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Documentation and Preservation of Endangered Manuscripts through Digital Archiving in North-Eastern States of India

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Abstract: The preservation and conservation of traditional manuscripts is an age old practice. But for the past two decades or so, preserving the endangered manuscripts through digitization has become the prime concern of governments so that such manuscripts can be kept safely for future generations as manuscripts are considered to be an important asset to know our culture and tradition better. The present study primarily highlights the conservation and archival policies adopted by the British Library to digitize the ancient manuscripts of the North-Eastern states of India. The analysis highlights that the state such as Mizoram, Sikkim, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh had adopted projects and have digitized the manuscripts as per their convenience and timeframe concern. The basic purpose of the study is to highlight about the serious concern of the preservation of these heritages as it can be noticed that they are at extinct stage as the future generation would heard only in form of stories. In addition, the study also analyses the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the manuscripts preservation policy of these North-Eastern states by the British Library.

Keywords: Manuscripts, Endangered Manuscripts, Documentation, Preservation, North-Eastern States, and Archives

1. Introduction

Preservation and conservation of the old heritage culture is considered as an important asset of any ancient civilization. The ancient practices and believes are still playing a dominant role in our day to day life activity. Manuscripts are believed to be the most valuable source of information to understand about the human heritage and past history of human civilization. It is to be noted that in ancient Paranoiac civilization, the papyrus manuscripts has appeared¹.

In Indian context, the collection and preservation of manuscripts occupies an important place in Indian Historical peripheral. Every region in Indian states portrays different culture, religious beliefs, political affairs, languages and many customs and traditions². There were over 1950 mother tongue languages spoken across India as per the census report of 2011. Fifteen of the Indian languages were recognized as the official languages under Article 344 of the Constitution of India³. In 21st amendment of Indian constitution, the language Sindhi was given official recognition. The languages such as the Nepali, Konkani and Manipuri were also given the status of official language under the 71st amendment of Indian constitution⁴. In the 92nd amendment of the Indian constitution in 2003, four languages such as Santhali, Maithili, Dongri and Bodo were mentioned in the

Eighth Schedule of the Indian constitution. As per a survey report, approximately 90% of the population speaks these 22 official languages. The states such as Mizoram, Nagaland and Meghalaya have English as their official languages⁵. It is to be noted that there are around 1635 rationalized mother tongues of which 234 are identifiable mother tongues and 22 major Indian languages as per the census report of 2001⁶. The richness of the region has given the necessity for the preservation of the rich heritage of culture and traditions which were playing a vital role in our day to day life. The cultural heritage is still present in the form of manuscripts⁷. These manuscripts were preserving in the ancient universities such as Nalanda and Taxila etc. which were destroyed during the medieval period⁸. Despite of the its destruction, our ancestor has made efforts to keep protected of the manuscripts as a outcome of which these assets are still in safe hands both in Indian states and abroad.

The Indian cultural heritage is at the endangered stage due to the lack of good protection of these manuscripts⁹. It is therefore the urgent necessity to understand the responsibility of preservation of manuscripts so that the textual tradition value is preserved and inspire the researcher to undertake further and insight research of these manuscripts preservation¹⁰.

2. History of the Preservation Culture

In connection to the Mizoram's preservation and documentation of the culture, the Mizo hill people has additionally transformed themselves from the society where the animals and natures are the religious idols of worship to fundamentally Christian and literate society dating back to 1890. The documentation of the early religious believers of the Mizos was not documented in the any form of writing¹¹. As per the reports documented in Endangered Archived Programme by the British Library, prior to 1901 all the Mizos had followed the traditional religious practices but in 1961 and till date all the people had adopted Christianity as the religion and today it is the second literate states in India. The survey programme conducted by the British Library has found out that a village in Mizoram's south Serkawn, District Lunglei where a pioneer missionary named JH Lorrain's diary has become an important and rare source of information to know about the early Mizo history. This diary provides the scope for the academicians and researchers about the early glimpses of late nineteenth century of Mizo History.

The history of ancient of India is compose of different dramatic effect consisting of fights and battles and at the same times their rich cultural heritage¹². The history of Assam is to less in of regard to recognized as one of the most powerful kingdom of the ancient ruling dynasty. The history of Assam has a rich glimpse of information about the society, culture, religious beliefs, historical writings and many more. Founded the kingdom in 1228, the ahom king Sukupha has established the kingdom. The Tai- ahom were the ruling clans of this powerful kingdom¹³. The Tai- Ahom was the most powerful language of the kingdom but the continuity of mother tongue is no longer seen in ahom society¹⁴. The population of Tai Ahom is speaker of monolingual speaker of Assamese which is Indic language and it is considered the language of wider communication among the resident of North East India¹⁵.

The language of Tai Ahom language is found in written form in manuscript known as Buranji. As the language has a written form, some priest and ritual experts can understand and read the language ¹⁶. The language is mostly used for cultural and ritual purposes such as marriages, birth, and worship of ancestor and like others. An initiative undertaken by the British Library in terms of documentation of the ancient manuscripts has played a significant role in terms of research and applied theoretical practices. Basically the researchers and academicians are highly inspired by the work carry forwarded by the British library ¹⁷.

Sikkim is known for its rich cultural heritage and its beautiful landscapes. The state also has rich sources of information related to the former Himalayan Buddhist Kingdom of Sikkim and later the kingdom merged with India in 1975. The royal archives which contain the history of earlier rulers and their prevalent culture who dominated the state are at the fragile state and it requires the utmost importance for the conservation of the rich cultural history¹⁸. The initiative undertaken by The British Library provides a new forum for the researchers and academicians to understand the unique history of the colorful state-Sikkim. The British Library has digitized the available resources of the royal archive which covers the time period from 1875 to 1975 containing the history and culture of Sikkim. The need has arisen for the digitations process of the manuscripts written during Himalayan Buddhist Kingdom as the environmental factors such as weather, insects, natural calamities and like-wise are deteriorating the palace archives¹⁹. This preservation and conservation policy of the British library has been preserved in three locations in the UK and in Sikkim (An Indian State). This archive covers the history such as local taxation, land holding, political environment, political affairs, international relations, religious and social believes and many other aspects of the past civilization²⁰. This preservation shall compile the sikkimese people and the broader research community to understand the history better. The sikkimese people can get easy access to those preserved documents so that they will know their ancestors better²¹.

