

Language Attitude towards Preservation and Development of Khamti Language of Assam

Bishwa Hazarika



Abstract: Language attitude is the attitude of the people for a particular language. Assam is a place where many ethnic and indigenous groups are living harmoniously. The Khamti is an indigenous group and a branch of Tai tribe origin at Burma(today Myanmar) having cultural and linguistic identity. They have their own script. The Khamti is a small ethnic group of Assam and their population is very few. Although they have their own language maximum of them use Assamese language for communication. Due the domination of Assamese language Khamti's are become bilingual. As a result a threatening arises for their language. In such a situation the Khamti's language attitude to their language is becoming an important issue for preservation and development of Khamti language. This paper primarily tries to analyze the language attitude of Khamti people to their language. Secondly, it tries to discuss the significance of Khamti's language attitude for preservation and development of their language based on empirical study.

Keywords: language attitude, khamti language, preservation and development.

I. INTRODUCTION

It is depended enough of attention of the linguist people in many times for the development of a language. Because, to make alive of the language, it should have a proper used. On the other hand, it is same in case of the preservation of language. Here, it is trying to come in light the attitude of the people of Khamti tribes dwelling in Assam and their advocacy for the development of the language or preservation in this stage. Can each of them of Khamti people speak fluently the Khamti Language at present time; particularly, does the new generation eager in this approach? Do they think that the Khamti language should speak each of them? Do they get understand and or not the other tribal language other than Khamti language? Do they take better step or do they think that better steps should be taken for the acceptable acknowledgement from the government, which till now, is not acknowledged etc. The collected data in the help of those questions are discussed differently regarding to sex, male and through educational qualification.

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II. OBJECTIVE:

The objectives of the paper is to -

1. Discuss the Khamti's language attitude for preservation of their distinctive language.
2. Analyze the Khamti's language attitude for development of their language.

III. METHODOLOGY AND MATERIALS:

Both the descriptive and analytical methods have been used in preparation of the paper. The paper is empirical in nature. A field study was done in some selected areas for collection of data with a well design questionnaire. Besides, secondary sources are collected from different books, journals etc.

IV. SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

A Khamti inhabited area namely Narayanpur a place of Lakhimpur district of Assam was selected for the study. Total 240 samples are collected for the study from six villages of Narayanpur randomly. The paper only discusses the khamti's language attitude for preservation and development of their language.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results and discussion of the study can be done through statistical analysis with different tables and charts below-

Language attitude regarding the preservation and the development of Khamti language on the basis of sex:

According to sex, the data are collected in two parts that is male and female as we justify the attitude regarding the conservation or the development of Khamti language. The collected data are analysed by transferring into numerical form. It has taken help of three questions for this data collection. According to sex for the development of the Khamti language regarding to the conservation, prepared for the studying of Khamtis' attitude. The data table is cited below.

The questionnaire and data information which have collected to study the attitude of Khamtis regarding the development and preservation of Khamti language on the basis of sex, has been given below –

Table- I: Attitude regarding the preservation or the development of Khamti language on the basis of sex

Question	Attitude	Sex	
		Male	Female

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		Samples 114	Samples 116
Do you think each of Khamti people must know to speak the Khamti language?	Yes %	114 100	116 100
	No %	0 0	0 0
It does not get recognitions of your Khamti language till now. In this case, do you think it should be got recognition?	Yes %	114 100	116 100
	No %	0 0	0 0
Do you know Khamti language? If you know then in what basis-	No %	0 0	0 0
	Can speak %	71 62.28	91 78.44
	Cann't Speak but, Understan %	12 10.52	19 16.37
	Can Speak & Write %	31 27.19	6 5.17

First question- Do you think each of Khamtis of you must speak the Khamti language? Replying to this question 100% of male and female express their positive attitude. According to them, it is shameful for incapable to speak their own mother-tongue. So, all of them must have able to speak the own mother-tongue.

"The Khamti language of you do not get recognition as it should have. In this case, do you think that it should get recognition?"- Replying to this question both male and female express their positive consideration. In this case, 100% of male and female express their opinion positively.

