror

hina, henna atar(itr), perfume, attar

mushk, perfume musk

(8) Words relating to Architecture:

The Mughals were really fond of architecture, and so during their time a new kind of works was created in the field of architecture which is called Mughal Architecture. They gave the Assamese people new forms of buildings, new architectural modes and, new tools and furniture. The following terms and words have come from them which are naturally based on Arabic and Persian languages.

dālān, hall manzil, storey

diwar, wall makan, house

buniyad, foundation hauz, reservoir

shish mahal, crystal palace haveli, mansion

pul, bridge, ghusalkhana, bathroom

parada, partition balakhana, upper storey

morcha, fortification baramda, verandah

marammat, repairs haram, harem

hujra, projection mahal, place

minar, minaret mez, table

ārām kursi, easy chair kursi, chair

galicha, rug shamiyana, canopy

mistari(Per.mister), carpenter barma, drill

darwaza, door randa, plance

takht, dais takhta, plank

hauli, surroundings almari, shelf

(9) Words relating to Professions:

A large number of professions bearing Arabic and Persian names is a significant position by itself. For instance-

bawarchi, cook darzi, tailor

chaprasi, peon bazigar, juggler

dalāl, broker, agent dukāndār, shopkeeper

hākim, judge, qasai, butcher

jallad, excutioner khansama, steward

mistari, mechanician pahalwan, wrestler

tanboli, betel, seller shikari, hunter

karobar, business

wakil, lawyer

kārīgār, artisan

rozgar, employment

khariddar, buyer

pesha, profession

saudagar, merchant

bazar, market

sharik, partner

(10) Words relating to tailoring:

Regarding tailoring so many Persian and Arabic words have occupied their places in Assamese language, e.g.

astar, lining

astin, sleeve

jeb, pocket

pashmina, woolen cloth

resham, silk

pasham, fine wool

gaz, yard

girah, one sixteen of a yard

gharqa, a kind of weavig cloth

kargha, (charkha) wearing pit and

machine.

(11) Words relating to Medical Science:

The Arab medical science was well known in India, A large number of medical terms have entered into Assamese and become a valuable part of general vocabulary. For intance are following words:

hakim, phisician

dimagh, brain

dil, heart

baghal, armpit

gardan, neck

gurda, kidney

kamar, waist kalija, liver

peshab, urine pasina, sweat

rag, vein sina, thorax

qad, size badhazam, indigestion

hazam, digestion bukhar, fever

haiza, cholera, khasra, measles

isabgol, seed of fleawort charbi, fat

dawai, medicine julāb, purgative

mom, wax mushk, musk

sharbat, syrup sirka, vinegar

bimar, patient fasad, incision

mariz, patient malam, ointment etc.

(12) Words relating to Music & Painting:

In the field of music and painting also we find so many Arabic and Persian terms that have showed the Mughal contribution to Assamese language. The Mughals infact, were great patrons of music excepting the Emperor Aurangzeb. For example

For painting:

badami, almond like safed, white

gulabi, pink khaki, grey

piyazi, onion like

For music;

tabla, sitār, rabāb, shahnai, tanpura, sharod, sitar, shahnai, ghazal, qawwālī, khayāl, ustād, sāz, damāmā, nagarah, zikir, na'at-e- rasul, naat, zārī, dardī etc.

(13) Words relating to Reproach & Rebuke:

The ruling person of the Mughals had a richer vocabulary in reproaching and rebuking. The common people were impacted by the forms of such maledictions and saucy words of the ruling class. For instance -

harāmi, thief, dishonestman paji, base

shaitan, devil, wicked kamina, mean

luchcha, profligate badzat, of bad breeding

haramkhor, taking illegal behaya, shameless

gratification. bewaquf, fool, stupid

besharam, shameless kambakht, unfortunate

makkar, cunning badmaish, villain

nalayiq, unfit, stupid badtamiz, mannerless

beiman, unfaithful ghazabi, object of anger

be'aql, foolish nafarmani, disobedience

beizzat, dishonour nafarman, disobedient etc.

(14) Words relating to titles & Designations:

The Assamese Muslims in general, and the Assamese and Bengali Hindu people occasionally use the Islamic titles and designations of the Mughals as their surnames. These surnames have subdued a good position in the Assamese language. The names regarding the particular persons are also used in Assamese.

shaikh sayyad, pathan, diwan, khalifa, maulvi, maulana, mufti, mirza, bakhshi, munshi, malik, sardar, hazur, sahab, (sahib), janab, sarkar, ray (bahadur), ray-sahab, khan sahib, khan bahadur, molla, miyan, hazrat qazi (qadi) etc.

