1. INTRODUCTION:
This study is intended to shed some light on coordination in Assamese. In the words of Quirk et al. ‘Coordination is a type of construction where two or more units of the grammatical hierarchy may constitute a single unit of the same kind and which is typically signaled by a link word termed a coordinator [1].

There are different types of coordination – phrase – level coordination, clause – level coordination. Here, the area of investigation is to study some general aspects of coordination in relation to Assamese’.

For this study we have reviewed books and literature[2-5]. The study has been divided into six sections. The second, third and forth sections are preliminary and basic to the subject under investigation. These are general topics related to coordination. In the sections two, we are discussed about coordinator, it functions and its different usage. In the section three, we discuss the relation between reduction and coordination. In the section four, we try to shed light on open-endedness quality of coordination. In section five, different types of coordination are briefly discussed under further subsections. The final two sections are the concluding section.

2. COORDINATOR:
Coordination prototypically contains one or more special markers which belong to a distinct class of words and these words are called coordinators. Coordinators have some semantic roles. One of its most basic semantic roles is that it expresses the logical relation of conjunction and disjunction. In terms of Rodney Huddleston[6], if two propositions ‘p and q’ are conjoined by conjunction, the proposition will be true if both component positions are true and false otherwise. Conversely, if ‘p and q’ are joined by disjunction, resultant coordination will be true if either component position is true and false if both of them are false.

For example,
1.Conjunction:
[ram aru hari] ah-iba 1(a)
[ram and-COORD hari] come -3 FUT
‘Ram and Hari will come.’

2. Disjunction:
[hari naiba tumi] ah-iba 1(b)
[hari or- COORD you] come-2FUT
‘Hari or you will come.’

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2.1. STYLISTIC DIFFERENCES:

At the very beginning, style is a socio-linguistic aspect. The term is often used to signify the variation in speech (or writing) from more formal to more casual. Style would be varied according to the speech situation. A more formal style would be used at ceremonies, public functions, formal discussions whereas a more casual style would be more appropriate for conversation with friends, fellow students or at home. These stylistic differences are also evident in the usage of coordinators. They have formal as well as casual usage in coordinated constructions.

2. 1. (i) Formal Usage:

Some coordinators are typically used in formal speech and writing. For example-

(a) kimba ‘or’

hahøkiyo hesatei kimba sa-issatei 2(a)

ruling pressure or – COORD self-intention
‘either because of ruling pressure or because of self intention’

(b) to l’ta ‘and’:
dan-borɔ!nɔ tɔhɔ ñudan 2 (b)

contribution and- COORD donation
‘contribution and donation

2.1. (ii) Informal Usage: some coordinators have only informal usage.

a) nahæle ‘or’

[ram-ak nahæle hari-k] mat-iba 3(a)

ram-OBJ or-COORD hari-OBJ] call-2 FUT

‘Call either Ram or Hari.’

There are other coordinators like st’a ‘or’, ba ‘or’, kintu ‘but’ etc. which have popular usage in informal speech or writing.

2. II. SPECIFIC USAGE:

Coordinators which are used to coordinate constituents of some status have some other usage also. The following are some examples-

The word /kintu/ ‘but’ is used not only as a coordinator but also as an emphatic element like tɔrkɔɾi khɔn teja kintu huwad 4(a)

curry-CL sour but-COORD delicious

‘The curry is sour but tasty.’

tunĩ ah-ibɔi lag-ibɔ kintu 4 (b)
you-SG come-FUT-E must-FUT but-E
‘But you must come.’

3. REDUCTION AND COORDINATION:

When we coordinate two or more units, we duplicate the same kind of structure. For example, clause + clause, noun phrase + noun phrase. This kind of duplication does not normally occur without a parallelism of meaning or function between the conjoins. Such parallelism, in turn implies an overlap of content. For example,

ram-e bhat kha-le 5(a)

ram-NOM rice eat-3PAST

‘Ram ate rice.’

hari-e bhat kha-le 5 (b)

hari-NOM rice eat- 3PAST

‘Hari ate rice.’

The sentences in example ‘5’ share a common structure of SOV. They also show the repetition of the words themselves. Both sentences in (5) contain the word sequence -/bhat kha-le/. This sharing of common lexical content is a typical condition under which the reduced alternative is chosen. Not only can (5) be expressed as a single unreduced sentence by the device of coordination as in 6 (a) but it can also be reduced to a more compact form by ellipsis of the first verb with its object like 6 (b). The following examples 6 (a) and 6 (b) will give a better idea of it.

[ram-e bhat kha-le] aru [hari-e bhat kha-le]] 6 (a)

[ram-NOM rice eat-3PAST] and-COORD [hari-NOM rice eat-PAST]

‘Ram ate rice and Hari ate rice.’

