

Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled **Argument Structure Constructions: The Case of Assamese**, submitted to the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tezpur University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award-of the Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics and Language Technology, is a record of original research work carried out by me. Any text, figures, theories, results or designs that are not of my own creation are appropriately referenced in order to give owing credit to the original author(s). All the sources of assist have been assigned due acknowledgement. I also declare that neither this work as a whole nor a part of it has been submitted to any other University or institute for any degree, diploma, fellowship or any other similar title or recognition.

Date: 10-02-2025

Place: Tezpur

Reetom Borkotoky

(Reetom Borkotoky)

Department of Linguistics
and Language Technology
School of Humanities and
Social Sciences
Tezpur University
Tezpur-784028,
Assam, India



DEPARTMENT OF LINGUISTICS AND LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGY

तेजपुर विश्वविद्यालय/ TEZPUR UNIVERSITY

(संसद के अधिनियम द्वारा स्थापित केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय)

(A Central University established by an Act of Parliament)

तेजपुर-784028 :: असम/ TEZPUR-784028 :: ASSAM

(सर्वोत्तम विश्वविद्यालय के लिए कुलाध्यक्ष पुरस्कार, 2016 और भारत के 100 श्रेष्ठ उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों में पंचम स्थान प्राप्त विश्वविद्यालय)
(Awardee of Visitor's Best University Award, 2016 and 5th among India's Top 100 Universities, MHRD-NIRF Ranking, 2016)

Dr. Gautam K Borah
Professor
Linguistics and Language Technology

Mobile: +91 9127449160
Email: gkb@tezu.ernet.in

CERTIFICATE OF THE SUPERVISOR

This is to certify that the thesis titled 'Argument Structure Constructions: The Case of Assamese' is submitted to Tezpur University, Department of Linguistics and Language Technology under the School of Humanities and Social Sciences in partial fulfillment for the award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics and Language Technology, is a record of original research work carried out by Mr. Reetom Borkotoky under my personal supervision and guidance.

All help received by him from various sources have been duly acknowledged. No part of this thesis has been reproduced elsewhere for the award of any other degree.

(Prof. Gautam K. Borah)

Supervisor

Department of Linguistics and Language Technology
Tezpur University

Date: 10-02-2025

Place: Tezpur

Acknowledgment

This thesis would not have been possible without the encouragement, support, and guidance of many individuals to whom I owe my deepest gratitude.

First and foremost, I would like to sincerely thank my Ph.D. supervisor, Prof. Gautam K. Borah, Department of Linguistics and Language Technology, Tezpur University. He has been a constant source of support, inspiration and motivation throughout this academic journey. I am grateful for his valuable insights, which have shaped the person I am today. I will always be indebted to him. I would also like to sincerely thank his family for making me feel at home, even when I was far from my own.

I would like to acknowledge the faculty members of the Department of Linguistics and Language Technology. Beyond their academic excellence and support, they have been individuals I deeply admire. Prof. Madhumita Barbora ma'am has been a figure of dedication and discipline. Dr. Arup K. Nath's practical approach, friendly and approachable nature have been instrumental in shaping my character. Dr. Bipasha Patgiri has been a great source of motivation for me. Her sincerity and commitment to both academic and other tasks are qualities I have learned from, and they have helped me immensely. Dr. Amalesh Gope's dedication and positive attitude have been a great source of inspiration. I would also like to thank Dr. Dhanapati Shougrakpam, Dr. Bobita Sarangthem, and Dr. Monali Longmailai. Further, I would like to thank the office staff of the department—Dipali ba, Nazmul, Nishant, and Trilok da—for their help and technical support.

I am also grateful to the research scholars of the Department of Linguistics and Language Technology—Priyam, Parag da, Bisalakshi, Puja ba, Pinky ba, Mung, Dinkur da, Manjushna ba, Harshita, Dewashree, Riya, and Muskan, among many others.

I would like to specially mention my comrades—Ashis, Biswa da, Debarun, Padum, Subhankar, Sovik, and Vicky—for being an integral part of this journey and making it memorable. I also acknowledge Bidhan, Rajat da, Manash da, Raju da, Champak da, Litul da, and the entire staff of Saraighat C.V. Raman Men's Hostel (SCVRMH). Special thanks to Satya Da for being like an elder brother on this journey. I would also like to thank Dr.

Sunny Nandi for being a source of motivation and inspiration in this academic journey. Mr. Dudu Tamuly, gym instructor TU also deserves special thanks.

I extend my gratitude to my friends from my Master's program—Radhika, Swapnali, Shekhar, Nicolson, and Mayashree. I would also like to specially thank Priyam and Sushant da for always being there for me, and for being people I can rely on.

I would also like to acknowledge Tezpur University for providing all the necessary support, including the Institutional Fellowship, during my Ph.D.

I would also like to thank the Indian Council of Social Sciences Research (ICSSR) for funding the 16th International Cognitive Linguistics Conference (ICLC16), 7-11 August 2023 held at Heine-Heinrich University at Dusseldorf, Germany.

I would also like to thank the faculty members of Tinsukia college- Rana Changmai sir, Angali Ma'am, Dr. Mriganka Chowdhary sir, Rajiv sir, Dr. Mayuri ma'am, Rupam sir. Special thanks to Mr. Gaurab Sengupta, Assistant professor, department of English, Duliajan college for his constant support till date.

This thesis would not have been completed without the constant support of my family. I shall always remain indebted to them for their belief in me, which was a constant source of strength and motivation. I owe everything to the values and integrity they instilled in me.

