

THE ROLE OF NATURE IN SHAPING THE BACKGROUND OF ASSAMESE REGIONAL NOVELS, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO SAUDAR PUTEKE NAO MELI JAI

Kamal Kuli¹, Dr. Bidisha Buragohain²

¹Research scholar, ²Assistant Professor

Dept. Of Assamese.

¹Jagannath Barooah University, Jorhat, Assam, India

Abstract: Saudar Puteke Nao Meli Jai is one of the most significant regional Assamese novels written by one of the prominent Assamese novelists Homen Boragohain. This novel serves as an important source for understanding the role of nature in shaping the background of regional novels. In this novel nature is not merely depicted from a general perspective; rather, the progression of the narrative, the depiction of characters' mental states etc. are shaped by the natural environment. Detailed explanation with examples are given in this paper.

Keywords: nature, regional novel, Homen Boragohain, Saudar Puteke Nao Meli Jai

1. Introduction

1.1 Theme Introduction

Assam is a land of natural beauty. Forests, water bodies, hills, fertile lands etc. make the region naturally rich and diverse. Likewise, people of the region get affected often by natural disasters. In a nutshell, the natural environments have been taking a vital role in directing living styles of the region. Assam and NE's diverse nature have been being depicted in Assamese novels. Nature is not only depicted in a general perspective; but progression of story, narration of mental status are guided by the nature of natural environment. Co-relation between human being and nature is always portrayed in the Assamese regional novels. In this paper Homen Borgohain's novel Saudar Puteke Nao Meli Jai is taken for evaluation of the role of natural environment in shaping the background of regional novels.

2. Purpose of the study:

Purpose of the study of this paper entitled The Role of Nature in Shaping the background of Assamese regional novels, with special reference to Saudar Puteke Nao Meli Jai are as follows.

2.1 To evaluate the role of nature in shaping the background of regional novels.

2.2 To evaluate the role of nature in the novel Saudar Puteke Nao Meli Jai.

3. Scope of the study:

This paper mainly covers the study of role of natural environment in the novel Saudar Puteke Nao Meli Jai.

4. Method of study:

Explanation method is applied in the evaluation of the paper entitled The Role of Nature in Shaping the background of Assamese regional novels, with special reference to Saudar Puteke Nao Meli Jai.

5. Essence of nature in Homen Borgohain's novels

Homen Boragohain was one of the prominent writers in Assamese literature. He enriched Assamese literature through his various literary works like short stories, poems, novels, biographies, autobiographies etc. One of the main sources of his literary works is nature.

Mainly I have been accumulating elixir of life from two sources: Books and Nature. I have mentioned it many times that I value nature over books as a source of happiness and peace. Of course, I have to accept that if art-literature- music have not broaden my consciousness and sharpen my sensitivity I might have not been able to experience the beauty of nature to the fullest.(Borgohain,Humen2024) Homen Borgohain was born at Dhakuakhana, Mohaghuli. This remote area is flowered by beauty of nature. Various plants, water bodies, different types of animals enrich the region. Sri Borgohain grew up in this traditional village of Assam.

5.1 Nature as an indicator of place and time in novel

Nature takes a vital role in composition of structure of regional novels. Place and time are significant components of a novel. Balanced co-ordination of these two is one of the significant qualities of a quality novel. Aspects and elements of nature are narrated in the Assamese regional novels through these two components. Novelist may not directly depict time and place but a sensitive and conscious reader can understand through the narration of natural elements in a novel.

For example:

In the midafternoon of a Aahar month. It is not only sunny but it feels as if fire is being poured from the sky. By the heat of the sun, grasses-trees are turning pale. Nowhere any creature is seen. Everyone sheltering under the roof of their houses. Even the cows roaming in the other side of the road near a hotel are sheltering under the bamboo shadow instead of gazing. No noise is heard anywhere. Sometimes creaking sound of bamboos and melancholy voice of jungle crows break the deathly silent for a moment.(Borgohain, Humen 2023)

This narration is about two situations of teen Bapukon in the novel Saudar Puteke Nao Meli Jai. He was engaged in learning mathematics during summer holidays by his father. Secondly, his willingness to go in search of fruits in jungle and to take bath in the river. It is a reflection of pictures of traditional villages of Assam.

5.2 Importance of nature in shaping the mental status of characters:

Nature take a vital role in shaping the mental status of characters in the regional novels. A character potraiton is a significant part of novels. Generally a novel is judged through its character depiction. Nature of natural environment can dictate the role of a character. In the villages teen prefer to spend time more at forest than home. They find it more peaceful and joyful.

For example:

— It was a sunny midafternoon of Aahar month. Animals, even the plants were taking rest —but Bapukon was not in rest. He was given ten mathematical problems to solve in the morning. But before his completion, he was accompanied by Hebang to the bank of a river. Am I a fool to be busy in solving mathematical problems if given an opportunity to swim in the river? Moreover, if one has to spend summer holidays in solving mathematical problems; isn't it better to keep the school run? (Borgohain, Humen 2023)

5.3 Role of nature in progression of stories:

Progression of a story is worth mentioning in literary work like novel. Only accurate progression of stories can draw readers' attention. Various aspects and elements of nature are the key to build the base of a story and its' progression. Even, in the regional novels; natural environment itself seems to be an effective character of a story. And, therefore; stories and characters go hand in hand in number of cases.

For example:

Bapukon was well conscious about his father's snoring as soon as it was being heard he went suppress with anger. How father is heartless! He doesn't even try to understand this simple things — It's time to enjoy eating raw mangoes with salt and spices along with the friends. Isn't it anyway possible to focus on arithmetic? Is he a inborn aged person? Wasn't he once a ten years old boy like Bapukon? Wasn't even for a single day he turned a lost boy in search of mangoes, jackfruits and elephant apples in jungle?(Borgohain, Humen 2023)

5.4 Interrelationship between human and nature:

Human and nature are interconnected. One completes the other, one cannot survive without another one. This interrelationship doesn't end in exchange of air. Human being has been always depending on nature. It is used as various tools and means for survival including foods. Which means natural environment has great impact on living styles of human being. And, therefore, many people love and care nature as if it were human being. One of them is Bapukon. Not only once, he never considered trees as trees; some trees are as friendly as his friend Habang, some trees are as lovely as his mother, and some trees are...(Borgohain, Humen 2023)

5.5 Importance of nature in reflection of regional characteristics:

Unique features of a specific geographical area are considered as features of that region. There are some elements that make a region different from the other regions. Besides social, economical, cultural and political, nature is always key to it. The lifestyles of people in a naturally rich area and those in an artificially developed town are totally different.

— The two friends didn't miss any chance to be in the bank of a river. Morning, noon, afternoon, evening — whenever opportunity comes. Even they prefer to be in the bank of the river during the school interval; unlike his other school mates who either play in the playground or go in search of fruits in the jungle. They sometimes talk about dreams of a colourful future and sometimes recite poems while sitting on the bank of the river. Sometimes they prefer to sit quietly.(Borgohain, Humen 2023)

6. Conclusion:

This research paper entitled The Role of Nature in Shaping the background of Assamese regional novels, with special reference to Saudar Puteke Nao Meli Jai highlights about the significant of natural environment in shaping the background of a Regional novels. Nature is a key element in promoting regional uniqueness. In this paper Homen Borgohain's novel entitled Saudar Puteke Nao Meli Jai is taken for discussion in evaluation of nature in shaping the background of Assamese regional novels. In a nutshell natural environment takes a vital role in building various aspects and elements of novels, progression of stories, in reflection of mental status of characters, interrelationship between human and nature, and in reflection of regional uniqueness.

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