Languages of Manipur in the Fast Changing Globalized World

Naorem Brindebala Devi, Research Scholar Prof. Ch. Yashawanta Singh

Abstract

There are many languages in the world. But it is not confirmed yet the exact number of the languages. In Manipur itself, there are three language families: Indo-Aryan, Dravidian and Tibeto-Burman. Manipuri, the lingua-franca of Manipur, is included in the Tibeto-Burman language family, besides the 33 claimed tribal languages. It is an Eighth Schedule language which is used as a medium of instruction in schools and colleges. Some tribal language are in the status of using as a medium of instruction from standard 1 to graduate level where they are taught as an elective subject. However, social development and globalization have made a great impact on these languages. Various loan words related to computer, mobile phones, internet, cable TV and readymade phrases and sentences etc. are used with native languages with their respective verbs as an impact/effect of IT and various network developments which are the agents of globalization. It let the cultures exchanged throughout the world, translation, being the means. Globalization gives an opportunity of changing the languages but it needs care to develop the mother tongue as well as nativize it side by side.

Key words: language, tribal language, endangered language, globalization, translation, technology.

Introduction

Till today there is no exact number of languages recorded in the world: it is estimated generally and reported as more than 6000 languages in the world. Regarding the number of languages there are various opinions. Ethnologue reported that there are currently 6912 living languages in the world. According to SIL International the number is 6909 spoken languages, Ruhlen (1987) reported roughly 5000 languages. These are all round about. In the word of Grenoble and Whaley (1999) 'It is generally agreed that there are somewhere between 5000 and Language in India www.languageinindia.com ISSN 1930-2940 15:10 October 2015 Naorem Brindebala Devi, Research Scholar and Prof. Ch. Yashawanta Singh Languages of Manipur in the Fast Changing Globalized World

6000 languages spoken in the world today'. Anderson in his papers **How many languages are there in the world** did not mention the number but he mentioned there are more than 250 language families in the world. According to Comrie, 'The best currently available detailed account of the distribution of the world's languages, with information on geographical location, number of speakers, and genetic affiliation, is Grimes (1996) who makes list over 6700 languages spoken in the world today. Here it can be mentioned that the last speaker of Boa of The Great Andamanese was dead on 26 January 2010.

To this controversial number India takes an important number by contributing 1721 languages (rationalized mother tongues, identifiable mother tongues and major languages) of six families, namely, Indo-Aryan of Indo-European, Dravidian, Austro-Asiatic, Tai-Kadai, Tibeto-Burman of the Sino-Tibetan family, Andamanese and the Great Andamanese. In Manipur itself there are three language families namely Indo-Aryan, Tibeto-Burman and Dravidian (mostly Tamil at Moreh).

Manipur

It is claimed that Manipur has 33 languages, other than Manipuri, but it is not rational to include as "Any Mizo" or "Any Kuki" in this claimed 33 languages of Manipur (as mentioned in Annual Report, Tribal Research Institute, Manipur, 2007-2008). In the Northeast there are about 220 languages (1971 Census) among which Eighth Schedule languages are Bengali, Assamese, Manipuri, Nepali and Boro, others are all tribal languages, which all belong to Tibeto-Burman sub-group of the Sino-Tibetan language family. The languages of the seven states are given state wise:-

Arunachal Pradesh

Arunachal Pradesh has many mother tongues, namely, Adi, Aka, Apatani, Bangni, Bugun (Bogun), Deori, Miri, Khamba, Kongbo, Khampti, Lisu, Meyor, Miji, Muktum, Mishmi, Monpa, Nah, Mishang, Nisi, Nocte, Puroik (Sulung), Sherdukpen, Singhpho, Tagin, Tangsa, Wancho, Zakhring, etc.

Assam

The state of Assam has Indo-Aryan languages, namely, Assamese, Bengali as well as Tibeto-Burman languages, namely, Manipuri, Bodo(Boro), Chakma, Deori, Dimasa, Garo, Hajong, Hmar, Kabui, Rongmei, Karbi (Mikir),Khasi, Koch, Tiwa, Mishing, Mistmi, Nepali, Rabha, Tai, Zemi/Zeme, etc.

Meghalaya

In Meghalaya, there are two language families- Austro-Asiatic, namely, Khasi and Pnar (Synteng) as well as Tibeto-Burman languages, namely, Hajoing, Garo, Karbi, Koch, Rabha, etc.

