

## **DECLARATION**

I, Al Kafil Choudhury Gulam Mustafa, bearing Registration No. Ph.D. Regd. 1539/ 2011, dated 19-09-2011, hereby declare that the subject matter of the thesis entitled “Phonological Analysis of Hajong” is the record of work done by me and that the contents of this thesis did not form the basis for award of any degree to me or to anybody else to the best of my knowledge. The thesis has not been submitted in any other University/ Institute. The thesis is being submitted to Assam University for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics.

Date:

Place:

(Al Kafil Choudhury GM)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, I extend my sincere thanks to my supervisor, Prof Ajit Kr. Baishya, Department of Linguistics, Assam University, Silchar for his valuable guidance and constant encouragement to carry on my research. He has taken a lot of pain to verify the data I have collected. Without his help and support, this work might not have been completed. I will remain indebted to him always. I also express my thanks to my co-guide, Dr. S. Ganesh Baskaran of the Department of Linguistics, Assam University, Silchar for his help, cooperation and inspiration during my study. I am very thankful to all teachers of Linguistics department of Assam University- Dr. Kh. Dhiren Singha, Dr. Pauthang Haokip, Dr. D. Mary Kim Haokip and Dr. P. Purkait for their help and encouragement.

I am also thankful to the following persons for their active cooperation and friendly support in collecting data for my research work: Paresh Chandra Hajong (Tikrikilla), Ratan Kumar Ray Hajong (Guwahati), Matindra Hajong (Tengripar), Dijen Hajong (Debasthan), Bipul Hajong (Lakhimpur), Rajib Hajong, Sumeswari Hajong (Tengripar). Again, I thank my research scholar friends Juri Saikia, Musuka Bala Brahma, Nilut Swargiary, Laheram Basumatary, Mihir Kr. Brahma, Dwimalu Brahma, Dhananjoy Narzary, Francis Muchahary, Ramtanu, for their help, suggestion and inspiration during my research work.

I express my heartiest thanks my wife Mrs. N. Sultana, my brother Dr. A. H. Choudhury, my mother and to all my family members who always stood beside me whenever I need their support, help and advice. I am really very much thankful to my little daughters Nishat and Anisa who did not disturb me during my study at home. Without their understanding, it would not be possible for me to complete my research on time. Here, I should specially thank my brother-in-law M.Hussain and his friends Joy Babu Sinha and I.B. Chetry (Lanka) who made all arrangements for my field trip to Derapather and introducing to the informants. My thanks also go to my uncle B.I.Choudhury who helped me regarding my field trip to Debasthan (Nagaon). I should

not forget to thank my driver who accompanied me many times during my fieldwork and drove the car safely.

I also wish to express my sincere thanks to the staff members of Assam University Library and Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore for the help they have provided.

I am also indebted to the authority of the Assam University, Silchar for accepting me as a research scholar and providing necessary facilities for research at the university.

I should extend my thanks to the office staff of the department of Linguistics, Assam University for their help and co-operation in the official matters.

Last but not least, I also extend my sincere thanks to all my friends whose names are not mentioned here for their support, encouragement and prayer which must have contributed to the completion of this work.

Dated:

Place:

