

My-Profile

Dr Gautam K Borah

Professor and Head

Date of Joining: Dec 21st, 1995

Email: gkb@tezu.ernet.in

Degrees held

MA (University of Leeds, UK)

PhD (NTNU, Trondheim, Norway)

NET (UGC)

Awards

AS Hornby International (British Council) PG Fellowship (Placement: University of Leeds, UK.

Doctoral Fellowship from NTNU, Trondheim, Norway.

AREAS OF INTEREST

Cognitive Linguistics, Philosophy of Language, English literature, Literary Theory, (Endangered) Languages of North East India

PUBLICATIONS

INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL JOURNAL PAPERS

Forthcoming

Are Classifiers Redundant? Manipulation of Meaning with Classifiers.

2017

Bazār āru bazaruā sanskriti (The Market and Mass Culture). *Natun Padātik*, October 2017. 15-18.

2015

The Fox or Mr. Fox? On Particularization of the Bare Noun. *Journal of Modern Languages*, 24(1).

2014

Ādhunik bhaxa biggan samparke (On modern linguistics). (October 2003). *Prāgjoytikā*, October 2013. 38-50.

Sāmpratīk sanskritik sankat āru Khagen Mahanta (The present cultural crisis and Khagen Mahanta). *Gariyoshi*, XXI, 11, August 2014. 19-22.

Bhāxāsamprake bezbaruār ek gurutbapurna parzabekhan (On a valuable observation of Bezbaroa on language). *Prakāsh*, March 2013. 7-11.

Hemango Biswasar Loksangit Samikshā o Axam (On Hemnago Biswas's *A Survey of Folk Music of Assam*). *Natun Padātik*, February 2013. 134-143.

2010

Tense and aspect in Assamese: a few preliminary remarks. *JDA*, Vol 2 (1). 1-8.

Language and Alternative Worlds. *Quills*, Vol 5.

2006

Macbeth, the Birnam Wood, and the meaning of [s]. *CIEFL Bulletin, New Series*, Vol 16. 52-68. (Abstracted in *Language and Language Behaviour Abstracts* (USA) and indexed in MLA Bibliography).

Flat or round, or flat and round at the same time? *Aṇves*, Vol 1(1). 32-53.

2003

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Where have all the count nouns gone? CIEFL Bulletin, New Series, Vol 10 (1-2).127-149.
(Abstracted in *Language and Language Behaviour Abstracts* (USA) and indexed in MLA Bibliography).

The mass-count distinction: an arbitrary, yes-no distinction? JELF, No 32. 50-77. (Abstracted in *Language and Language Behaviour Abstracts* (USA) and indexed in MLA Bibliography).

1998

On countability of nouns in Assamese. ASSP, March 1998. 53-59.

On problems of machine translation. ASSP, July 1998. 53-59.

Ingraji bhāxik sāmrajyabād (On English linguistic imperialism). *Natun Padātik. Vol 1(3). 50-55*

1997

The Sapir-Whorf hypothesis: a negation of the psychic unity of mankind? CIEFL Bulletin, New Series, Vol 8(2). 125-135. (Abstracted in *Language and Language Behaviour Abstracts* (USA) and indexed in MLA Bibliography).

1996

Chomsky's case against B F Skinner. ACTAJ, Vol 21. 7-10.

BOOK CHAPTERS

2019

Rhythms of my verse

The opportune moment has gone

If not Nahar

Breaking the silver shackles

Dance, dance to the rhythm

Sway in the river

In *The Call of the Pherengadao Select Writings of Bishnuprasad Rava*. (Edited with M. M. Sarma and D. P. Nath). Guwahati: Katha Publications. ISBN 978-81-89148-85-0

2018

The Indefinite and Definite Quantifiers in Assamese. In Linda Kornerth et al. (eds). *North East Indian Linguistics*. Canberra: Australian National University. ISBN 978-922185-41-9

2018

Sangatmak Bhaxabiggan: eti samu abhax (Cognitive Linguistics: An Introduction). In N. Padum (Ed). *Bhaxabigyanar gati-prakriti*. Sibsagar: An Asom Sahitya Sabha Publication.

2017

What is language? In G. K. Borah (Ed). *Aspects of Language*. A Tezpur University CODL Publication.

2016

The Indeterminacy of the Bare Noun in Assamese and Its Determination. In Borah, G. K., and M Borbara. *Aspects of Modern Assamese*. Guwahati: Bhabani Print and Publications.