To understand the history of Arunachal Pradesh- The paradise unexplored, the family collection of Tsering Dondup need to study deeply. The collection inherited by Tsering Dondup of Tawang, posses a cluster of Lama Mani Thangkas Manuscripts covering time period from 19th century to early 21st century²². The items were preserved in the prayer room of the owner house. Another collection posse by Pema Wangdu of Miao, Arunachal Pradesh has a rich collection of Old Lama Manu texts and Thangkas covering the time period from late 19th century to Late 20th Century²³. The British Library Endangered Archived programme has divided the collection into three series on the basis of the nature of collection.

3. Endangered Archives Programme by the British Library

The British Library is one of the oldest libraries in the world and it is the national library of United Kingdom. The library is estimated to have a collection containing 170 to 200 million assets across different nationalities. The library also receives the items

published in the United Kingdom and Ireland as it is legal depositor library. The library is funded and sponsored by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. The library is located at Euston Road, London. The British Library came into existence on 1st July, 1973 as an outcome of the British Library Act, 1972. It was a part of British Museum previously which paves the way for holdings for bulk of collections of the new library such as the National Central Library, the National Lending Library for Science and technology and the British National Bibliography.

The Endangered Archives Programme (EAP) initiated by the British Library facilitates the digitization of archives across the globe which is at fragile state or rather in the process of destructions or negligence of the manuscripts²⁴. There are more than 400 projects in 90 countries which were funded by a charitable trust named Arcadia of Lisbet Rausing and Peter Baldwin for the process of digitations. The projects were carried out in over 100 languages and scripts. Since the inspection of the programme, the British library has digitized more than ten millions images and 35,000 sound tracks. The items includes in the digitations are rare printed sources, manuscripts, visual materials and audio recordings. The materials are easily available via local archival partners or it can be searched by the British Library Catalogue which is basically meant for research and development²⁵.

4. Review of Related Literature

The existing literature on research area and its thorough review have the vital role to play in research and help to scholar to keep the work on track. A small piece of literature can change the dimension of the research area and provide a dominant learning experience and understanding about the area of study. Numerous literatures have been consulted for the study purpose such as Hassan et al (2020) in their study display an integrated analytical approach to the Qur'anic manuscript with leather binding. The study analyses the degradation for paper and leather of the manuscripts by a process known as multi-analysis process. The result of the study revealed that due to attack of acidity of the manuscript leads to yellowing and weakness in the properties of materials. The microscopic analysis also detected that cotton was used as a raw materials in the manufacturing of manuscripts. Sharma (2020) in her paper discusses about the attributes of the manuscripts which are digitally archived by British Library with the project entitled "Documenting, conserving and archiving the Tai Ahom manuscripts of Assam". The study analysis that majority of the manuscripts were written in Tai and Assamese language which was created in 18th century. The manuscripts particularly emphasize on fortune telling manuscripts, Mantras, Religious prayers and likewise. The study also presents various spiritual, historical and astrological writings of the forefather in the manuscripts. Saikia (2001) in her paper highlights about the identity of a community known as Tai-Ahom which are inhabited in the North-East India. The study also examines the community struggle of their recent past and revolutionary identity of their present existence in the society. The paper analysis the contradictory profess of seeking legitimation from the national government of India. Kushkowsky, et al (2020) in their paper focuses on the

interdisciplinary underpinnings of corporate governance research. The paper applies bibliometric approaches for the evaluation of corporative governance entitled articles which were collected from web of Science database. The period chosen for the collection of the data were between 1990 and 2015. The findings of the study reveal that around 80% of the articles come from different disciplines besides from the field of management. As the subject matter of the study indicate that majority of the topics such as corporate governance theory, control of family firms, executive compensation and audit committees. Veller (2019) in his paper highlights about the identification of research articles which are interdisciplinary in nature published at Wageningen University & Research. The analysis reveals that the journal articles which are having high mean dissimilarities are often seen to have published in multidisciplinary journal. The findings shows that citations are often made to more various research fields than for articles with lower mean dissimilarities. The study is helpful for the working librarians in the Wageningen University & Research library in maintaining collection development programme. Mukhopadhyay and Dutta (2020) in their paper discusses about the development of an enhanced library OPAC prototype through the integration of language analysis tool and book reader in the retrieval interface. The study focus on the integration of library OPAC which can supports to analysis of the visual representation of all the Indian languages in the single- window operation with all the datasets basically expected in a traditional conventional library. The study also have tested English and Bengali as the mainstream languages by using open source software based integration mechanism. Aboubekrine, et al (2019) in their analysis primarily focuses on the Arabic handwritten documents. The study has proposed a method for segmentation of Arabic manuscript in paper and finally implement in actions. This study enumerated a list of problems which are related to the processing of Arabic manuscripts. The technique which has been proposed offers the users to look into the content in a more effective and efficient way. Dumitrescu, et al (2010) in their paper highlights about a digitization project which was carried forwarded by Department of the Romanian Academy Library (BAR), the manuscripts Department and the Information Technology (IT) Department. The study analysis manuscript collections of the greatest Romanian poet consist over 48 notebooks, 14000 folios in chronological sequences and the related topic. The basic objectives of the study are creation of digital collection of Mihai Eminescu manuscripts for preservation purpose and to make accessibility of the users for the collections of the manuscripts for research and publications purpose. Giusti et al (2005) in their study has primarily focus on the different algorithms which were used in the first stage of "Image noise-cleaning" to improve the order and move to the second stage of character recognition process. The study also emphasis the preprocessing image to be treated where thresholding, noise cleaning, thinning, base-line alignment and image segmentation. The paper also discusses about two image thinning methods such as Zhang-Suen's algorithm and CC-based algorithm.

After going through the literature already exist on the area, it is found that there is no study conducted on North-Eastern states so far, consequently the area remains untouched

and make the study inevitable to understand the documentation and preservation status in North-Eastern states. So, the present study is going to fill this gap and make the information available about the documentation and preservation of Manuscripts through digital archiving with special reference to north-eastern states, for the scholars interested.