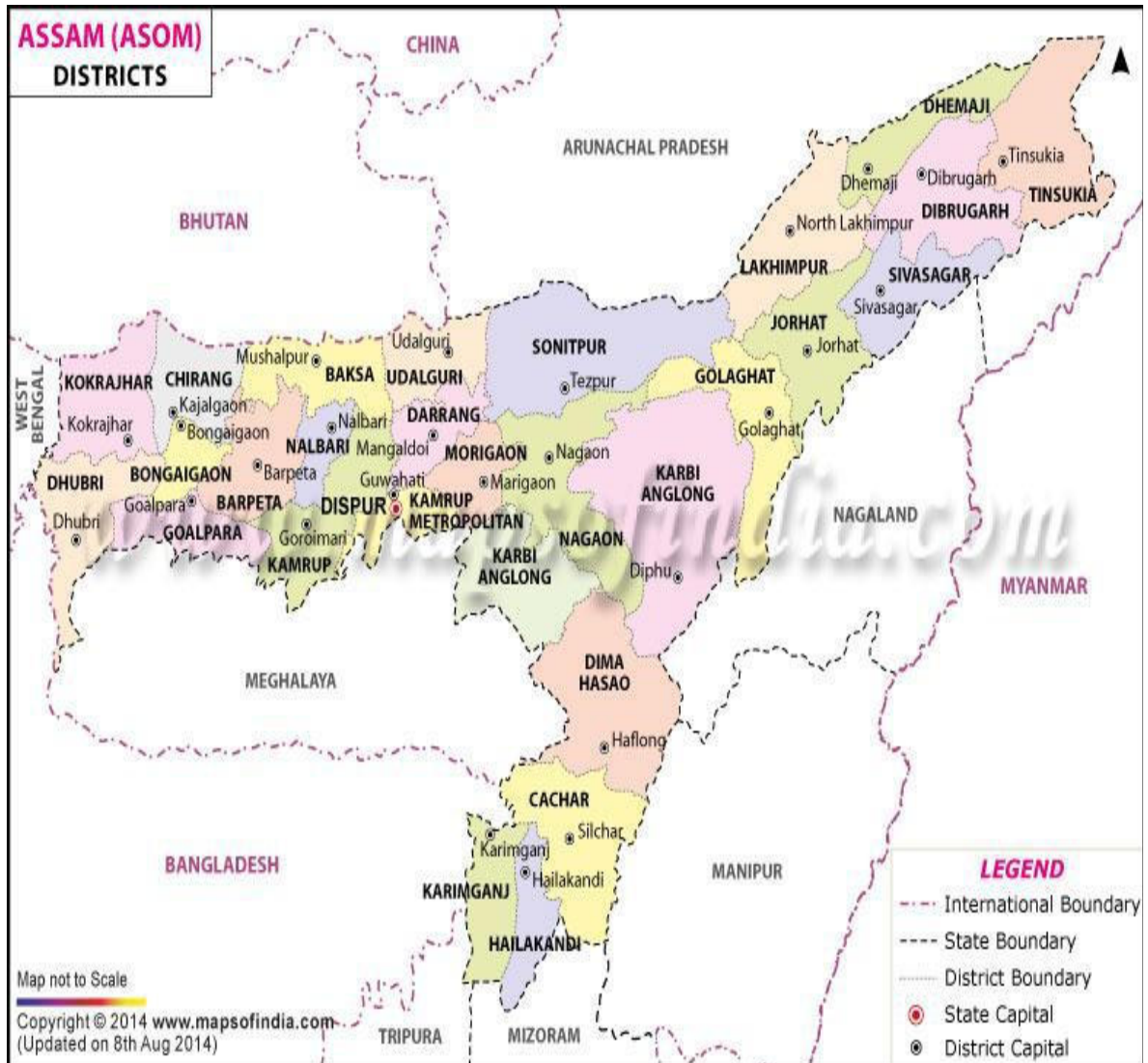
(Al Kafil Choudhury GM)

MAP – 1: India with States and Union Territories



Source: <https://www.google.co.in/>

MAP – 2: Assam with Its Districts



Source: <http://www.mapsofindia.com/maps/assam/assam-district.htm>

Photo showing Hajong People and their culture



(Source: <http://www.indianetzone.com>)



Hajong women fishing with 'Jakha', a traditional fishing implement

(Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajong>)



Hajong folk dance



Dheki, a typical tool used by the Hajong women

(Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hajong>)

## CONTENTS

Topics	Page Numbers
Certificate	i
DECLARATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii-iv
MAP -1	v
MAP- 2	vi
PHOTO OF HAJONG PEOPLE AND CULTURE	vii
CONTENTS	viii-xv
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS	xv
CHAPTER-1: INTRODUCTION	1-53
1.1. Hajong Language	
1.1.1. Classification of Hajong	
1.1.2. Linguistic Affinity	
1.1.3. Dissimilarities with Assamese and Bengali	
1.1.4. Dialects of Hajong	

## 1.2. The Hajong People

### 1.2.1. Racial Affinity

### 1.2.2. A Historical overview

## 1.3. Origin of the word ‘Hajong’

## 1.4. Population in Assam

## 1.5. Background of the Study

## 1.6. Demographic Characteristics

## 1.7. Culture & Tradition

### 1.7.1. Religion

#### 1.7.1.1. Bash Puja

#### 1.7.1.2. Padma Puja

#### 1.7.1.3. Kartik Puja

### 1.7.2. Folk Song

#### 1.7.2.1. *Rasi Gahen*

#### 1.7.2.2. *Lewatana* and *Tilenga gahen*

#### 1.7.2.3. *Sikar* (hunting)/ *Masmora* (fishing) *Gahen*

#### 1.7.2.4. *Gasa pata*

#### 1.7.2.5. *Gupni gahen*



1.7.2.6. *Dhapakirtan*

1.7.2.7. *Sawa Ghum parani gahen* (lullaby)

