

# HISTORY AND EVOLUTION OF DICTIONARIES IN ASSAMESE

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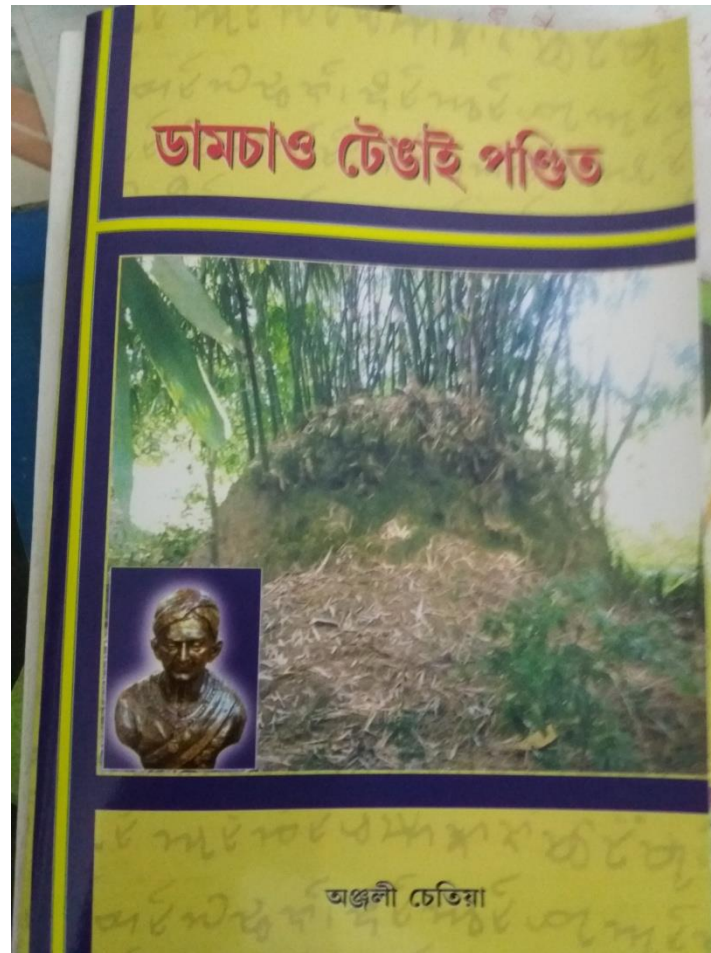
# WHEN TO START THE HISTORY OF ASSAMESE DICTIONARIES

- A POPULAR BELIEF IS THAT HEMKOSH (1900) WAS THE FIRST EVER ASSAMESE DICTIONARY
- THOSE WHO KNOW MORE, SAY HEMKOSH WAS NOT THE FIRST, BUT THE SECOND ASSAMESE DICTIONARY AS MILES BRONSON'S 'A DICTIONARY OF ASSAMESE AND ENGLISH' (1867) WAS THE FIRST!
- BUT while working for Jatiya Abhidhan we have found out that Hemkosh was not 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or even 9<sup>th</sup>. It was the 10<sup>TH</sup> Assamese dictionary!

# THE FIRST TWO ASSAMESE DICTIONARIES

- HISTORY OF ASSAMESE DICTIONARY DOESNOT START FROM HEMKOSH 1900 BUT GOES BACK TO 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY,1795 TO BE PRECISE!
- Tengai Mohon and Romakanta Molagharia Barua, two Tai scholars had compiled BAR AMRA and LATI AMRA respectively,two Tai Assamese vocabularies.