For persons-

nabī, ambiya, pīr, faqīr, darvesh, auliya, mufassir, hafiz, hajī, qarī, qazī, muhaddith imām, khadim etc.

(15) Words relating to Revenue & Treasury:

Concerning the revenue and treasury to many Arabic and Persian words are used in Assamese language. Examples -

khazana, khazandhi, abad, iqtiyar, tahbil, jama, baqidar, jamabandi, khali, chitrabandi, masul, malkhana, ejmali, qisti, ilaqa, kharij, dakhal, namjari, sarzamin, naqal, bedakhal, nazir, ghairah, tapsil had, ghar abad, abadi, be-sarkari, lakhebaz, nispi kheraj, nilam, mahal, ijara, miyadi, miras, hazir, dakhil daptar, musabida (masauda) multawi, qanungo, naqal-nabis, dafadar, piyada, adam (shumari), miyad, ghaban, (embezzlement), kurki (auction), misal, (file), muharrir (writer) alamat, (symtom), etc. etc.

(16) Words relating to Marriage:

Regarding marriage some Arabic and Persian terms are used among the Assamese Hindu - Muslims. For instances:

shādī, nikāh, ijāb, qabūl, mahar, miyān, bībī, amānat, walīmah, khidmat, istiqbāl, sawāl, jawab, shāmiyānā, khutbā, rukhsatī, hayez, nefas, hāmela, mard, aurat, aulād, muhabbat, mahbūb, mahbūbā, ishq, ashiq, begum, mohar nāmā, talāq, talāq-nāmā, izāhār itla, (ittila) etc.

(17) Words relating to Business:

The Arabic-Persian words regarding business are common in the market of Assamese people. For Example:

bepar, tijarat, dukān, naqad, bāqī, sūd, qarza, chalān, sauda, haulāt, wāpas, baqāyā, nafā, munāfā, noqsān, (loqsān), faidā, kārobār, taqīd, talab, tarjū, jāmā, kharj, zer, tahbīl, rasīd, bīmā, qulī, chākar, kharid, farokht.etc.

(18) Words related to Games & Sports:

We also find some Arabic, and Persian terms regarding games and sports. For examples:

Shatranj, Tāsh, Kushti, pahelwan, tamāsha, mashgol, khushi, etc.

(19) Words relating to Countrymen:

Relating to the countryman there are found some Arabic and Persian words in Asamese language. For instances-

Arabī, Yahūdi, Misrī, Yamanī, Israelī, Turkī, Iranī, Sudanī, Habshī, etc.

(20) Words relating to Horsemanship.:

The Arabo-persian loaned terminology relating to horsemanship is found amongst the Assamese people. For example we may mention the following terms:

Turki, Arabi, Iraqi, Mushki (black horse), Bulaqi, Sanjafi (grey horse) astabal, (stable), chabuk (lash), chabuk dani (lash holder), lagam (bridle) etc.

(21) Combined words:

There are many Arabic and Persian words which are used combinedly with the Assamese words and no Assamese people can ignore such words. In such type of combined words, Arabic or Persian words are used either first or last. For example -

Allāh-Ishwar, Rām-rahīm, hindu-musalman, raja-bādshāh, musalman - gohain, bāmun-Mullā, faqir-bhakt, das-gholām, bandha-chakar, bandi-beti, tīrīmard, rai-bahadur, rai-sāhib, khyat-nāmah, muri-matabbar, dusta-dagabaz, Ganga-gairah, mad-khor, afing-khor, masjid-mandir, Bed-Quran, Quran-Purān, dān-khairāt, mati-jami, nāu-jahāz, hat-bazar, kal-karkhana, bideshbilat (wilayat), aku-asthap (waqu), khat-patra, dalil-patra, poshak-parichehad, hiloi-bandūq, khar-barood, choon-surkhi, cherag-banti, phali- kitap, mal-bastu, biya-shadi, nikah-bibah, id-utsav, rang-tamasha, dar-dam, taka-sikka, manizzat, haya-sharam, kal-qabza etc.

Some other combinations of Arbo-Persian, Arbo-English or English Persian are also frequently used amongst the Assamese people though so they are combined with Assamese terms. For instances:

Daktarkhana, policekhana, boma-barood, gola-barood, maktab-madrasah, chandni, seal-mohar, jail-khana, fatek-khana, jail - darogha, rail-jahaz, dil-e-mone, dil-e-mukhe, jan-e-prane, maram-muhabbat, maram-darad, gharib-miskin, sadhu-faqir, faqir-fuqara, hairan-paresan, din-duniya, duwa-darud, namaz-roza, laj-sharam, dhan-daulat etc.

