

A study on the theme of Haribhusan Brahma's short stories

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ABSTRACT

Haribhusan Brahma, an eminent short story writer in the Bodo literature who has lots of contributions in the field of Bodo literature. He has created many stories based on certain themes. In his stories he discusses the themes of social problems in different topics. His topics of the story are education, immoral and idle character, love and corruption. He presented all these in satirical way with the zeal of reformation.

KEYWORD: Social reformation, love, corruption and idle character.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Haribhusan brahma is one of the most gifted and talented among the short story writers in sixty decades in Bodo literature that has brought turning point in the history of Bodo short story writing. The short stories of Haribhusan Brahma are loaded variegated themes. The issues of themes like immoral character, love, idle character and corruption, social awareness of evil effects of the society, as well as social reformation and village economy get reflected through the stories.

2.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objective of the paper is to highlight the themes of short stories of Haribhusan Brahma. The evil effect and realistic issues of the human beings is fairly depicted through the story telling, also how it is performed through the story telling with composition of themes is the principal aim of analysis.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

For doing minute analysis of the theme of the stories of Haribhusan Brahma are different issues of the society. To make convenient the analysis necessary data have been gathered from different sources as primary and secondary. Critical reviews of short stories of Haribhusan Brahma, as available in Bodo and published articles on the writings of the writer, responses and comments from literary critics have been utilized for a literary analysis. This study is adopted analytical method.

4.0 DISSCUSION

In this paper attempt to analyze the themes of the short stories of Haribhusan Brahma.

4.1 THEME OF THE SHORT STORIES

The themes of the selected stories of Haribhusan Brahma are - Shrimati Durlai, Honglani Saori, Narkhw and Line Bus.

4.1.1 SHRIMATI DURLAI

The theme of '*Shrimati Durlai*' is based on immoral character. The Shrimati Durlai story's main character is Shrimati Durlai who spoils her life in her hand. The theme is an immoral woman character that didn't get education environment. Immoral character is now becoming a great social problem of the modern Bodo society. It brings a new threat to the new generation of our society. In this story writer portrayal of a woman character named Shrimati Durlai who likes an ultra modern fashion which is not accepted by the Bodo society. She is a wonderful girl who has crossed the borderline of the family and the society. She is more advanced than the other Bodo girls. People can easily recognize her everywhere. The judgment of Durlai from physical appearance, walking style and talking manner her name will not complete without putting the title Shrimati before the name. She will not be easily recognized as a Bodo girl from her make up without wearing Bodo dresses like Dhokona and phasra. She is so expert in talking Assamese and Bengali languages that Bodo boys who see her talking will really get surprised that Bodo girls have really become smart and advanced.

In this story writer tries to focus the theme of immoral character. Shrimati Durlai is portrayed as a free frank talkative bold character. But she crossed the traditional limitation of a girl. She is indirectly portrayed as a standard prostitute who involves in sexual activities or in free life. Sex or open relation of male and female is not allowed in Bodo society or neither the society allows immoral sex activities as fashion. Immoral character is the theme of the said story. It is presented through the heroine as she drinks wine in the market place, as she lives a reckless life and after watching a movie she passes the night at town either. At the end of the story, she is fully involved in this profession in Bhutan. So, her character is portrayed ironically with the aim reformation for the coming young generation in the society.

4.1.2 GWDAN KHONTHAIGIRI

The '*Gwdan Khonthaigiri*(New Poet) theme of the story is love, which is based on the two college going students. How life will be failure due to choosing improper use of student life is the theme of the story. Student can make life in future only during the period of student life by proper utilizing the time. In the story, Dhondiram and Laishri both are the studying in B.A in Gossaigaon College. Their love affair is remaining long time. But there is a difference between them is concept of love. Dhondiram thinks love is only union of two minds, marriage and the family. But to Laishri's view point of love, marriage and the family has its own place. Dhondiram's only aim is how to attract towards him and own her. So he wastes his valuable time in dreaming and pleasing her, to gain her instead of study, begin to write a poem. But Laishri prefers study is the important matters. She absorbed in study then she passed the B.A with distinction. Later on admitted to M.A

course in Gauhati University and subsequently she passed M.A. After that she married with an engineer man. On the other hand Dhondhiram lost his time due to fall in love with Laishri. For which he failed in B.A examination. Then he back to his village and passing his time in drinking liquor with a party. His life is failure because of spoiling study hours. In fact the writer through this story wants to make awareness among Bodo students about proper use of student life during path for making a bright future.

