

Nationalism and Basanta Saikia's drama

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Abstract:

The word 'Marginal' refers boundary of any territory. The definition of Marginality is defined by geographical boundary. All people who live between boundaries are belonging to the same society. Communication like social, political, intellectual are occurred among the people as social being. These kinds of communications create an emotional unity among the people.

The thought of nationalism has been keeping the people of Assam united since the days of Syukapha. By keeping the liberalness of the Assamese as opportunity, many refugees have been coming continuously before entrance of Syukapha to Assam. At present the national life of Assam is in endangered level.

No writer with full of love for the nation can live silently during difficult times of the nation. Therefore the thought of nationalism gets importance in literature. Sometime some writers' literatures work as a sparkle for the nation during difficult times. We found Ambikagiri Rai Choudhury as nationalist writer in Assam before independence. The thought of nationalism has got importance in Assamese drama before independence. Basically that nationalism was based on the past history of the country. Many dramatists wrote many dramas based on contemporary problems. Among them Basanta Saikia is significant. In his dramas entitle *Kathgorat Ajir Laluksola* (2009), *Awstitwar xangkot* (2017); *Majnishar Jui* (2017) speak about the problems by the refugees; he shows some unsolved burning problems by the illegal migrants in his dramas. Moreover heshows in his dramas some ways to solve the problems created by the illegal migrants. Nationalism is an important topic of Basanta Saikia's drama; who has offered a great contribution by writing 16 dramas. The topic *nationalism and Basanta Saikia's drama* will be enlightened in this paper.

Introduction:

Basanta saikia is a significant dramatist of Assam. He is specially known as writer of Absurd drama. *Manuh* (1977) is the best drama of Basanta Saikia and the second absurd drama of Assamese literature. Basanta Saikia's drama mainly deals with the topic of people and society. Basanta saikia keeps every burning problems of Assam in his dramas. Many writers make different literatures to reflect 'refugee quit movement' (Bideshi Bohiskar Andolon) of 1980's. The perspectives of the youths and so called leaders for the movement; the effects of

the movement were enlightened in his drama *Awstitwar xangkot* (2017). His drama *Kathgorat Ajir Lалуksola* (2009) is one of the famous dramas deals with many problems of Assam like migration, terrorism, corruption, inflation etc. The drama *Majnishar Jui* is based on an incident where the town was got fired for giving shelter to the refugee. This paper will enlighten the responsibility and social consciousness of the dramatist Basanta Saikia.

Importance of the study:

Drama can create quick response to the audience as creative literature. Therefore to draw the contemporary problem is as important as to draw feeling and emotions of people in drama. Basanta Saikia's dramas reflect images of different times. Therefore it is important to enlighten the characteristics of Basanta Saikia's drama.

Methods of the study:

Basically analytical method has been used for the paper. Descriptive and introductory methods are also used for the paper.

Marginal Problems of Assam:

Assam is a state with full of problems. Increasing of population is a major problem of Assam. The people came from Dhaka, Kolkata with British government to help them in office and court. The tea garden labour from other places came to work in Tea garden. Moreover the refugees coming from East Bengal has created great problems to the people of Assam. East Bengal is a state of high population and it is also flood affected area. They are coming Assam due to flood problem and population explosion of East Bengal. The climate of Assam is suit for cultivation. As they enter in Assam they get plenty of land for cultivation. The Maimansingia refugees took shelter permanently at Nagaon, Darang districts of Assam for the negligence of the revenue department. Therefore in 1916 the Line system was imposed at Nagaon and Barpeta districts. By this tradition the Muslim refugees took the lands which were reserved for the tribal community.

These are the cause of increasing population. Besides them the Marwari came from Rajasthan to trade, Nepali's who had come for keeping cows and for working in Army force, they also took permanent residence at Assam. Therefore the population problem of Assam is increasing day by day.

Reflection of Marginal Problems in Basanta Saikia's Drama:

Society and literature is related with each other. No writers can write literature without the problem of society. The writers take pen as weapon during difficult times of Assam. Like other writers Basanta Saikia was also able to open up all the problems of the nation through his

writings. In all of his three dramas he shows the problems like- migration, explosion etc. Based on terrorist problems he wrote *Ugrapanthi*. *Anya Ek Poroshuram* based on unemployment problems. Another plays *Maj nixar Jui* and *Awstitwar xangkat* is based on illegal migration. Defining all problems he wrote *Kathgorat Ajir Laluksola* and thus he introduced himself as a committed writer.

Awstitwar Xangkat is a significant drama by Basanta Saikia based on refugee problems of Assam. In the drama the local MLA-Brikudar Hazarika tried to remove the 'refugee quit' movement (Bideshi Bahiskar Andolon). The movement was guided by his son, Mohin Hazarika. Mohin gets support from his lover Deepika and her brother Sunil Bora. Brikudar Hazarika told his prospective daughter-in-law to give-up both of his son and the movement. But instead of the movement his son Mohin gave up his father Brikudar Hazarika. Later he got involved in the movement with the help of Sunil Bora. But Sunil was killed by the conspiracy of Brikudar Hazarika. Assamese nation is now in danger condition. Its' identity has been degraded. In the drama for the problems Basanta Saikia not only criticizes the refugees of Assam, but also criticizes the unconscious people like-Brikudar Hazarika of Assam.