Miss Radhika Boruah deserves special acknowledgment for her endless support, understanding, patience, and belief in me from my Master's days. Thank you for always being my pillar of strength during the most difficult times and for encouraging me to keep pushing forward.

Finally, I would like to thank all the great souls around.

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1.1. Case markers in Assamese in G.C Goswami (1982)

Table. 1.2. Case marking in pronouns in Saha and Patgiri (2013)

Table 2.1. Comparison of the category of idioms with regular syntactic expressions

Table.2.2. The English ASC in Goldberg (2019)

Table. 3.1. Intransitive verbs based on force-dynamics

Table 5.1. The Assamese ASCs

LIST OF FIGURES

Fig. 1.1. (a) NOM-ACC

Fig. 1.1. (b) ERG-ABS

Fig. 1.2. The nominal hierarchy in Dixon (1994:85)

Fig. 2.1. The componential model of the organization of grammar (Croft and Cruse, 2004:227)

Fig. 2.2. The FE of BUY (<https://framenet.icsi.berkeley.edu/luindex>)

Fig. 2.3. The composite structure of the Ditransitive construction

Fig. 2.4. The composite fused structure of the Ditransitive construction+ ‘give’

Fig. 2.5. The composite fused structure of the Caused-Motion construction+ ‘put’

Fig. 2.6. The composite coercion structure of the Ditransitive construction + ‘bake’

Fig. 2.7. Composite structure of the Caused-motion + sneeze in Goldberg (1995:54)

Fig. 2.8. Composite structure of the Caused-motion + sneeze

Fig. 3.1. The ‘form-meaning’ pair and the relation between the two Intransitive constructions

Fig. 3.2. (a) ‘*mor*’ + simple Intransitive

Fig. 3.2. (b) ‘*dour*’ + agentive Intransitive

Fig. 3.3. The source-Path-Goal schema in (Lakoff & Nunez 2000:38)

Fig. 3.4. The form-meaning pairing of the IMC

Fig. 3.5. ‘*go*’ (go) + IMC

Fig. 3.6. The hierarchy of path elements in the oblique phrase

Fig. 3.7. The form-meaning pair of the ILC

Fig. 3.8. ‘*as*’ (exist) + ILC

Fig. 3.9. Form-meaning pairing of Conative construction

Fig. 3.10. ‘*guria*’ (kick) + conative construction

Fig. 3.11. Form-meaning pairing of copula construction

Fig. 3.12. The form-meaning pairing of genitive subject construction

Fig. 3.13. [*dukh lagise*] + the genitive subject construction

Fig. 3.14. The form-meaning pairing of passive construction

Fig. 3.15. ‘*mar*’ (kill) + passive construction

Fig. 3.16. The network of the Intransitive constructions

Fig. 4.1. The form-meaning pairing of the Transitive construction

Fig. 4.2. *b^hang* (break) + Transitive construction

Fig. 4.3. *lik^h* (write) + Transitive construction

Fig. 4.4. *pela* (throw) + Transitive construction

Fig. 4.5. *gulia* (shoot) + Transitive construction

Fig. 4.6. *dek^h* + Transitive construction

Fig. 4.7. *janu* (know) + Transitive construction

Fig. 4.8. The constructional Polysemy of the Transitive construction

Fig. 4.9. The form-meaning pair of the CMC

Fig. 4.10. *an*(bring) + CMC

Fig. 4.11. ‘*mat*’ (call) + CMC

Fig. 4.12. The form-meaning pair of the Resultative construction

Fig. 4.13. *Pat* (made) + Resultative construction

Fig. 4.14. The form-meaning pair of the CTC

Fig. 4.15. *likh* (write) + CRC

Fig. 4.16. The form-meaning pair of the transitive genitive subject construction

Fig. 4.17. *as* (exist) + transitive genitive subject construction

Fig. 4.18. The form-meaning pair of the transitive Genitive subject and dative object construction

Fig. 4.19. ‘*b^hoi lag*’ (afraid) + transitive Genitive subject and dative object construction

Fig. 4.20. The form-meaning pair of the dative subject construction

Fig. 4.21. The form-meaning pair of the locative subject construction

Fig. 4.22. ‘dhor’ (hold) + locative subject construction

Fig. 4.23. The form-meaning pair of the object-subject construction

Fig. 4.24. The network of the Assamese Transitive construction

Fig. 4.25. i. indirective ii. Secundative iii. Neutral

Fig. 4.26. The form-meaning pair of the Di-transitive construction

Fig. 4.27. ‘de’ (give) + Ditransitive construction

Fig. 4.28. the allostructional relation between the Ditransitive and the CTC

Fig. 5.1. The overlapping of ASCs and event schemas

Fig. 6.1. The network of Argument Structure Constructions in Assamese

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

1P	First Person
2P	Second Person
3P	Third Person
ABL	Ablative
ABS	Absolutive
ACC	Accusative
ALL	Allative
ADJ	Adjective
CAUS	Causative
CP	Conjunctive Particle
COP	Copula
CLF	Classifier
DAT	Dative
DOM	Differential Object Marker
ERG	Ergative
EXIST	Existential
FUT	Future
GEN	Genitive
LOC	Locative
NEG	Negative
NMZ	Nominalizer
NOM	Nominative
NF	Non-finite
OBL	Oblique

OBJ	Object marker
PERF	Perfect
POSP	Postposition
PRES	Present Tense
ING.PROG	Ingressive.Progressive
PST	Past
SUBJ	Subject
V	Verb