5. Research Objectives

The research objectives of the current study include the followings:

- (i) To understand the date of creation of the documented manuscripts of the states of North-East India;
- (ii) To know the total number of documented manuscripts in each of the States;
- (iii) To understand the language-wise distribution of documented manuscripts;
- (iv) To know the total number of TIFF images present in the documented manuscripts; and
- (v) To recommendation suggestions for the improvement of the documentation policies regarding manuscripts.

6. Methodology Adopted for Study

The methodology adopted in the study includes the collection of the data from the webpage of Endangered Archives Programme of British Library where the 8 states of North-East India are taken into consideration. All the states Archives programmes are investigated and found that only the 4 states such as Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Sikkim have documented manuscripts in the British Library's Endangered Archives Programme. The used web links for gathering the information are:

- Assam: <https://eap.bl.uk/project/EAP373> ;
- Arunachal Pradesh : <https://eap.bl.uk/search?query=arunachal+pradesh>
- Mizoram : <https://eap.bl.uk/project/EAP454>;
- Sikkim :<https://eap.bl.uk/search?query=sikkim> and

7. Data Analysis and Interpretation

The data analysis and Interpretation occupies important assets in any part of the research study. The study entitled "*Documentation and Preservation of Endangered Manuscripts through Digital Archiving in North-Eastern States of India*" based upon the retrieval of data and its analysis of documented manuscripts which are digitally archived in four states of North-Eastern India namely, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, and Sikkim. The analysis of the enumeration is as follows:

7.1 Total No. of Manuscripts Available

The table and figure 1 represents the total number of collection of documented manuscripts in the states of North-East India. A total of 100 collections of manuscripts were found in the study among the four states. 55% (55 collections) is dominated by the state Assam with highest number of collection of manuscripts. It is followed by Mizoram with a total of 23 (23%) collections of manuscripts in total. The state of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim has a collection of 16 (16%) and 6 (6%) numbers of documented manuscripts

respectively. The documented manuscripts has various collections compose of religious believes, medicinal practices, astrological writings, mantra writings, spiritual writings and many more.

Table 1: Total No. of Manuscripts Available

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Collection Manuscripts	Percentage (%)
1	Assam	55	55
2	Arunachal Pradesh	16	16
3	Mizoram	23	23
4	Sikkim	6	6
Total		100	100

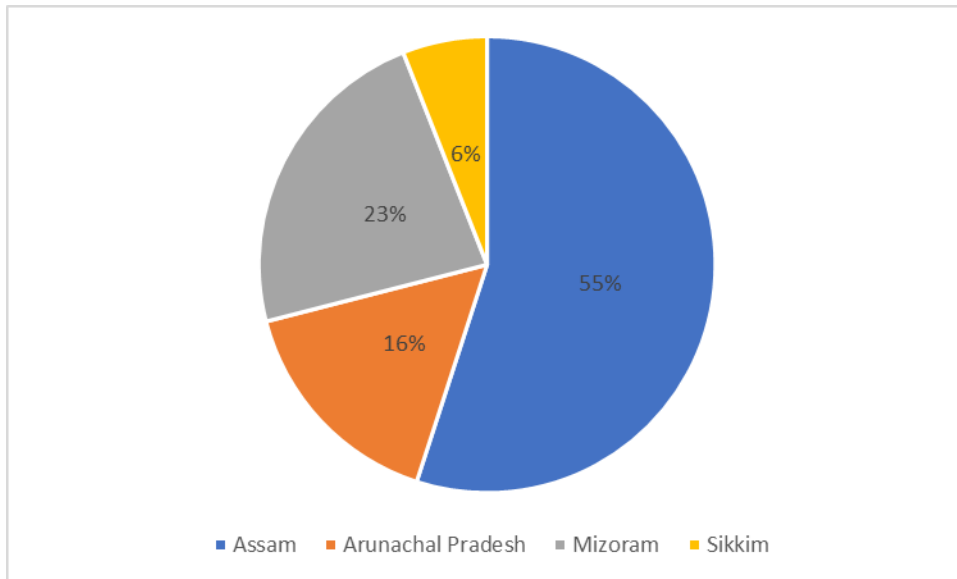


Figure 1: Total No. of Manuscripts Available

7.2 State-wise Distribution of Languages

The distributions of manuscripts on the basis of the languages are shown in the table 2. It is found that the documented manuscripts in the state of Assam are written in Assamese, Tai and Tai/Assamese language. The state of Arunachal Pradesh has the manuscripts collection written in Tibetan language. The languages such as Lushai, English, Burmese and Bengali were found in the documented manuscripts of Mizoram. The state of Sikkim has the collection of manuscripts written in Lepcha language.

Table 2: State-wise Distribution of Languages

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Language
1	Assam	Assamese, Tai, Tai/Assamese
2	Arunachal Pradesh	Tibetan
3	Mizoram	Lushai, English, Burmese, Bengali
4	Sikkim	Lepcha

7.3 Distribution of Manuscript on the Basis of Creation Time

A total of 100 collections of manuscripts were found among the four states of North-East India. The table 3 depicts that 23 per cent of manuscripts were created during 20th century. The largest number of creation of manuscripts were created during 18th century and found to be 41 percent of the total collections. The least number of creations of manuscripts was found in 21st century with only one manuscript. There are around 3 collections of manuscripts where the date of creation of manuscripts was not found mention in the surveyed webpage. The number of collection of manuscripts creation time such as 18th -19th century, 18th -19th century, 19th century, 19th -20th century were found to be 6,2,15 and 9 number of documented manuscripts respectively.

