

ALL ABSTRACT

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ENGLISH SECTION

PHONOLOGICAL STRENGTH AND / H / IN HINDI : AN ACOUSTIC STUDY

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***ABSTRACT :** This paper attempts to interpret the notion of phonological strength with reference to asymmetric acoustic cues that the glottal fricative /h/ displays in different prosodic contexts in Hindi spoken in Delhi region. The patterns governing the distribution of speech sounds can be studied both from the perspective of phonological postulates and also from experimental phonetic cues. The phenomenon of h- deletion in coda position in certain varieties of Hindi is very common phonological process which substantiates the argument of positional asymmetry in phonological patterns governing human languages. Here in this paper I have claimed that 'h' in onset and coda position in Hindi exhibits asymmetric acoustic properties. 'h' in the onset position exhibit aperiodic formants but these F1 and F2 are lost in the coda position. Moreover, the properties of 'h' are severely affected in the case of following consonants. Hence, it can be argued that context plays a pivotal role in the process of fortition or lenition.*

***Keywords :** Fortition, Lenition, Onset-Coda, Phonological strength,*

THE BAGICHAGAON FINDS : COINS OF AHOM KINGS AND LATER MUGHAL EMPERORS

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***ABSTRACT :** A hoard of silver coins surfaced on 19th November 2019 in Bagichagaon village in Assam. The authors visited the site and interviewed the persons involved in the discovery. It transpired that quite a few of the coins found still reside with the locals. It is of utmost importance that we know the details of all the coins to avoid incomplete analysis and drawing possibly erroneous conclusions. The authors also felt that there should be a record of the entire find anyway. Besides coins of different Ahom rulers, the presence of a few late Mughal coins in this collection which is similar to many others recently discovered, again points to external traders procuring local products, be it handloom, agricultural produce, or forest resources.*

***Keywords :** Ahom Rulers, Bagichagaon Village, Mughal Coins, Silver Coin.*

SHAKESPEARE UNDER THE SAL TREE : AN ANALYSIS OF 'NUKHAR RENGCHAKAYANI GOPCHANI', A RABHA ADAPTATION OF MACBETH.

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ABSTRACT : *Nukhar Rengchakayni Gopchani is a Rabha adaptation of Shakespeare's Macbeth. Based on reconstitution analysis this paper explores the changes in the cultural codes embedded in the Shakespearean text by situating Macbeth within the belief system of the Rabhas. The Rabhas are one of the major plain tribes of Assam. First performed in Under the Sal Tree Theatre Festival, 2016, the adaption has shown how the mises-en-scene can generate new cultural meaning of a dramatic text. The paper also partly deals with the philosophy of Sukracharjya Rabha, the director of the play, Badungduppa Kalakendra and Under the Sal Tree Theatre Festival.*

Keywords : *Adaptation, Mise-en-scene, Nukhar Rengchakayni Gopchani, Reconstitution analysis, Under the Sal Tree Theatre Festival.*

CRESCENT TIDE IN THE EASTERN BORDERLAND : PAN-ISLAMISM, ULAMA POLITICS AND THE KHILAFAT MOBILISATION IN ASSAM 1912-1922

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ABSTRACT : *When Gandhiji arrived at Assam in August, 1921, it raised the non-cooperation-Khilafat agitation in India to a new high. It marked a new chapter in Indian anti-colonial agitations and became an indispensable chapter in Indian national history. But what most historians have overlooked is the impact the movement had in giving a fillip to the Pan-Islamic movement in south-Asia. Over the years scholars have on the one hand undermined the 'Khilafat dimension' of the movement launched by Gandhiji in 1920 and asserted its anti-colonial character of non-cooperation and on the other overlooked the impact of the Khilafat agitations in north-east India. The close of the First Great War and the 'shabby' treatment of Turkey at the hands of victorious western powers had infuriated the traditional element of Muslim society in Indian subcontinent who now felt enthused to be at the vanguard of a political movement that emerged on the ashes of the Ottoman Turkish Empire. Contrary to popular academic perceptions this movement had taken deep roots not only in what constitutes 'mainland' India but also its remote borderlands as Assam. While most studies, even recent ones of the Khilafat agitations, have studied its impact only as far as Bengal, Assam, the colonial borderland has evaded a detailed study, though it was as much affected by the 'Crescent tide' as other parts of the Colonial Indian empire. It is important to attempt to study this geographically remote yet thematically crucial area to analyse the deep impact of 'Pan Islamism' in the Indian subcontinent in the colonial period. The focus of the paper is colonial Assam which spread over both the Brahmaputra valley and the Barak-Surma valleys.*

