



## HINDI LOANWORDS IN MANIPURI LANGUAGE

Th Kanchan Bala  
Singha

## KEYWORDS :

## INTRODUCTION :

There is no doubt that loaning words is a very common phenomenon and no language is entirely free of borrowed words (Jespersen, 1922). There are about 7000 languages spoken all over the world. It has been discovered that when languages come into contact, there is transfer of linguistic items from one language to another due to the borrowing of words (Kachru, 1989). Manipuri language is also one of them who borrows from Hindi language more than 300 words.

Manipuri language is spoken primarily in the valley region of Manipur, a state in North East India, in the adjoining Indian states of Assam, Tripura and in the neighbouring countries Myanmar and Bangladesh. It is the mother tongue of the Manipuri and is known locally as Meiteilon/ Meiteiron/ Manipuri Language. The language is the lingua franca of 29 other different ethnic groups of Manipur. Since August 20, 1992, Manipuri has been one of the India's national languages and was included in the Eight Schedule of the constitution of India by the 71<sup>st</sup> amendment, it is the first Tibeto-Burman languages of India to have been included. This paper tries to find out and analyse the loanwords in Manipuri language which borrowed from Hindi.

## Loanword and its type :

A loan word is a word adopted from one language (the donor language) and incorporated into another language without translation. The loanwords are also known by the name "borrowed" or "borrowing." The abstract noun *borrowing* refers to the process of speakers adopting words from a source language into their native language. *loan* and *borrowing* are of course metaphors, because there is no literal lending process. There is no transfer from one language to another, and no *returning* words to the source language. They simply come to be used by a speech community that speaks a different language from the one they originated in. Borrowing occurs when one language takes a morpheme or a word from another language and adds it to its lexicon (Kemmer, 2007:online)

When languages come in contact, either directly through personal contact of the speakers (the source language and a recipient language) or indirectly through media, one common outcome that can be expected is the diffusion of cultural items across the linguistic boundaries. Borrowing therefore, plays a major role in a language to change. In this modern world, borrowing is a weapon to equip a language. Various definitions have been given by many linguists on borrowing. "Borrowing is an important of lexical material from a foreign (donor) language into the native (recipient) language." (Felicity, 1989). Loanwords are treated as milestones in the history of a language.

"Loan words have been called the milestones of philology because in a good many instances they permit us to fix approximately the dates of linguistic changes... because they show us the course of civilization and the wandering of inventions one institutions and in many cases give us valuable as to the inner life of nations when dry annals tell us nothing but the dates of the king and bishops." (Jespersen, 1989: 27).

According to R.L. Trask (2000), borrowing is defined as 'A term used in comparative and historical linguistics to refer to linguistic forms being taken over by one language or dialect from another such borrowings are usually known as loanwords'.

There are various types of borrowing identified by different scholars, but Fromkin and Rodeman (1973) identified direct and indirect borrowing. Direct borrowing is the type in which the borrowed items are native in the language they are borrowed from, while indirect borrowing is the type in which the borrowed items are non-natives of the language from which they are borrowed, but are those of a third language.

## Source of Loanwords in Manipuri language :

Manipuri has a large number of loanwords imported from other languages. Loanwords in Manipuri are classified below as coming from Indo-European language and non-Indo-European language. (See Table-I)

Table-I Source of Loanwords in Manipuri

Indo-Aryan	Iranian	Others Indo-European	Non-European
1. Sanskrit	1. Persian	1. English	1. Arabic
2. Hindi	2. Pashto	2. Portuguese	2. Turkish
3. Bengali		3. French	3. Tamil
4. Assamese		4. Greek	4. Malayalam
			5. Japanese
			6. Chinese

In the Table-II shows the statistical distribution of loanwords into Manipuri arranged by the various donor source language.

Table-II Distribution of loanwords among donor source languages

Group	Language	Numbers of Loans	Nature of Borrowing
1. Indo-Aryan	Sanskrit	452	Direct
	Hindi	312	Direct
	Bengali	270	Direct
	Assamese	10	Direct
		Total=1044	
2. Iranian	Persian & Pashto	135	Indirect
3. Other Indo-European	English	960	Direct
	Portuguese	22	Indirect
	French		
	Greek		
		Total=982	
4. Non-Indo-European	Arabic	102	Indirect
	Turkish	10	Indirect
	Tamil	27	Indirect
	Malayalam		
	Chinese		
---	---	Total=2300	---

From the table-II it is quite evident that most of the loanwords in Manipuri come from Indo-European family of languages with only a

few loanwords from outside Indo-European (with the possible exception of 102 loanwords from Arabic). Roughly the same number of loanwords were imported to Manipuri from Indo-Iranian (Indic and Iranian) as from the rest of Indo-European.

The loanwords in Manipuri may also be classified as direct borrowings and indirect borrowing. All the direct borrowing in Manipuri comes from one of five languages, for Indic languages- Sanskrit, Hindi, Bengali, Assamese and Indo-European language –English. These five languages are not only the sources for all the direct borrowings (loanwords) in Manipuri but also are the intermediary languages for indirect borrowings from other languages such as Arabic, Persian, Pashto, Turkish, Portuguese, Chinese, Malayalam, and Japanese so on.