(22) words relating to Assamese Proverbs:

For the Assamese proverbs in numerable Arabic and Persian words are found. Dr. M.K. Saikia has quoted some remarkable Assamese proverbs in his book for example I have mentioned below a few -

ol-mal - hostage, goge

qadamat chal, to trof

qubul-kalar- confession

kamarbandha- get in to harness

kaghaze-qalame - in black and white

gooriyar khodai - the Lord of musalman.

gooriyar gosain - a Muslim priest

galdhan dhara - shoulders

ghair mil - to compare

gola-barood - power and shots

top-hilai - fire arms

talaq-diya - to divorce

tauba-tauba - an exclamation of surprise

^{1.} M.K. Saikia, Assam Muslim relation and its cultural significance p. 307.

dastur mat - according to rules

dhan-daulat - wealth and resources

nabab powali - a fawnir

nikah haram - a quishling

bata-bakhshish - awards and rewards

bismillah buli - in the name of Allah

man izzat - dignity and honour,

ruti-gosht - bread and meat

haj kara - to perform noble deeds

haramar negur - the extreme of the quisligs

hindu khana - Hindu food

hat-bazar - market and fairs

hindu halaf - to swear in Hindu way

(23) Words relating to Places & Houses:

Regarding places and houses many Islamic words are found in Assamese society. Now the Assamese language has accepted them as its origin essence. For example:

duniya, jahān, magām, asmān, zamīn, sākin, kāl sakin, zila, mahkuma, mauza, suba, hauli (haveli), mahal, herem, masjid, mināra, gombuz, chiria-khāna, qaidi-khāna, pil-khāna, qabar-khāna, darji-khāna, dawā-khāna, dastarkhāna, ghosal khāna, pay-khāna, charai khāna, baburchi-khāna, darya, diwal etc.etc.

(24) Words relating to Assamese Life & Activity:

It is not possible to enumerate various fields of Assamese life and activity in which the Arabic and Persian terms are being used. So a jumbled list of Arabic and Persian words, mostly, used in Assamese life, is given here. Another full list of words in detail of serial arrangement will be given later on.

'aurat - woman nahar - canal

durbin - telescope hind - India

sudkhor - usurer mardana - male

qabila - tribe admi - human being

kirāyadār - tenant subah - morning

riwāj - custom shām - evening

namuna - sample rasm - rite

janwar - animal hawa - air

maidan - field tufan - storm

musafir - traveller chaqu - knife

naqshā - map mahman - guest

bandargah - seaport mezban - host

quissa - story rasad - supplies

lash - corpse hazar - thousand

bima - insurance khandan - family

rishtedar - relatives

rasta, rah - way

yafim - orphan

kinara - edge

zahar - poison

mehnat - labour

shahid - martyr

fikir - pondering

kifalis - pure

nazar - sight

garam - infatuation, ardent desire
izzat - honour

ete ete.

qabul - acceptance.

(25) Words relating to Adjectives:

A large number of adjectives borrowed from Arabic and Persian have now become an undivided part of the Assamese language. These adjectives are more popular and significant also. For example a list of adjectives is mentioned below:

| Adjectives | Nouns |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| asan, easy | āsāni, ease |
| amir, rich | amiri, riches |
| ābād, inhabited | abadi, inhabited place |
| āslī, real | asal, reality |
| aqlmand, wise | aqlmandi, wisdom |
| badmāsh, immoral | badmāshī, immorality |
| bahadur, brave | bahāduri, bravery |
| badkar, sinful (sexually) | badkārī, profligacy |

barbadi, desolate barbadi, desolateness

barābar, equal barābarī, equality

bechārā, bechārī - helpless

bad akhlaq, immoral, rude badakhlaqi, rudeness

badbakht, evil minded badbakhti, adversity

behaya, shameless behayai, shamelessness

bekar, unemployed, jobless bekari, unemployment

behūdā, absurd

besharam, shameless besharmi, shamelessness

badbudar, bad odorous badbu, bad badadour

badtarin, worse

badkhaslat, ill-disposed badkhaslati, ill disposition

badzats, wicked badzati, wickedness

badsurat, ugly

badgumān, suspicious badgumāni, suspicion

badmizāji, peerishness

badnam, notorious badnami, notoriety

bad nasib, unlucky badnasibi, ill-luck

bad niyyat, greedy

badhazm, indigestive badhazmi, indigestion

be-adabi, impudence be-adab, impudent beinsafi, injustice beinsaf, unjust beimani, dishonestness be-iman, dishonest be-parwai, carelessness be-parwa, careless be-jor, matchless bechaini, restlessness be-chain, restless be-khabar, ignorant be-din, irreligious be-dini, irreligiousness be-shak, doubtless be-shumar, numerous be-sab.r, impatient be-sabri, impatience be-izati, disgrace be-izzat, disgraceful be-garaz, selfless be-qabu, uncontrolled be-qusuri, innocence be-qusur, innocent be-lihaz, impertinent be-waqt, untimely be-waqufi, foolishness be-waquf, foolish be-hosh, senseless be-hoshi, senselessness