Keywords : *Assam, Khilafat, Non-cooperation movement, Sylhet, Ulama*

FORESTS, COMMUNITIES AND THE STATE : THE PRACTICE OF SHIFTING AGRICULTURE IN COLONIAL ASSAM

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ABSTRACT : *After the annexation of the province in 1826, Assam underwent manifold transformation which gradually unfolded in the 19th century. Cadastral, topographic and ethnographic surveys, mapped and categorised, land and people for the purposes of governance. Tribes and such communities came to be categorised as 'semi-savage', 'primitive', 'backward', 'lazy' etc. Land which was not earning revenue was categorised as 'wasteland'. Practices like 'jhum' came to be understood as wasteful too, essential for 'primitive' communities, but the thrust of the colonial state remained towards expanding sedentary wet rice cultivation and forest conservation.*

Keywords : *Conservation, Forest, House tax, Jhum, Kacharis, Karbis, Mishing*

FORGETTING KOTLA (KOTILA) THE KHANZADAS CAPITAL IN MEDIEVAL MEWAT : ITS MONUMENTS AND HISTORY

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ABSTRACT : *A very rich historical village Kotla (Kotila) presently located in Nuh District (formerly Mewat) Haryana, served as the capital of the Khanzadas during medieval times. Historically, the place fascinated and hosted many Delhi Sultanate and Mughal rulers who imprinted a significant influence on the history of Kotla and Mewat area. During medieval times this place was the important centre of religious, cultural and political activities of Mewat region. Its remains can still be found in the various historical monuments particularly in the form of mosque, fort, tomb and lake. But, as a result of the negligence of the state government and local people's unawareness, the original configuration, shape and architecture of these important monuments are on the edge of destruction. Hence, this paper will scrutinize and commemorate the rich political and cultural and architectural connotation of Kotla monuments and its history.*

Keywords : *Bahadur Nahar, Fort, Haryana, Khanzadas, Kotla, Kotla Lake, Mewat, Mosque.*

(RE) DRAWING NABA-BAISHNAVITE BOUNDARIES : SANGHA, SATRA AND THE PEOPLE

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***ABSTRACT :** 'Imagine a pole in the middle of a field to be viewed by people from different sides. They will see different angles of it, sure, but none will be wrong'.¹ This was the response given by the Barpeta Satriya, when asked how he perceives the development of the Sangha. The Srimanta Sankaradeva Sangha and the Satras are the primary custodians of Assam Vaishnavism today. While the Satras emerged in the 16th century, the Sangha was born in the 1930s. It is the faith and principles of Sankaradeva that both claim to propagate, and yet they seem to need two distinct structures for it. Naba-Baishnavbaad, heralded by Sankaradeva in medieval Assam, was ideated as an alternative to the existing religious arrangements, and challenged the exclusive control of Brahmans on scriptural knowledge besides systems of elaborate, polytheistic rituals. The Satras were to be the guiding light for the people, helping them navigate their lives along the path laid down by Sankaradeva. The 20th century Sangha also emerged as a challenge to existing systems upholding Sankarite ideals; however, this time the contestation was not just to non-vaishnavite rituals, but also to certain Satra practices. The two co-exist today, somewhat resembling birds of a feather that may not always flock together.*

Keywords : - Medieval Assam, Naba-Baishnavbaad, Sankaradeva, Satra, Satradhikara, Srimanta Sankaradeva Sangha.