### Hindi Loanwords in Manipuri:

In Manipuri loanwords from Hindi are all direct borrowings. Following are some Hindi loanwords in Manipuri given below -

**Table-III Loanwords in Manipuri**

Manipuri	Source Language Words	Gloss of Loanwords
1. Alu/ alu	<a:lu	Potato
2. Andolon/andoløn	<a:ndoløn	Agitation
3. Arti/arəti	<a:rəti	Greeting a deity by waving a lamp
4. Bandi/bəndi	<bəndi:	Prisoner
5. Basi/basi	<bə:si:	A flute
6. Bhari/b <sup>h</sup> ari	<b <sup>h</sup> a:ri	Enormous
7. Bora/bora	<bora:	A sack
8. Chakka/cəkka	<cə:ka	Wheel
9. Chamcha/cəmca	<cəmca:	Flatterer
10. Chappal/cəppəl	<cəppəl	Sandal
11. Chadar/cadər	<ca:dər	A woman's light shawl
12. Chalan/calan	<ca:la:n	Bill of lading
13. Chamos/camos	<cəmməc	Spon
14. Chana/cəna	<cəna	Chick-pea
15. Chithi/cit <sup>h</sup> i	<citt <sup>h</sup> i:	A letter
16. Chukti/cukti:	<cukti:	Agreement
17. Churup/curup	<curup	Cigarette
18. Dahi/dəhi	<dəhi:	Curd
19. Dakghar/dakg <sup>h</sup> ər	<də:kg <sup>h</sup> ər	Post-office
20. Daku/daku	<də:ku	Dacoit
21. Dhamka/d <sup>h</sup> əmka	<d <sup>h</sup> əmka:	Threat
22. Dona/dona	<dona:	A leaf-cup
23. Gamla/gəmla	<gəmla	Flower pot
24. Gamsa/gəmsa	<gəmsa	Napkin
25. Gap/gəp	<gəp	Arrogant
26. Gari/gari	<gə:ri	Car
27. Ghari/g <sup>h</sup> əri	<g <sup>h</sup> əri	A clock/ A watch
28. Ghi/g <sup>h</sup> i	<g <sup>h</sup> i	Clarified butter
29. Gunda/gunda	<gunda:	Hooligan
30. Jhamela/j <sup>h</sup> əmela	<j <sup>h</sup> əmela	Entanglement
31. Jhal/j <sup>h</sup> al	<j <sup>h</sup> ail	Cymbal
32. Juwa/juwa	<jua:	Gambling
33. Kambal/kəmbəl	<kəmbəl	Blanket
34. Guha//guha	<kuä:	A well
35. Lut/lut	<lu:t	Plunder, rob
36. Makhan/mak <sup>h</sup> ən	<mak <sup>h</sup> ən	Butter
37. Mama/mama	<ma:ma:	Uncle
38. Peisa/peisa	<pəisa	Paisa
39. Pangkha/pəŋk <sup>h</sup> a	<pəŋk <sup>h</sup> a	A fan
40. Pichkari/picəkari	<picəkə:ri	A spray
41. Sapa/sapa	<c <sup>h</sup> a:pa:	Press
42. Suti/suti	<c <sup>h</sup> utti	Holiday
43. Teiyari/təiyari	<təiyə:ri	Readiness
44. Thika/t <sup>h</sup> ika	<t <sup>h</sup> i:ka	Contract

### CONCLUSION :

In conclusion, it is observed that loanword or borrowing word is a common process among the languages that are in contact. So every language has to adopt certain criterion in order to expand its vocabulary. The major things discussed in this paper are source of loanwords in Manipuri language and Hindi loanwords in Manipuri. More than 300 words are found to be derived from Hindi to Manipuri language as loanword. The meanings of each loanword from the donor (Hindi) to the receiver language are unchanged. However, the pronunciations of certain forms of loanwords are change partly or naturalized.

### REFERENCES :

- 1) Benedict, Paul K. Sino-Tibetan : A conspectus. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 1972.
- 2) Bhat, D.N.S and Ningomba, M.S. Manipuri Grammar. Mysore: CIL. 1995.
- 3) Chelliah, Shobhana L. A Grammar of Meitei. Berlin : Mouton De Gruyter. 1997.
- 4) Das, Shyamsundar. (Ed). Hindi Shabda Sagar Vol. I-XI. Varansi : Nagari Pracharini Sabha. 1973.
- 5) Khelchandra Singh, Ningthoujam. Ariba Manipuri Sahityagi Itihas. Imphal. 1969.
- 6) Pramodini Devi Nameirakpam. Social Grammar of Meiteilon. (Ph.D Thesis). Imphal : Manipur University. 1989.
- 7) Roy, Jyotimoi. History of Manipur. Calcutta : Eastlight Book House. 1973.
- 8) Subram. Meitei Longeida Lonyan. Hailakandi : Singh and Son Publishers. 2015.