In this drama the dramatist narrates economic and cultural images of Assam. He shows how every unknown security is related with sound political environment. But when political perspective degraded all sides become destroyed. Therefore all problems that destroyed the environment of Assam are enlightened accordingly in the drama. How the refugee occupy the fertilize land of Assam and the people of Assam become guest in their house. Through the drama he warned the people of Assam like Brikudor Hazarika.

Moreover the land of tribal belt which were registered for the Muslims, forests areas captured by the Muslims, even the lands of satra's occupied by the refugee Muslims- such kinds of problems are narrated in the drama.

The main characters of the play are representing the new-generation. The speeches of new generation are included in the speeches of the character Mohin Hazarika and Deepika which were being targeted to the crowded people in the novel. According to the novel the new-generation will never repeat the same faults that were done by their forefathers. They warned Assamese people to take responsibilities for keeping the characters of Assamese language-literature-culture.

We found many problems of Assam between the conversations of M.L.A Brikudar Hazarika, the main villain of the play and his prospect daughter-in-law. Many problems like-corruption, violence, population explosion, refugee problems are being narrated by Deepika in the novel.

The story, characters, environment, situations of the novel all are realistic. Basanta Saikia criticizes the society like Ebsen by making the characters in realistic background. The dramas based on the national problems of Assam are less in numbers. Basanta Saikia has proven the problems as most important for the Assamese people for present-past-future.

The Assamese people are responsible in creating many burning problems-the play *Majnixar Jui* has proven it. Three strangers are taking shelter at Shovan Tamuli's residence (Tamuli Complex) as house keeper. Many fire devastating incidents are occurred in every night. The police condemn the three strangers which were taken shelter at Tamuli's residence. But Tamuli didn't suspect them for the victim. He needs to believe when his house was fired by the three strangers. Much noises were coming when Tamuli's three flats were got fired but later all were remain silence. In that situation a crying of a baby was floated from the Mother welfare centre and after these scene the play is finished. This is the story of the play *Maj Nixar Jui*. The crying of the baby is an imagery presentation. This image indicates full of hope. But self analysis is the main topic of the drama.

The play *Maj nixar Jui* is a satire for the Assamese people who harm themselves in the flow of emotion rather than propriety. The quality of hospitality makes Assamese people guest at home. Subhan Tamuli who lived happily without any suspicion is the image of all Assamese mentality. This mentality is the root of all ruin- This is the topic of the novel.

Kathgorat Ajir Laluksola is a significant play of Basanta Saikia. In the drama the leader of the ruler party was interrogated in the court for the problems like-migration of the refugee, terrorism, corruption, inflation etc. The problems will never be ended without the sincere administration of a country-the writer says. The play is ended with a line where a hint of unsolved future is consisted. Example- This judgment will be continued until end. It will be continued.....

The dramas of Basanta Saikia have proven that the main reason for the backward condition of Assam is the negligence of central. How a state or region can be gulped by others due to the negligence of central, it has been shown by the writer.

Nationalism and Basanta Saikia's Drama:

The word nationalism indicates the responsibility of a person to the nation. But basically nationalism is a political terminology. The boundary of nationalism is different according to the individuals.

The thought of nationalism has spread after the entrance of British to Assam. As the Assamese people were stand united against the colonial British, the thought of nationalism has arisen. At that time the National Congress lead an important role to arise the thought of

nationalism. The national congress didn't able to gain the faith of people after independence. Therefore many regional political parties have been formed in different places. Later these parties have got the support of people to rule. Therefore many regional parties have to form in terms of different regions. The growth of these political parties become as nationalism.

The regionalism is a narrowed form of nationalism. It is difficult to define the definition of regionalism by any definite problem; regionalism includes solving the interests or demands of the people of a region. From this angle some subjective elements of regionalism are- common linguistic territory, ways of life, economic and social status, cultural tradition and heritage, language and literature, social value etc. The interests which are developed with these elements are known as regional nationalism.

Regional nationalism is reflected in Basanta Saikia's drama. All the problems which can make Assamese people handicap all are narrated in his dramas. The nationalist writings are enlivening for a nation during difficult times. Many enlivening lines are found in his dramas.

All the characters of the problems which impoverish Assam are reflected in his drama entitle *Kathgorat Ajir Laluksola*. The terrorist problem of Assam, arise of ULFA, its popularity and negligence of the people, ways of solve- all are narrated detail in the drama. It is not much to say that the plays *Awstitwar Xangkat* and *Kathgorat Ajir Laluksola* are as historical plays. These plays can be considered as informative deeds of Assam. These plays have proven the interests of his social consciousness and society study. Problems, ways of solving problems are found in Basanta Saikia's drama. Basanta Saikia is really a nationalist writer who keeps the problems of nation, development and possibility of future in the mirror of nail.

Conclusion:

No unconcerned analysis has been found in Saikia's drama, who had been consistently written many plays based on the problems of the state and nation. As creative writer or responsible writer we found the progress of the people and nation in his writings.

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