chālāq, artful

chalaqi, artfulness

chughalkhor, backbite chughalkhori, backbiting

daghābāz, cheat daghābāzī, cheating

ganda, dirty

ghalat, wrong ghalti, mistake

garam, hot garmi, heat,

gharib, poor gharibi, poverty

hairan, perplexed hairani, perplexity

hoshiyar, clever hoshiyari, cleverness

jawan, youth jawani, youthfulness

zimmedar, responsible zimmedari, responsibility

kam, short kami, shortage

kamina, mean,

kharāh, bad kharābi, evil

khush, happy khoshi, hapiness

lachar, helpless lachari, helplessness

majbur, compelled majburi, compulsion

mazbūt, strong majbūtī, strength

mushkil, difficult mushkil, difficult

maharbani, kindness maharbani, kindness

nalayaik, unfit

na-manzur, rejected

namanzuri, rejection

na-marad, impotent

naram, soft

narmi, softness

na-jāiz, unlawful

na-khus, unhappy

na-khoshi, unhappiness

na-dan, ignorent

nadānī, ignorance

na-sabur, impatient

na-suburi, impatience

na-farman, disobedient

na-farmani, disobedience

na-qadr, unappreciate

na-qadri, disgrace

na-kam, failed

na-waqif, unaware,

na-waqifi, ignorance

na-mumkin, impossible

na-munasib, improper

sakht, hard

sakhti, hardship.

sādā, simple

saf- clean

safai, cleanliness

shauqin, fond

shauqini, fondness

tang, narrow

tangi, narrowness

tandurust, healthy

tandurusti, health

taza, fresh

tez, sharp

tezi, sharpness

viran, desolate

virani, desolateness

zindā, alive,

zindgi, life

ziyada, abundant.

qimti, valuable

qimat, value

maldar, wealthy

mal, wealth

nagli, artificial

nagal, imitation

shāndār, graceful

sharminda, ashamed

sharam, shame

zulm, tyranny

zālim, tyrant

zidd, perverseness

ziddi, perverse

(26) Words relating to Independent Adjectives:

There are some another adjectives of Arabic and Persian used in Assamese, which are quite independent of the parallel nouns. For instances -

ām, common

fāltū, extra

band, closed

fazul, useless

dakhil, admitted

ghayab, disappeared

khali, empty

mamuli, ordinary

khalis, pure

maujūd, present

kafi. enough

raddi, rubbish

khas, special

tamam, all

namkin, salted

(27) Words relating to Abstract Nouns: .

A large number of abstract nouns of Arabic and Persian, in many forms, are found in Assamese language. A few of them are given as examples:

adab, respects, culture fana, destruction

anjām, consequence faut, loss

afsos, grief, sorry gharaz, selfishness

asar, (athar), impact gham, woe

aish, luxury haq, right

aib, defect hal, account

dard, affliction hauz, greed

dākhal, interference julūs, procession

bahār, loveliness qabū, control

ihsan, obligation khatir, sade

farq, difference qadr, merit

fikr, thought khayal, thought

falan, so and so madad, help

fan, art mazaq, joke

matlab, motive

parwah, care

darmāh, salary

shak, doubt

waqt, time

shakl, appearance

wazan, weight

shauq, fondness

zor, power

tafsil, detail

darja, rank

tagaza, demand

fayda, benefit

tagdir, luck

irada, intention

tārif, praise

istifa, resignation

ummid, hope

nafā, profit

tariqa, method

zamānā, age

ishara, indication

takid,(tagida), stress emphasis.

(28) Words relating to other nouns:

Some other nouns of Arabic and Persian are frequently used by the Assamese people. Their number is large. A few of them have been mentioned here for instance-

shādī, marriage

bardasht, endurance

nigrani, supervision

diqqat, difficulty

taraqqi, development,

daulat, riches

asliyat, reality

fursat, leisure

bakhshish, prize izzat, respect

nālish, complaint, application jihālat, ignorance

siparish, recommendation zarurat, need

khairiyat, welfare

qismat, luck mihnat, suffering, hard work

maslihat, expediency mulaqat, meeting

musibat, calamity shikayat, complaint

niyyat, intention rahat, repose

taqat, strength etc.etc.

(29) Words relating to Adverbs, Prepositions & Interjections:

There is a large number of Arabic and Persian words found in Assamese language as adverbs, prepositions and interjections.