বাংলা বিভাগ

বাংলা বানানের সামাজিক প্রেক্ষিত

শ্যামাশ্যাম কৃষ্ণপূজারি চট্টোপাধ্যায়

বাংলা বিভাগ, গুয়াহাটী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, জালুকবাড়ি, গুয়াহাটী - ৭৮১ ০১৪, অসম

SOCIAL BACKGROUND OF BENGALI ORTHOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT : *There have been uncountable heated debates on Bengali orthography over the last 140 years. Many stalwart linguists have tried individually and teamed up together to introduce a standardized form of Bengali spelling. The Government of west Bengal has taken steps to implement standard Bengali spelling in text-books. Still Bengali orthography is abundant with spelling errors, confusing ligatures, alternative use of graphemes etc. Even a casual glance at mass-media or billboard reveal the miserable state of Bengali spelling. We have attempted to recognize some crucial socio-linguistic factors which play a pivotal role in determining the standard form of Bengali spelling. Apart from that, we have also questioned some prevalent myths about importance of standardized spelling and its role in early literacy.*

Keywords : *Applied linguistics, Literacy, Orthography, Sociolinguistics, Spelling reform.*

দুই বাংলার অ্যাবসার্ডধর্মী নাট্যকলার মূল ভাবনার অনুসন্ধান

রুচিরা চন্দ

বাংলা বিভাগ, তেহাট্টা সদানন্দ মহাবিদ্যালয়, পূর্ব বর্ধমান, পশ্চিমবঙ্গ

IN SEARCH OF THE MAIN THEME OF ABSURD DRAMA OF TWO DEPARTED BENGAL

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ABSTRACT : *This paper is a humble effort to carry out a study on Bengali theatre which is practised in West Bengal and Bangladesh. In the long history of theatre a lot of movements made their impact on stage one by one. Absurd theatre also came through the flow of symbolism and made its own path to be recognized still today. Here we have tried to find some basic similarities of theatrical tricks to establish the main concept of the absurd theory in an analytical way. During the journey of investigation we have chosen the theatrical silence, decoration of stage, usage of light, making of ambience, dress and the form of acting – everything was considered as facts for discussion. Besides this we have tried to give the view of Western Theatrical Pattern as well as the different provinces of India.*

Keywords : *Absurdity, Applied Theatre, Theatrical Silence*

রাজ আমলের ত্রিপুরায় নারী শিক্ষা : একটি ঐতিহাসিক অবলোকন

পরমাত্মী দাশগুপ্ত

বাংলা বিভাগ, ত্রিপুরা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, সূর্যমণি নগর, আগরতলা - ৭৯৯ ০২২

WOMEN EDUCATION IN ROYAL TRIPURA : A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT : During the early part of 16th century, the Bhakti movement led by Sri Chaitanya was instrumental in providing change in social set up of the country - especially in the north-eastern part. Tripura thereby, also, was effected in due course of time when Vaishnava Gurus arrived with a view to promote the Vaishnava cult. The wave already made substantial mark in the literary and cultural field of its neighbouring land Manipur. Women of these regions left unprecedented print in this regard. The royal family of Tripura gradually started adhering to the conjugal relationships with Manipuri women. These enlightened women receiving support from their husband contributed a lot to promote education and culture in Tripura. In this regard, Tulsivati Devi may specially be mentioned.

The objective of the paper is to unfold and identify the hidden link between women education and women empowerment in Tripura under the wave of Bhakti movement.

Key words : Bhakti movement, Development, Education, Tripura, Women empowerment.

উত্তরপূর্ব ভারতে বাংলা গল্পচর্চার ইতিকথা : 'অচলা' থেকে 'জাগরণ'

প্রসূন বর্মণ

বাংলা বিভাগ, কটন বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, গুয়াহাটি - ৭৮১ ০০১

HISTORY OF BENGALI SHORT STORY IN NORTH EAST INDIA : 'ACHALA' TO 'JAGARAN'

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ABSTRACT : In the last two decades, we have seen many discussions on the Bengali short-story of Northeast India. Several books have been published on this. Research papers on the subject have even been awarded at various universities in West Bengal and the Northeast India. It is our firm belief that all these have shed new light on the history of Bengali short-story of the Northeast India.

