MANIPUR AND ITS CULTURAL AND LINGUISTIC SETTING

Manipur (mənipur), is a state in northeastern India, with the city of Imphal as its capital. Manipur is sometimes called alternative names as Kangleipak or Sanaleipak. It is bounded by Nagaland to the north, Mizoram to the south, and Assam to the west; Burma lies to its east. The state covers an area of 22,327 square kilometres (8,621 sq mi). Its people include the Meetei, Kuki, Naga, and Pangal people, who speak Sino-Tibetan languages.

Manipur was an ancient kingdom and it was reflected in its language having maintained difference in the terms of address - royal’s term and commoner’s term. According to Manipur Historical work, Sanamahi Laikan, the name Manipur was first officially introduced in the early 18th century during the reign of Hindunised king, Garibaniwaj (1709-48).

Manipuri, locally known as Meiteilon, is spoken basically in the state of Manipur which is in North-eastern India. It is called as lingua-franca because it is the only medium of communication among the speakers of 29 different mother tongues. In August 20th 1992, Manipuri becomes the first TB language to receive recognition as a schedule VIII language of India.

In the classification of Tibeto-Burman languages of the Sino-Tibetan family, Manipuri is placed in Kuki-Chin Proper separately by Grierson-Konow (1903-1928), in Meitei branch of Kukish section by Shafer (1955, 1966, 1974), Benedict (1972) placed Manipur in Kuki-Naga under
further from Kuki-Naga. Manipuri shares genetic features of TB features. Some genetic rather than areal, shared TB features include phonemic tone, SOV word order, agglutinative verb morphology and tendency to reduce disyllabic forms to monosyllabic ones (Delancey 1987) while Manipuri exhibits many of these features. However, the pronominal marking on verb, which is considered as original TB trait is not present in Manipuri, but still there is nominal pronominal markers which is regarded as remnants of TB pronominal feature. Manipuri has extensive verb morphology, extensive suffix with more limited prefixation. Moreover, it has no watertight compartment between morphology and syntax; the concept of subject is not so distinct; different word classes are formed by affixation of the respective markers. And in word-formation, compounding is more productive.