Examples for adverbs:

bekar, uselessly, hubahu, exact

beshaq, doubtlessly jaldi, atonce

bilkul, quite zarur, must

barabar, uniformity jabardasti, forcibly

fauran, immediately kam-se-kam, atleast

hargiz, never khub, well

nihayat, very razi, khushi, willingly

taraf, towards tarah, like

akhir, at last

ayinda, in future etc.etc.

Examples for preposition:

bad, after

marfat, through

mafiq, according to

khatir, for

waste, for etc.etc.

Examples for interjections:

shābāsh, bravo, excellent

khair, all right

khub, well done

khabardar, beware

bas, that's all etc.etc.

(30) Words relating to Prefixes, Suffixes, and other formatives:

The Assamese language has borrowed a good number of terms from Arabic and Persian, some scattered and some very useful prefixes, suffixes, and other formatives have been extremely useful in word formation. The prefixal elements are used only with Arabic & Persian words. For examples -

kam, less, as in

kamkharch (economical)

kamjor, wcak

kamhimmat (low spirited)

khush, well as in

khushbu (fragrance)

khushhal (glad)

khushqismat (fortunate)

dar, in, as in

darkar (in use necessary)

dar-asl (really) dar-miyan (between) darkhast (application) ba, with, as in banam (versus) badaulat (by dint of) bagair (without) bar, at, on, as in bar khilaf (as agaisnt) barkhast (dismissed) barqarar (continuing as before) la, without, as in lajawab (purless) lachar (helpless) lachari (helplessness) lawarith (heirless) lawarithi (heir lessness) laparwah (careless) bad, ill ham, together - as in badbudar (stinking) badbakht (wretched) badkhaslat (ill disposed) baddua (curse) badkar (sinful)

badguman (suspecious) badmizaj (hanghty) badma'ash (mmoral) badnasib (unlucky) badhazmi (indigestion) hamdardi (sympathy) be, without, as in be waquf (foolish) be-adab (disrespectful) be-insaf (unjust) be-pardah (unveiled) be-iman (dishonest) be-jor (unmatched) be-charah (poor) be-chain (restless) be-hisab (excessive) be-haya (shameless) be-sharam (shameless) be-sabr (impatient) be-kar (unemployed) be-hosh (unconscious)

be-gunah (sinless) etc. ghair, non, as in ghair haziri (absence) ghair sarkari (non-official) ghair mamuli (unusual) ghair mumkin (impossible) nadan (ignorant) na, negative, as in nagawar (unpleasant) na-jaiz (unlawful) na-haq (unjustly) na-farman (disobedient) na-laiq (enefficient) na-manzur (rejected) na-waqif (unaware) na-munasib (improper) etc.etc.

(31) Words relating to secondary suffixes:

Some secondary suffixes are used exclusively with Arabic & Persian words while a few of them are also used with Assamese words. Examples of suffixes forming nouns, adjectives and verbs;

ban in mezban (host)

dānī in phuldāni (flower-vase) pandani (betel box) machchardani (mosquito net) zamindar (landlord) dar in chaukidar (watchman) pattidar (lease holder) pattadar (patta holder), gar in saudagar (merchant) karigar (artisan) gar in khidmatgar (servant) gunahgar (sinner) rozgar (employment) giri in gundagiri (villainy) baz in dhokhebaz (cheat) chalbaz (shy) nashebaz (drunkard) dar in chamakdar (shining) phaldar (laden with fruit). samajhdar (intelligent)

rozana (daily)

ana in

mardana (male)

salana (yearly)

in in namkin (saltish)

shauqin (fond)

rangin (coloured)

war in taqatwar (strong)

janawar (animal)

andaz (thrower) in golandaz (bomber)

tirandaz (archer)

āwez (inclining) in dastāwez (document)

khor (eater) in ghus**khor** (one who taking Bribes)

haramkhore(one who accepts illegal

gratification)

sudkhor (usurer)

(32) Words relating to some particular compounds:

We also find Indo-Arabic and Indo-Persian hybrids in some particular compounds used among the Assamese people. For example following words may be mentioned:

bazar bhaw, market rate rang mahal, fashion house

jeb-ghari, pocket watch raj**mahal,** royal palace etc.

mumbatti, candle stick

(33) Words relating to Assamese verbs:

Some Assamese verbs are formed with the help of Arabic and Persian elements. The verbs are formed by the addition of kara, to do, howa, to be, para, to fall, rakha, to keep, etc. to Arabic and Persian nouns and adjectives.

