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Modern Assamese Poetry: with special reference to Harekrishna Deka and Hirendranath Dutta

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Abstract:

The idea of modernity in Assamese poem has come from Western thoughts. Specially, the catastrophe of Second World War has bound to preface a new era to the 40s and 50s poets. From this time, Assamese poem has avoided avoid the romantic pleasure and holds an equal practice like western modern poetry in the field of language. Primarily, it is referred as “Modern poetry” in Assamese poetry. The famous magazines like Jayanti, Ramdhenu, and different other poet uses new metaphor and thus a new era has prefaced. In the way, in the background of 20th century’s intelligence, different experiment and opinion are formed and in this consequence, with new thought Assamese poem gains board scope in modernity. With those modernity usages, two important Assamese poets has concentrated their study on poetry: Harekrishna Deka and Hirendranath Dutta. In this paper, we will discuss about their contribution and also try to discuss their special characteristics towards Modern Assamese Poetry.

Keywords: Modernity, Assamese Poetry, Harekrishna Deka, Hirendranath Dutta.

0.00: Introduction:

According to Dr. Johnson, “Poetry is the art of uniting pleasure with if truth, by calling imagination to the help of reason”. The first and ancient creation of literature is Poetry. Assamese poetry has achieved modernity by facing different phenomenon. We can called the romantic period as a messenger of modern poetry. But yes, the catastrophe of World war has compelled 40s and 50s poets to preface a new era in poetry. From this time, Assamese poem avoids the romantic pleasure and holds an equal practice like western modern poetry in the field of language.

Amulya Baruah’s “Kukur”, Bhabananda Dutta’s “Rajpath”, Birendranath Dutta’s poems have prefaced a stage of modern Assamese poem with prosperous Modern characteristics. After that, in the field of Modern Assamese poem Nabakanta Barua, Nilmani Phookan, Rabindra Sarkar etc and others from 60s Harekrishna Deka, Hirendranath Dutta etc poets have enlightened with various new symbols, imagery languages, new themes in the field of Modern Assamese Poetry. An established young generation poets like Sameer Tanti, Anubhav Tulasi, Nilim Kumar, M. Kamaluddin Ahmed poems have given an eminent dimensions in Assamese Poetry. Another poet named Nagen Saikia has introduced a new poetry section named ‘Mitabhakh’. Today also the mentioned poets are active and new generation poets like Rajeev Baruah, Pranjal Sharma Bashistha, Kushal Dutta; etc poets are experimenting different new skills in the field of Poetry.

0.01: Purpose and Importance of the study:

From 60s, Harekrishna Deka and Hirendranath Dutta has begun their study of poetry and has a special contribution in the field of Modern Poetry. The purpose of this paper is to investigate how their contributions have given a new journey in the field of Assamese Poetry.

0.02: Scope:

We will discuss what are the special characteristics have reflected in the poems of Harekrishna Deka and Hirendranath Dutta and also their new contribution to the Modern Assamese Poetry with special reference to their foundation of their special characteristics.

0.03: Methodology:

This discussion paper has used originally analytical method. It has used the help of both primary and secondary source to gather facts.

1.00: Discussion:

An important and popular section of literature at present is Modern Poetry. As Orunodoi and Junaki papers hold the information of Assamese Poetry but in the real sense, it is started from the magazine 'Jayanti' in 40s. The main background was the bitter experience of world war and 42s mass movement. The poets of this era change the structure and the subject matter and also accept the main subject by following the western imagery, symbolism etc as well as introspective experience and the reality of the society as a pattern for poetic movement. In this way, in the background of 20th century's intelligence, different experiment and opinion are formed and in this consequence, modern practice is established.

The vast catastrophe of World War has formed the fast advancement of Europe's Science and technology, the self manifestation in Marx-Freudian principle, the strength of scientific thought, the disobedience for religious faith, urbanization etc has spreaded in the entire world and it has also affected in Assamese literature especially in poetry. In the first part of 20th century, Assamese poetry has been touched French, Russian, Germany etc continental poetry beside English by Assamese Poet. Therefore, 20th century is very important for Assamese literature especially for poetry in the history.

1. 01: The Poems of Harekrishna Deka:

Harekrishna Deka (1943) is one of the profound poets of Modern Assamese poetry. Harekrishna Deka began his study in poetry from 60s of the 20th century which has given a special place of Assamese poetry. Harekrishna Deka has published several poetry book like "Swarbur"(1972), "Ratir Xubhajatra"(1982), "Aan Ajon"(1986), "Bhal puar babe axar" (2003), "Xanmiholi Bornomala"(2010), "Mur Manuhjonir Babe Ata Podyo" (2011), "Xomoi Xobdo Jibon Aru Anyanno"(2015), "Harekrishna Dekar Nirbasito Kobita"(2014), "Tinixoria Kobita"(2017), "Xiriki xonot"(2017) etc and also published a translation book named "Praxarito Rashmi".

Urbanisation, an important characteristic of Modern poetry is seen in the poems of Harekrishna Deka. The poet personifies many experiences of life through urban plot. Town is person's hope, desire, wonder, and mystery. Town has created fear, sorrow, doubt; etc in Poet's heart. The gesture of frightened is given in this way;

"Mur bhutaloï bhoi ny. Andharor jokatur uporediyei

Mur garixonu paar hoi aahil

Xadhukothar porityekto durgor dore saa nuhua

Ghorbur aasil thiyo hoi"

(Ratir Sahar Porikroma)

Indicative nature and language is another characteristic of the poem of Harekrishna Deka. An excellent example of this characteristic is his famous poem "xomudrabhiti". The poet indicated the sea in this way:

"Kalar akhyoy geet eibar khunabo khujisu xihotok

Xeibabe bisari ahisu xonxo xomudrat

Hothate lagise bhoi. Bor bhoi lage bor bhoi lage Xomudrak"

(Xomudrabhiti)

Another important characteristic of Harekrishna Deka's poem is his selection of new subjects and structures. His "uttarpurux" is a wonderful poem in the history of Assamese Modern Poetry. This poem's impersonality gives an eminent dimension:

"Moi bhabu moi mur dax. Kebol xihotor xongine

Khuti loi aahe tezot luturi xihotor dinbur."