Do you know the Khamti language? If you know then in what basis?- Replying to this question it has been opined that 62.28% of male can speak, 10.52% cannot speak but get understand, and 27.19% can both speak and write. On the other hand, it has been opined that 78.44% female can speak, 16.37% cannot speak but get understand, 5.17% can both speak and write. Table in the basis of average percentage –

Table- II: Attitude of Khamtis regarding the development and preservation of Khamti language on the basis of Sex

Attitude	Male	Female
Yes	100	100
No	0	0
Can Speak	62.28	78.44
Cann't Speak	10.52	16.37
Can Speak & Write	27.19	5.17

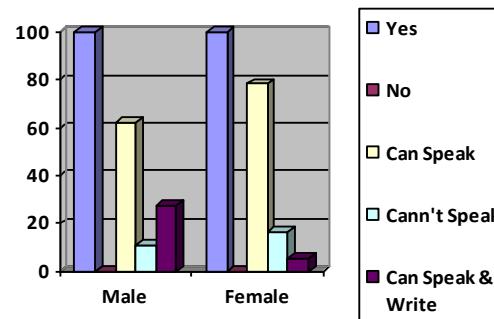


Fig.1. Bar Chart: Attitude of Khamtis regarding the development and preservation of Khamti language on the basis of Sex

Attitude regarding the development and preservation of Khamti language on the basis of educational qualification:

In the observation of attitude regarding the development and preservation of Khamti language on the basis of educational qualification, it has been classified into five sections as illiterate, primary, medial, higher secondary, and in bachelor. It has been tried to analyse the collected data by transforming into numerical form. In this case, it has been tried to know the attitude in the help of three questions. These questions and the table of the data getting through it is as given below-

Table- III: Attitude of the Khamtis regarding the development and preservation of the Khamti language on the basis of educational qualification:

Question	Attitude	Educational Qualification				
		Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	HS	Gaduation/ Post Gaduation
Do you think each of Khamti people must know to speak the Khamti language?	Yes %	29 100	48 100	76 100	35 100	42 100
	No %	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
It does not get recognitions of your Khamti language till now. In this case, do you think it should be got recognition?	Yes %	29 100	48 100	76 100	35 100	42 100
	No %	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
Do you know Khamti language? If you know then in what basis-	No %	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0
	Can speak	28	33	50	22	28

%	96.55	68.78	65.78	62.85	66.66
Cann't Speak but, Understand %	0	8	11	6	5
Can Speak & Write %	1	7	14.47	17.14	11.9
	3.44	14.58	19.73	20	21.42

Question no 1- Do you think each of Khamti people must know to speak the Khamti language?

- Replying to this question, 100% of them who are taken primary, medial, higher secondary and bachelor and master education even the illiterate think that all the Khamti people must know to speak. It means – The khamti linguist people dwelling in Assam, they are needed the preservation and the development of Khamti language. The people from all the stages opine positively in this case.

Question no: 2 - It does not get recognitions of your Khamti language till now. In this case, do you think it should be got recognition?

- Replying to this question 100% of them opine positive attitude who are taken primary, medial, higher secondary and bachelors and masters education even the illiterate also. It means- in case of preservation of the Khamti language, people from all class have been shown their consciousness.

Question no: 3- Do you know the Khamti language? If you know, then in what basis-

- Replying to this question they express their opinion that 96.55% illiterate can speak and 3.44% can speak and write.

- They opine that 68.78% of taking primary education can speak, 16.66% cannot speak but understand, 14.58% can both speak and write. It is opined that taking medial education of 65.78% can speak, 14.47% cannot speak, but get understand, 19.73% can both speak and write. It is also opined that taking higher secondary education of 62.85% can speak, 17.15% cannot speak but get understand, and 20% can both speak and write. It is also opined that taking higher education of 66.66% can speak, 11.90% cannot speak but get understand, 21.42% can both speak and write.

The attitude of the three questions on the basis of average percentage has been presented below through Table and Bar Chart bellow-

Table – IV: Attitude of the Khamtis regarding the development and preservation of the Khamti language on the basis of educational qualification:

Attitude	Illiterate	Primary	Secondary	HS	Gaduate/PG
Yes	100	100	100	100	100
No	0	0	0	0	0
Can Speak	96.55	68.78	65.78	62.85	66.66
Cann't Speak	0	16.44	14.47	17.14	11.90
Can Speak & Write	3.44	14.58	19.73	20	21.42

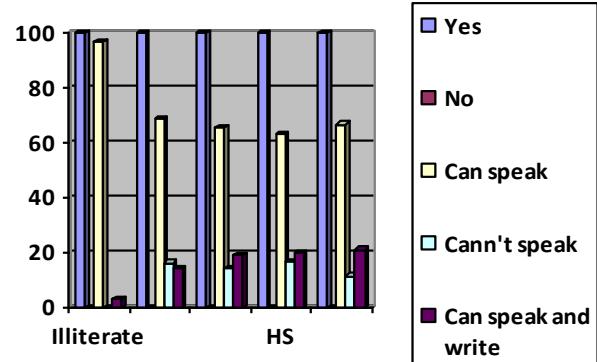


Fig.2.Bar Chart: Attitude regarding the development and preservation of the Khamti language on the basis of educational qualification