Table: 3: Distribution of Manuscript on the Basis of Creation Time

Sl. No.	Time of Creation	Manuscripts Collection (no.)	Percentage (%)
1	18 th Century	41	41
2	18 th -19 th Century	6	6
3	18 th -20 th Century	2	2
4	19 th Century	15	15
5	19 th -20 th Century	9	9
6	20 th Century	23	23
7	21 st Century	1	1
8	No Time Available	3	3
Total		100	100

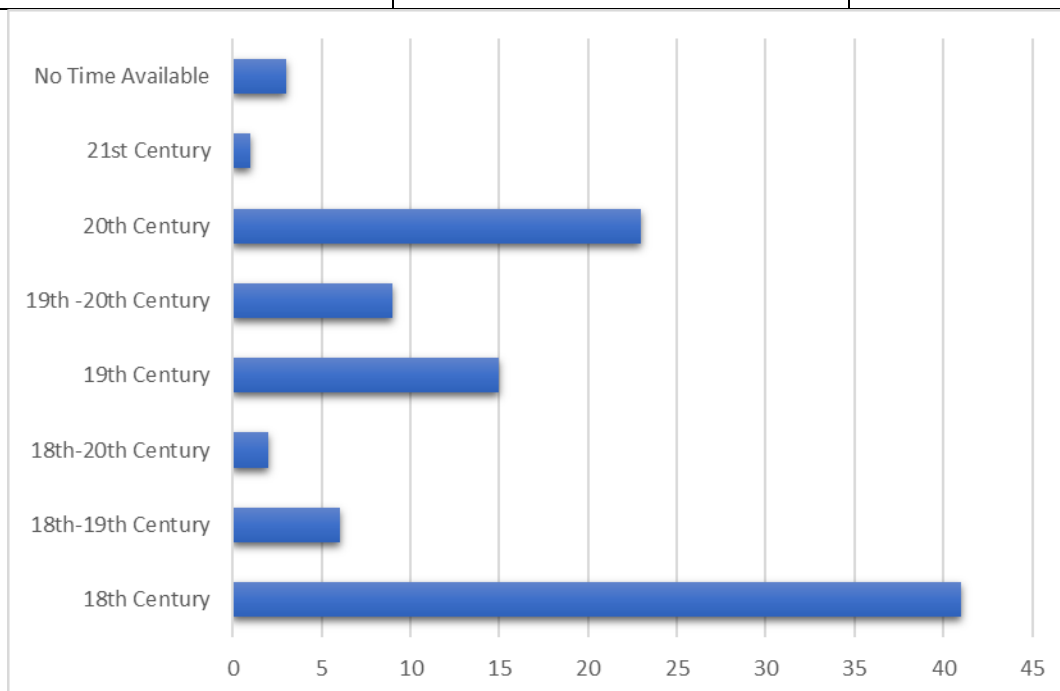


Fig 2. Distribution of Manuscript on the Basis of Creation Time

7.4 Language-wise Distribution of Manuscripts

There are number of languages spoken and written by people in different states of India. While drafting the manuscripts in the four states of North-East India, different forms of languages are used to define different circumstances and substances in different phases of periods spend by our ancestors. It is to be noted from the table 4 that 21% of the total collections of documented manuscripts were written in Lushai and English languages whereas only 1% of the total collection of manuscripts was written in Lushai and Lushai & Bengali Language. 41% of the total collection of manuscripts was written in Tai language. There are around 6% of the total collection of manuscripts were written in Lepcha Language. The number of total collection of manuscripts in Assamese, Tai & Assamese and Tibetan languages were 4%, 10% and 16% respectively.

Table 4: Language-wise Distribution of Manuscripts

Sl. No.	Language	No. of Total Collection	No. of Total Manuscripts	No. of Total Tiff Images
1	Assamese	4 (4%)	15(0.81)	477 (0.41%)
2	Tai	41 (41%)	245 (13.22%)	8145 (7.04%)
3	Tai & Assamese	10 (10%)	214 (11.55%)	6466 (5.59%)
4	Tibetan	16 (16%)	129 (6.96%)	777 (0.67%)
5	Lushai	1 (1%)	1 (0.05%)	1866 (1.61%)
6	Lushai & Bengali	1 (1%)	1 (0.05%)	8 (0.006%)
7	Lushai & English	21 (21%)	151 (8.15%)	8630 (7.46%)
8	Lepcha	6 (6%)	1096 (59.17%)	89249 (77.19%)
	Total	100	1852	115618

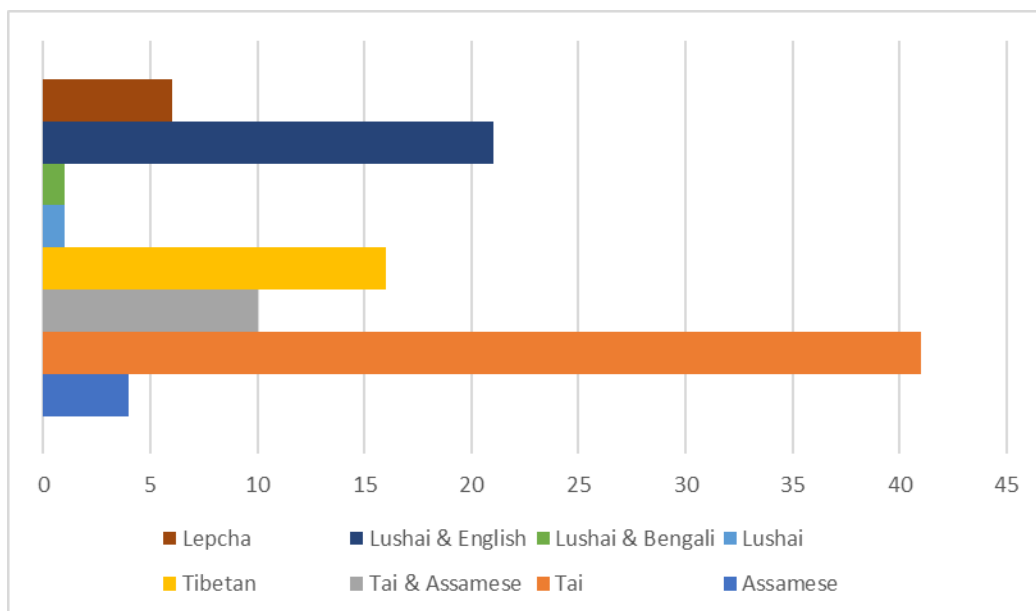


Fig. 3: Language-wise Distribution of Manuscripts

7.4.1 Language-wise No. of Manuscripts on the basis of Total Collection

A total of 1852 number of manuscripts were found in the collections of digitized manuscripts programme of The British Library among four states of North-East India. These include Assam, Mizoram, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The table 5 reveals that 59.17% (1096 manuscripts) of the total manuscripts were written in Lepcha language and on the other hand 13.22% (245 manuscripts) were written in Tai language. There were only 1 (0.05%) manuscript which were written in Lushai and Lushai & Bengali languages. Around 6.96% (129 manuscripts) of the total manuscripts were written in Tibetan language. The table also reveals that 11.55% (214 manuscripts) of the total manuscripts was written in Tai and Assamese language. 8.15% of the total manuscripts collections were written in Lushai and English languages. These documents narrate the stories of different circumstances in the history of human civilization.

