



A brief History of Santali Language and Literature

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Abstract:

Behind every language and literature there is a history of creation and development. Santali language & literature are also not beyond it. Ancient time the People who speak Santali language are santal. Today this language is spoken by many communities apart from Santali. Therefore, a historical form of it is highlighted through this writing. How did this language and literature survive through oral practice and how did it get constitutional recognition? A description is given of how it is given of how the characteristic and quality of this language have evolved through time. How folk literature in this language evolved into written form and how it came to be developed is also described. How there is an account of the period of Santali literature with successive doers and how the literature progressed at any given time. The previous condition of this literature has also been specially highlighted. How folk literature in this language evolved into written form and how it came to be developed is also described. The geographical location of this language and the number of people speaking this language are more visible in words. A brief idea of the current status of literature practice in this language will also be given.

Keyword: Santali, Vocabulary Folk literature, Languages, Ancient

Introduction: The Santali language is an important part of the Austric language group. It is very old Indian language. At present, the language of people speaking this language is more than 7.0 million. The vocabulary of this language itself very large. In terms of grammar, this language is also very fluent and strong. So there is no problem in using Santali language. And this language has its own characteristics no less than any other rich language. Due to having his own Script with him, the practice of literature has been very beneficial. Literary practice in this language has been practiced since ancient times in the form of folk literature. After that, its first written form began with the efforts of missionaries. Collected various folk tales, folk song, riddles, Proverb, idioms etc. And published them in book form. During the period of the missionaries some Santal poets and writers came forward for the advancement of Santali language and literature. Now the research and practice work on this language and literature is progressing with great success in India and outside the country. Many present-day languages have become fluent and rich with the help of words from this ancient language. A brief description of the same is given in terms of time.

To find the history of this language and literature, it is very necessary to know the identity of the people who spoke this language many years ago. Otherwise, the special aspects of their literature will remain unknown to us. The people who speak this language are known as the Santal people in the heart of the tribal community. Nowadays though many people have taken this language for their own reasons. However, due to various social and political reasons, this language was washed the limelight. This language and literature can be said to be very ancient. It is known that this language has been in use since the time when Latin, Greek, French and Sanskrit were used. Shocks, Moghals, Hohuns, Englishmen come and ruled in different ways at different times in this country. And the impact of that rule was also on the tribal people. Under this regime, they have been spoiled, deprived and starved in many ways. Today they all lost nothing. Yet they hold their

ancient language and literature close to their chests. A brief discussion of this language and literature is given below in descriptive form.

The need of the study:

- 1) This language be taken forward through the study of language and literature.
- 2) A knowledge of this language and literature will be created in the mind of the readers.
- 3) Find out important theories about Santali language and literature
- 4) Globalizing the value of language.
- 5) Highlight of the glorious themes of literature.

Santali Language and Constitutional recognition: language is very necessary to move a nation and society forward properly. the culture of this society survives depending on a language. A community has been communicating their thoughts for a long time by speaking the Santali language. Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan, is a language in the Santali subfamily of Austro- Asiatic, related to ho and Mundari. The literacy rate in Santali speaking regions is around 35-45%. It is basically spoken by the tribal people of India. The tribe that speaks this language as quite concerned. The tribe that speak the Santali language is know as Santali. There is very regular distribution of like Jharkhand, Orissa, Bihar, Chatrisgarh, Tripura, West Bengal are many of the place where one can easily find the speakers of this language. This language actually a dialect of the Munda language According to linguist Paul Sidwell, “Munda language probably arrived on the coast of Orissa from Indochina about 4000-3500 years old. Santali language and Munda language complement each other. Santali language is the main parts of Munda language.”¹

“The marathon discussion of argumentum tug-of- war between the delegate of Santhali Language Movement and the Prime Minister of India at 12.45p.m. on 22 December 2003 in the P.M. Office at the Parliament House. New Delhi. In the meeting the Union Government was compelled demand of the Santals of inclusion of Santali in the VIII Schedule of the Constitution.

