

“A short history of the Bodo novel”

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Abstract : In this article Bodo novels origin and development is described. Bodo novel was started from 1962. Bodo novels are social, historical and detective type. Maximum numbers of the novels are social. In these novels Bodo peoples social economic and cultural pictures are reflect. Historial and detective novels are less in number. In these types of novel are not developed in Bodo literature.

Key words: Bodo, social, novel, history,

1.0 Introduction: The Bodos are the largest community among all other scheduled plain tribes residing in the North-eastern region of India. They belong to Mongoloid racial group. In the book ‘The Kacharis’ Rev. Sidney Endle mentions that,

*“The origin of the Kachari race is still very largely a matter of conjecture and inference, in the absence of anything entitled to be regarded as authentic history. As remarked above, in feature and general appearance they approximate very closely to the Mongolian type; and this would seem to point to Tibet and China as the origin home of the race.”*¹

According to Dr. Kameswar Brahma,

*“The Bodos or the Boros are a race of the Mongolian people who are described as the inhabitants of a country lying to the north of the Himalayas and in the Western belt of China. This country is known as Bod. The word Bod is supposed to mean a homeland. It is also said that there were many parts of the country known as Hor Bod, Kur Bod, etc. The inhabitants of Bod country are known as the Bodo phicha or Bodocha or Borosa (Bod means land or country and phicha or cha means son or children, hence the children of the Bod or country). In course of time they come to be known as simple Boddo-Bodo-Boro.”*²

¹ Endle, Rev Sidney: The Kacharis p-3

² Brahma, Dr. Kameswar: A Study in Cultural Heritage of the Boros p-13

2.0 Methodology:

The present research work is undertaken in analytical research method. Here, the data are collected both from primary and secondary sources.

3.0 Aims and Objectives of study:

Following are the aims and objectives of the present research work:-

1. To explore the Bodo literature.
2. To study the socio-cultural condition of the Bodo society as depicted in novels.
- 3 To highlight and develop the Bodo novels

4.0 Description: Novel is very important parts of literature. Through novel human can share their feelings, story and thought descriptively. There is no page limit to write novel.

According to Indira Boro,

*"When a credible life history, a well-known life of a man and woman, a particular society's problems and the soul of its people, the hopes and aspirations of the society acquire the form of incidents and characters in a well-defined sequence of events then it becomes a novel."*³

Kalyannath Dutta mentions about the novel in his book 'Some Aspects of the Study of Literature' as *"The term 'Novel' has come from the Italian word 'Novella'. But it is, in its real sense, something different from the Italian novella. The Italian novella is a sort of romance- a story of love, adventure, or both. It comprises, no doubt, different episodes and events, and ends either in a happy union or in tragic suffering. But the novel, as it is known to day, is something different. It is, no doubt, a story, but this is a story, wrought round the passions of man. It is not merely a series of incidents and situation, but also a revelation of character or characters. It is a story of life and a study of the characters, participating in the story. The combination of the story and the character-study forms the plinth of novel-writing, and the appropriate synthesis of the two marks the greatness of a novel."*⁴

M.H. Abrams mention in his book A Glossary of Literary Terms

"The term novel is applied to a great variety of writings that have in common only the attribute of being extended works of fiction written in prose. As an extended narrative, the novel is distinguished from the short and from the work of middle length called the novelette; its magnitude permits a greater variety of characters, greater complication of plot (or plots), ampler development of milieu and more sustained exploration of character and motives than do the shorter, more concentrated modes. As a narrative written in prose, the novel is distinguished from the long narratives in verse of Geoffrey Chaucer, Edmund

³Boro Indira : Comparative study about the Boro and Assamese novel. A thesis submitted to the university of Gauhati for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Faculty of Arts, p-11

⁴Dutta, Kalyannath: Some Aspects of the Study of Literature, p- 3 (part five)

Spenser, and John Milton which, beginning with the eighteenth century, the novel has increasingly supplanted."⁵

The commencement of writing novel among Bodo literature started at much later stage. It was only after the formation of the Bodo Sahitya Sabha that Bodo novel was published. The first Bodo novel was published in 1962. 'Jujaini or' written by Chittaranjan Muchahary is the first Bodo novel. Bodo novels are mostly social novels.

*"As per English Literature novel are classified into —(1) Social novel, (2) Psychological novel, (3) Regional novel, (4) Historical novel, (5) Auto Biographical novel, (6) Political novel, (7) Detective novel, (8) Stream of consciousness novel, (9) novel of magic realism and (10) The new novel."*⁶

Bodo novelists tries to focus on the social, cultural and political picture in their novel. Bodo novel can be divided into three types. These are social novel, historical novel and detective novels.

The first Bodo novel is Jujaini Or written by Chittaranjan Muchahary in 1962. His other novels are namely Bikhaya gaow khugaya geoa, Girls hostel Vol-I (1981), Vol-II (1983), Vol-III (1986), Gwrwnthini unao (1981), Ang Nilimamwn (1982), Fulmuthi (1983), Ang nenanwi thagwn (1985), Sarmistha (1985), Nwngni megonanw angni megon (1985), Anthainimwdwi (1987), Kol girl (1988), Sujata (1988), Bilwng (1988) Mwdwi (1988), Undaha (1988), Jeoni lamayao (1988), Daokhani Baha (1992), Khithir (1993), Lorhainai bibar (1993), Gwmanai dairy (1994), Golab bibarni su (1994). Bari khonani bibar (1994), Nwng angni ang nwngni (1996), Jethw (1999), Bibarjwng dasunai, Habani asthma, Daha etc.

Another famous novelist in Bodo literature is Monoranjan Lahary. His novel are Kharlung, Hainamuli (1985) Rebeka (1999), Alaishree (2003) Daini? (2005), Jom (2006), and Phami (2008). He was awarded Sahitya Akademi for his novel Daini? in 2009.

Dharanidhar wary's Mwiwur, Aron raja's Horwi maruao, gwswnfwisali, gwrbwni thwisam etc. are social novel. Katindra Swargiary, Dhamidhar Wary, Kanteswar Brahma, Nandeswar, Tiren Boro, Diganta Lawaiy and many others are Bodo novelist.

'Khaspurni Hangma' and 'Gablani Shao' are also his historical novels. Jara fagla's 'Bisni lwithw' published in 1981 is first Bodo detective novel. Kamalsrang Muchahary's 'Sujufinjawi gwrwnthi', Ranjan's 'Fakan' (2000) are detective novels.

5.0 Conclusion: Among the Bodo literature, the social novels are comparatively on a larger scale. The Bodo culture's life style, food habits, cultural economy, socio-political elements of the society are being pictured by the Bodo novelists in their novels. The social problems and hurdles are also shown in their novels. Historical and detective novels are not developed.

⁵Abrams M.H: A Glossary of Literary Terms, p-252

⁶NarzaryChinon(2010):A study of the Bodo novels since 1962 to 2001. A thesis submitted to the university of Gauhati for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the Faculty of Arts, p-2

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