

the villages together. When Christianity came, the churches were founded in different villages. Thus the church organisation created socio-religious contacts from which they became closely related in a common ethnic identity and unification through organising bial (Districts), Presbyteries, Synod meetings and conferences. Christianity has united them into integrated community.

3. Literature

Prior to the advent of Christianity no hill tribes in North East India had a written literature.¹⁵ The most significant contribution of Christianity was the process of acculturative role which was closely related to the field of literature and education.¹⁶ The contribution of Christian Mission are as follows :-

a) *Creation of written language and script:*

In the pre-Christian days, the Hrangkhols did not have a script of their own. The Roman script was first introduced by the British and foreign missionaries in 19th century. It was an English man named C.A.Soppitt,¹⁷ who first published the Hrangkhol grammar with vocabularies in Roman script in 1893 at Haflong, N.C.Hills, Assam.¹⁸ As noted earlier, the Welsh mission set up a station at Haflong in 1905. Education and written literature were duly emphasised as their evangelistic enterprise from the beginning. Missionary like Rev.J.M.Harries Rees attempts to reduce the Hrangkhol language into a written form in 1913 at Haflong.¹⁹ As Christianity developed, the literature conscious-

¹⁵ C.B.Firth, *op.cit.*, p.284.

¹⁶ Downs, *History of Christianity*, p.187.

¹⁷ Soppit was the first Sub-Divisional Officer of North Cachar Hills, Assam. In those days, the British employed the Hrangkhols as their labours. In order to familiarise with the local language, Soppitt published Hrangkhol Grammar and vocabularies in N.C.Hills.

¹⁸ C.A. Soppitt, *op. cit.*, pp.31-88.

¹⁹ Rev. D. G. Morfyn Jones, *op. cit.*, p.14