Examples:-

aram kara, to take rest tamasha kara, to make fun

inkar kara, to refuse musibatat para, to befall in calamity

minnat kara, to entreat khosh kara, to please

nazar kara, to glance bimar howa, to fall sick

khush howa, to be happy

bahal rakha, reinstate pasand kara, to like

jamā kara, to collect pachand howa, to be liked

jama howa, to be gathered hazir kara, to present

hand kara, to close to shut adai kara, to pay

band howa, to be closed adai howa, to be paid

to be shut malum kara, to enquire

shuru kara, to begin malum howa, to be enquired

shuru howa, to be began etc.etc.

(34) Words relating to Assamese Idioms:

In Assamese idioms a large number of verbs, nouns and adjectives are employed figuratively in various senses. The symbolic use of words in the Assamese language is an important feature in the formation of phrasal idioms which is a type of Persian and Arabic characteristics. A good number of Assamese idioms contain Arabic and Persian words that show unquestionably the impact of those two languages. For instances some of them mentioned in which Arabic or Persian words are used and are also showed the actual Arabic or Persian forms of these words. They are as follows:-

| Assamese phrasal idioms in English transliteration | English meaning | Actual form of Arabic or Persian. |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| apon nama | self dependent | Per, nāmah |
| ābur- hurmat | honour and glory | Per. abru Ar. hurmah |
| waghairah ho | no interest for being sufficient | Ar. waghairah |
| adab, qaida | good manners | Ar. adab |
| | | Ar. qaldah |
| katha garaq | to ponder seriously | Ar. gharaq |
| khathar mahala | to talk skilfully | Ar. mahal |
| qabol kor | to promise to accept | Ar. qabul |
| qayed kor | to confine forecibly | Ar. qaid |
| korafor qazi | expert in any work | Ar. qadi |
| qolom diya | to prune | Ar. qalam |
| qolom sui diya | to give power for writing anything for oneself | Ar. qalam |
| kati dokani | deceitful shop keeper | Ar. dukkan |
| qabu kor | to restraint, to control | Per. qabu |
| khatom kor | to finish, to sell auctionable things at the lowest price. | Ar. khatam |
| khabora-khobori | to collect information from each other | Ar. khabar |
| khosamati kor | to obsecrate | Per. khushamad |
| gor abad | uncultivated land | Ar. ghair p.r. Abad |
| gor-mil | not alike | Ar. ghair |
| gor- layak | unable, unskilful | Ar. ghair la'iq |
| gor hazir | absent I work | Ar. ghair, hadir |
| gor hisap | equal distribution | Ar. ghair hisab |

| ga khatas ho | to deliver (a child) | Ar. khatas |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| ga- khali ho | to deliver (a child) | Ar. khali |
| gelamal | easily rotten articles | Ar. mal |
| gobarat podum phol | to be fortunate enough | Ar. ghubār |
| chakur sharam eri di | to be shameless of eye | Per. sharm |
| sohor fur | to wander village after village | Per. shah ≋r |
| sofer fur | the govt. employee to go out for travelling | Ar. safar |
| sohi mohori | having signature and seal, govt. document | Ar. sahih Per. mohr |
| sakin nohowa ho | to fall in the unstable condition | Ar. sakin |
| salamor duware ja | to sustain a less need lessly | Ar. salam |
| zor julum | tyranny | Per. zur Ar. zulm |
| zoban chor | unable to maintain own promise | Per. zuban |
| zalim mel | to punish oppressively | Ar. zalim |
| zulum baz | skilful in disturbing | Ar. zulm |
| | | Per. baz |
| top taiyar kor | to make fully ready | Per. tayyar |
| tane-moskile | in distress and trouble | Ar. mushkil |
| tip-sohi | a thumb impression | Ar. sahih |
| tohikot for taptish kor | to make an investigation | Ar, tahqiq |
| | after the sudden death (of a person) | Ar. taftish |
| til-tarzu lo | to distribute equally | Per. tarazū |
| tanba taoba dekhuwa | to make surprized by any deed. | Ar. taubah taubah |
| dofa-rofa ho | to come misfortune | Ar. dafah Ar. rafi |
| dafe dafe | repeatedly | Ar. daf'ah Ar. dafah |
| dui kolom | knowledge of two | Ar. qalam |
| | languages | |