# Tengai Mohon's Bar amra 1795



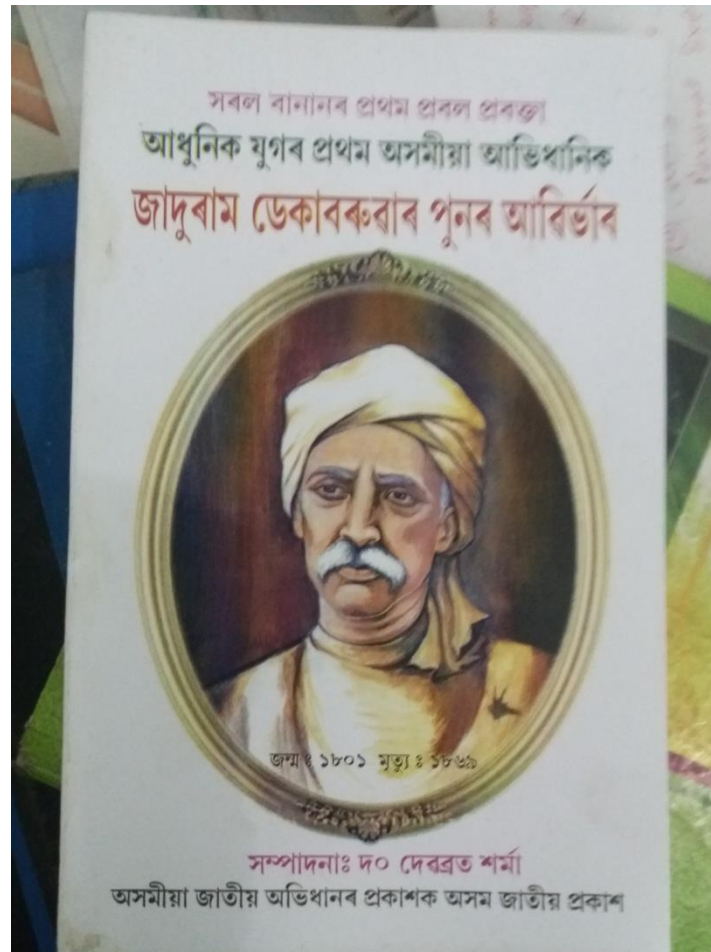
# RUCHINATH BURAGOHA, 1810

- NOT BY RUCHINATH KAMRUPI. BUT BY
- WOULD BE PRIME MINISTER OF ASSAM
- GIVEN TO BRITISH LIBRARY BY DR FRANCIS BUCHANON HAMILTON
- WHY NOT KAMRUPI?
- KEY WORDS DURGA  
JOYOTI, KHEJUR, ANANAS, ATHAO PUTHAO..

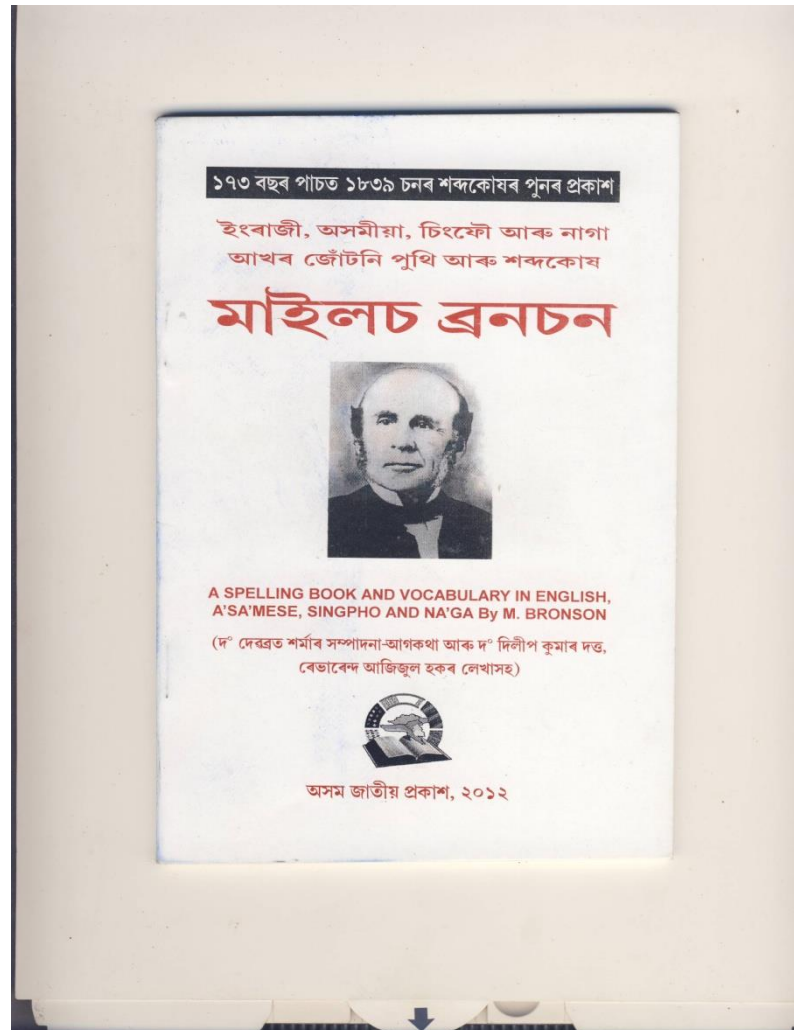
# RAJA BRAJANATH SINGHA, 1814

- TEN LANGUAGE DICTIONRY
- SUBMITTED TO BRITISH LIBRARY IN 1814
- BY THE SAME DR FRANCIS BUCHANON HAMILTON
- RAJA BRAJANATH MENTIONED BY BUCHANON MANY TIMES
- HOW HE KNEW MANY LANGUAGES

