English Abstract of the Thesis


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The history of Bengali Short-stories of the North-East India has a very long and rich tradition from a quite long period of time. Unfortunately, a large portion of it could not have reached the so-called Bengali readers of the rest of the country, particularly of our state of West Bengal, because of the fact of inadequate communication system, poor conservation, lack of patronizing agencies in the origin. Many specimens of good literature in the domain of Short-stories, novels, essays, have been lost in oblivion. In spite of such a state of indifference, what is still in a viable form is not to be ignored or negligible. Both the editor of the book ‘Uttarpurber Nirbachita Bangla Chotogalpo’ in their statement utter a firm conviction that the writer circle of readers of Bengali literature are deplorably ignorant about the literary affluence of the North-East India. Short-stories of the North-East is not lagging behind; rather it sometimes surpasses it’s other counter parts.

Short-stories of North-East are the mirrors that reflect the intrinsic conflict of man and his time, political and economic crisis, religious tension, and many other confronting issues. And this has provoked the protesting attitude in the writing of the authors of the North-East India. In the long run, the Short-stories of this region bear the potentialities to widen the magnitude and jurisdiction of the world of Bengali Short-stories. The aims and objectives of this research endeavour is to unveil and enlighten this prosperous literary world of Short-stories of the North-East.

Before embarking upon any academic discussion on the subject of Bengali Short-stories of the North-East India, the issues of historicity of arrival and settlement of the Bengali community-people of this specific geographical jurisdiction come forward. In order to have a deep look into the socio-political and economic stringency of the Bengalees of this area, one must give adequate attention to the earlier and recent historical arrangements of the North-Eastern regional state of India. Popularly, the states of the North-East region are known as ‘Eight-sisters’, i.e., to say a cluster of eight states in an adjoining territorial distribution. Until 1950’s, this area was mainly known as the North-Eastern Frontier Agency which includes three states presently; the earlier state of Assam has been divided into several smaller states, namely Nagaland (1963), Meghalaya (1972), Mizoram (1987), Arunachal Pradesh (1987). Now-a-days Sikkim has also been included in this block and it has increased from 7 to 8. Comparatively, the total population in these states is lower than the rest of Indian states. But surprisingly, each of these states has it’s indigenous culture, language, literature and social heritage and traditional rituals. Apparently, the north-eastern states of this mountainous region covered under deep natural forest and uneven valleys look calm and quiet, but the reality is very different like darkness under the lump. The internal situation of this area has remained always turbulent and mischievous. Apart from social, political, and economic crisis, linguistic or religious tussle, partition of the state and it’s aftermath resulted in severe social and economic insecurity which created an atmosphere of permanent peacelessness and sufferings to the millions of citizens of these states.

It is also noteworthy here, to understand the sentiment of the original inhabitants of these areas which Mr. H. M Barapujari, a famous Assamese historian has written in the book ‘Assam in the day’s of company’. He writes: ‘The number of Muslims augmented after
British occupation when they came not as invaders but as Amlahs, shop-keepers, speculators and skilled labourers. Similarly, many Hindus and others also came to the north-East in search for further livelihood, job-seeking and job seekers got involved in competition and confrontation which led to ultimate enmity among the Assamese, Bengalees, and others. The prime issue was govt. jobs and it became the apple of discord among the different communities particularly between the Bengalees and Assamese all over the state. In a later period, ‘language–dilemma’ added to economic problems mostly due to unemployment among the younger generation paved the way for movements like ‘Driving out of foreigners’ literary movements of Barak and Kushiyra, Aassam agreement, etc. Noted writer Subir Kar in his book ‘Barak Uptyakar Bhasha-Sangramer Utihas’ writes sons of the soil became homeless, outsiders in their own land. They were compelled to move from one corner to another sheltered themselves as where they could get indentified as aliens.