But still the search goes on. We believe that the history of the beginning and early part of the Bengali short-story in Northeast India is still undiscovered, untold. It is fact that the early history of the Bengali story of the Northeast is scattered in the pages of periodicals or story books hidden behind the dust.

This paper tries to highlight the history and features of the early fifty years Bengali short-story in Northeast India from 1897 to 1947 or 49.]

Keywords : Early part of Bengali Short-story, Northeast India, Short-story

অসমীয়া বিভাগ

গোৰা, গান্ধী আৰু নাস্তিক্য

প্ৰসেনজিৎ চৌধুৰী

প্ৰাক্তন, ইংৰাজী বিভাগ, ডি.ডি.আৰ. কলেজ, চাবুৱা, ডিব্ৰুগড় - ৭৮৬-১৮৪, অসম

GORA, GANDHI AND ATHEISM

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ABSTRACT : Goparaju Ramchandra Rao – better known as Gora – was a non-conformist social reformer, an outspoken atheist and a participant in the Freedom Movement. Interestingly, atheist Gora was an ardent admirer of God-fearing Gandhi. This 'atheist Gandhian' considered himself to be the ambassador of 'positive atheism'. He earnestly believed that the essence of positive atheism is 'Self-confidence and free will.' His futuristic vision was clear : positive atheism will emancipate mankind from mental slavery and implant humane values imbibed with social commitment. Initially Gandhi was not very interested in Gora and his ideas. But it seems Gora's honesty, transparency and his relentless fight against social injustice diluted Gandhi's indifference. Gora was of the opinion that Hindu-Muslim strife can be eliminated if people discard their religious identities. Gora was an atheist humanist who professed his unique dissent without hesitation, fear or diplomatic ambiguity.

Keywords : Atheist, Atheist humanist, Positive atheism, Social reformer Gora.

কৃষ্ণকান্ত সন্দিকৈৰ সাহিত্যত ৰুছ উপাদান

সীমান্ত দাস

অসমীয়া বিভাগ, কামাখ্যাবাম বৰুৱা ছোৱালী মহাবিদ্যালয়, ফটাশিল, গুৱাহাটী - ৭৮১ ০০৯

RUSSIAN ELEMENTS IN THE LITERARY WORK OF KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUE

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ABSTRACT : Russian Elements are playing a significant role in the literature of Krishna Kanta Handique. He was the first person to discuss about the Russian Drama in Assamese. Along with that Mr. Handique started the study of Russian language and other aspects of Russian literature. Here we would like to mention that Mr. Handique knew the Russian language and therefore his study of Russian literature was not mere a translation based study. It makes a very interesting point to note that majority of the followers of Russian literature didn't have direct access to the language. So this paper will help us to understand how the direct impact of Russian literature plays its role in the literature of Krishna Kanta Handique.

Keywords : Assamese literature, Krishna Kanta Handique, Russian literature

ভাওনাৰ এক বিশেষ আহাৰ্য — ৰূপসজ্জা

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MAKE UP – A SPECIAL TRAIT OF AHARYA IN BHAONA

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***ABSTRACT :** Bhaona is a traditional drama form of entertainment with religious messages fervent in Assam. Though originally this form of entertainment was used as a tool to popularize the new Vaishnavite bhakti movement in Assam, it has played a big role in enriching Assamese Literature. The word "Bhaona" referred to those short religious dramas created by great saint Sankaradeva and Madhabdeva. Bhaona has four essential elements : Angik (Body Movement), Bachik (Dialogues), Aharya (Costume, Makeup and ornaments) and Sattwik (Characterization). Aharya helps to maintain an individual unique character, it makes a character lively and more attractive. This research paper mainly focuses on the makeup, colors and their application. The paper is an attempt to go for a detailed study on the part of makeup in Bhaona.*

***Keywords :** Aharya, Bhaona, Color, Makeup, Vaishnavite bhakti.*