

THE USE OF PARTICLES IN HINDI AND ASSAMESE

Dr. Subasana Mahanta

*Associate Professor, Department of Assamese,
Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam. India.*

ABSTRACT

*The particles are generally attached to a particular word in a sentence for denoting emphasis, contrast etc. The use of these particles with different word classes covers a wide range of meanings and further shades of meanings when used in their combination with various word classes. This paper discusses the usages of particles in Hindi and Assamese with examples in the context of different types of part of speech. The discussion finds that the particles *bhii* and *hii* in Hindi and *o* and *ei* in Assamese are prominently used to denote primarily emphasis. It is to be mentioned that in the two languages studied, the use of the particles do not show uniformity, i.e., for *bhii* in Hindi, use of both *o* and *ei* in Assamese is seen. However, the use of particles as emphatic markers, in both the languages, the particles cover a wide range of meanings and further shades of meanings when used in combination with various part of speech.*

Key Words: Particles, Hindi, Assamese, language.

Abbreviations Used: Hind. (Hindi) and Asm. (Assamese).

INTRODUCTION

The particles are generally attached to a particular word in a sentence for denoting emphasis, contrast etc. The use of these particles with different word classes covers a wide range of meanings and further shades of meanings when used in their combination with various word classes. The particles are very commonly used in Indian languages. This article is an attempt to make a comparative discussion on the use of Particles in two Modern Indo- Aryan languages namely, Hindi and Assamese.

The main particles used in Hindi are *bhii*, *hii*, *to*, *tak*, *bhar* and *maatra*. Similarly, the main particles used in Assamese are *o*, *ei*, *he*, *ke* and *i*. This article discusses with illustration the use of the certain particles in Hindi and in Assamese.

1. The particle *bhii* (in Hindi) and *o*, *ei* and *i* (in Assamese)

The use of the particle *bhii* in Hindi and *o*, *ei* and *i* in Assamese (meaning also) with different word classes – nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs and conjunctions is illustrated.

11 Nouns

The particle *bhii* and *o* are used with different types of nouns in direct or oblique case. It follows immediately a noun in the direct case, and the postpositions in the oblique case:

Hind. *raam bhii gayaa*

Asm. *raamo gol*

(Ram also went)

Hind. *lar̥ka bhii aayaa*

Asm. *l̥raatoo aahil*

(The boy also came)

Hind. *garmii bhii he*

Asm. *garamo h̥oise*

(It is hot too)

In the oblique case, *bhii* and *o* are placed immediately after postpositions following nouns:

Hind. *mohan ne bhii roti khaayii*

(Mohan too ate his meals)

Hind. *raadhaa se bhii galtii huyii*

(Radha too committed a mistake)

Asm. *mohanako kitaapkhan dibaa*

(Give the book Mohan too)

Asm. *raadhaal̥o kitaap ekhan aanibaa*

(Bring a book for Raadhaa too)

12 Pronouns

The particle *bhii* and *o* can be used with all types of direct as well as oblique personal, demonstrative, indefinite, relative and reflexive pronouns.

Personal Pronouns

Hind. *tu bhii aayaa*

Asm. *taio aahili*

(you too came)

Hind. *aapko bhii jaanaa he*

Asm. *aapunio jaaba laage*

(you too have to go)

Hind. *voh aapse bhii bora he*

Asm. *tekhet aaponaatkio danar*

(He is elder than you too)

Hind. *voh hamaaraa bhii dost he*

Asm. *tekhet aamaaro bandhu*

(he is our friend too)

Indefinite Pronouns

Hind. *aap iske ba bhii kuch kijiye*

Asm. *aapuni eitoo kibaa etaa kara*

(Please do something for it)

Hind. *aap kitnii bhii k hi h kii i apha nah h*

Asm. *aapuni jimaanei jatna nakarak, saphalhobn vas*

(No matter how much you try, you won't succeed)

Hind. *aap kisi ko bhii bulaaiye*

Asm. *aapuni i k n e n kei maati diyak*

(Please call any one)

Furthermore, the use of the particle *bhii* with the indefinite pronouns *koyi* and *kuch* in Hindi and *kono* and *ek* in Assamese represent different meanings: *koyii bhii*, *konovei* 'anyone', *kuch bhii*, *ekovei* 'anything'.

Relative pronouns

Hind. *aap jo bhii kaa ka naa caaht he ka ii i*

Asm. *aapuni jitoei korib khujice, karak*

(Whatever work you want to do, go ahead)

Hind. *jab bhii aap aat he kitaab aath aat he*

Asm. *aapuni jetiaai aahe, lagat kitaap lci aahe*

(Whenever you come, you bring your book with you)

Hind. *voh aap jaisa bhii nahi he*

Asm. *te aap naa nicinaao nahay*

(He is not even like you)

It is to be noted that the use of the particle *bhii* in Hindi and *ei/i* in Assamese with the relative pronouns represents different meanings: *jo bhii, jiei* 'whosoever' or 'whatsoever'; *Jab bhii, jetaiai* 'whenever'; *jitnaa bhii, jimaanei* 'whatever' etc.