4.1.3 HONGLANI SAORI

In the story "*Honglani Saori*" (Community Service) is based on Bodo society. The theme of the story is reformation of the village areas's Bodo medium schools. In this story there are three characters e.g. Hongla, Phania master and Nagen inspector. These three characters are educationally related. Hongla is the secretary in the Pathwibari L.P. School, Phania is the teacher of this school and Nagen is the school inspector of the Bodo medium. All three are seen having similar character. All of them are equally responsible for deteriorating the educational environment. Hongla being as a school secretary has no thoughts of the welfare for the villager children and Phania also being as a school teacher has no qualities of a good teacher who by withholding the teaching schedule consume liquor in Hongla's house and after being drunk lie down on the bench on the pretext of headache. He also asks his students to pour water on his head. On another side, Nagen inspector arrives for inspecting and selecting the teacher for Rhastrapati award when Phania master was lying on the bench with headache. Hongla and Phania master are the individuals who don't know the worth of education and have no good qualities. Similarly Nagen inspector is a corrupt Govt. official who demands bananas, fine fragrant rice etc. as a bribe and makes a fake report; while Nagen inspector arrived Phania teacher was lying intoxicated on the bench. This was witnessed by Nagen inspector. Instead of taking severe action, he wrote a fake report on the Phania teacher, Phania s a good teacher and recommended him for the Rhastrapati Award. As a result of this fake report, Nagen inspector was suspended for three years. Education is first looked in new vision in the short stories of Haribhusan Brahma. Involvement of illegal activities in education system is shown in the story of Honglani Saori. The present education system and the involvement in illegal activities of the concerned official persons are satirically presented for the reformation in the society. Education is playing the main role in the modern society. In this story educational system in Bodo medium schools is satirically presented. The Govt. of India is taking some policies for the improvement of primary education and announces Rastrapati award for the selective best dedicated and talented teacher who has improved the quality and quantity for the primary education in the school. In the story the negligence of the primary education system in Bodo medium schools by the teachers and responsible personalities of the communities and office concerned are satirically expressed.

4.1.4 NARKHW

In the short story *Narkhw* is a social story which is mainly based on Narkhw's character. The theme of the story on idle character that doesn't neither interest in studies nor any work. There are two main characters in this story – Narkhw and Narkhw's father. In the story Narkhw's father is a very kind hearted and hardworking where in another side Narkhw is shown as cunning and idle. Narkhw's father always wanted to provide better education to his son and whatever his son desired he always tried to provide him. Narkhw's father being illiterate but he tried son to make highly educated person and used required money when his son asked. In another side Narkhw had no interest in studies; he cheated his father by receiving lots of money in the name of studies. Narkhw's father was a rich village man and very expert in managing the workers of the family. He knows how to save money. But Narkhw does not interest in studies. After passing M.E. school somehow his father has admitted his in the High school. But day by day he loses in interested in his studies. He often punishment in school but he never feels shame receiving punishment but he feels extremely shame if he cannot purchase the latest design of dresses and cannot participate in the discussion of the topic of the new movies. He is not interested in studies as well as not interested in any work. Those types of person always depend on his parents. Narkhw is not carefull in future. Suddenly, when Narkhw's father died with Saukha Bemar(one type of typhoid disease) Narkhw remain sad for only few days but later on he feels free. After the death of his father, he spends money in unnecessary works. Because of his idle character he cannot properly maintaining his father's property. Because his idle character, he never tries to be a good farmer like his father. He arranges his marriage ceremony in a big manner even taking loan money. Likewise Narkhw after his marriage slowly day by day put mortgage of his paternal property and finally he finished up all his property. How human beings destroy his own life for his idle character that can be seen through Narkhw's character. Because his idle character he destroys his studies and also destroy his father's property. For which he had to live nearby P.W.D. road with his wife and children and spent the life of like a beggar. So, the theme of idle character of Narkhw brings all the ruin to his life. It is expressed satirically in the story.