| noqal-nobis | a copyist | Ar. naql |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| | | Ar. nabish |
| nazar-bandi | restraint by sight | Ar. nazar |
| | | Per. bandi |
| nazar lag | to be effected by an evil | Ar. nazar |
| nozir dekhowa | to show a precedent | Ar. nazir |
| nam kotasipahi | a rusticated person | Per. nam |
| | | Per. sipahi |
| nam khariz kor | to strike off the name from | Per. nam |
| nam zada | the patta renowned | Ar. khārij Per. nam |
| mani adda | Tonowhou | Ar. ziyadah |
| nam jari | to entering a name in the official register | Per. nam Ar. jari |
| na-manzur | not granted | Per. na |
| | | Ar. manzur |
| nisan-sohi | a sign or mark in place of signature | Per. nishan Ar. sahih |
| nimakh-haram | ungrateful | Per. namak |
| nimakh-harami | | Ar. haram |
| fotuwa jari kor | to order of complaisant | Ar. fatwa |
| | things | Ar. jari |
| barbad za | be wasted | Per. barbad |
| bad-baki | rest | Ar. bad |
| | | Ar. baqi |
| barota - baghar zamin | a man having many responsibilities | Ar. zāmin |
| bilat baki | the out standing amount | Ar. wilayah |
| | | Ar. baqi |
| bedokhal kor | to tresspass | Per. be. |
| • | | Ar. dakhal |
| mokora hisap | unifary method of calculation | Ar. hisāb |
| mogor muluk | to get the chance of doing | Per. magar |
| | anything freely | Ar. mulk |
| agor mogor kora | to prevaricate | Per. agar |

| agor-bogor kora | | Per. magar |
|-----------------------|---|------------------------------|
| agram bagram boka | to say disorderly speecher | Per. agar |
| | | Per. garam |
| morod kohlowa | one shows himself powerful | Per. mard |
| mor nd- dakhil | entrance into the youth | Per. mard |
| | | Ar. dakhil |
| razi-nama | deeds of compromise | Ar, rādi |
| | | Per. nāmāh |
| rūzi mar | to deprive someone of his means of livelihood | Per. ruzi |
| ruzi rozkar | income and earning | Ar. Per. ruzi Per. ruzgar |
| ruza dhar | to begin muhammadan | Per. rozah |
| | fasting | |
| lothiya golam | hard worker without any wages | ∆r. ghulām |
| loi laskor | army camp followers and attendants | Per. lashkar |
| lorak forok | unsteady | Ar. farq |
| lagam dhar | to control | Per. lagam |
| | | Ar. lijam |
| sakkhiye sabude | with proofs and documents | Ar. thabūt |
| horok torok | unreliableness, false | Ar. tark |
| hat- khorach | a small amount of money | Ar. kharj |
| haramor nengur | a wicked person | Ar. haram |
| haram -zada | a wretch | Ar. haram |
| | , | Per. zadah |
| hawa khowa | to enjoy fresh air on the open places | Ar. hawa |
| ayen-kanun | laws and regulations | Per. ā yin |
| | | Ar. qānūn |
| argzi-mohari | a petition writer | Ar. ardi |
| | | Ar. muharrir |

| abadi-mati | cultivated land | Per. abadi |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| kabula darkhasto | a waste land application | Ar. qabul |
| | | Per. darkhawast |
| kagaz patra | documents | Per, kaghadh |
| khobar-kagaz | newspaper | Ar. khabar |
| | | Per. kaghadh |
| kisti-khilap | unable to pay the | * |
| 1 · 4 · 1 · 3 · 1 | instalment in time | Ar. khilaf |
| kisti-bandi kor | to make an agreement to repay a debt by | Ar. qist Per. bandi |
| | repay a debt by instalments | rei. Dandi |
| kharida-dam | cost price | Per. kharid |
| khatas kor | to unload | Ar. khatas |
| khalas de | to discharge | Ar. khalas |
| khusura kharos | small expenses | Ar. khari |
| | | Per. kharach |
| khurusa dukani | a retail dealer | Ar. dukkan (dukhani) |
| khorak posak | the means of support | Per. khurak |
| | | Per. pushak |
| sobha kot | to suspect | Ar. shubhah |
| zahir ha | to disclose | Ar. zāhir |
| zahir kor | to give publicity to | Ar. zāhir |
| nam zahir kor | to publish a name | Per. nam |
| | | Ar. zāhir |
| darkari kotha | necessary message | Per. darkar |
| be-dastur | contrary to usage | Ar. dastūr |
| dagi-manuh | a branded man | Per. daghi |
| dana pani | subsistance | Per. danah |
| naqli-dolil | a forged deed | Ar. nagli |
| | | Ar. dalil |
| nagad-karbar | cash transaction | Ar. naqd |
| | | Per. karobar |