Now, if we look into the state of Tripura we see some different pictures from that of Assam. Here the position of the Bengalees and the states of their language and literature is based on a very strong and sustainable platform. Critics like Nirmal Das and Ramaprasad Dutta have explained the matter very nicely, in the book ‘shatabdir Tripura’. They write Tripura, though a tiny state situated on the extreme point of the Indian soil has long developed and cherished a very rich tradition of literary endowment under the patronage of the kings of the – then royal state Tripura. The native state of Tripura had a vast extension including many areas of today’s Bangladesh and were under the direct rule of this royal kingdom. Tripura had witnessed many political and ethnic turmoil but nothing had happened to the deep-rooted foundation of the Bengali language. After the partition, in 1947, a vast influx of both Hindu and Muslims population immigrated to Tripura from Erstwhile East-Bengal (Now Bangladesh) causing a fall of 30% in the tribal population in the state of Tripura.

The rest of the North-Eastern states like Nagaland, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Meghalaya are not inhabited by the Bengali-speaking people like Tripura or Assam. And that is why there is no worth–mentioning cultivation of this language by any sort of media like little magazines, journals etc. No out–standing writer is available in these regions except the state of Nagaland and Meghalaya. Only a few districts in these states are to be mentioned for our purpose. Such as dimapur, Kohima and Mokokchung. Shillong is no exception in this trend. In addition shillong, tura and garo hills region are also known for it’s Bengali language tradition because of a existence of a considerable number of Bengali population in these places since independence. But all such trend is on the wane when English education and it’s popularity is on the rise. Above all it is now a very established fact that apart from short story writing, novels, essays, non–fictions, satirical writing are also being written in different branches of Bengali literature.

The perspective of study and analysis of the Bengali Short–Story of North–East India has always remained enshrouded with contemporary socio–political unrest, religious tension and ethnic disturbances which eventually made the situation worst and brought a sense of utter uncertainty and insecurity in the life of individual human identity. Every human expression in terms of love and hatred, communal riots, refugee issues, family crisis, inter-personal...
relationship, psychological criticality which have build up a new domain of Bengali Short – stories.

In this context, we must take note of a remarkable book ‘Novel and the People‘ by Ralf Fox. His sensational statement about man and his individuality and social existence, links and individual with side by side a man’s personal history express the inner-reality of a man.

In second chapter, we have discussed issues like individual’s social entity, his conflict both as a personal and social existence and emotional exuberances. We have classified the Bengali Short – Stories of North East India in several stages, such as:

1. Assam (Brahmaputra And Barak valley).
2. Tripura.
3. Others (Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, etc.).


So far Barak Valley is concerned, we have sought to discuss short – Stories of writers like Aparna Voumik, Arijit Chawdury, Mithilesh Vattacharya, Ranabhir Purakayastha, Bijaya Dev, Malaykanti Dey, Jhumur Pandey, etc. A rich tradition of Short – Stories could be seen when we go through their writing encompassing vast spectrum of life and struggle for survival amidst hostile environment of linguistic, social, economic aggression.

And for Tripura a few prominent writing personality whose Stories have been included into this discussion are that of Bimal Singha (Ingeleiyer Meyer Biye), Vismadev Bhattacharya (Basher Buke phool, Nirbachita Vismadev, 1993), Kishore Ranjan Dey (Voi, Ushe Arogya aache, 1999), etc. Here we can also take note of leading Short – Stories from Nagaland and Meghalaya. Khelu Majumdar, Madhusmita Chakraborty, Subrata Dutta of Dimapur, Bimal Kumar Ghosh, Purnendu Bhattacharya and Uma Purakayastha of Meghalaya, Shillong.

In fourth chapter we discussed about forms and the content of the Short – Stories of North-East. An elaborate discussion has been made as to the plot, character, environment, time – perspective and factors that help building total phenomenon. In order to analyse the process of making of a Short – Story, it’s arrangement of character etc have been judged in the light of Point of view as social reality. Expansion of the story on the basic concept of characterization leading to it’s culmination has been dealt with due consideration to establish it as an art of intrinsic narration.

In conclusion we can say, the history of Bengali Short – Stories of the North – East India is a permanent and authentic documentation of the misery and sufferings of the Bengali–speaking
community there. The ruthlessness of time and space, fear and agony that looms—large on the future of the vast magnitude of population of the North-East has not been able to stop the literary activities of a determined group of writers including Assam, Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Mizoram, etc. They are dynamically achieve all through even in the 21st century onward. So far Research objectives are concerned North-East India's Short—Stories have opened up a special vista of careful and diligent search into the world of Bengali literature on the whole.

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