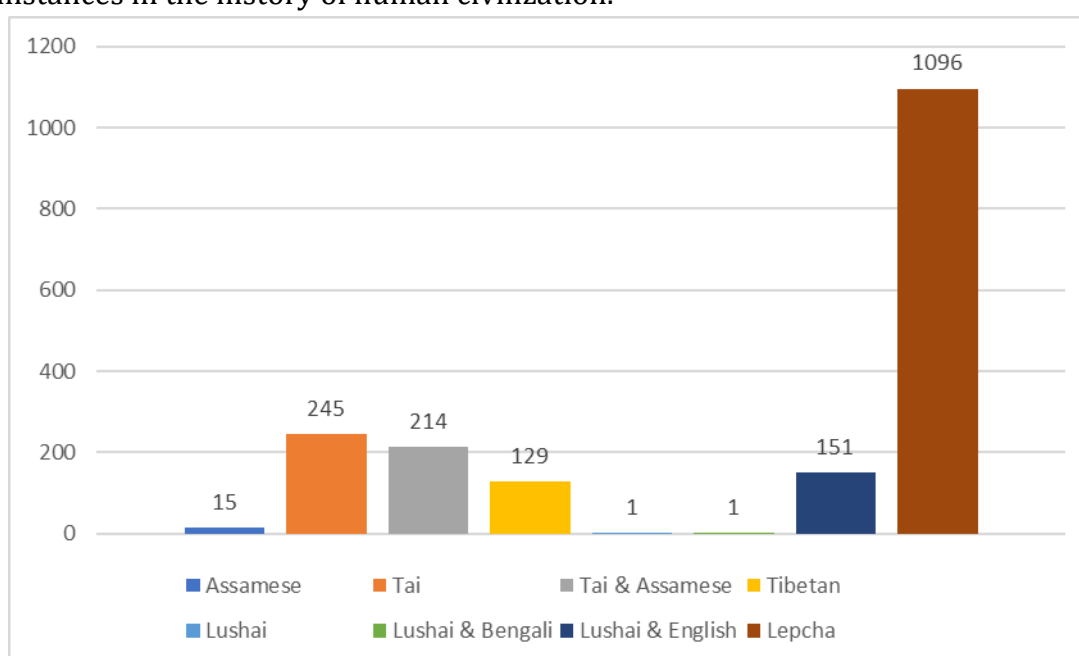


Fig.4: Language-wise No. of Manuscripts on the basis of Total Collection

7.4.2 Total No. of Tiff Images on the basis of languages

The table 4 reveals that a total of 115618 number of TIFF images were found in the digitized documented manuscripts of four states of North-East India. It is noticed that 77.19% of the total TIFF images collections were written in Lepcha Language. 7.46% of the total collections of TIFF images were written in Lushai and English languages. It is noticed that 0.006% were written in Lushai and Bengali languages and 0.41% of the total collections of TIFF images were written in Assamese languages. 5.59% and 7.04% of the total collections were written in Tai & Assamese and Tai Languages respectively. The number of TIFF images in the manuscripts which were in Tibetan and Lushai Languages were 0.67% and 1.61% respectively.

