

Abstract

Ph. D Thesis Title: “A Typological Study of Adjectives in Select Eastern Indo-Aryan Languages”

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The present research focuses on the parts-of-speech *adjective* in the Eastern Indo-Aryan (EIA) languages Axomiya, Bangla, Maithili and Odia from the language typological perspective. The objectives of this study are to explicate the criteria for the recognition of the adjective class; to state the semanticity-cum-largeness of the adjective class; to elaborate on the openness-cum-productivity of the adjective class; to elucidate the word-formation processes related to the adjectives; to state the nature or grammatical properties of the adjective class; and to show the semantic orderings of adjectives in poly-adjectival noun phrases in the focus languages. To fill the research gap, a mixed method is employed with the help of two structured questionnaires to collect qualitative as well as quantitative data from native speakers. It is examined that five characteristics are established to recognise the adjective class in the selected EIA languages. These languages are designated as *large adjective class languages* possessing all the semantic types and also *open adjective class languages* as proposed by Dixon ((Dixon and Aikhenvald (eds.), 2004 and 2010). They exhibit various word-formation processes like inflection, derivation, and others. They are both *noun- and verb-like adjective class languages* owning both nominal and verbal features. Following Flanagan (2014) for the semantic ordering of adjectives but modifying them based on Dixon’s (2004 and 2010) semantic types, the selected languages are found to share similarities and dissimilarities. Thus, this research makes cross-linguistic generalisations and variations in the EIA region. It develops a better understanding of the parts-of-speech system in general and within a language in particular.

Keywords: language typology, adjective class, Axomiya, Bangla, Maithili and Odia