[ram and hari]-e b3 at k3 a-le 6 (b)

[ram and-COORD Hari] –NOM rice eat-3PAST

‘Ram and Hari ate rice.’

4. OPEN ENDEDNESS:

There is no grammatical limit to the number of constituents which can be coordinated. For example-

[ram aru hari] bhal bondhu 7(a)

[ram and-COORD hari] good friend

‘Ram and Hari are good friends.’

[ram, hari, zodu, madhu aru nabi] ah-ibɔ 7 (b)

[ram, hari, zodu, madu and-COORD nabi] come-3FUT

‘Ram, Hari, Madhu and Nabi will come.’

Though, there is no limit to the number of constituents to be coordinated, it is found that in such coordination, the coordinator is used before the last constituent as seen in 7 (b).

5. TYPES OF COORDINATION:

5.1. SYNDETIC COORDINATION:

Normally, a coordinator is present in coordinated construction. This type of coordination is called syndetic coordination. Assamese has lots of syndetic coordinated constructions like the examples below-

ram aru rahim ahibɔ 8 (a)

Ram and-COORD Rahim come-3FUT

‘Ram and Rahim will come.’
hah naiba murgi aniba 8(b)
duck or-COORD chicken bring-2FUT
‘Bring duck or chicken.’

5. II. ASYNDETIC COORDINATION:
In some coordination, the coordinator is absent from the construction. This type of coordination is known asyndetic coordination. Semantically, it is evident though coordinator is absent.

For example-
[ma-deuta] ab-ibo 9(a)
[mother (and-COORD)father] come -3 FUT
‘parents will come.’

lara-sowali 9(b)
boy (and-COORD) girl
‘Children’

tamol – pan 9(c)
bittle nut (and-COORD) a kind of leaf
‘A mouth refreshner’

5. III. POLYSYNDETIC COORDINATION:
Polysyndetic coordinations are those coordinations where more than one coordinator is used to conjoin linguistic units. In Assamese, we have polysyndetic coordinated constructions like –

For example
[e-ta kalb m aru dui –dista bohi aru e-dal pensil] aniba 10
‘Bring a pen, two note books and a pencil.’

5. IV. COMBINATORY AND SEGREGATORY MEANING:
When phrases are linked by ‘and’ coordinator in the clause, they may express combinatory or segregatory meaning. Combinatory coordination is coordination for which it is inappropriate to provide a paraphrase in terms of coordinated clauses. This is because the coordinators function in combination with respect to the rest of the clause. When coordination is segregatory, on the other hand, we can paraphrase it by clause coordination but is clear with noun phrases.

For illustration, we can take the following example of combinatory coordination
[ram aru hita] e-hal hukhi dampati 11
[Ram and-COORD Sita] a-CL happy couple
‘Ram and Sita are a happy couple.’

We cannot paraphrase it to simple clause like -
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*
ram e-hal hukhi dampati 11(a)
ram a-CL happy couple
‘Ram is a happy couple.’ (not possible)

Let us now take the example of 12. It illustrates the segregatory coordination. We can simply paraphrase it into two different meaningful clauses like 12 (a) and 12 (b).

[ram aru rahim]-e uttar-to zan-e 12
[ram and-COORD rahim]- NOM answer-the know-3PRES
‘Ram and Rahim know the answer.’

ram-e uttar-to zan-e 12(a)
ram-NOM answer – the know-3PRES
‘Ram knows the answer’

rahim-e uttar-to zan-e 12(b)
rahim-NOM answer-the know-3PRES
‘Rahim knows the answer.’

Many conjointed NPs are ambiguous between a combinatory and segregatory interpretation. For example-

[ram aru rahim]-e-ta puraskar pa-le 13
[Ram and-COORD Rahim]- NOM a-CL prize get-3PAST
‘Ram and Rahim got a prize.’

This may mean either (a) that Ram or Rahim each got a prize or (b) that the prize was awarded jointly to them.

6. CONCLUSION:
In this investigation, we have looked at different general aspects of coordination in relation to Assamese language. It has been observed that ellipsis is the key motive of coordination. When we coordinate two or more phrases of the same status, the coordinated structure reduces to a more compact form through the process of ellipsis. In addition to it, the coordinators as a linking word play a vital role in coordination. At the same time, we can express coordination without the existence of the coordinator in some constructions. Admittedly, there remains a lot more to be done in this area. But, it is hoped that a modest beginning has been done.

Abbreviations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COORD</th>
<th>COORDINATOR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FUT</td>
<td>FUTURE TENSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAST</td>
<td>PAST TENSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRES</td>
<td>PRESENT TENSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRES PRF</td>
<td>PRESENT PERFECT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>FIRST PERSON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SECOND PERSON</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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N.B. Asterisk* above a sentence makes it ungrammatical.

REFERENCES
4. Kakati B; Assamese, its formation and development, Gauhati, India, Govt of Assam. 1941.