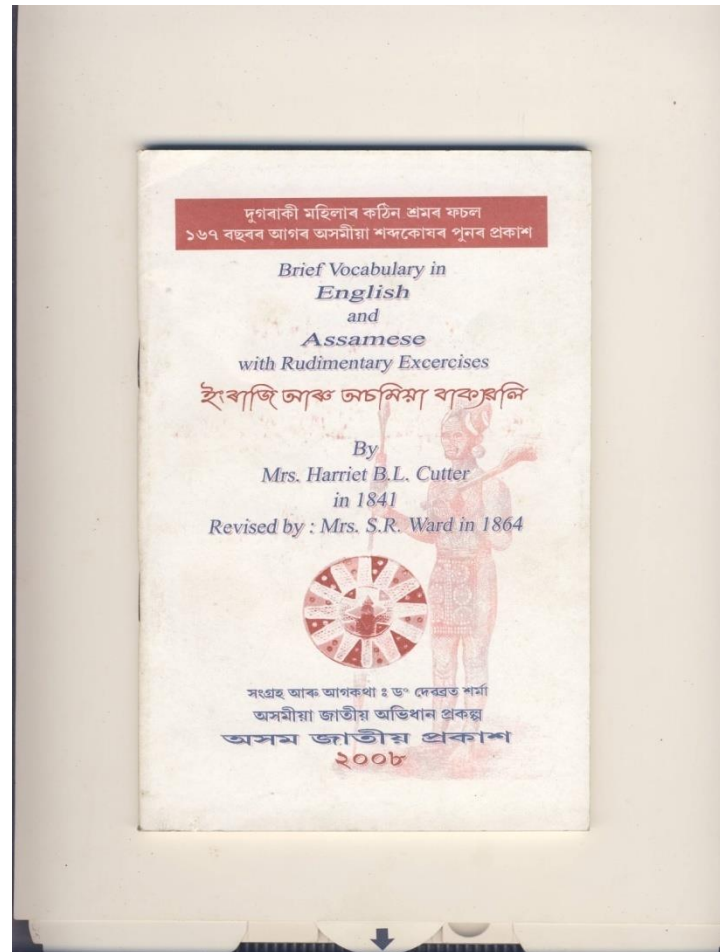
# JADURAM DEKABARUA'S MISSING DICTIONARY, 1836



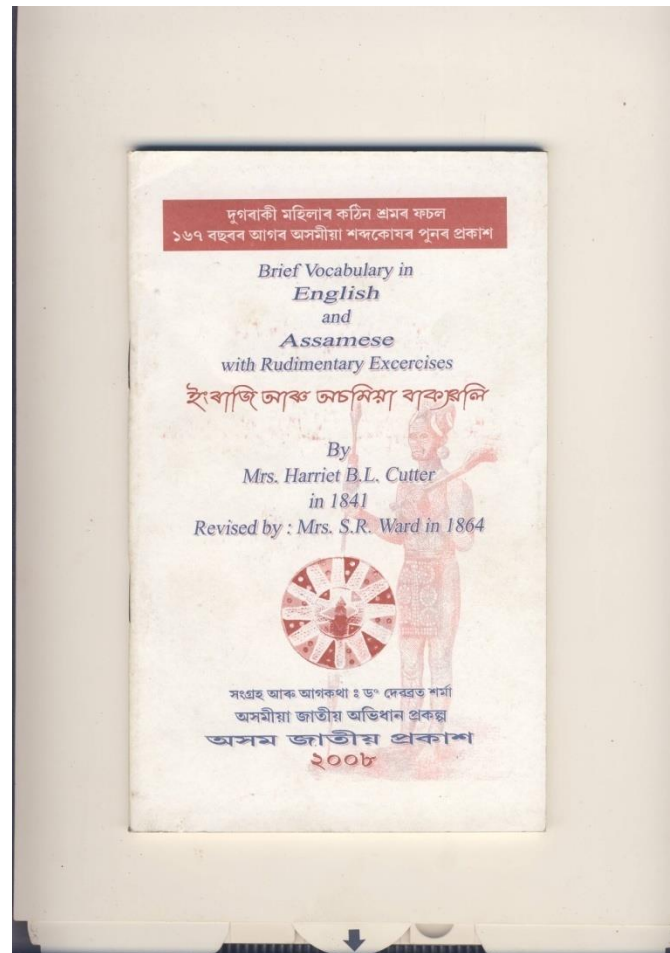
# MILES BRONSON'S 4-LANGUAGE DICTIONARY, 1836