4.1.5 LINE BUS

The '*Line Bus*' story is a based on Bodo remote villager society. The theme of the story on remote villages' communication problem, poor family or poverty and fond of traditional food are reflected in this story. Backward remote villager peoples are always facing all in all difficulties. Most of the backward remote villager poor family peoples can earn only their daily bread. They are living in extreme poverty. These all are picture reflected through Gaujru and Labangga, both are husband and wife. One day they are a desire to visit to the house of their newly married daughter. So, the wife Gaojru is getting ready to visit the son-in-law's house. They take the best things to offer them like curd, rice-beer and Napham for showing their cordial love for their daughter and son-in –low. She carries a packet of Napham and in arum leaf and rice-beer in bladder by tying cloth on this packet and bundle and taking a curd of mud pot. The first casual incident happened in

the Line Bus of morning time while they visited their son-in-law's house. The rural area is very backward for transportation and the local bus, due to scarcity fills with huge crowded. It is very difficult to get up with bag and baggage. So, Gaujru and Labangga have to face problems. They are entered the crowded bus but their the curd of mud pot carried by Labangga old man breaks and the packet of napham and bladder of rice-beer get mixed for imbalance pressure of huge crowded passengers. It creates a noisy and unsuitable atmosphere in the bus. The situation created is that the old man's cloth gets wet and the foul smell from the packet of old woman creates problem to whole passengers. The second incident is happened while they arrive at their son-in-law's house, the smell of curd from old man and napham and rice-beer from old woman make suspicion to the mother of son-in-law, she thought that they have consumed all these things in the house. Mother-in-law of their daughter looks selfish character. She welcomes the parents of daughter-in-law. But she says in selfish way so that she will not prepare meal for newly visited guests. She just pleases them inviting again to visit their house as they can stay night on other day. Gaujru and Labangga looks shyness to reveal the real truth what happened to their in the bus. For that they have remained in hungry. Mother-in-law in their daughter is very selfish character. She also tries to hide their extremely poverty. The third incident is happened when they want to enter Gaujru's brother house, Gaujru brother's house is the same way of that their son-in-law's village. Brother of Gaujru is sickness. He lives a family in poor condition. He has wife and children. While Gaujru and Labangga are going to their son-in-law's house that time Gaujru's brother saw them. The same situation is happened at her sick brother's house too, while they arrive Gaujru brother's house the smell of curd, napham and rice-beer make suspicion to the her brother. He is not asking them for meal. Gaujru's poor sickness brother said that you have given all napham, curd, rice-beer only for your son-in-law's house; it can be good if something given for him. They also shyness to reveal the truth what happened to their. For this he also remains hungry on that visit and has to return home on empty stomach, because they had to suffer for Line bus, napham and rice-beer. Backward areas peoples always suffered that type of difficulties; this picture is reflected in the story through Gaujru and Labangga. Poor family and poverty and fond of traditional food are also reflected in the story. In the story the family condition of new son-in-law and brother of Gaujru are very poor. Due to poverty they even deny foods to guests indirectly. It is the true backward areas's family condition which we will see still today. Bodo peoples are very fond of traditional food napham and rice-beer. In this story, Gaujru and Labangga have to return house on empty stomach for napham and rice-beer. Because this napham, curd and rice-beer, make suspicion to the mother of son-in-law and brother of Gaujru, they thought Gaujru and Labangga are already consumed all these things. Napham and rice-beer are very special and favourite food of the Bodos. All the character in the story expresses their love for this food and its taste. It is presented the story as a humourical situation in the bus journey to new son-in-law's house.

5.0 CONCLUSION

From the discussion it is found that the theme is reflection of various socio-cultural behaviors of human and Bodo society in particular and also found a short story covers a wide range of human lives and their feelings and suffering, their problems and struggle.

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