

Use of Child Language in Short Story(Special emphasis on Lakshminath Bezbaruah's Short Story)

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ABSTRACT

Child language is a part of socio-linguistic study. In a society, language is used differently according to age, gender, social status etc. It helps us to know the variety of same language used by common community. Lakshminath Bezbaruah is the first and founder of short story writer in Assamese language. Bezbaruah takes place a greater area in Assamese literature. The most interesting part of his popularity is language skill. He used language differently to make his story actual and true. For this reason, he does not forget to use child language. Through his used child language reflects the linguistic skill, psychological situation of a child. Also it reflects how a writer used ordinary language of a society. Giving importance on this point, we are trying to analyze child language through Bezbaruah's short story in this research work.

Keywords

Child-language, First language acquisition, Lakshminath Bezbaruah, Short story

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Introduction

There are different types of language use. In society people use language according to their social status, class or age. The study of language based on these differences in society is part of socio-linguistic. Literature is again the mirror of society. The use of language by people from all walks of life is reflected in literature. One of them is the use of children's language. Therefore from a socio-linguistic point of view, analysis of a child's language use as a member of society is important. There are examples in various literatures around the world of beautiful use of children's tactical language. It is remarkable that the use of children's language has been observed in different parts of Assamese literature according to the importance of the society. Lakshminath Bezbaruah, the father of Assamese short stories, has a special feature of using language according to his character. Therefore, the use of the child's language according to the subject of the story is seen in his story. In this paper, we are trying to analysis how he used child language to make the scene real.

Methodology

An analytical method is used to prepare this research work. In some point we take examples from the text book to explain our point of view. That's why descriptive method has also used for preparing this paper.

Objectives

The use of phone, morph, phrases, sentence etc. in the language of short stories is discussed. But in parallel with these, Bezbaruah has emphasized on building the language by using the child's oral language exactly. The use of children's language has made the language of his story more interesting. The main purpose of our research paper is to focus on the use of language according to the character and

the direction of the language used for the purpose of the child.

Main theme:

Language is a cognition that truly makes us human. Whereas other species do communicate with an innate ability to produce a limited number of meaningful vocalizations or even with partially learned systems (e.g., bird songs), there is no other species known to that can express infinite ideas (sentences) with a limited set of symbols (speech sounds and words).[1] Literature is really enlivened by the use of different types of language used by human beings. Starting by "Xeuti", Lakshminath Bezbaruah has established the elongated journey of Assamese short story. He went on to makes stories based on tales. So it is said that---

vxviya bhasar xrbvprthom sutiglpv lekhok Lakshminath Bezbaruahai xadhukva aru sutigppr mazv parthykpyto nisai bhalkoi buzibv para nasil.[2]

His main motto was to encourage national-consciousness among the Assamese people and make wealthy Assamese literature.[3] "Xurobhi" (1909), "Xadhukrthar kuki" (1910), "Zonbiri" (1913) and "Kefhokli" (1967)--- are his story book. Most interesting or salient feature of his story is variety of language. Bezbaruah tried to create the language of short stories according to the character, environment and circumstances. In many of the stories, child language has been used as child protagonists. His language skills according to his character have made the language of the story excellent. It is remarkable that the language of the story reflects the personality of the storyteller. Because---

Sutiglpv mul xppd hvl lekhokv bhabvurti. Lekhokv zivvnr vbhigyvta, vntvrv vnubhuti, kolpvnar xrizvni khyvmta---ei xvklore vbissedyv vjgv hvl bhasa. Ei bhasar stvrtvi sutiglpv javvtyv karukarjya.[4]

It means language according to character is most important element of a short story. For this reason Bezbaruah tried to

write story as the spoken form of people in reality. Bezbaruah did not fail to use the language of the child in constructing the language according to the character.

Use of Child language in the short story of Bezbaruah: an analysis:

Psychologist has divided human life into three stage from birth to death according to their physical, mental and social status.[5] These are as follows---

Various stages of child life	Age limit for each level
1. Infancy	
Early Infancy	1-2 years old
Late phase of Infancy	2-4 years old
2. Childhood	
Pre-school or infant's school period	4-5 years old
Primary school period	6-11 years old
3. Adolescence	
Pre-pubertal stage	11-14 years old
Puppetry	14-18 years old
Later adolescence	18-21 years old

During infancy sense organs develop very fast. Infants can see things clearly and distinctly by the end of the third month. Hearing, smell and taste continue to develop rapidly during infancy.