Reflexive pronouns

Hind. *voh aap bhii hnat ka taa he uu u ko bhii ka vaataa he*

Asm. *te ni o parisram kare, aanako karovaay*

(He works hard himself and makes others too work hard)

Hind. *aap apne aap bhii yeh kaam kar sakte ho*

Asm. *aapuni nijeo ei kaamto korib paare*

(You can yourself do this work)

13 Adjectives

The particle *bhii* and *o* can be used with different types of adjectives. It always follows the adjectives.

Hind. *voh larkii sundar bhii he au bu hi aan bhii*

Asm. *covalijani dhuniyaaao, cokaao*

The girl is beautiful as well as intelligent

Hind. *kitne bhii a u k na aa, yah kaam aaj nahi h aktaa*

Asm. *jimanei banuvaa naahak, ei kaamto aaji ko ib n vaa e*

No matter how many people come, this work cannot be done today

Hind. *is dukaan par kilo bhar bhii cinii nahi he*

Asm. *ei kaankhant ek ki o cenii naai*

There is not even a kilogram sugar in this shop

Hind. *kāesaa bhii kaam ho, voh kar legaa*

Asm. *jenekuvaai kaam haok, tē kōribōi*

No matter what type of work it is, he would be able to do.

14 Verbs

The particle *bhii* and *o* are used with different forms of the verbs and auxiliary verb.

Hind. *uskaa ghar jaanaa bhii thik nah thaa*

Asm. *tē ha a ōi jovaatoo bhaal nōhōl*

His going to home was not good.

Hind. *voh karnevaala bhii hē au ka aan vaa aa bhii*

Asm. *tē ka taao ka aa taao*

He can do it himself and get it done too.

Hind. *aap aaye bhii aur cale bhii gaye*

Asm. *aapuni aahilo gōlo*

You came and have left too.

Hind. *aap k vah a bhii bahut din ho gaye*

Asm. *aapuni taalōi jovaao bahut din hōl*

It is long time since you have gone over there

Hind. *voh khaa bhii rahaa hē au baat bhii ka ahha hē*

Asm. *tē khaaio aace aa u kathaā patio aace*

He is eating as well as talking

The particle *bhii* and *ei* are used with the conjunct verbs. It is used either between the main verb and operator (auxiliary verb) or following main verb and operator as follows:

Hind. *usne dekhaa bhii thaa*

Asm. *tē khici ei*

He had seen indeed.

Hind. *en citthii likh bhii ii hē*

Asm. *mai cithiikhan likhiieipeaa*

I have written a letter too.

15 Adverbs

The particle *bhii* (Hindi), *o* and *ei* (Assamese) are used with different types of adverbs:

Hind. *ah bhii thand he*

Asm. *iyaato jaar hoise*

It is cold over here too.

Hind. *p c bhii baj gaye, voh aayaa nah*

Asm. *p cei bajil, te ahaai naai*

It is now five o' clock and he has not come.

Hind. *ae bhii ho, voh aa jaayegaa*

Asm. *jenekoe naha k te aahiboi*

He will come somehow.

Hind. *yeh bhii nah karoge to kya karoge?*

Asm. *eitoo koriba novaarile ki koriba paaribaano?*

If you are not able to do this much, what else will you do?

It is to be noted that the use of the particle *bhii* and *i* with different adverbs represents, different meanings: *ab bhii, etiyaai*, 'even now'; *tab bhii, tetiyaai*, 'even then', 'even so'; *jab bhii, jetiyaai*, 'whenever' *ah bhii, jotei*, 'wheresoever'; *phir bhii, tathaapio, jodio*, 'yet', 'even so' etc.

From the semantic point of view, *bhii* (in Hindi) and *o/i* (in Assamese) represents different meanings depending on its use in different contexts. The meanings are represented in the following examples:

Hind. *kaam aasan bhii he aur dilcasp bhii*

Asm. *kaamto sahajo aaru bhaal lagao*

The work is easy and interesting too.

Hind. *voh mere saath boltaa bhii nah*

Asm. *te a at kathaai napaate*

He doesn't even talk with me.

In the above sentences, *bhii* and *o/i* represent the general meaning of 't' and 'vn'; but in certain context these particles represent different meanings:

Hind. *seb choṭaa hē phir bhii miṭṭhaa hē*

Asm. *aapelto saru hōleo mithaa*

In spite of being small, the apple is sweet.

Hind. *use kuch bhii samajh nah aayaa*

Asm. *tē ek v̄ei buji povaa naai*

He was not able to understand anything.