Another important characteristic of Harekrishna Deka is his usage of imagery. The different changes are shown through moon which is a special sign in English Modern Poetry. He has made the poem "uttarpurux" fascinating by using amid imagery. This poem has captured a special place in the mind of the reader. Here the imagery is shown in this way:

"Soraiburor dore anandot uri jai gulibur."

The themes of many poems of Harekrishna Deka are periodic society centred. The social differences are published in poems like "Jontubur", "Dujon" etc. We can see words thriftiness in his poems. The uses of limited words are seen in his poem "Oha bosor".

The talent of poetic thought is seen in the publication of "Ratir Xubhajatra". "Bohag", "Guwahatit Ratipua", "Namhin", "Aabiskar", poems are worthy mentioned from his successful poems. The poet is quite gentle though he has abundance of emotion. "Uttarpurux" is an best example for this. The overall surface of his poetry is easier than the poems of Nilmani Phookan and Bhaben Baruah. This simplicity of Deka's poem is original thought. The use of artistic language, original experiences, symbol and imagery is his important characteristics. "Fasibazarot", "Edin Platformot", "Drisyantor", "Kamakhya Paharor Namonit" etc are beautiful thematic poems. The livelihood of middle caste is shown in the poem "Ejur Puroi Juta" included in the collection "Xanmiholi Bornomala".

Harekrishna Deka is till now active in the field of Modern Assamese Poetry. His originality of the poems gives him a fixed place in the Modern Assamese Poetry.

1.02: The Poems of Hirendranath Dutta:

Hirendranath Dutta is one of the most distinguished poets whose contribution in Assamese Modern Poetry is unprecedented. He gives a special dimension in Assamese Modern Poetry through this collection of poems like "Xumdhiriir Xuoroni Aru Annyanya Kobita"(1981), "Manuh Anukule"(2000), and "Pal Anupolor Aas"(2009).

In "Xumdhiriir Xuorini Aru Anyanno Kobita" 36 poems are included. The different manifestation has personified in the poems like "Xumdhiriir Xuorini", "Ostasol", "Chayamaya", "Hospital", "Xit". The poet's inquiry of life, query and different other context has published in some of the poems. In "Manuh Anukule" 24 poems are included which can be known as the best illustrated Modern Assamese poetry. The poems "Sumoni", "Mati-saki", "Sakibur", "Gos-Kotha", "Ei Xyonot", "Manuh Anukule", "Pani-lekhon" etc are worthy mentioned.

Hirendranath Dutta has a fundamental tune in his poems where we can noticed the mixture of combination of intelligency of thought, language and emotion. We have found his own style of inquiry in the first starting of the poetry, but in the mature age he has given more importance on thoughtful manifestation. Because of this, the poems have become meaningful. So, he has become meaning manifestator than words manifestator. The reader sometimes have gotten problem for building geographical imagery in some of his poems:

"Tumar anguliburu

Bonoria Jharonar dore

Toluwar xonggomot lagi

Bahuyedi boi jai buku Xagorole

Ei Jharna angulit mur jen

Hoi rouk xou duranit diya

Jol-bidyuttyar soka" (Bonoria)

The vigorous use of language is one of the important characteristic of Hirendranath Dutta. The poet has published strongly his sensational imagery language in his poems:

"Orkidor uluma xipar dore xunyotar trishnare akul mur mon

Kintu khuponi dharim kot?

Kumotir atorkito xippratare xupuka xobdor bhori

Dumujar Sintanol gheri

Shristixil xomonnoi mur babe Allaudinor dore dapunot dekha

Podminir sobi." (Chayamaya)

The influence of western poem is seen in poem. As we can see in Eliot's poetry both the beauty and the cruelty of the society, Hirendranath Dutta too has used this mixture in his poetry which has made the reader more interesting.

Hirendranath Dutta has personified perspicuous manifestation in his poetry book "Pol anupolor Aas". The perspicuous manifestation is clear in his poems like "Tamul Gos", "Xathor", "Gotirekha", "Xorir Bhasha", "Cotton College" etc. His eye catching skill and newness uses of language in poetry is seen in his recent poems "Aakax", "Ekhn Istahar", "Dhumuhar Sandha", etc.

Hirendranath Dutta's poems are new in the sense as he has used the ancient life and literature of man. According to Upendranath Sharma, "Dutta has used the mixture of intelligence and emotion in his earlier poetry and in his recent poems he has decreased the dimension of intelligence and used more emotion in his poetry." Hirendranath Dutta has established his poetry by using natural impression of incident, assimilation of imagery and symbols, gentleness of Language which has made him an important poet of Modern Assamese Poetry.

2.00 Conclusion:

From this study, we come across how does Modern Assamese Poetry born and how does it get prosperity. Assamese Modern Poetry has prefaced its modernity in different time with the influence of English poems and Western poets which is also clear from the study. How does the characteristics of Modern poetry reflected in the poetry of Harekrishna Deka and Hirendranath Dutta "poem and their new contribution to the Assamese Modern Poetry , and also their important position in Assamese Modern Poetry , all these are included in the study. Harekrishna Deka and Hirendranath Dutta both are the bright stars of Assamese Modern Poetry whose poems are remarkable in nature.

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