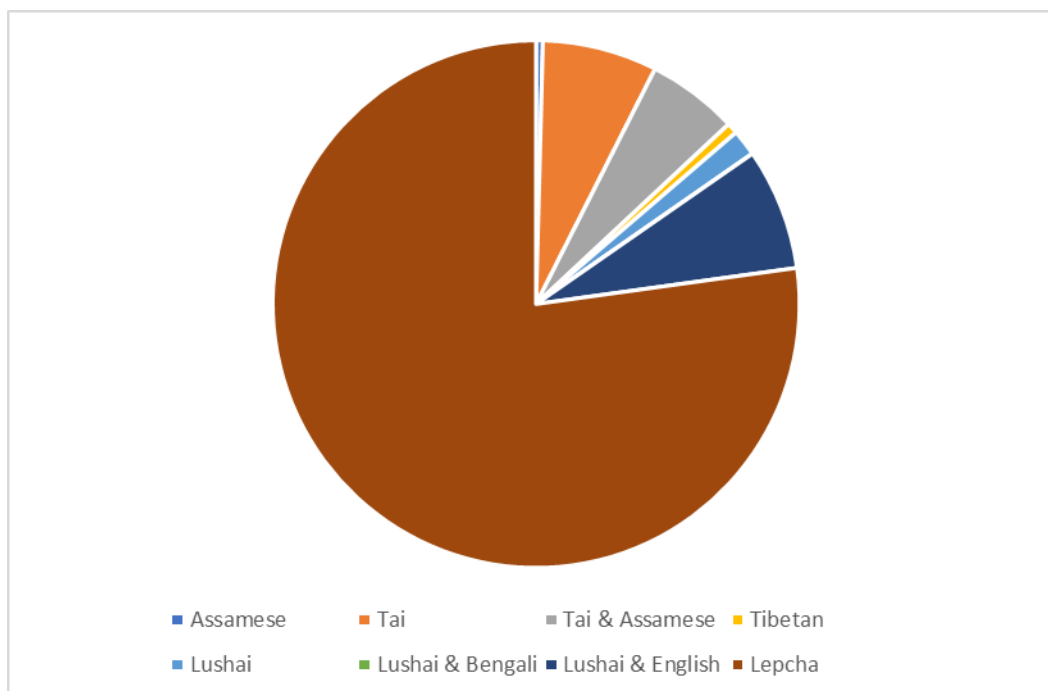


Fig 5: Total No. of Tiff Images on the basis of languages

8. Study Findings and its Contribution for Future Research

Every study reveals one or other findings of its various kinds. The present study has also found out some of the facts such as a total of 100 collections of manuscripts were found in the study among the four states of which 55% (55 collections) is dominated by the state Assam with highest number of collection of manuscripts. It is followed by Mizoram with a total of 23 (23%) collections of manuscripts in total. The state of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim has a collection of 16 (16%) and 6 (6%) numbers of documented manuscripts respectively. The study also found that the documented manuscripts which were found in the state of Assam were written in Assamese, Tai and Tai/Assamese language. The state of Arunachal Pradesh has the manuscripts collection written in Tibetan language. The languages such as Lushai, English, Burmese and Bengali were found in the documented manuscripts of Mizoram. The state of Sikkim has the collection of manuscripts written in Lepcha language. As per the findings of the study, it reports that 23 per cent of manuscripts were created during 20th century. The largest number of creation of manuscripts were created during 18th century and found to be 41 percent of the total collections. The least number of creations of manuscripts was found in 21st century with only one manuscript. The study presents that there are around 3 collections of manuscripts where the date of creation of manuscripts was not found mention in the surveyed webpage.

The study reports that 21% of the total collections of documented manuscripts were written in Lushai and English languages whereas only 1% of the total collection of manuscripts was written in Lushai and Lushai & Bengali Language as per the data interpretation. 41% of the total collection of manuscripts was written in Tai language. A total of 1852 number of manuscripts were found in the collections of digitized manuscripts

programme of The British Library among four states of North-East India. It was reported that 59.17% (1096 manuscripts) of the total manuscripts were written in Lepcha language and on the other hand 13.22% (245 manuscripts) were written in Tai language. There were only 1 (0.05%) manuscript which were written in Lushai and Lushai & Bengali languages. 8.15% of the total manuscripts collections were written in Lushai and English languages. It was also reported that 7.46% of the total collections of TIFF images were written in Lushai and English languages. It is noticed that 0.006% were written in Lushai and Bengali languages and 0.41% of the total collections of TIFF images were written in Assamese languages. 5.59% and 7.04% of the total collections were written in Tai & Assamese and Tai Languages respectively.

The paper is believed to have contributed immensely towards the future growth of research in archival strategies and policies and it will surely catch the attention of scholars and academicians to work in this particular area. The project has been undertaken by the British Library with the programmed entitled “Endangered Archived Programme” to save the cultural heritage of different communities across the globe. The projects also have taken keen interest in the documentation of the cultural heritage of the different manuscripts found in the North-Eastern States. These formulated projects were distributed among the different universities and research institutes to collect, analysis and documented those data in the form of reports. These reports are uploaded by the British Library and are easily accessible. The basic purpose of this project is undoubtedly to preserve the cultural heritage but at the same time also to help the researchers to gain much more in-depth information so that further more research can be carried out.

Another important purpose/purpose behind undertaking this study was basically to analysis and projects a true picture about the documentation of manuscripts and its different heritage assets possess by each community in the North-Eastern States of India. The study has found that only four states have their manuscripts data available in The British Library Platform. The state such as Meghalaya has their profile in the Webpage of this project but the accessibility of the documented manuscripts was not found. Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura need to pay much need attention in term of preservation of their manuscripts collects and the authorities responsible for these duties need to approach the organization such as the British Library or some other bodies where the documentation works are carried out and enhance the future generation to know their culture better. The other objective of the study is creating awareness and consciousness about the documentation polices and its importance, so that the archival/digitization programme can reach to its optimum level. At the last but not least, the study will not only create awareness about the endangered manuscripts among societies but also open the path for future research and interests of the scholars/academicians.

9. Discussion, Conclusion and Recommendation

As we are moving with time, where, there is change in technologies, lifestyle, customs and traditions, the old heritage culture are always playing a vital role in the overall

development of the society. Being a stakeholder of 21st century, the need of the hour is to apply different innovative ideas and technology for the preservation and conservation of traditional culture which are present in the form of manuscripts, so that the cultural heritage can be kept safe for future generations. The present generation should adopt some greater initiative to preserve the dead languages such as Lepcha, Tibetan, Tai and many more. Many more significant works should be forwarded by the researchers and academicians for documentation of our heritage as this tells our history. Although, several initiatives have already been taken by the scholars and state governments at mass level, but, still the states in North-East India that comprises 8 states and out of 8, only 4 states have archived their manuscripts through British library programme i.e. Endangered Archive Programme. The following recommendations are to be given importance for the improvement of the documentation policies:

- **Adequate Funding:** This acts as one of the major factors for the hindrance of archival policies as majority of the projects which are to be undertaken is expensive in nature. The material cost, labour charges, technology cost cutting are some major expenses required for the proper functioning of the documentation activity. The funding agency are funding limited amount of money to meet the expenses.
- **Skilled Professionals with Technical Knowledge:** Skilled personals are required for proper maintenance and functioning of documentation activities. The agencies who impart skill knowledge programme on documentation activity are less in number because of which the professionals are less in number.
- **Adequate Infrastructure:** The documentation activity suffers from issues such as lack of Established System for Recording and Documentation of Oral Traditions, Customs and Indigenous Knowledge System and many more. Washing and bathing mechanism of old manuscripts is being know too few personals who have trained in this field.
- **Promotional Activities:** There should be more number of workshops and training programme on creating awareness of documentation and preservation of manuscripts. The government agency should publish manuals so that the general masses are awareness about its importance in the society.
- **Co-operations:** There should be co-operation and co-ordinations among the different institutions and organisations both at the National and International levels to make such efforts as national movement.

In addition to the above recommendations, it is strongly recommended that the programmes on archival of the manuscripts must be developed and made available with ease of use and involvement through individuals and governments in particular. And the other remaining states of North-East India must involve themselves in such type of activities and programmes so that the heritage remains intangible among the society. For the purpose of saving heritage of the national importance, digitations process is the only means with the help of which the old heritages can be preserved and archived for the generations to come in future. The policy of digitization is necessary for both accessibility and archival

policy. There arises an urgent necessity and people's participation in the mission of preservation of traditional manuscripts and at the same time protecting our culture.