The sex – Man Delegate consisting of two ASECA (W.B) leaders and four CPI(M) MP’s from West Bengal was led by Hon’ble Shri Basudev Achariya, Chairman Petition Committee (Lok Sabha).L to R Dr Ram Chandra Dom, M.P., Shri Alkesh Das,P.M., Shri Basudev Achariya, M.P. Shri Subodh Hansda, Member, ASECA (W.B) & Committee on Santali language (Govt. Of W.B.) & West Bengal Board Secondary Education, Shri Dukhiram Hansda General Secretary, ASECA (W.B) and Shir Rupchand Murmu, M.P., Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee.”² Therefore In 2003, the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act added Santhali Schedule VIII to the Constitution of india, Which Lists the official languages if India, along with the Bodp, Dogri and Maithili language,

If we look at the history of Santal language and literature. Then its golden history will shine before our eyes. Through Various political and social violence. How this language and literature has survived since the creation of the world is truly unbelievable. According to Linguist Lakhana Chandra Hembram, Santali Literature can be divided into four parts according to time. “That is—

- 1) Oral literature Period -1854 before
- 2) Missionary Period- 1855 to 1889.
- 3) Middle Period- 1890 to 1946
- 4) Modern Period- 1947 after”³

Oral Literature Period (1854 before): Before this period there was no authorial form of Santali literature. There a saying in Santal “ Listening is better than writing” Preceding this word , the intellectuals of the time provided a form of literature through word of mouth. At the same time , an expert persona presented an important event through description. Letter the incident was told in the form of a story that was passed down through generation . in this way it would expand. Dr. Dharendra Nath Baskey say about oral literature. “Form writing to speaking, the manner, style and tone of speech attract the audience. But is that why the indigenous

people did not think of writing, did not try to all? Santali literature is written by word of mouth and has been preserved in the memory of ages and epochs. Jamsam Binti, Karam binti, countless rhyming, Folk tales, proverb, pranks, riddles, etc. Are prime example of this”⁴.

Missionary Period (1855 to 1889): Missionaries entered India in 1765 and established missions in various places. Needless to say the first Bible and Christen preaching started in East India. This work begins among the tribes especially among of the Santals at Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. When he preached the Bible among the Santals, he found that language was a barrier for them. So they decided that if the bible was to be preached there was a great need to learn the language of the Santals. After that, when they tried to learn Santal properly, they were amazed and fell in love with the literature of that language. Then they decided it is necessary to practice literature in this language. He first visited Santal villages and collected traditional songs, riddles and fables of Santals and published them in book form in 1845. It was printed in Bengali script. The name of the book is not yet known. Then at second Rev. J. Phillips Published a book named ‘Santali Bhasa Sikha’ in 1950. It was published in Bengali language. After that in 1952 called ‘An Introduction to the Santali language’ Published a book. From that day the new journey of Santali literature began. According to Literary Parimal Hembram “ Although preaching the Bible was main objective, the missionaries were the first to realize that, Santali has put a strong life force into the language. They gradually realized that the wealth of oral literature in this language was endless and varied. The identity of a nation’s mind: consciousness lies in this language. As a result, many missionaries learn the Santali language and undertake development programs for this language”⁵

There are many missionaries who have spent their valuable time for this language and literature. They are Dr. C. R Lepsus, Rev. W. T Stores, Rev. L.O Skrefsrud, Rev. E. G Man, Rev A. Campbell, Dr. George. A. Grierson. Rev. F. T Cole. R. Carstairs, Rev. P.O Bodding, Rev. C.H Bompas, Rev, R. R. Rosenland, Sir. W. G. Archer, Dr. Friedrich Maxmuller. Rev. R. M. Macphail, and so many others. Thanks to their outstanding contribution Santali language and literature have become much richer This language is used worldwide today for their activities.