Mizoram

The state of Mizoram has only TB languages, namely Hmar, Lakher (Mara), Lushir (Mizo), Paite etc. In Nagaland there are many languages. They are Angami, Ao, Chokri, Chang, Khezha, Khiemnungan, Konyak, Liangmei, Lotha, Pochuri, Pohm, Sema, Sangtam, Yimchuger, Tirkhir, Zemi/ Zeme, Rengma, etc.

Sikkim

Sikkim has around ten languages, namely, Bhutia, Gurung, Lepcha, Limbu, Mangar, Sunwar, Nepali, Newari, Rai, Sherpa, Tamang, etc.

Tripura

In Tripura, Bengali is the state language. It has some languages, namely, Manipuri Bongcher, Chakma, Darlong, Halam, Kokborok, Mogh, Riang, Jumatia, etc.

State of Manipur Details

In Manipur State, Manipuri (Meiteilon/Meeteilon) is the state official language and used as linguafranca by the various communities. It has 31 other languages (without the claimed "Any Mizo" or "Any Kuki"). They are Aimol, Anal, Angami, Chiru, Chothe, Gangte, Hmar, Inpui, Kabui, Kharam, Koirao (Thangal), Kom, Lamgang, Mao, Maram, Maring, Monsang, Moyon, Paite, Poumai, Purum, Ralte, Rongmei, Sema, Simte, Sukte, Tarao, Tangkhul, Thadou, Vaiphei and Zou. The largest population is Thadou (1,15,045) and the next is Tangkhul (1,12,944). On the other end, severely endangered languages are Purum (503 speakers), Tarao (600 speakers)

while Kharam (1000 speakers) and Koireng (1056 speakers). Internationally, it is accepted that those languages whose speaker is less than 10,000 is treated as endangered language. '...some 125 languages (Tibeto-Burman) with less than 10,000 speakers, many of which are now endangered' (Matisoff, 1991). Taking this view into account Manipuri has around 14 endangered languages. They are Aimol (3643 speakers), Chiru (5487 speakers), Chothe (2675 speakers), Koirao (1200 speakers), Koireng (1056 speakers), Lamgang (4524 speakers), Monshang (1635 speakers), Moyon (1710 speakers), Purum (503 speakers), Simte (7,150 speakers), Tarao (600 speakers) and Kharam (1000 speakers) (Annual Report, Tribal Research Institute, Manipur, 2007-2008).

Status of the Languages of Manipur

Here in this section we discuss the information relating to the medium of instruction in academic institutions. No doubt, Manipuri is an Eighth Schedule language; it is used as a medium of instruction in schools (government), in graduate level side by side with English. Manipuri literature is offered in Masters level as well as in Research.

Out of the 31 languages only ten languages, namely, Kom, Mao, Rongmei, Tangkhul, Thadou, Vaiphei and Zou are used as medium of instruction from standard I to V, Tangkhul is used upto standard XII, and two languages, namely, Hmar and Paite are offered in Graduate levels as an elective subject.

Social development and modernization have made a great impact on language. There is no exception. The same is the case in the languages of Manipur and others too. For instance, the phrase **switch off, SMS** (Short Message Service) etc. are known to almost all the speakers of the various/different languages of Manipur. This is a simple example of globalization; the world is becoming a village in which a shouting from a corner can reach a corner: a detail message can be decoded easily without the loss of time.

Globalization

Globalization leaves no stone unturned (Ota 2011). Globalization means a comprehensive transformation of a society; it is due to the development of IT and trade and commerce; its

impact on language and culture can be detected in every facet of life. The global economy has been influencing traditional value and ways of thinking. Norio Ota (2011) refers globalization as phenomena that involve sweeping and comprehensive changes across the world!

The agents of globalization in giving much impact on languages are IT and various Networks. For our convenience in analysis it can be categorized the global words in association with objects such as: a) words related to computer, b) words related to mobile phones, c) words related to internet, d) words related to cable TV and e) heavily used readymade phrases or sentences, etc. These points are discussed below.

a) Words related to computer

There are some computer related words being used every day, directly without any translation. The words are nouns and are used with Manipuri verbs. The examples are given below:

1.	Computer	+ Verb	
	Computer	$+ l \leftrightarrow ib \leftrightarrow$	'to buy computer'
2.	Laptop	+ Verb	
	Laptop	+ sijinnəbə	'to use laptop'
3.	Mouse	+ Verb	
	Mouse	+ paib↔	'to hold the mouse'
4.	Browse/ brov	wsing + verb	
	Browse/ brov	wsing + t \leftrightarrow ub \leftrightarrow	'to browse'
5.	Print out	+ Verb	
	Print out	$+ l \leftrightarrow ub \leftrightarrow$	'to take print out'
6.	Download	+ Verb	
	Download	$+ t \leftrightarrow ub \leftrightarrow$	'to download'
7.	CD	+ Verb	
	CD	$+ l \leftrightarrow ib \leftrightarrow$	'to buy CD'
8.	Drive	+ Verb	
	Drive	+ yaode	'There is no drive'