In development psychology, childhood refers to the period between infancy and adulthood. However, childhood is a non-specific term and it implies varying range of ages in human development.[6]

The third stage is adolescence. Adolescence is one of the most important stages of human development. It is the period that starts with attainment of adulthood. It is a very significant period of physical and psychological transition between childhood and adulthood in the life of an individual.

According to these stages of development of a child, language acquisition tends to increase. Bezbaruah's story shows how language is used according to the child's development or child used language according to their growth. Lakshminath Bezbaruah indicates by using the term "child" in his story from 2 years old to 5/6 years old children. In this stage children learn their language from babbling to one word to two word, then telegraphic speech. Babbling is now considered the earliest form of language acquisition because infants will produce sounds based on what language input they receive. One word sentence (holophrastic speech) is generally monosyllabic in consonant-vowel clusters. During two word stage, there are no syntactic or morphological markers, no inflections for plural or past tense, and pronouns are rare, but the intonation contour extends over the whole utterance.[7]

As mentioned above, Bezbaruah's story also shows the use of children's language. He uses exactly the same language in children's stories. It is a very important part of socio-linguistic study. Bezbaruah's one of the popular story is "Amar xangxar". There is a child named *Senehi*. She is 3 years old. Generally 3 years old children speak like indistinctively. By using this type of language, he showed the real picture of a real society. For example----

Andɔt>Anzat

Dɔlpan>Zɔlpan

Phuti matho>Puthi masto

Mol>Mor etc.

Here, we can see phonetic changes are the main feature. This change reflects how a 3years old child can talk. Above mentioned words are used in "Amar xɔngxar" as like follow---

Nekao buli toi mol bol phuthi mathtor adhakhini kali. Deuta kesalil ppla ahile azi mpi koi dim.[8]

Underlined words indicate the indistinctive words of a infancy stage's child. Again we can see same type of language used in other short story written by him is "Bhomkerola". A child whose age approximately was 1-3 years old and he talked with his father like this----

Bhomkelola amar ghloi ahithe ne deta? Kot athe? Amar bal amzopat ahithe ne deta? Mok dhli nibb ne?[9]

Here, 'r' becomes 'l' (r>l) and also 'c' becomes 'th' (c>th). By these lines we see the mental stage of a child when they got afraid.

Mahindri is a 5years old girl who is a child character of "Dhowakhowa". She used some words which are not clearly pronounced----

Pɔitha>Pɔisa

xɔtha xɔtha>xɔsa xɔsa etc.[10]

From these examples one thing is cleared that in infancy stage obfuscation is the main feature of child language. Bezbaruah shows that in this stage child pronounced their native language unclearly. They can form a sentence, but some words are not correct in the view of phonetically. Phonetic change or absence of some phone is the mentionable point.

Some of Bezbaruah's story we have seen that adolescence stage's child language are also used. In this stage child can form a sentence with correct phone, morph. But they cannot understand the actual meaning of that particular word. For example--- "Xeuti" is a 10 years old girl. She can speak her mother tongue very clearly. But she did not understand the exact meaning of some words through she used it. As her age, she was not able to understand the value of a marriage. According to her, marriage is a game which is called "dora-koinar khel". Therefore, when she got married, she had thought that it was just a game. So she excitedly asked to her mother----

Ai xɔsa ne? ki biya? Amar 'dora-koinar biyar nisina biyane o ai?..

Ai, mɔyo nam gam aru nowam dei?..

Ako pise tor osoroloi uvoti ahim, nɔhvine ai?[11]

By these it is clear that in adolance stage child are obstinate state of mind and it reflects by their used language.

Conclusion

It is fortune for our Assamese literature that Bezbaruah was the founder of Assamese short story. Bezbaruah was very potential in using language to make his story real through his character. Therefore child language is one of the specialities of his short story. Before using child language, he learned how to use the child language or its stages. It is cleared from his story that child language has shown the method of phonetic changes, psychology and proficiency of language used by age. Apart from that child language used in short story also reflects the childish mind and experience of a writer. By analyzing Bezbaruah's short story where he used child language we are able to know that child language

is wide part of socio-linguistic study and it can show us how language may differ according to age. It also remarkable that Bezbaruah is expert in using child language to made the story and character actual or vivacious. Starting from this, story writer uses child language in their story to show language variety from time to time.

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