2016

The Ingressive Progressive in Assamese. In Borah, G. K., and M Borbara. *Aspects of Modern Assamese*. Guwahati: Bhabani Print and Publications.

2016

The Fuzzy Boundary Between Projected Realities and Potential Realities and ib. In Borah, G. K., and M Borbara. *Aspects of Modern Assamese*. Guwahati: Bhabani Print and Publications.

2016

Axamiyār daxā: gotdiyek xamasyā (Aspect in Modern Assamese: some problems). In D. Das. (Ed). *Bhaxa-bikkhā (Knowledge of Language)*. Guwahati: Bhabani Print and Publications.

2014

Bezbarua's reflections on language. In M M Sarma and D P Nath (Eds). *Lakshminath Bezbaroa: The Architect of Modern Assamese Literature*. Tezpur: Tezpur University Publication. 2014.

2012

Classifiers in Assamese and their meaning chains. In Morey, Stephen M., and M. Post, and G. Hyslop. (Eds). 2012. *North East Indian Linguistics, Vol 4*. New Delhi: Cambridge University Press.

2010

Rationalism, Competence and performance, Language and parole, Pidgin and carole, Fancy and imagination, Objective correlative, Conceit, New criticism, Negative capability, Alienation, Marxist literary criticism, Metaphysical poetry. In M. M. Sarma. (Ed). 2010. *Sabdakosh: Samaj Sahitya Bigyan (a glossary of terms used in social science, literature, and science in Assamese)*. Tezpur: Tezpur University Publications.

2010

Bhāxā āru bikalpa jagat (Language and Alternative Worlds). In H. Phukan and D. Phukan. *Biswayan: Bharat aru Asam*. Golaghat: Golaghat: Debaraj Roy College Publications.

2003

Universal Grammar – the theory and its philosophical implications. In C Sarma. (Ed). *Cultural Studies-Themes and Perspective*. Tezpur: Tezpur University Publication.

BOOKS

Forthcoming

2021

The Syntax of Biāte, Hrangkhōl, Khelma, Onaeme, Purum, Liangmai and Yimchunger. Lesser Studies Language Series, Vol III. (Edited with Madhumita Barbora). Guwahati: S.S. Graphics. ISBN:

Grandma's Tales (English translation of *Burhi āir Sādhu* by Laxminath Bezbarua Translated with Madan Sarma). Guwahati: Katha Publications.

2019

The Call of the Pherengadao Select Writings of Bishnuprasad Rava. (Edited with M. M. Sarma and D. P. Nath). Guwahati: Katha Publications. ISBN 978-81-89148-85-0

2017

Onaeme Leih Dangdo Laireiboung: A Learner's Book of the Onaeme Language. Centre for Endangered Languages, Tezpur University Publication. Guwahati: Bhabani Print Publications. 2017 ISBN 978-81-935387-7-7

2017

Aspects of Language. [Edited]. A Tezpur University CODOL Publication.

2016

Aspects of Modern Assamese. (Edited with M Barbora). Guwahati: Bhabani Print and Publications. ISBN 978-81-931983-3-9

2009

Tales of the Moonlit Nights (2009) (English translation of a collection of Assamese folk tales), Guwahati: Bhabani Print and Publications.

Transcreations (1998) [English translations of Assamese literary writing] (Ed). A Tezpur University Publication.

PLENARY TALKS

Universal Grammar and Language Pedagogy

National seminar on Prospective Modalities of Teaching-Learning Process in Collegiate Education in Assam. Rangapara College, Sonitpur, 27-28 May, 2005.

The Innate Linguistic Capacity

National seminar on Problems of Teaching of English. Bajali College, 18-19 December, 2010

Language, Knowledge and Imagination

National seminar on English Teaching. LOKD College, 4-5 October, 2011.

Against Reductionism

National seminar on Teaching English as a Second Language at the College Level in India: Issues And Prospects. Nalbari Commerce College, 26-27 September, 2012.

Language and the World of Literature

National seminar on Studies on North East Indian Language and Cultural Heritage, organized by Dept of Assamese, Madhabdev College, Lakhimpur, Assam, 8-9 January 2016.

Language: Just a Means of Communication?

National seminar on Language, Literature of North East India. Organized jointly by Dept of Assamese, Gauhati University and Indira and Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, 15-16 March 2016.

Was in the Beginning the Word or the Deed? (Metaphor and primacy of matter over mind)

Invited talk delivered at a national seminar on The Mind Matters: Language, Cognition and Other Correlations. organized by IIITG, Guwahati, 12 March 2016.