9.	Document	+ Verb	
	Document	+ maNb↔	'to lose document'
10.	File	+ Verb	
	File	+ caowi	'The file is big.'
11.	Space	+Verb	
	Space	+ l⇔ite	'There is no space.'

b) Words related to mobile phone

Nowadays everybody, one can say, uses mobile phone; it becomes an object of necessity not becoming a luxury. It is so useful that even a poor man, or a labourer or a rickshaw driver is using it. Some examples, (loan word + Manipuri verbs) are given below.

Mobile	paidra	'Don't you have a mobile?'
Call	t⇔urak-u	'Give me a call.'
Ring tone	phaj⇔i	'The ringtone is nice.'
SMS	thar↔k-u	'Send a message.'
Touch screen	lei-yu	'Buy a touch-screen one.'
Switch off	t⇔u-wi	'It is in switch off mode.'
Receive	t↔u-re	'I have received it.'
Missed call	pi-r↔k-u	'Give me a missed call.'
Save	t↔u-re/ tou-rə-ge	'I have save it.'
Number	thar↔k-u	'Send me the number.'
Sim card	↔m↔ pi-r↔k-u	'Give me a SIM card.'
Recharge card	l ↔m↔ l↔i-ro	'Buy a new recharge card.'
Head phone	yao-bra	'Do you have a headphone?'

c) Words related to Internet

No doubt, internet is also a powerful agent for changing a language; this is a gift of globalization in this age of IT. Various persons, namely, students, scholars, business men, any professional person of various trades use internet for their various purposes. Anything can be

seen in a moment or later which is happening in any corner of the globe. People are using many terms or words related to internet every day. The words are given below.

nternet haN-u		'Open the internet.'
Google-da	c↔N-u	'Enter Google.'
Mail check	t↔u	'Check the mail.'
Password	hai-r↔k-u	'Give me your password.'
Password	caN-u	'Enter your password.'
Chatting	t⇔u-si	'Let's have chatting.'
ر Browsing	t↔ub↔	'To do browsing'
Browse \int		
Print out	l↔ub↔ya-de	'Printout cannot be taken.'
Network	l⇔i-te	'There is no network.'

Etc.

d) Words related to cable TV

Cable TV is for every common man for news and entertainment. Words related to this used by the people are such as:

Cable pan-bra/ s↔m-bra	'Do you have cable connection?'
Channel-si-di pH↔N-dre	'This channel is not available.'
Signal pH↔N-de	'Signal is not available.'
Remote pir↔k-u	'Give me the remote control.'
News tasi	'Let's hear the news.'
'Miss world' yeN-si	'Let's watch 'Miss World.''
Sport channel-du tHao	'Turn on the sport channel.'
Cartoon/ joker thao	'Turn on the cartoon channel.'

e) Heavily used readymade phrases or sentences

There are some readymade English phrases or sentences which are now heavily used by speakers of various mother tongues. The common readymade phrases are:

Good morning Good evening Good night Happy journey Safe journey Good luck All the best Bye Sorry Thank you

These phrases are very much used among the educated people. In telephone conversation, phrases like **good morning, good night, goob bye** are very commonly used. **Safe journey** and **good luck** are also used to wish those who are leaving and those who are going for exam or interview respectively. The two phrases **good morning** and **good night** are not common among the Manipuri (Meiteilon/Meeteilon) speaker in any conversation while the two phrases are very much used in other languages of Manipur.

In all the languages of Manipur words related to internet, mobile phone, computer etc., are used; only the verbs are from their respective languages. Some of the examples are given below:

a. Zou

- phone natoi-ei (Chandel dialect) phone you hold-QMK phone natoi-mo (Churachandpur dialect) phone you hold-QMK 'Do you use mobile phone?'
- 2. ringtone $N \leftrightarrow i$ -ye

ringtone nice-ASP.MK

'The ring tone is nice.'

Message ai-tha-o/ message aithot-o (Chandel dialect)

messagesend-COMD.MK / message send-comd.mk

'Send the message.'

3. number save tou-o

number save do-COMD.MK

'Save the number.'