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Table – (Annexure)

S.N.	Reference No.	Collection Record	Time of Creation	Tiff Images (No.)	Manuscript (No.)	Language	Related Places
1.	EAP454/1/1	Reverend K.	1927-25	8	1	Lushai;	Mizoram,

		Lalrinkima. Collection				Bengali	Assam, India
2.	EAP454/2	Pi Lalengliani collection	1906-29	327	38	Lushai; English; Burmese; Hindi	Mizoram, Assam, India
3.	EAP454/3	Pi Thanbuangi collection	1914-77	104	10	Lushai; English	Mizoram, Assam, India
4.	EAP454/4	Pi Lalzami collection	undated	316	1	Lushai; English	Mizoram, Assam, India
5.	EAP454/5	Pu C. Vanlallawma collection	1918	1	1	not applicable	Mizoram, Assam, India
6.	EAP454/6	Rev. Dr. C. L. Hminga collection	1914- 1940	199	6	not applicable	Mizoram, Assam, India
7.	EAP454/7	Serkawn Dispensary Collection of Medical Records	1923-50	399	2	not applicable	Mizoram, Assam, India
8.	EAP454/8	C. S. Zawna's Collection of Ecclesiastical and Personal Records	1929-53	1481	26	Lushai; English	Mizoram, Assam, India
9.	EAP454/9	Lunglei Office of the District Commission er's collection of manuscripts	1908-31	560	4	not applicable	Mizoram, Assam, India
10.	EAP454/10	"How to Destroy the Beast" Collection	1913	1866	1	Lushai	Mizoram, Assam, India
11.	EAP454/11	L. Sawithanga's collection of old photographs	1928-80	11	11	not applicable	Mizoram, Assam, India
12.	EAP454/12	M. Suaka Records and Photographs	1907- 1950	24	13	English; Lushai	Mizoram, Assam, India
13.	EAP454/13	Prof. Laltluanglian	1905- 1949	2597	11	Lushai; English	Mizoram, Assam,

		a's collection of manuscripts, diaries, and photographs					India
14.	EAP454/14	Pi Violi and Pu Mark's collection of Saikao/Serka wr materials	1908-50	606	7	Lushai; English; Haka Chin; Mara Chin	Mizoram, Assam, India
15.	EAP454/15	Serkawn Government School collection of student results	1904-52	255	2	not applicable	Mizoram, Assam, India
16.	EAP454/16	Thanzingi collection of one photograph of Challiana	undated	2	1	not applicable	Mizoram, Assam, India
17.	EAP454/17	B. Lalthanglian a's collection of historical newspapers	1949-57	148	1	Lushai; English	Mizoram, Assam, India
18.	EAP454/18	Dr. J. V. Hluna's collection of historical manuscripts	1932-40	554	3	Lushai; English	Mizoram, Assam, India
19.	EAP454/19	Pu Lalhruaitlua nga's collection of records and letters	[1899-1936]	276	4	Lushai; English	Mizoram, Assam, India
20.	EAP454/20	Upa Hualkunga's collection of early paper records	[1901-1939]	92	4	Lushai; English	Mizoram, Assam, India
21.	EAP454/21	Tlabung Police Station collection of historical police records	1899-1971	461	2	not applicable	Mizoram, Assam, India

22.	EAP454/22	Ringthanga's collection on Saihnuna (or Lenglal) of Leng Village	1949	68	1	Lushai; English	Mizoram, Assam, India
23.	EAP454/23	The Sailo collection of Khamliana Sailo Lal's historical records	[1897-1965	149	3	Lushai; English	Mizoram, Assam, India
24.	EAP1016/6/1/1	The family collection of Tsering Dondup	Late 19th century	8	8	painting	Arunachal Pradesh, India
25.	EAP1016/6/1/2	The family collection of Tsering Dondup	Early 21st century	8	8	painting	Arunachal Pradesh
26.	EAP1016/6/1/3	The family collection of Tsering Dondup		9	9	painting	Arunachal Pradesh
27.	EAP1016/6/1/4	The family collection of Tsering Dondup	Late 19th century	10	10	painting	Arunachal Pradesh
28.	EAP1016/6/1/5	The family collection of Tsering Dondup	Late 19th century	9	9	painting	Arunachal Pradesh
29.	EAP1016/6/1/6	The family collection of Tsering Dondup	Mid 19th century	9	9	painting	Arunachal Pradesh
30.	EAP1016/6/1/7	The family collection of Tsering Dondup	Mid 19th century	9	9	painting	Arunachal Pradesh
31.	EAP1016/6/1/8	The family collection of Tsering Dondup	Mid 19th century	10	10	painting	Arunachal Pradesh
32.	EAP1016/6/1/9	The family collection of Tsering Dondup	Mid 19th century	8	8	painting	Arunachal Pradesh
33.	EAP1016/6/1/10	The family collection of	Mid 19th century	10	10	painting	Arunachal Pradesh

34.	EAP1016/6/1/1 1	Tsering Dondup The family collection of	Mid 19th century	8	8	painting	Arunachal Pradesh
35.	EAP1016/6/1/1 2	Tsering Dondup The family collection of	Mid 19th century	8	8	painting	Arunachal Pradesh
36.	EAP1016/6/1/1 3	Tsering Dondup The family collection of	Mid 19th century	9	9	painting	Arunachal Pradesh
37.	EAP1016/5	The collection of Pema Wangdu	Late 19th century- Late 20th century	662 TIFF images	14	Tibetan	Arunachal Pradesh
38.	EAP1016/5/1	The collection of Pema Wangdu	Late 19th century	2 TIFF images	1	Tibetan	India
39.	EAP1016/5/2	The collection of Pema Wangdu	Late 19th century- Late 20th century	78 TIFF images	7	Tibetan	India
40.	EAP1016/5/3	The collection of Pema Wangdu	Early 20th century	582 TIFF images	6	Tibetan	India
41.	EAP373/1	Kamol Rajkonwar Collection	18th	394	11	Tai	India, Asia
42.	EAP373/2	Kesab Boruah Collection	18th	638	17	Tai	India, Asia
43.	EAP373/3	Khanin Hati Baruah Collection	18th	195	6	Tai	India, Asia
44.	EAP373/4	Krishna Mohan Collection	19th	64	1	Tai	India, Asia
45.	EAP373/5	Manik Bailung Collection	19th	116	1	Assamese	India, Asia
46.	EAP373/6	Manuranjan Phukan Collection	18th- 19th	81	3	Tai/Assa mese	India, Asia
47.	EAP373/7	Medini	18th-	24	4	Tai	India,