Language and Human Existence

Invited talk delivered at the Dept of English, Patkai Christian College (An Autonomous Postgraduate College), Dimpaur, Nagaland, 22 April, 2016.

Literature: A Lie that Tells the Truth

T G Rinpoche Memorial Lecture, Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies Dahung, Wes Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh, 3 September 2016.

Gender Bias in the Structure of Language

T G Rinpoche Memorial Lecture, Central Institute of Himalayan Culture Studies
Dahung, Wes Kameng District, Arunachal Pradesh, 4 September 2016.

Language as Litearture

Invited talk delivered at Sankardev Academy, Nalbari, Assam, 22 October, 2017.

Drawing a Parallel Between a Classifier and the English Plural Marker

Invited talk delivered at the Advanced Academic Programme (Linguistics) for the North Eastern States (AAP(L) NES-2017) organized by Linguistic Research Unit Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, and held at the Indian Statistical Institute, North East Centre, Tezpur, 9 -11 March, 2017.

Language, Concept, and Reason

Invited talk delivered at a seminar organized by Jukti Bikax Samiti, Assam, Jorhat Press Club, Jorhat, Assam, 18 February 2018.

2019

The Philosophy of Language

Invited talk delivered at the School of Engineering, Tezpur University, Tezpur, 2 August 2019.

2021

The Mass-Count Distinction in Cognitive Linguistics

Invited talk (online) delivered at Cognitive Linguistics Research Forum, University of Madras, 12 September, 2021.

Talks at Refresher Courses

Acted as Expert at the Paper Clinic – Session II, Capacity Building Programme for Faculty in Social Sciences, organized by Equal Opportunity Cell, Tezpur University in collaboration with ICSSR-NERC (14-27 March, 2013), 25 March 2013.

Delivered 4 talks on a Refresher Course organized for college and university teachers of Assamese, Academic Staff College, Gauhati University, Guwahati, 5-6 July, 2013.

Delivered 4 talks on a Refresher Course in English (27 January-17 February 2014) organized for college and university teachers of English, Dept of English, Academic Staff College, Manipur University, Imphal, 12-14 February, 2014.

Delivered 4 talks on a Refresher Course organized for college and university teachers of Assamese, Academic Staff College, Gauhati University, Guwahati, 5-6 July, 2017.

SESSIONS CHAIRED AT INTERNATIONAL/NATIONAL SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

International Symposium on Grammar and Meaning-4. Acharyya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, India, 29-31 January 2007.

North East India Linguistic Society (NEILS)-4, NEHU, Shillong, 15 – 17 January 2009.

Represenation in Nature in Literature: Contemporary Issues (a national seminar), Dept of English and Foreign Languages, Tezpur University, 8-9 April 2009.

North East India Linguistic Society (NEILS)-5, DGH, Guwahati, 12-14 February 2010

North East India Linguistic Society (NEILS)-6, Tezpur University, 31 January-2 February 2011

National seminar on English Teaching. LOKD College, 4-5 October, 2011.

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National seminar on Teaching English as a Second Language at the College Level in India: Issues And Prospects. Nalbari Commerce College, 26-27 September, 2012.

All India Conference of Linguists (AICL)- 34, NEHU, Shillong, 1-3 November 2012.

36th International Conference of Linguistic Society of India (ICOLSI)-I, CIIL, Mysore, 2014.

North East India Linguistic Society (NEILS)-9, Tezpur University, 5-7 February 2016.

23rd Himalayan Languages Symposium at Tezpur University, from 5th to 7th July, 2017.

The First Tiwa Convention, jointly organized by Sahitya Akademi and Tezpur University, during 22-23 September, 2017.

National Conference on the Indigenous and Lesser Studied Languages (ILSL) of the NE India, held at Tezpur University, Tezpur 29 - 31 October 2019.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

