

Discussion on Bhaskar Bordoloi's book '*Asomiya Lipir Kramabikash*' Stress on united efforts to establish originality of Assamese script



(From left) Ashok Sarma, Kanak Chandra Sarma, Premnarayan Nath, the Sabha President Dr. Saikia, General Secy. Jadab Ch. Sarma and Bhaskar Bordoloi at the discussion on Assamese script titled '*Mor Lipi Mor Bhasha*'

"Assamese script is absolutely original. There are 186 epigraphic evidences behind this fact. It dates back to 4th century A.D. The stone inscription discovered in Nagajari Khanikar village is the concrete evidence," said Bhaskar Bordoloi, the writer of Asam Sahitya Sabha's pride publication '*Asomiya Lipir Kramabikash*', in the discussion session titled '*Mor Lipi Mor Bhasha*' held at Simhapurush Radhagovinda Barua meeting hall in Asam Sahitya Sabha's Guwahati office under the auspices of the Sabha's central committee on March 20, 2021.

Presided over by Asam Sahitya Sabha president Dr Kuladhar Saikia, the proceedings began with the Sabha general secretary Jadab Chandra Sharma's welcome address followed by writer Bhaskar Bordoloi's brief elaboration of his book. Presenting a comparative view of the scripts of different languages, Bordoloi claimed that the Assamese script evolved much earlier than even the Devanagiri script. "The birth place of Devanagiri script was Assam. The Umachal Script which dates back to 450-480 A.D. clearly proves it. In fact, Devanagiri Script evolved from Assamese script and we are ready to explain and analyse this fact with relevant documents," he said.

Dr Saikia, in his speech, said that it is high time that we all should put forward united effort to establish the originality of Assamese script. "We sincerely seek that let there be more discussions on this issue with reference to Bhaskar Bordoloi's book," said Dr Saikia.

The director of Anundaram Barooa Institute of Language, Art and Culture (ABILAC) and noted scholar Dr Dilip Kumar Kalita while speaking on the occasion stressed on bringing out English translation of the book '*Asomiya Lipir Kramabikash*'. "Then only we can establish the fact in the greater community of scholars around the world and thus the originality of Assamese script will gain global acceptance," said Dr Kalita.

Script expert Ashok Sarma regretted that in Assam there has been much delay in proper study, research and analysis of the period of evolution of Assamese script in order to establish its originality at national and global level. "That is why, till date we have not been successful to establish the originality of the Assamese script in the Unicode platform and, as the result, our own script is still categorised under Bengali script. This is really very dismaying, disgraceful and unfortunate," he remarked. Noted historian and former Asam Sahitya Sabha vice president Kanak Chandra Sharma also spoke on the occasion and he insisted that this stream of efforts to establish the originality of Assamese script by a batch of young and immensely talented research scholars much continue unabated.

Chandan Sarmah, Dhruvajyoti Sarma and Pulin Kalita also took part in the discussion by placing some relevant questions to the resource persons. It was followed by Sabha's publication wing convenor Devajit Bora's vote of thanks. Two Assamese writers, Dr Apurba Kumar Saikia and Dwijen Kr Das, who very recently won Sahitya Akademi Awards, were felicitated for their achievements. The entire programme which began with presentation of the Sabha anthem '*Chira Chenehi Mor Bhasha Janani...*' concluded with Assam's national song '*O Mor Aaponaar Desh...*'