In these sentences *phir bhii* (in Hindi) and *hōleo* (in Assamese) represents the meaning of ‘even then’ and *kuch bhii* (in Hindi) and *ek v̄ei* (in Assamese) represents the meaning of ‘anything’.

2. THE PARTICLE *hii* (IN HINDI) AND *ei, i, hē* (IN ASSAMESE)

The particle *hii* is generally used for as emphasis. In certain context the particle *bhii* can be interchanged with another particle *hii* with no change in the meaning:

use meraa sujhaav bilkul bhii/hii pasand na aayaa

(He did not like my suggestion at all)

The particle *hii* is also used in the sense of ‘exclusiveness’ or ‘alone’. It is to be noted that where *bhii* adds a meaning to the sentence, other than merely emphasis, it cannot be interchanged with *hii*. The emphatic particle *hii* (in Hindi) and *i hē* (in Assamese) are very frequently used with different types of pronouns: *hii/mayei* ‘I myself’, *tuu hii/tumiyei* ‘thou thyself’, *aap hii/aapuniyei* ‘you yourself’, *koyii hii/konobaa ek anehē* ‘hardly anyone’, *kuch hii/kicumaanhē, keijonmaanhē* ‘hardly something’, ‘hardly a few’ etc. Examples are:

Hind. *hii aa aa*

Asm. *mayei aahim*

I myself will come.

Hind. *aap hii bataayiye*

Asm. *aapuniyei ka k*

You yourself say

Hind. *kuch hii log aaye the*

Asm. *keijonmaanhē aahicil*

Hardly a few persons had come.

The use of the particle *hii* (in Hindi) and *ei*, (in Assamese) with reflexive pronouns is quite interesting. Hindi has only three reflexive pronouns; *aap*, its oblique forms *apnaa* and *apne* and a

compound of these two *apne-aap*; *aapas* meaning ‘each other’ or ‘one another’. When *aap* is followed by *hii* (in Hindi) and reflexive pronoun *nij* is followed by *ei* (in Assamese), it has an adjectival intensifying force and qualifies a noun or a pronoun which as a rule, is the logical subject of the sentences:

Hind. *mohan aap hii vah a aa*

Asm. *mohan nijei taalci gól*

Mohan went there on his own.

Hind. *mujhe aap hii jaanaa parega*

Asm. *mai nijei jaaba laagiba*

I shall have to go myself.

Hind. *ve aap hii aaye*

Asm. *te k ni ei aahiba*

They themselves will come.

aap hii/ nijei can be used as an adverb, when it means ‘of one’s own accord’:

Hind. *voh aap hii haspataal gayaa*

Asm. *te ni i ha pita a ci gól*

He went to the hospital on his own.

It is interesting to note that different shades of meanings of the particle *hii* (in Hindi) and *ei, i* (in Assamese) in the following sentences:

Hind. *raam ke aate hii mohan calaa gayaa*

Asm. *raam aahotei mohan gól*

As soon as Ram came, Mohan left.

Hind. *mohan jaayegaa hii*

Asm. *mohan jaaboi*

Mohan will certainly go.

Hind. *e gayaa hii nah*

Asm. *mai jovaai naai*

I did not go at all.

Hind. *voh aaj hii gayaa hogaa*

Asm. *te aa iei jaab hobolaa*

He might have gone today

Hind. *Yah accha hii huua*

Asm. *bhaalei hol*

It is good (emphatic).

3. THE PARTICLE *to* (IN HINDI) AND *hε/o* (IN ASSAMESE)

The particle *to* (in Hindi) and *hε/* (in Assamese) are mostly used as an emphatic marker and also it denotes the meaning of contrast. Consider the following examples:

Hind. *mombatii to milii, diyaasalaayii nahii*

Asm. *mamdaalhε paa , juisalaato nepaal*

The candle was found, (but) not the matches.

Hind. *agar vah kahega bhii to bhii u k aath nah aa aa*

Asm. *te kolεo ai te a at naa aa*

Even if he says, I will not go with him.

4. THE PARTICLE *tak, bhar* (IN HINDI) AND *o/kε, hε/o* (IN ASSAMESE)

41 The particle *tak* has primarily two uses. It is used in the meaning of a limited particle ‘even’ and as a position ‘up to’. For the particle *tak* in Hindi, use of *o* and *kε* in Assamese is seen. Consider the following examples:

Hind. *usne taar tak nah bh aa*

Asm. *te t a ekhano noko i ε*

He did not even send a telegram.

Hind. *usne meri baat tak nah sunii*

Asm. *te kathaa aa o nu uni ε*

He did not even listen to what I said.

Hind. *jab tak aap aa aa nah nah aa aa*

Asm. *aapuni nokovaalεikε i naa aa*

Until you permit me I will not go there.