1. International Seminar for Doctoral Scholars. University of Bergen, Bergen Norway, 19-20 March, 2001. Paper presented: Do Classifiers Provide Evidence that Language is Embodied?
2. International Conference on the Art and Politics of Subversion: Theory in a Counter mode. Organized jointly by Forum on Contemporary Theory and Dept of English, Mangalore University, Mangalore, 14-17 December, 2005. Paper presented: Subversion with a Purpose: A critique of some of the grounding assumptions of Theory. (Co-authored).
3. SGM-4 (International Symposium on Grammar and Meaning-4). Acharyya Nagarjuna University, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, India, 29-31 January 2007. Paper presented: Where Have Both Articles Gone?
4. ICEG-5. GNITS, Hyderabad, 6-11 January 2008. Paper presented: Metaphors, Ordinary Speech, and Poetic Language: Some Observations.
5. NEILS-4. NEHU, Shillong, 15-17 January 2009. Paper presented: Classifiers and Their Meaning Chains.
6. NEILS-4. Guwahati University. 12-14 February 2010. Paper presented: The Discourse Functions of Classifiers in Assamese.
7. SALA-29. CIIL, Mysore, 6-8 January 2011. Paper presented: Tense and Aspect in Assamese: Some Observations. (Principal author).
8. NEILS-6. Tezpur University, 29 January-2 February 2011. Paper presented: On the Alleged Dichotomy Between a:s and a:se in Assamese. (Principal author).
9. AICL-33. Panjab University, Chandigarh, 1-3 October 2011. Paper presented: One More Progressive in Assamese.
10. ICEG-7. Dept of English, Bannari Amman Institute of Technology, Satyamangalam, Tamil Nadu, 28-30 December 2011. Paper presented: The Fuzzy Category English Nouns: Ontology and Grammar.
11. The 18th Himalayan Languages Symposium. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, 10-12 September 2012. Paper presented: Nominalization in Karbi: Some Observations. (Co-authored)
12. AICL-34, NEHU, Shillong, 1-3 November 2012. Paper presented: The Fuzzy Boundary Between Projected and Potential Realities and i:b.
13. ICEG-9. School of Social Sciences and Languages, VIT University, Vellore, 3-5 January 2013. Paper presented: Some Verbs Are More Verby Than Others: The case of be and other copulas.
14. Bezabruah's Understanding of Metaphor, at a seminar on Lakhminath Bezbaroa, Centre for Assamese Studies, Tezpur University, 26-27 November 2013.

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15. The Bare Noun and Its Particularization: The Bare Noun as a Proper Name, at ICOLSI-I, an international conference, CIIL, Mysore, 27-29 November, 2013.
16. Indefinite and Definite Quantifiers in Assamese, at NEILS-9, an international conference, organized in collaboration with Dept of Linguistics, Gauhati University and linguists from University of Oregon, USA, La Trobe University, Australia, Gauhati University, and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South Korea, Tezpur University, 5 January-7 February 2016.
17. Nominalization in Tai-Khamti, at 22nd Himalayan Languages Symposium, IIT, Guwahati, 8-10 June 2016.
18. On the absence of the numeral in the singular definite classifier phrase, at the 23^d Himalayan Languages Symposium at Tezpur University, 5-7 July, 2017.
19. Two-day national seminar, *English in India: Curricular, Cultural, Critical Shifts*, held at Tezpur University, Tezpur, 28-29 March 2019. Paper presented: *The General and the Particular in Language: Some observations*.
20. National Conference on the Indigenous and Lesser Studied Languages (ILSL) of the NE India, held at Tezpur University, Tezpur 29 - 31 October 2019. Paper presented: *The Associative Plural in the languages of North East*.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ATTENDED WITHOUT PAPER (SELECT)

1. Course on Gender and Inflectional Classes. University of Tromso, Norway, May 22-27, 2000.
2. 8th International Conference on HPSG. Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway, 3-5 August 2001.
3. Scandinavian Summer School on Constraint –Based Grammar. Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway, 6-11 August 2001.

WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS/CONFERENCES ON LINGUISTICS ORGANIZED

1. National seminar on *Nominalization*, organized in collaboration with CIIL, Mysore, Tezpur University, 11-12 January 2009.
2. National Workshop on *Minor Languages of the North East*, organized in collaboration with CIIL, Mysore, Tezpur University, 2-10 January, 2009.
3. NEILS-6, an international conference, organized in collaboration with James Cook University, Australia, Gauhati University, and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South Korea, Tezpur University, 29 January-2 February 2011.
4. International Workshop on *Linguistic Fieldwork and Language Analysis* (organized in collaboration with James Cook University, Australia, Gauhati University, and Hankuk University for Foreign Studies, South Korea, Tezpur University, 29-30 January 2011.
5. National Workshop on *The Syntactic Typology of Tibeto-Burman Languages and Assamese*, organized in collaboration with the Dept of Linguistics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, USA), Tezpur University, 17-21, January 2011.
6. Talks by Prof George van Driem (University of Berne, Italy), organised at Tezpur University, 24-25 October, 2013.
7. Talks by Prof Scott DeLancey (University of Oregon, USA). organised at Tezpur University 20-25 February, 2014.