		Mohan Collection	19th				Asia
48.	EAP373/8	Mohendra Baruh Collection	18th	84	1	Tai	India, Asia
49.	EAP373/9	Mohendrajit Boruah Collection	18th- 19th	66	2	Tai	India, Asia
50.	EAP373/10	Munindra Phukan Collection	18th- 19th	328	20	Tai/Assa mese	India, Asia
51.	EAP373/11	Nipen Mohan Collection	18th	62	2	Tai	India, Asia
52.	EAP373/12	Nogen Buragohain Collection	20th	18	1	Tai	India, Asia
53.	EAP373/13	Padma Sang Bun Phukan Collection	18th	140	2	Tai	India, Asia
54.	EAP373/14	Paniram Gogoi Collection	18th	26	1	Assamese	India, Asia
55.	EAP373/15	Parijat Mohan Baruah Collection	18th	202	2	Tai	India, Asia
56.	EAP373/16	Prodip Baruah Collection	18th	428	10	Tai/Assa mese	India, Asia
57.	EAP373/17	Puspa Mohan Collection	18th	188	7	Tai	India, Asia
58.	EAP373/18	Rupeshwar Boruah Collection	18th	126	1	Tai	India, Asia
59.	EAP373/19	Sandicharan Phukan Collection	18th	86	1	Tai	India, Asia
60.	EAP373/20	Soilen Nath Konwar Collection	18th	24	1	Tai	India, Asia
61.	EAP373/21	Sosti Mohan Collection	20th	232	9	Assamese	India, Asia
62.	EAP373/22	Susen Phukan Collection	18th	69	2	Tai	India, Asia
63.	EAP373/23	Tapudhar Phukan	18th	182	3	Tai	India, Asia

64.	EAP373/24	Collection Tilleshwar Mohan	18th	596	17	Tai/Assa mese	India, Asia
65.	EAP373/25	Collection Toilen Mohan	18th	295	12	Tai	India, Asia
66.	EAP373/26	Collection Tulen Phukan	18th	176	5	Tai	India, Asia
67.	EAP373/27	Collection Tulsi Boruah	18th- 19th	497	26	Tai	India, Asia
68.	EAP373/28	Collection Tulsi Phukan	18th	1453	52	Tai/Assa mese	India, Asia
69.	EAP373/29	Collection Kamol Rajkonwar	18th	394	11	Tai	India, Asia
70.	EAP373/30	Collection Kesab Boruah	18th	638	17	Tai	India, Asia
71.	EAP373/31	Collection Khanin Hati Baruah	18th	195	6	Tai	India, Asia
72.	EAP373/32	Collection Krishna Mohan	19th	64	1	Tai	India
73.	EAP373/33	Collection Manik Bailung	19th	116	1	Assamese	India, Asia
74.	EAP373/34	Collection Manuranjan Phukan	18th- 19th	81	3	Tai/Assa mese	India, Asia
75.	EAP373/35	Collection Medini Mohan	18th- 19th	24	4	Tai	India, Asia
76.	EAP373/36	Collection Mohendra Baruh	18th	84	1	Tai	India, Asia
77.	EAP373/37	Collection Mohendrajit Boruah	18th- 19th	66	2	Tai	India, Asia
78.	EAP373/38	Collection Munindra Phukan	18th- 19th	328	20	Tai/Assa mese	India, Asia
79.	EAP373/39	Collection Nipen Mohan	18th	62	2	Tai	India, Asia
80.	EAP373/40	Collection Nogen Buragohain	20th	18	1	Tai	India, Asia

81.	EAP373/41	Collection Padma Sang Bun Phukan	18th	140	2	Tai	India, Asia
82.	EAP373/42	Collection Paniram Gogoi	18th	26	1	Assamese	India, Asia
83.	EAP373/43	Collection Parijat Mohan Baruah	18th	202	2	Tai	India, Asia
84.	EAP373/44	Collection Prodip Baruah	18th	428	10	Tai/Assa mese	India, Asia
85.	EAP373/45	Collection Puspa Mohan	18th	188	7	Tai	India, Asia
86.	EAP373/46	Collection Rupeshwar Boruah	18th	126	1	Tai	India, Asia
87.	EAP373/47	Collection Sandicharan Phukan	18th	86	1	Tai	India, Asia
88.	EAP373/48	Collection Soilen Nath Konwar	18th	24	1	Tai	India, Asia
89.	EAP373/49	Collection Sosti Mohan	20th	232	9	Assamese	India, Asia
90.	EAP373/50	Collection Susen Phukan	18th	69	2	Tai	India, Asia
91.	EAP373/51	Collection Tapudhar Phukan	18th	182	3	Tai	India, Asia
92.	EAP373/52	Collection Tilleshwar Mohan	18th	596	17	Tai/Assa mese	India, Asia
93.	EAP373/53	Collection Toilen Mohan	18th	295	12	Tai	India, Asia
94.	EAP373/54	Collection Tulen Phukan	18th	176	5	Tai	India, Asia
95.	EAP373/55	Collection Tulsi Boruah	18th- 19th	497	26	Tai	India, Asia
96.	EAP281/1	Collection of Arthur Foning Lepcha	1894- 1963	1,857	23	Lepcha	India, Asia; Sikkim, Asia,

		Manuscripts					India; Sikkim, India, Asia; Sikkim,
97.	EAP281/2	Ong Tshering Namchu Collection of Lepcha Manuscripts 20th century	20th century	168	3	Lepcha	India, Sikkim, India, Asia; Sikkim,
98.	EAP281/3	Tamyong Collection of Lepcha Manuscripts 19th - 20th century	19th century- 20th century	50	1	Lepcha	India, Asia; Sikkim,
99.	EAP281/4	Dendrúp Adyemnu Collection of Lepcha Manuscripts 20th century	20th century	95	3	Lepcha	India, Asia; Sikkim,
100.	EAP281/5	Chuksung Collection of Lepcha Manuscripts 19th - 20th century	19th century- 20th century	278	10	Lepcha	India, Asia; Sikkim,