# HARRIET B.L.CUTTER,1841



# CUTTER & WARD, 1864



# BRONSON'S A DICTIONARY OF ASSAMESE AND ENGLISH, 1867

- FIRST EVER COMPREHENSIVE ASSAMESE DICTIONARY ,WITH 14,000 WORDS AND THEIR MEANINGS
- BASED ON THE SIMPLE SPELLING SYSTEM – ORTHOGRAPHY PRESCRIBED BY “LEARNED ASSAMESE PUNDIT “ JADURAM DEKABARUA
- CASTE-NEUTRAL, OBJECTIVE

# HEMKOSH,1900

- CONTAINED 22,000 ENTRY WORDS ,8000 MORE THAN BRONSON'S
- SANSKRITIST ORTHOGRAPHY,OPPOSED TO SIMPLE,JADURAMI ONE
- ALLEGATIONS OF CASTE-ETHNIC-GENDER BIAS
- FIRST MODERN,COMPREHENSIVE ASSAMESE DICTIONARY,COMPILED BY AN ASSAMESE

# CHANDRAKANTA ABHIDHAN,1933

- SPONSORED BY RADHAKANTA HANDIQUE
- INITIATED BY SHARAT CH GOSWAMI,GS,ASS
- COMPILED MAINLY BY KOHIRAM DAS OF SARTHEBARI
- BOTH WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN INCLUDING A LARGE NUMBER OF KAMRUPI WORDS
- NAMES OF BOTH OF THEM DELETED ALONG WITH KAMRUPI WORDS
- BASIS REMAINED HEMKOSH

