AMRIT BANI AS A TRAJECTORY OF A DISTINCT IDENTITY

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ABSTRACT
Sikh means a learner, and Sikhi is about learning and training. Sikhi as a pedagogy and particularly its linguistic characteristics manifested through Amrit Bani (AB-ਅਮ੍ਰਿਤ ਬਨੀ) have been least researched in the past. Linguistic anthropology studies language as a solid resource for identity production. Interestingly, distinct Sikh identity is neatly interwoven into Amrit Bani (AB-ਅਮ੍ਰਿਤ ਬਨੀ) that enshrines and illuminates the Sikh Source – Aad Guru Granth Sahib (AGGS). AB is not merely an abstract of the metaphysical description of self, rather it offers an analytical study of the nature of self and its social-cultural, and cross-cultural dimensions. Using AB, this self, hones into an instrument for social coherence. Guru Nanak used language as a tool for social harmony and coherence. Reviewing several other methods used by mankind to find meaning of life, Nanak suggests speaking AB (synonymously: GuNno Boli – GB (ਗੁਨ੍ਨੋ ਬੋਲੀ) or Sweet speech / Mithee Boli - MB (ਮਿਠੀ ਬੋਲੀ) for day to day conversation and also to seek advance knowledge using Gurmukh script. AB helps to communicate with one another to harmonize inside and outside of human beings. We will illustrate how AB (ਅਮ੍ਰਿਤ ਬਨੀ) has unique characteristics that remain under-explored by researchers and how AB (ਅਮ੍ਰਿਤ ਬਨੀ) originates Gurmukh (GoRMoiKh-ਗੁਰਮੁਖੀ) from “Only One” (UoaN-ੋਨ) letter (AeKo AKhRo - ਅੰਕਾਰਕੋ ਅਕਾਰਾਰ) and its kirtan (ਕੀਰਤਨ) (Karam dharam pakhand jo di seh 'in jam jagahai luitai) and suggests unique to Sikh, a solution a dhistur (ਧਿਸਤੂਰ) (AeKo AKhRo - ਅੰਕਾਰਕੋ ਅਕਾਰਾਰ) and jatha (ਜਥਾ) that enshrines and illuminates the Sikh Source – Aad Guru Granth Sahib (AGGS) on page 747 (ਰੱਖੁੰਦਰ ਰਾਜਨੀਤਿ ਸੰਜਾਨ ਬਣਾਈ ਲੂਟੇ) and suggests unique to Sikhi, a solution a dhistur (ਧਿਸਤੂਰ) (AeKo AKhRo - ਅੰਕਾਰਕੋ ਅਕਾਰਾਰ) and jatha (ਜਥਾ) that enshrines and illuminates the Sikh Source – Aad Guru Granth Sahib (AGGS) on page 747. It is hoped that exploring AB (ਅਮ੍ਰਿਤ ਬਨੀ) linguistically will meet the IUS conference 2013 objectives and help in better “Formulating Methodology for Interpreting Gurbani”.

Some Most Advanced Order Linguistic Characteristics
The thesis of Amrit Bani (AB-ਅਮ੍ਰਿਤ ਬਨੀ) as a trajectory of a distinct identity of Sikhs pivots around AB as a language and yet distinct from other languages – that Mehlā 5 (Nanak 5) explains in AGGS on page 747 (ਰੱਖੁੰਦਰ ਰਾਜਨੀਤਿ ਸੰਜਾਨ ਬਣਾਈ ਲੂਟੇ) and suggests unique to Sikhi, a solution a dhistur (ਧਿਸਤੂਰ) (AeKo AKhRo - ਅੰਕਾਰਕੋ ਅਕਾਰਾਰ) and jatha (ਜਥਾ) that enshrines and illuminates the Sikh Source – Aad Guru Granth Sahib (AGGS) on page 747. It is hoped that exploring AB (ਅਮ੍ਰਿਤ ਬਨੀ) linguistically will meet the IUS conference 2013 objectives and help in better “Formulating Methodology for Interpreting Gurbani”. Amrit Bani (AB-ਅਮ੍ਰਿਤ ਬਨੀ) and Kachi Bani (KB-ਕਛੀ ਬਨੀ) Nanak introduces several objective measurement tools to distinguish characteristics of AB (ਅਮ੍ਰਿਤ ਬਨੀ) as SMAO (ਸੰਮਿਲਤ ਮਾਧੰਦੀ) and then termed other languages as raw languages / Kachi Bani ( KB – ਕਛੀ ਬਨੀ) or un-honed or decayed speech/ Khari ਕਹਰੀ (KB - ਕਹਰੀ ਬੋਲੀ / ਕਹਰੀ ਬੋਲੀ) as distinguished from Amrit Bani (AB-ਅਮ੍ਰਿਤ ਬਨੀ)/ GuNno Boli (GB - ਗੁਨਾ ਬੋਲੀ). Indo-European languages including Punjabi and several others languages may appear to be phonetically similar or may have near
identical shapes of their alphabets to AB (ਅੱਠ) / Gurmukhi script. Punjabi uses Gurmukhi alphabets and is like a peripheral to what at the core is termed as AB (ਅੱਠ) / GB (ਗੁੰਠ ਵੇਲੀ). However, these languages may be understood as Kachi Bani (KB) from AB’s SMAO characteristics perspective. Guru Nanak doesn’t leave speakers of other languages at a disadvantage. AB encourages users, speakers of these KB (ਅੱਠ) languages, on how to adopt to the SMAO (ਸਮਾਨੀਟੀ) characteristics of AB – these users can thus equally benefit. Thus a larger societal transformation and peaceful co-existence amongst different communities can happen through the simple use of language only by adopting benchmarked characteristics of AB. Nanak advises how to simply shift KB into AB.

**Building Blocks of Amrit Bani (AB-ਅੱਠ)- Sabd (ਸੰਭਾਲ)**

AB (ਅੱਠ) defines a term : Sabd (ਸੰਭਾਲ) and its characteristic (GoNno Bolee - ਗੋਨਨੋ ਬੋਲੀ) AB’s mined data from AGGS suggest Sabd (ਸੰਭਾਲ) is a composite term of four uniqueness converged into One Word(1) Listening (SoNni - ਸੋਨੀ) (2) Speaking (Boli - ਬੋਲੀ) , (3) See (Disae - ਦੀਸੀ) and (4) See – (Dikhiaa - ਦੀਖਿਆ) Insightfulness / Reflections/ Meaning/ Intuition/Teaching (Dikhiaa - ਦੀਖਿਆ). These four - B4 (Beechar - ਬੀੜ੍ਹਰ) - are the foundation of AB.

*(Editorial Note: Complete paper was not submitted.)*