Attitude regarding the development and preservation of the Khamti language on the basis of the stages of age:

It is to be seen different attitude towards the Khamti language culture regarding the stages of age. Regarding the stages of age, justifying the attitude of the development and preservation the Khamti language, it has been divided into four groups that is- above 6-15, 16-30, 31-50, and above 51. It has been analysed the dividing data collected from the field study by transferring into numerical form. Regarding to the stages of age the questions getting from the division and its data-table is as given below-

Attitude regarding the development and preservation of the Khamti language on the basis of the stages of age:

Table – V: Language Attitude towards development and preservation of the Khamti Language on the basis of age group

Question	Attitude	Age Group			
		6-15 Years	16-30 Years	31-50 Years	51 Years +
		Samples 36	Samples 65	Samples 75	Samples 54
Do you think each of Khamti people must know to speak the Khamti language?	Yes	36	65	75	54
		%	100	100	100
	No	0	0	0	0
		%	0	0	0

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It does not get recognitions of your Khamti language till now. In this case, do you think it should be got recognition ?	Yes	36	65	75	54
	%	100	100	100	100
Do you know Khamti language? If you know then in what basis-	No	0	0	0	0
	%	0	0	0	0
Can speak	25	47	53	35	
	%	69.44	72.3	70.66	64.81
Cann't Speak but, Understan d	11	10	7	3	
	%	30.55	15.38	9.33	5.55
Can Speak & Write	0	8	15	16	
	%	0	12.3	20	29.54

Question no 1) – Do you think each of khamti people must know to speak the Khamti language? Replying to this question the average percentage of positive of 16-30 years old is 94.29%, 31-50 years old is 95.56%, 51+ years old is 97.5%. Observing the average percentage of the four stages, as it increases the stages of age the average percentage is also increased. It can be reached in a decision from this speech that the Khamtis' dwelling in Assam, the aged people are comparatively enough conscious than the new generation.

Question no:1) Do you think each of khamtis must know to speak the Khamti language? Replying to this question, 100% of the people from all the stages of age .opine that each of Khamti people can be told the Khamti language. That means the Khamti-linguist people ask for the development and the preservation of their Khamti language.

Question no: 2- "The khamti language do not get recognition till now. In this case, do you think it must get recognition? Replying to this question, 100% of the people from all the stages of age express their positive attitude. That means, the people from all the stages have been shown their consciousness regarding the preservation of the khamti language.

Question no: 3- Do you know the Khamti language? If you know then is in what basis? – Replying to this question 69.44% of age 6-15 can speak, 30.55% opine that they get understand but cannot speak. It is opined that 72.30% of age 16-30 can speak, 15.38% cannot speak but get understand, 12.30% can both speak and write. It has been given an opinion that 70.66% of the age 31-50 can speak, 9.33% cannot speak but get understand, 20% can both speak and write. . It is also opined that 64.81% above the age of 51 can speak, 5.5% cannot speak but get understand, 29.54% can both speak and write.

The attitude of the four questions on the basis of average percentage has been presented below through Table and Bar Chart —

Table – VI: Language Attitude towards development and preservation of the Khamti Language on the basis of age group

Attitude	6-15 Years	16-30 Years	31-50 Years	51 Years+
Yes	100	100	100	100
No	0	0	0	0
Can Speak	69.44	72.30	70.66	64.81
Cann't Speak	30.55	15.38	9.33	5.55
Can Speak & Write	0	12.30	20	29.54

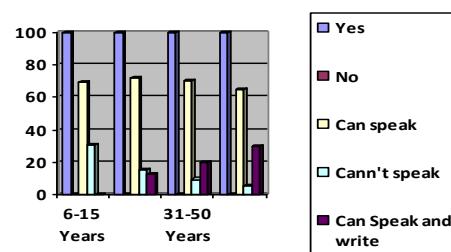


Fig.3. Bar Chart: *Language Attitude towards development and preservation of the Khamti Language on the basis of age group*

Conclusion:

From the above discussion it can be said that Khamti of Assam has a special language attitude for preservation and development of language. From the study it is seen that khamtis have positive attitude towards their language. Based on positiveness it is necessary discuss language attitude of the khamtis for preservation of their language. The paper discusses all these issues and there is further scope of research on this topic.

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