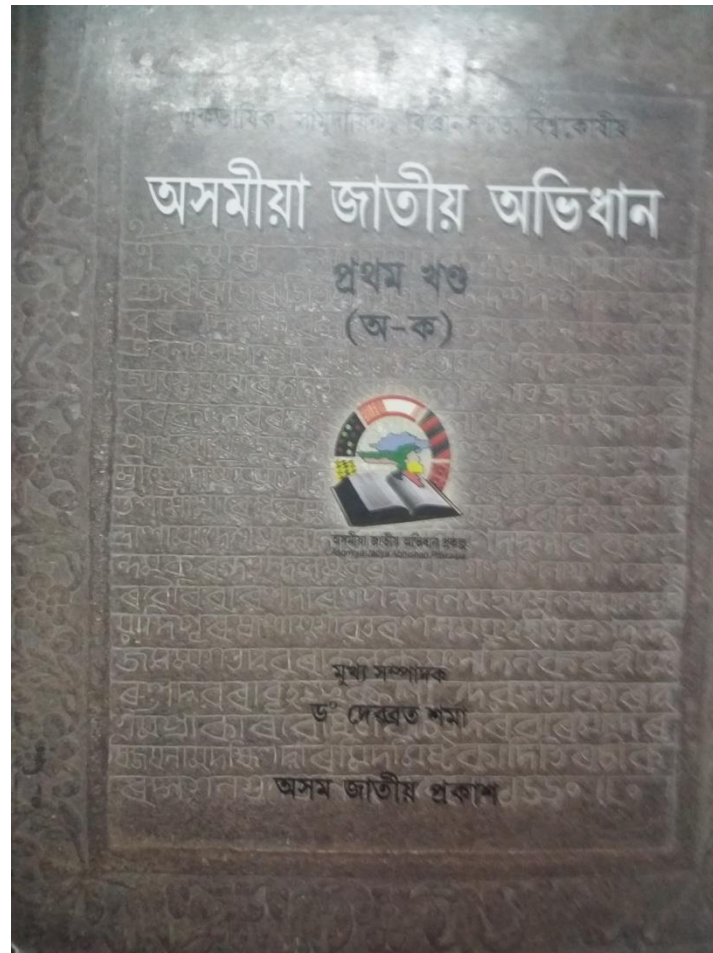
# CHANDRAKANTA ABHIDHAN, 1967

- IT TOOK 34 MORE YEARS TO PUBLISH SECOND EDITION OF CHANDRAKANTA ABHIDHAN
- BUT THIS TIME ASAM SAHITYA SABHA COULD NO LONGER BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY
- THE TASK WAS HANDED OVER TO G.U.
- BASE REMAINED SAME
- CONTROVERSIES CONTINUED