1.7.2.8. *Sawa Khelani gahen* (nursery rhyme)

1.7.2.9. *Biya naam* or wedding song

1.7.3. Folk Festival

1.7.3.1. *Chorkhela*

1.7.4. Musical Instruments

1.7.4.1. *Drum*

1.7.4.2. String instruments

1.7.4.3. Wind instruments

1.7.4.4. Cymbals

1.7.5. Food

1.7.6. Dresses and Ornaments

1.7.7. Housing pattern

1.7.8. Family Structure

1.7.9. Birth

1.7.10. Marriage

1.7.10.1. *Subh Bibah*

1.7.10.2. *Hanga*

1.7.10.3. *Dai Para*

1.7.10.4. *Mitar*

1.7.10.5. *Khalti*

1.7.10.6. Monogamy

1.7.10.7. Divorce and Remarriage

1.7.10.8. Absence of Child Marriage

1.7.10.9. *Ghor Jangoy*

1.8. Death

1.9. *Nikni* or Clan system:

1.10. Economy

1.11. Literacy & Education

1.12. Contribution of the Study

1.13. Methodology

1.14. Outline of the Thesis

CHAPTER – 2: REVIEW OF LITERATURE 54 - 87

CHAPTER – 3: PHONOLOGY 88 - 225

3.1. Vowels

- 3.1.1. Vowel chart
- 3.1.2. Description of Vowels
- 3.1.3. Distribution of Vowels
- 3.1.4. Contrastive pairs of Oral Vowels
- 3.2. Diphthongs
  - 3.2.1. Diphthong chart
  - 3.2.2. Description and Distribution of Diphthongs
  - 3.2.3. Contrasting pairs of diphthongs
- 3.3. Consonants
  - 3.3.1. Consonant chart
  - 3.3.2. Description of consonants
  - 3.3.3. Distribution of consonants
  - 3.3.4. Contrasting pairs of consonants
  - 3.3.5. Consonant combinations
    - 3.3.5.1. Initial two consonant clusters
    - 3.3.5.2. Medial two consonant clusters

3.3.5.3. Final Two Consonant clusters

3.3.5.4. Consonant sequence:

3.3.5.4.1. Two Consonant Sequences

3.3.5.4.2. Three consonant sequences

3.3.5.4.3. Geminate

3.4. Syllable

3.4.1. Mono-syllabic words

3.4.1.1. Open mono-syllabic words

3.4.1.2. Closed mono-syllabic words

3.4.2. Disyllabic words

3.4.2. 1. Open disyllabic words

3.4.2. 2. Closed disyllabic word

3.4.3. Trisyllabic words

3.4.3.1. Open Trisyllabic (Third syllable is open)

3.4.3. 2. Closed Trisyllabic (Third syllable is closed)

3.4.4. Tetra-syllabic words

- 3.4.4. 1. Open Tetra-syllabic (Fourth syllable is open)
- 3.4.4.2. Closed Tetra-syllabic (Fourth syllable is closed)
- 3.4.5. Pentasyllabic words
  - 3.4.5.1. Open Pentasyllabic (Fifth syllable is open)
  - 3.4.5. Closed Pentasyllabic (Fifth syllable is closed)
- 3.5. Morphophonemics
  - 3.5.1. Phonologically conditioned changes
    - 3.5.1.1. Epenthesis
  - 3.5.2. Morphologically conditioned changes
  - 3.5.3. Prothesis
  - 3.5.4. Apocope
  - 3.5.5. Syncope
  - 3.5.6. Aphesis
  - 3.5.7. Diphthongization
  - 3.5.8. Deaspiration-Devoicing

3.5.9. Devoicing

CHAPTER-4:	CONCLUSION	226-235
	BIBLIOGRAPHY	236-246
	APPENDICES	247-286

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

Asp: Aspirated

ACC: Accusative

ABL: Ablative

DAT: Dative

GEN: Genitive

IA: Indo-Aryan

INST: Instrumental

LOC: Locative

R: Rounded

TB: Tibeto-Burman

Unasp: Un-aspirated

UR: Unrounded

VD: Voiced

VL: Voiceless