In Zou, OK is used as **ole ole.** This is now very commonly used among youths in the end of the conversation. It is a new trend and it may be the impact/influence of OK.

b. Thadou

4. phone-nacoi-am

phone-you hold-QMK

'Do you have mobile phone?

- 5. na-ringtone ↔Nai-ye
 ringtone nice-ASP.MK
 'The ringtone is nice'
- 6. message hinthot-o message send- COMD.MK'Send the message'
- 7. number save-ohnumber save-COMD.MK'Save the number'
- 8. Phone hinbol in-ne Phone do COMD.MK

'Call me.'

c. Vaiphei

9. save ah

save asp.MK

'Save it.'

10. Phone $l \leftrightarrow m \leftrightarrow N$ -e

phone use-Q.MK 'Do you have mobile phone?'

- 11. l↔ ringtone anahl hi
 ringtone nice ASP.MK
 'The ringtone is nice.'
- huN call ahme call ASP.MK.'Call me.'
- 13. message send ahmessage send ASP.MK.'Send the message.'

d. Gangte

- 14. phone n↔ coi-hiphone you have-COMD.MK'Do you have mobile phone?'
- 15. na-ringtone \leftrightarrow hoi-hi

or

na-ringtone ↔nalh-hi you-ringtone nice-ASP.MK 'Your ringtone is nice'

- 16. message huN thak-a messageme send-COMD.MK'Send me the message.'
- 17. save-ah save-do 'Save it'
- 18. phone-ah phone-do 'Call him/her.'
- 19. phone huN ah

Phone me do 'Call me'

- 20. Laptop n↔n↔i-hi
 Laptop have-QMK
 'Do you have laptop?'
- 21. google-ah lut-ro google-LOC. enter-COMD.MK 'Enter google.'

Not only the technical terminology or the global words but other words are also used in the code mixing form. They also use **'problem'**, **'network'**, etc., in their language also. For instance:

k↔i problem k↔n↔i poi I problem have-NEG. 'I don't have any problem.'

In this language (Gangte), the equivalent word of 'problem' is thom \leftrightarrow kk \leftrightarrow cam \leftrightarrow k which has five syllables. In spoken language, short form or shortening is very commonly used. That is why they use the short form and use English loan word 'problem'. Besides these, the words duty, play etc. are very commonly used. The sentence 'The network is not good.' is used as network \leftrightarrow -hoi-poi in Gangte and in Kharam it is network hoi-m \leftrightarrow k-ye (hoi 'good', -poi and $-m \leftrightarrow$ k are negative markers).

Kabui

22. phone sin-dai
phone have/use-Q.MK
'Do you have a mobile phone?'
23. ringtone hougai-Ne
ringtone nice-ASP.MK
'The ringtone is nice.'

- 24. message thagaN-No message send-COMD.MK 'Send the message.'
- 25. number save su-onumber save-COMD.MK'Save the number.'
- 26. phone su-gaN-No phone call-COMD.MK 'Call me.'

In Japanese also there is the effect of globalization. It is very much shown in the language. Aggressive and confrontational approach is seen in the language. For example, they use the term **kireru** 'lost it' when they are waiting for train as the exact translation of **lost it** they modify English word or phrases for their convenience as well as to suit to their language.

TV shopping	terebi shopping
Premium card	puremiamukaado
Exhaust gas	haigasu
Rescue team	tersukyuutai

In Japanese there is no word which ends in consonant. When they borrow a loan word they add a vowel to nativize the word.

Translation

Not only use of foreign phrase or word or sentences there are also exact translation and exact use of loan words commonly. For instance, **unwanted** is translated in Manipuri as **paam-daba (thoudok)** and **unfortunate** as **laibakthiba** (thoudok). Globalisation expedites the speed of translation as well as translation services. The practice of literary translation has changed as a result of globalization; texts become more exotic, these translations thus contribute to a better and more correct understanding of the source culture. Globalization has always been an important aspect of translation. Translation brings cultures closer. Translations need to take into **Language in India** <u>www.languageinindia.com</u> **ISSN 1930-2940 15:10 October 2015** Naorem Brindebala Devi, Research Scholar and Prof. Ch. Yashawanta Singh Languages of Manipur in the Fast Changing Globalized World 98

account the cultures. The Bible and the Koran are also translated into Manipuri. The Bible is translated into Kom, Thadou, Tangkhul, Hmar, Paite, etc. There are some translation works from English to Manipuri since 1966. For example, Tongbra's translation of **lbsen's** *A Doll's House* (Laiphadibi Amei Yum, 1966). An opposite current has also begun. Kamal's Madhabi was translated into English by R.K. Birendra Singh in 1975. Old Manipuri literature Naothingkhong Phambaal Kaaba was also translated by Ch. Manihar Singh in 1983. Pacha's Imphal Amasung Magi Ising Nungshit was also translated into English as Imphal and Its Climatic Condition by R.K. Birendra Singh in 1985. Very recently Shri Biren's poems were translated into English by Jodhachandra Sanasam in 2011. Manipuri-English anthology as well as many short stories are translated and published by Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi. Now many such attempts are being undertaken.