| pagal khana | lunatic asylum | Per. khanah |
|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| fánki baj | deceitful | Per. baz |
| bahal rakh | to reinstate | Per. bahal |
| | • ' | Ar. hal |
| bahaduri kor | to display valour | Per. bahaduri |
| benami kor | to transfer in another name | Per. be Per. nam |
| fakiror vesh | disguised as a fakir | Ar. faqir |
| makroli-parwana | an appointed letter | Ar. mukarrar |
| | | Per. parwanah |
| misa - ojar | lame excuse | Ar.'udhr |
| miyad de | to send to jail | Ar. miād |
| miyad khat | to work had as a prison | Ar. miad |
| meramoti khoroch | repair expenses | Ar. marammah |
| | | Ar. kharj |
| rodi kagoz | waste paper | Ar. radiyah |
| | | Per. kaghaz |
| dabi rod kor | to set aside a claim | Ar. daw a'h |
| | | Ar. radd |
| razi kor | to cause tosonsent | Ar. r ādi |
| sorkari rasta | public road | Per. sarkari |
| moqordoma ruzu kar | to file a case | Ar, muqaddamah |
| | | Ar. ruju |
| lat sahab | honourable cor governor | Ar. sāhib |
| sor zamin tadanta | local enquiry | Per. sar |
| | | Per. zamin |
| hazom kor | to misappropriate | Ar. hadm |
| hawa pani | climate | Ar. hawa 🕠 |
| hawa-gari | motor car | Ar. hawa |
| hisap-nikas kor | to settle the account | Ar. hisāb |
| nagyan alikalikka di mahidan malia mahadakkalkalkalkalkalkalkalka di plantidi dalimbakka naj | | Ar. nigāsh |

| hisap thik kor | to adjust the account | Ar. hisāb |
|---|--|--|
| hisap - kitap | an account book | Ar. hisāb |
| | | Ar. kitāb |
| hisap khol | to open an account | Ar. hisāb |
| huliya jari | a announcement with description of a offender for his identification | Ar. hulyah Ar. järi |
| hurmotor dabi | a claim of damages for defamation | Ar. hurmah Ar. da'wa |
| jor zar muluk tar | might is right | Per. zar Ar. mulk |
| dhal nai tarowal nai, nidhiram sordar | has no shield or sword, to become a commander like Nidhiram without any sword or shield | Per. sardar |
| makotkoi jiyek kazi, dheki thorare bote pazi | The daughter considers herself more skilful than her mother and goes to make pazi. | Ar. qādī |
| zodi thake miyanbibi razi, ki korib kazi | if the husband and wife are agreed, then the judge will do nothing | Ar. rādī Ar. qādī |
| mollar dour masjid loi | molla (teacher in a mosque) can run only upto the mosque | Ar. mulla Ar. masjid |
| habangot nimokh sasta dehar ba ki obostha | in habang salt is cheap, but what will be the condition of the body. | Per. namak |
| mokkar hajiye haj napai | the pilgrims of makkah town do not get the haj programme | Ar. makkah Ar. haj Ar. hāji |
| so pape jwar, hazar pape khor | hundred sins, a ring worm appears due to a thousand sins. | Per. hazār |
| hakim lorileo hukum | the judge may move but | Ar. hākim |
| nolore | judgements never | Ar. hukm |
| swarge morte farak | difference between the | Ar. farq |
| | heaven and the earth | |

| hati nohowa haoda | a haoda without an elephant | Ar. hawda j |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| hatiko salam mahuto ko salam | goodbye to the elephant and goodbye to the elephant driver. | Ar. salám |
| induraro sindur, golamoro bhaja mas | vermilion to a rate and fried fish to a slave | Ar. ghulam |
| khusura kamor majuri nai | petty works fetch little wages (small works count for nothing) | Per. mazduri |
| zat sai pat, bidhan sai bhat | the leaves show the species and the seed shows the quality of rice. | Ar. dhất |
| tin mulla asil sai khodai olal bhorokai | three molla were watching then Allah came out at once | 1 |
| hawa bodoli koriboloi ja | to go for a change of air | Ar. hawa Ar. badal |
| hazira bohi | an attendance register | Ar. hādir a |
| hamela howa | to conceive | Ar. hāmilah |
| benami sompatti | property held in anothers name as owner | Per. be Per. nami |
| ek torfa | one sided | Per. yek Ar. taraf |
| torofdari kora | to do injustice | Ar. taraf Per. dari |
| toklif dia | to give trouble | Ar. taklif |
| asman-zamin tafat | vast difference | Per. asman Per. zamin Ar. tafawut |
| keramotali kora | to show powerful or skilful | Ar. kiramah |
| majlis rausan kora | to present ownself beautifully in the meeting | Ar. majlis Per. rawshan |
| kiyamot howa | to be destroyed totally | Ar. qiyamah² etc.etc |

- 2. Most of these phrasal idioms have been collected from the following renowned Assamese books.
- (a) Barua, P.C., Assamese Proverbs, Gauhati, 1962.
- (b) Sarma, H.N., Asamiya Bachan Bhangi, Gauhati, 1965.
- (c) Barua, H.C., Hemkosh, Gauhati, 1994.
- (d) Rajkhowa, B.D., Khandabakya Kosh.
- (e) Barua, C.D., Ratna Kosh.