

ASPECT IN ASSAMESE: SOME REMARKS

KAILASH SARMA

Research Scholar, Department of EFL, Tezpur University, Tezpur, Assam, India

Assistant Professor, R.S. Girls' College, Karimganj, Assam, India

ABSTRACT

An attempt is made in this paper to analyze and examine more systematically the Aspect system and how it functions in Assamese¹ based on the insights drawn from the cognitive linguistics framework. The paper makes some seminal claims regarding aspect in Assamese. We observe that there is no aspect marker for habitual action in Assamese. The progressive and iterative use the same aspect marker, that is, *-i a:s*. It is noticed that Assamese allows only progressive aspect marking and not other forms of aspect marking within imperfective. We believe that the perfect marker is *-il* in Assamese following Borah (2010) but would like to claim that Assamese employs *-is* to express resultative actions instead of ingressive actions as claimed by Borah (2010, 2011). We would therefore like to propose that Assamese follows the basic aspectual distinction as progressive vs perfective.

The paper further points out that there is future progressive aspect in Assamese marked by the *- i tha:k* periphrastic form along with the already traditionally accepted present progressive and past progressive aspect marked by the *- i a:s* periphrastic form. We would like to argue that there is present perfect progressive aspect in Assamese marked by the *-i a:h is* periphrastic form to express an action that started in the past and is still continuing.

KEYWORDS: Aspect, Cognitive Linguistics, Grounded, Imperfective, Perfective, Progressive, Resultative, Maximal Viewing Frame, Restricted Viewing Frame, State

¹ Assamese is an Indo-Aryan language spoken in Assam, a North-eastern state of India, and is the mother tongue of the Assamese. It is also the official language of Assam and is spoken by more than 20 million people.