42 The particle *bhar* denote the different meanings; such as ‘measuring a...’, ‘aful’, ‘the entire...’, ‘the whole...’, ‘only’ etc. Particle *o* or *he* is used in Assamese for the particle *bhar* in Hindi. Examples:

Hind. *miitar bhar kapraa de diijiye*

Please give (a piece of) cloth measuring a meter.

Hind. *ghar utthii bha caava nah he*

Asm. *gharat emuthio caaul naai*

There is not even a handful of rice in the house.

Hind. *desh bhar cunaav ho rahe he*

The elections are being held in the entire country.

Hind. *voh din bhar soyaa rahaa*

He slept for the whole day.

Hind. *tum dekhte bhar h kha ii t nah*

Asm. *tumi caaihe aacaa ek kinaai naai*

You only see but do not purchase.

5. THE PARTICLE *maatra*

The particle *maatra* is borrowed from Sanskrit denoting the meaning of ‘only’ or ‘whole’. In Sanskrit, it is used as a suffix and is attached to the main words:

kshan + maatra = kshanmaatra ‘only a moment’

maanav + maatra = maanavmaatra ‘the entire humanity’

In its use in Hindi, the particle *maatra* is an equivalent of *keval* or *hii* and in Assamese it is an equivalent of *keval* or *he* ‘only’, ‘alone’, and is used as a separate word:

Hind. *aap kitaab maatra diijiye*

Asm. *aapuni maatra kitaapkhan diyak*

Hind. *aap kitaab hii diijiye*

Asm. *aapuni maatra kitaapkhanhe diyak*

Hind. *aap keval kitaab diijiye*

Asm. *aapuni keval kitaapkhan diyak*

‘Please give only the book’

SUMMING UP:

The forgoing discussion shows that in both the languages, the particles under study cover a wide range of meanings while use in combination with different part of speech. The use of particles in Hindi and Assamese is important from the semantic point of view.

It is seen that the particles are used very frequently in the two languages under study in different styles of speech. In case of nouns and different types of pronouns *bhii* in Hindi and *o* in Assamese follow immediately a noun in the direct case and the postpositions in the oblique case. In case of adjectives and adverbs particles always follow the adjective and the adverb. It is also seen that particle *bhii* and *ei* are used with conjunct verbs. These are used either between the main verb and operator (auxiliary verb) or following main verb and operator.

As revealed in the discussion, *bhii* in Hindi and *o* and *ei* in Assamese represent different meanings depending on their use in different contexts. For example, the particle *bhii*, *hii* (in Hindi) and *ei*, *i*, *hε* (in Assamese) are generally used for as emphasis. But the use of the particle *bhii* and *i* with different adverbs **such as** *ab*, *tab*, *jab*, *ah* (in Hindi) and *etiyaa*, *tetiya*, *jetiyaa*, *jot* (in Assamese) represents, different meanings: *ab bhii*, *etiyaa*, ‘even now’; *tab bhii*, *tetiya*, ‘even then’, ‘even so’; *jab bhii*, *jetiyaa*, ‘whenever’ *ah bhii*, *jotei*, ‘wheresoever’ etc.

The use of the particle *hii* (in Hindi) and *ei*, (in Assamese) with reflexive pronouns is also quite interesting. When reflexive pronoun *aap* is followed by *hii* (in Hindi) and *nij* is followed by *ei* (in Assamese), it has an adjectival intensifying force and qualifies a noun or a pronoun. As an adverb *aap hii/ nijei* can be used, when it means ‘of one’s own accord’. The emphatic particle *hii* (in Hindi) and *i hε* (in Assamese) are very frequently used with different types of pronouns and represent different meanings, i.e. *hii/ mayei* ‘I myself’, *tuu hii /tumiyei* ‘thou thyself’, *aap hii/ aapuniyei* ‘you yourself’, *koyii hii/ konobaa ek anshε* ‘hardly anyone’, *kuch hii/kicumaaanhe*, *keijonmaanhε* ‘hardly something’, ‘hardly a few’ etc. It is to be noted that the use of the particle *bhii* in Hindi and *ei/i* in Assamese with the relative pronouns represents different meanings: *jo bhii*, *jiei* ‘whosoever’ or ‘whatsoever’; *Jab bhii*, *jetiaai* ‘whenever’; *jitnaa bhii*, *jimaane* ‘whatever’ etc. Furthermore, the use of the particle *bhii* with the indefinite pronouns *koyi* and *kuch* in Hindi and *kono* and *ek* in Assamese represent different meanings: *koyii bhii*, *konovei* ‘anyone’, *kuch bhii*, , *ekovei* ‘anything’.

Thus, the particles in both the languages under study are used in different styles of speech. The particles are commonly used in Indian languages. There can be contrastive study of the use of particles in other Indian languages too.

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