English Manipuri and Globalization

Manipuri writers have a great impact of globalization. The poets or writers have a strong intention to enter into the world of English. In other words they want to expose themselves to the world of English since it is a global language. There is so much more for translators and writers and readers to explore and share. In our globalized world, translation is the key to understanding and learning foreign cultures as well as exposing our culture to foreign lands.

Globalization is linked to the acceptance of English as a lingua franca: the language is seen as the main language of the new technologies. The use of English as a global language is an important trend in the world communication. Globalization is also linked to the field of Translation studies and how it has become more independent since 1980^s as a result of globalization. Further, globalization is placed in the context of changes in economics, science, technology and society. It can also be said that globalization and technology are very helpful to translators in that translators have more access to online information, such as dictionaries of lesser-known languages and help in advertisement also.

Advertisement

The link between globalization and translation in the field of advertisement is more increasing; English becomes more attractive, more striking medium because of its precise, short terse, touchy and sizzling words or phrases available. Examples are

Happy Ningol Chakkouba Offer Bumper Housie with a Musical Nite Revision Crash Course Join the Special Course & Be a Topper Incredible India Manipur Sangai Festival

A Step for Machine Translation

From the blow of globalization, some languages of India (Eighth Schedule languages) have taken initial steps to make an attempt for machine translation. For this development, Manipuri Corpora has been developed for machine translation by CDEC and LDC-IL, CIIL Mysore and Development of NE Word Net (Assamese, Boro, Manipuri and Nepali), DIT, Delhi. These are government sponsored projects for the Eighth Schedule languages as the first step. Non-scheduled languages or lesser known languages may be taken up in the second phase. Besides these, many individual scholars have taken up the preparation of many electronic dictionaries. When the above two government projects are completed successfully, a second language learner or research scholar, without visiting the field, will be able to learn the languages and study through internet at home or in the class. This is also a sign of globalization.

Conclusion

Globalization gives us an opportunity to change the languages of Manipur in many directions. But speakers and scholars of these languages need to take care to develop the mother tongues as fit vehicles of instruction at various levels and along with this process they also need to nativize terms used side by side like what is followed in the Japanese language.

References

Abbi, Anvita (ed.) 1996. Languages of Tribal and Indigenous Peoples of India: The Ethnic space. Motilal Banarasidass, Delhi.

Anderson, Stephen R. 2010 How Many Languages are there in the world?, Linguistic Society of		
	America, Washington DC	
Annual Report.	2007-2008 Tribal Research Institute, Government of Manipur.	
Comrie, Bernard 19	90 Languages of the world. In Introduction In the world's Major Languages.	
	Ed. Bernard Comrie. Oxford University Press.	
Gimes B.F. 1984 B	Ethnologue: Languages of the World. 10 th edn. Summer Institute of	
	Linguistics, Dallas.	
Matisoff, James A.	1991. 'Endangered Languages of Mainland southeast Asia'. In	
	E.H. Robin and E.M. Uhlenbeek, eds. Endangered Languags, pp	
	189-228.Berg Publishers Ltd. Oxford and New York.	
Ota, Norio. 2011. In	npact of Globalization on Japanese Language and Culture.	
	http://buna.yorku.ca/japanese/ejlt/globalization.pdf	
Ruhlen, Merritt. 198	37. A Guide to the world's Languages Vol.1. Classification.	
	Edward Arnold.	
Singh, Ch. Yashawa	nta. 2002. The Impact of Historical Events on Manipuri Language:	
	In India Linguistics vol. 63.No. 1-4 Ed. Panchanan Mohanty.	
"	2000. The Tebeto-Burman Languages of North Eastern India. In	
	Manipur University journals of Humanilies and social sciences	
	Vol.V. Ed. S. Shyamkishore Singh.	
Singh, Ch. Manihar,	. 2003. A History of Manipuri Literature. New edition. Sahitya	
	Akademi, New Delhi	

Naorem Brindebala Devi, Research Scholar brindebalanaorem@gmail.com Prof. Ch. Yashawanta Singh Department of Linguistic Manipur University chungkhamyash@gmail.com