

PREFACE

The title of the thesis is- **“Socio-Economic Picture Reflected in the Bodo Novels, with Special Reference to the Novels of Monoranjan Lahary, Tiren Boro and Katindra Swargiary”**

This thesis studies the social and economic picture of the Bodos reflected in the novels of Monoranjan Lahary, Tiren Boro and Katindra Swargiary. The title of the thesis reflects the crux of the study. I have selected two novels of each three writers for my purpose. Monoranjan Lahary’s Kharlung and Hainamuli, Tiren Boro’s ‘Bigrai arw Dwisrai’ and ‘Deobari’ and ‘Katindra Swargiary’s ‘Sanmwkhangari lamajwng’ and ‘Khwmsinifrai Swrangthing’ have been chosen accordingly.

In the novel Kharlung the emphasis has been on the socio-economic pictures. The story of the novel dwells around the character Gohel and his family although other sub-stories are mentioned along with. Gohel is a lazy and feeble-minded person. In spite of being poor, his father bestows many dreams on Gohel so he tries to provide him with all kinds of facilities. His father Ransrem is a farmer who cultivates in his few plots and also some of his plots were kept in mortgage for his son’s education. Like Ransrem many people from the village were farmers. Bodo people mainly live there as cultivators as reflected by the novelist. They cultivate paddy and different types of vegetables. Farming also helps Bodo people’s economic sources. Ransrem also has a cattle farm therefore when he have no money, he sells his two cows. The usage of the cow while cultivating in the fields, while ploughing has been shown in the novel.

In the novel, Hainamuli Bodo people's superstitious belief, agricultural habit, festivals, village life are shown. Hainamuli is a medicine that is applied to get the person whom you love. If someone is rejected by proposing so he uses Hainamuli

medicine to change his/her feelings. In the novel *Rago*, a servant also applies Hainamuli to his owner's daughter because he knew it was difficult to get her love. This kind of incident often happens in Bodo society. Gorgoram mahajwn is a very rich man in the village. He develops his economic condition by cultivating. He have many servant and maid to help his agriculture. In the novel *nangal jangkra* an agricultural festival is celebrated. Farming is also shown in Gorgoram's house. He have cattle farm that had cow, pig, chicken, etc. Farming helps in economic condition very much. Gorgoram Mahajwn on the time of festivals and ceremonies fest on his own pigs and chickens. So farming have an important role in economic condition. Many Bodo poor people also stay as a servant or maid. Like Rago, Nani, Sewary, Aleng, Bela, etc. They stay as servant or maid in Gorgoram's home due to their poor economic condition.

In the novel, *Bigrai arw Dwisrai* Bodo people's socio and economic conditions are shown. Agricultural habits, servants, fishing, food habit, etc. are reflected beautifully. Novelists also show the Bodoland movement and the problems of the Bodo peoples. At the time of the Bodoland movement, many Bodo peoples had to face many problems. Their economic condition also became disturbed. Many homes were burnt by the militants and other aggressive people. The incident happened in Sonapuri and Rupapuri village. The story of the novel is based on the real-life of many Bodo people, the problems during the Bodoland movement organised by ABSU. *Bigrai* and *Dwisrai* are the main characters of the novel. They are also the leader of the organisation for the Bodoland movement as well. During the Bodoland movement even farming, cultivation had to be stopped due to the nuisance created by the militants. This created a weak economy. *Dwisrai* and many Bodo women were raped by the militant. As the story of the novel puts, we see many atrocities inflicted on the villagers of Sonapuri by police on the time of paddy plantation and ploughing time. These situations were indeed very sorrowful.

Another novel is *Deobari* written by Tiren Boro. In this novel, *Deobari* is the main character. She is a very strong, hard worker and a kind-hearted woman.

Novelist shows mainly Bodo people's new land settlements and their problems along with some joyous memories too. Bodo people living their lives in new land near the forest are shown beautifully in the novel. Deobari and Theklo's family were migrating from the Kokrajhar district to Darrang district where they intend to get married. They live their newly conjugal bliss in the new land. They cultivate many vegetables, rice, and other things. Handlooms also helped them in economic development. Deobari helps her husband to increase income by making clothes and then selling it. Farming chicken, pig, the cow also helped them in various sector. In this novel Bodo people's marriage system, food habits, customs, religion, hospitality, etc. are penned down.

In the novel *Sanmwkhangari lamajwng* Bodo peoples agricultural habit, festivals, customary law, religion, etc. are shown. Bodo peoples Kati gasa (Kati bihu), Magw (Magh bihu), Bwisagw(Rongali bihu) celebrations are beautifully reflected. Through the character Gwmsar, Saikhong, Gwmbwr, etc. their childhood game and enjoyment are shown. Bodo people's village life and their living style are shown. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood. In the time of ploughing and paddy time, the whole villager helps each other which process is called Saorijanai in Bodo language. In the novel weaving by the Bodo people have also been depicted especially the women of Simliguri village. Gwmsrang's mother makes endi tread herself in the home. Mwdaokha's mother prepares thread to make Dokhona with the help of Thaisri, Hailu, Laogi, and Phwisali. Bodo women help each other when they make cloth. In ancient times all the Bodo people wear their own production cloth but now with the influence of the modern period, the dressing sense also changed. In the novel, food habits of Bodo people are shown. Fishing also helps Bodo people to develop their economic condition. Hospitality is also a very beautiful aspect of Bodo people's social picture. They treat the guest as a God and offer them delicious food.

Khwmsinifrai Swrangthing novel also reflects Bodo people's socio and economic picture. In this novel novelists show Bodo people's agricultural habit, customs, ritual, and servant, etc. in the novel. Bodo people's process of cultivating and village life is beautifully reflected. The story of the novel is mainly based on Bodo and Muslims conflict. He tries to show how behaviour of some bad persons

make whole community people faced the problems. In this novel, the main story depends on Biliphang and Muslim girl named Sahajadi love story. This resulted in a Hindu Muslim communal issue. Biliphang's father is a farmer and along with him, the maximum number of the villagers is a farmer. In their house, we can find some servants and maid. Rakheb is a poor person and is an orphan. Rakheb added to communal conflict for money along with Kasem Ali and Gophur Ali. Haphang a poor girl and her mother sell rice beer for their life. Haphang raise chicken and sell it to the market. She makes clothes with the money she gets after selling chicken. Handloom contributes widely to Bodo people's socio and economic condition. In this novel, we see the marriage system, food habits and rituals etc.

Date:

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