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8. NEILS-9, an international conference, organized in collaboration with Dept of Linguistics, Gauhati University and linguists from University of Oregon, USA, La Trobe University, Australia, Gauhati University, and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South Korea, Tezpur University, 5 January-7 February 2016.

9. Workshop on Cognitive Linguistics and Languages of Northeast India, 4-5 Feb, 2017 (Resource Persons: Prof Klaus Uwe Panther and Dr Linda Thornburg, University of Hamburg, Germany).

10. 23rd International Conference of Himalayan Languages Symposium at Tezpur University during 5th to 7th July, 2017.

11. A four-day workshop on Field Linguistics under the aegis of the Centre for Endangered Languages, Tezpur University during 2-5 February, 2018.

Member, Board of Studies

Dept of English, Nagaland University (2014-2016)

Dept of English, English and Foreign Languages University, NEHU Campus (2015-2017)

Member (VC's nominee), Board of Studies, Dept of English, North Lakhimpur College (an Autonomous College), Assam (2013-2015)

Member, Board of Studies, Dept of English and Foreign Languages

Member, Departmental Research Committee, Dept of English and Foreign Languages

Member, Board of Studies, Dept. of Linguistics, Rajasthan Central University (.....)

ASSOCIATION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL BODIES

Linguistic Society of India (Life member)

North East Linguistics Society

Cognitive Linguistics Research Forum

Himalayan Languages Symposium

Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of Contemporary Research* (a national peer-reviewed journal) ISSN: 2320-9542.

COMMITTEE MEMBER

Editor, Annual Report (Tezpur University): (2008-2009), (2009-2010), (2010-2011), (2011-2012), (2012-2013), (2013-2014)

Advisor, Annual Report (Tezpur University) Editing and Compiling Committee: (2013-2014) (2014-2015) (2015-2016) (2017-2018)

Member, Students' Council (2008-2009), (2012-2013), (2013-2014)

Member, 9th and 11th Convocation Committees

Member, Coordination Committee, Student Placement Activities, Tezpur University (February 2009-February 2011).

Coordinator, NET Classes, Dept of English and Foreign Languages (2009-2010)

Member, Library Committee, Tezpur University (2014-2016)

Teacher-in-charge, Srijan (University Magazine) (2009-10), (2012-2013)

Editor, Souvenir, UIFEST 2011

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Member, NAAC Steering Committee (2014-2016)

Chairperson, Republic Day and Independence Day Celebration Committee (2016)
Member, Academic Council, Tezpur University

Member, Advisory Committee, Assamese Studies Centre, Tezpur University

Member, Research Committee, Tezpur University

Member, Core Committee to propose Academic Programmes for Jonai Campus of the University

Member, Committee, Translation and Publication of Bishnu Prashad Rabha Rachanabali, Tezpur University

Member, Publication Committee, Tezpur University

Member, Advisory Board, Centre for Endangered Languages, Tezpur University

Member, Preliminary Screening Committee, IQAC, Tezpur University

Member, IQAC, Tezpur University
Member, Research Committee, Tezpur University

Projects

The Shaping of Modern Assamese: The Indigenous and Southeast Asian Influences (A diachronic and synchronic study), project as part of SAP-DRS Project Part I and II.

Digital Language Preservation Project, DEITY (Department of Electronics and Information Technology). Co-PI.

PhD Supervision

S.N.	Name	Date of award
1	Kailash Sarma	10 November 2017
2	Raujline Siraj Farzina Akhtar	10 November 2017
3	Louriyam Bebica Devi	20 December 2017
4	Raju Borthakur	18 January 2019
5	Trisha Borgohain	19 June 2020
6	Puja Shil	Ongoing
7	Sweetie Bayan	Ongoing
8	Chingrimung Lungleng	Ongoing
9	Reetom Borkotoky	Ongoing

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10	Mairembam Nicolson	Ongoing
11	Bisalakshi Sarwani	Ongoing
12	Reshma Nasreen Choudhury Shah	Ongoing

PhD and MPhil Examiner

PhD and MPhil dissertations submitted at the Indian Universities (English & Foreign Language University, Hyderabad; Gauhati University, etc.).

Other supervision

1. Supervised the work of two University internees July 2012 and July 2013
2. Supervised the project, *Code-Switching-Mixing Induced Changes in Modern Assamese and Their Future Implications*, carried out by Dr Arup Nath, Research Associate, Centre for Assamese Studies, Tezpur University.
3. Supervised more than 75 MA dissertations submitted to the Dept of English, Tezpur University (1999-2021)

REVIEWING JOURNAL PAPERS

Reviewing papers submitted to international and national journals.