Middle Period (1890 to 1946): During this time the contribution of these missionaries started to diminish day by day. Many missionaries respectfully retire to their own countries. And at that time the wind of independence of India was blowing deeply So many missionaries moved from this country to their own country. Although the missionaries left this country, the work of literary progress did not stop. The seed of literature planted by them, however, remains in hand. Many native writers also came forward in its literary movement. They think that when the missionaries can give valuable time for the literature of this country. Why should we step back. The most valuable original book of this period is written by Majhi Ramdas Tudu. The name of the book ‘Kherawal Bangsa Dharma Puthi. According to Linguist Lakhana Chandra Hembram “ During this period of literature many scholarly writers were also born, many valuable books were also written. Many new researches were also done. Many Mahashayas have contributed their valuable thoughts in Santali literature.”⁶

There are many Santal writers who have spent their valuable time for this language and literature. They are Paul Jujhar Saren, Sadhu Ramchand Murmu, Pandit Raghunath Murmu, Mangal Chandra Turku Lumang Saren, Salman C. Murmu, R. R. Kisku Rapaz, and so many others. The Santali Language and literature got a new life thanks to the outstanding contribution of all these writers during the period. During this time, language and literature made the most progress, so this period is also considered as the golden period.

Modern Period (1947 after): At this time the missionaries cried on more signs. In the modern era, Indian writers have fallen in many directions. But their departure did not have much effect on the progress of literature. At the time, the literary consciousness of the native writers reached its peak. Poets from different parts of the country started writing about various aspects of Santali literature. At this time it was determined in the minds of the native writers that Santali literature should reach a higher place. Not only the practice of literature, in this period there is also a stir to get education through this language and literature. With him,

efforts were made to focus and awaken the Santal society, culture and Religion. “ A new sun rises in the land of India. The people of India were enlightened by the light of the sun. In thought, in consciousness, in education, at all levels of society, in all ate as, the awakening of walking on the path of development begins. Bhumuputras also did not isolate themselves from its influence. Between them begins a new outline of development progress.”⁷

During this time, many native writers started working in various field of literature. At this time, many people are giving various opinions for and against the practice of this literature. Many time this language has also been called trivial. Even Santali writers have faced many obstacles. Ignoring this whole situation, the struggle did not stop. Those who spent their time in this literature movement are Dr. Daman Sahu ‘Samir’, Sarda Prasad Kisku ‘Tatkamalag’, Adita Mitra ‘ Santhali’, Nathaliyan Murmu, Padmasri Bhagabat Murmu ‘ Thakur’, Padmasri Chitta Tudu ‘Tiger’, Thakur Prasad Murmu, Babulala Murmu ‘ Adibasi’ Prof. Digambar Hansda, Dharendra Nath baskey, Dr. Suhrid Kumar Bhoumik, Gomasta Prasad Saren. Beside, Santali literature has been revived due to the outstanding contribution of many other valuable poets and writers. Their contribution is truly appreciable

Conclusion: Human language is such an important social resource. Likewise, language can be used to communicate and exchange thoughts between people. Santali language and literature are the emotion and feelings of a society. This language is working as a guide to the right path for the people of the society based on self-reliance. It also has a wealth of innumerable oceanic idioms. It can also be used very freely. so its history repeatedly confronts us with the question of who. How could such a rich language remain in the dark for so long? Likewise, if we look at the other side, its progress is really incredible a the present time The way the work is going on with this language and literature, in a very short time the people of the world will be able to feel its importance.

If we look at Santal Literature at present, the progress of this Literature is progressing day by day. That does not mean that this literature was not practiced in ancient times. At that time, the wisdom of some intelligent people was properly practiced. Now only its type has changed but value remains the same. Form this perspective it can be said with certainty that Santali Language and literature Is a developed language literature. If economic additions can be made to this progress. Then its progress will spread further with it.

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