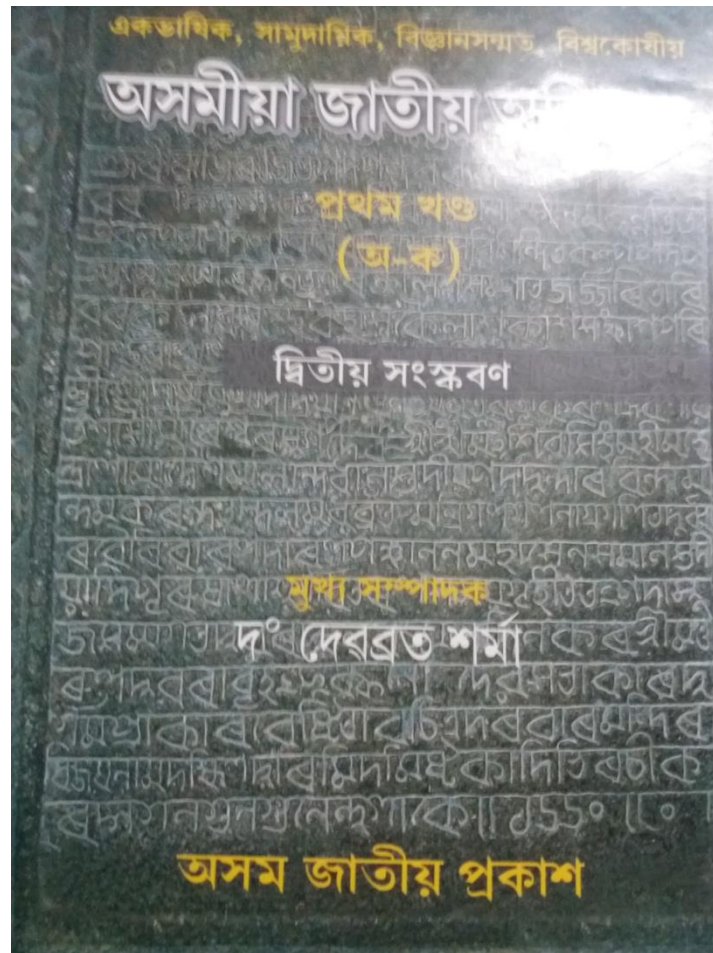
# ADHUNIK ASOMIA SABDAKOSH,1995

- BASED ON HEMKOSH –CHANDRAKANTA TRADITIONS
- ADDITION OF SOME MORE WORDS
- ALLEGATIONS OF CASTE INSENSITIVITY RAISED

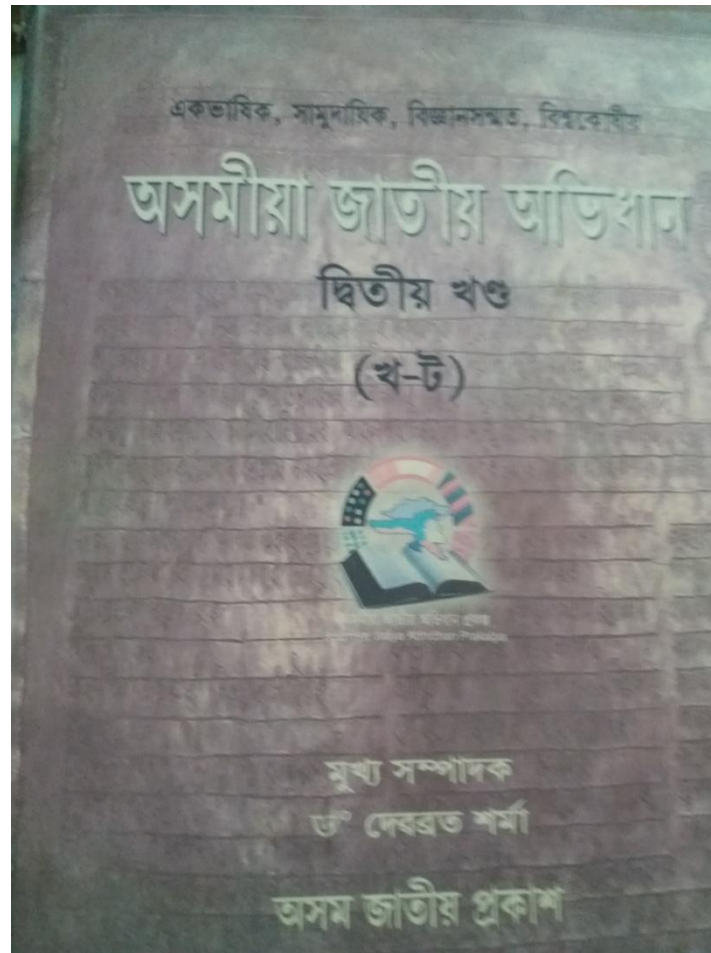
# ASOMIA JATIYA ABHIDHAN,I,2010,1<sup>ST</sup> e 50,000 WORDS,OUT OF PRINT NOW



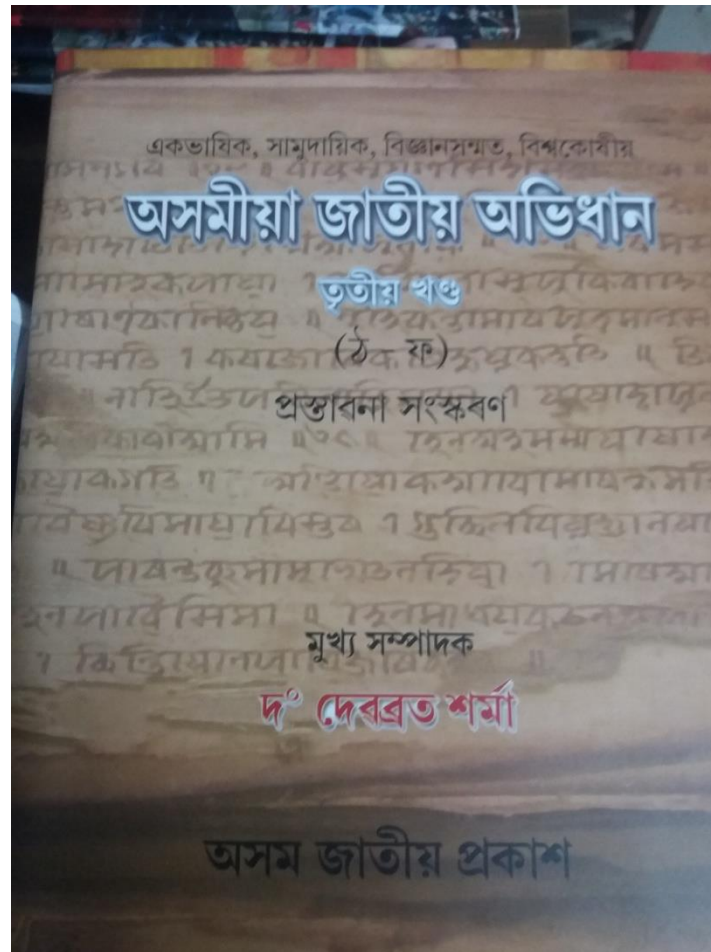
# ASOMIA JATIYA ABHIDHAN,I,2<sup>ND</sup> ed 65,000 words



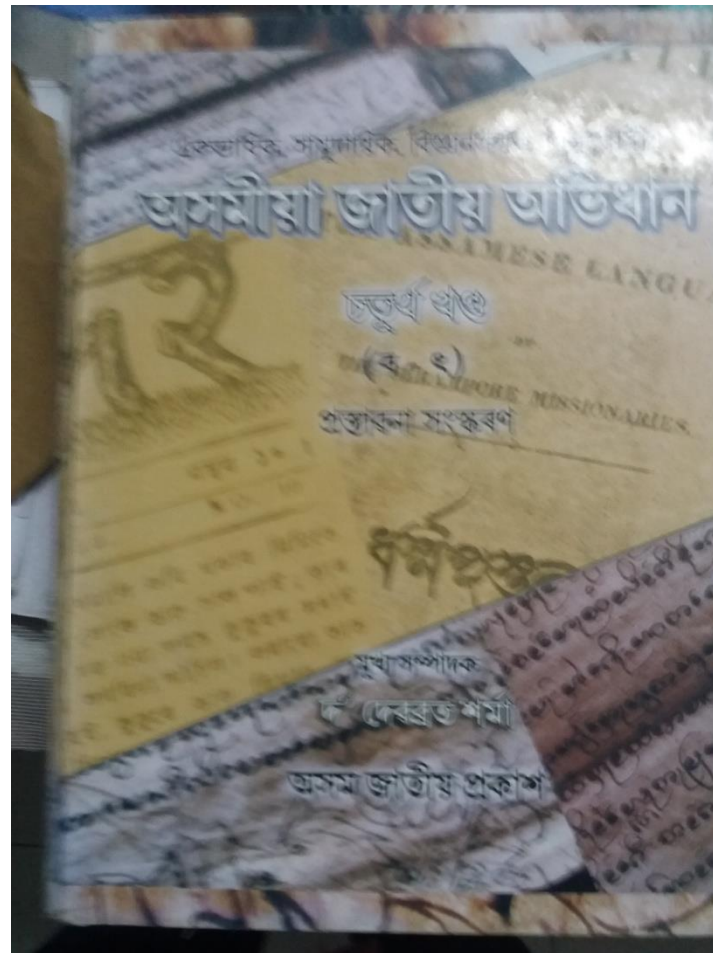
# ASOMIA JATIYA ABHIDHAN,II,2010



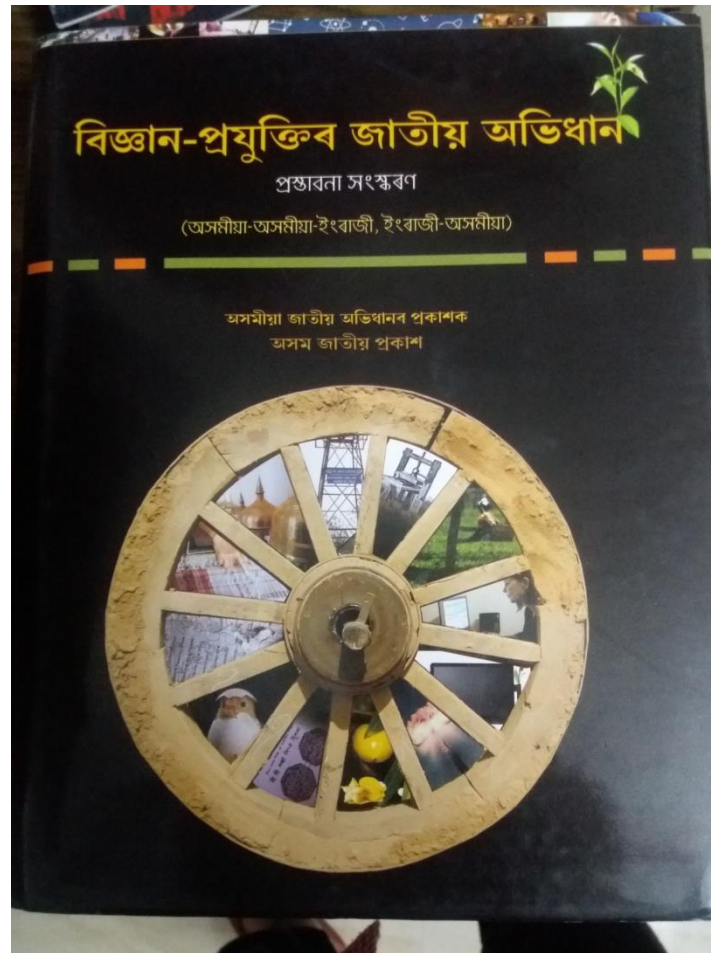
# ASOMIA JATIYA ABHIDHAN,III,2011,



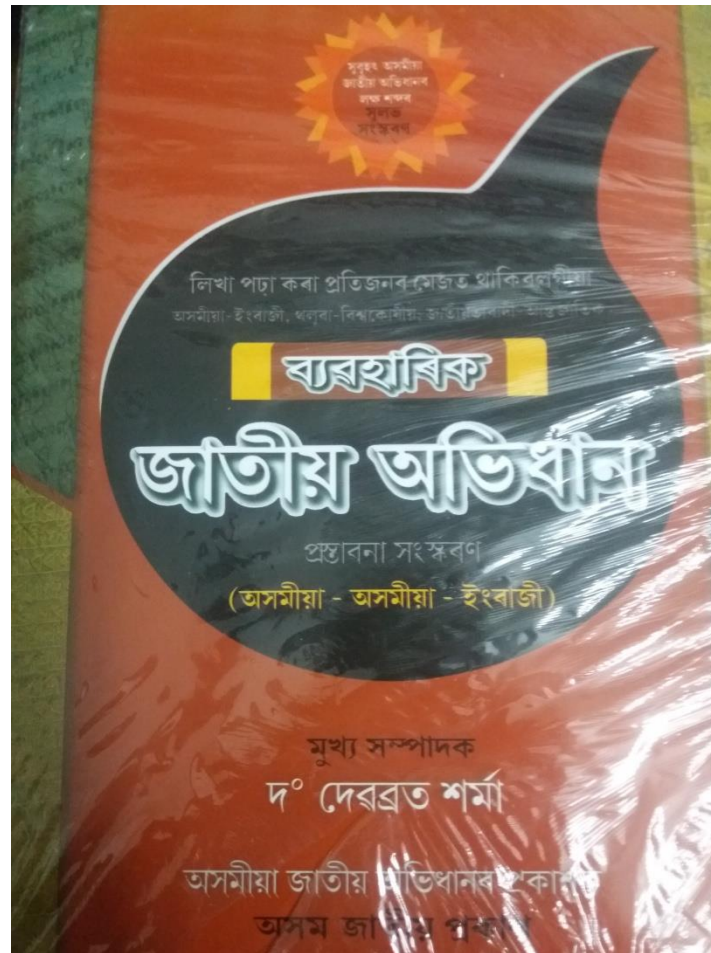
# ASOMIA JATIYA ABHIDHAN,IV,2012



# BIGYAN PRAJUKTIR JATIYA ABHIDHAN



# BYABAHARIK JATIYA ABHIDHAN



# JATIYA ABHIDHAN: A PARADIGM SHIFT

- UNILINGUAL, COMPREHENSIVE, ENCYCLOPEDIC  
, SCIENTIFIC 4 VOLUMES
- AS OPPOSED TO 22,000 ENTRY WORDS OF  
HEMKOSH, 1900, 1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION, A.J.A. 1<sup>ST</sup>  
EDITIONS CONTAINED AS MANY AS 2,00,000  
WORDS!
- NEARLY 1,00,000 WORDS FROM LOWER  
ASSAM DIALECTS  
KAMRUPI, DRANGI, GOALPARIA

# JATIYA ABHIDHAN : A PARADIGM SHIFT

- SIMPLIFIED ORTHOGRAPHY FOLLOWED
- IT WAS USED BY HEM SARASWATI IN PRAHLAD CHARIT NEAR 800 YEARS AGO!
- MADHAB KANDALI BEFORE SHANKARDEVA!
- BY SHANKARDEVA NEARLY 600 YEARS AGO!
- IN BURONJIS FOR CENTURIES!
- BY RUCINATH 1810,BRAJANATH 1814,JADURAM 1839,BRONSON 1839,CUTTER 1841,CUTTER 1864,BRONSON1867,ORUNODOI 1846 ONWARDS..BORKOTKY 1972,GOSWAMI TILL DATE'
- SO SIMPLE ORTHOGRAPHY OF AJA AN ONGOING PROCESS

# HISTORY OF ASSAMESE DICTIONARIES

- IT DOESNOT START FROM 1900,BUT 1795!
- HEMKOSH NOT FIRST ,BUT TENTH ASSAMESE DICTIONARY!
- HISTORY OF ASSAMESE DICTIONARIES NOT 118,BUT 223 YERS OLD,SPREADING TO 4 CENTURIES!
- IT IS TIME TO LOOK BACKWARD FOR STOCK-TAKING AND SELF ANALYSIS AND FORWARD FOR FUTURISTIC PLANNING