

# **CHAPTER-I**

## **INTRODUCTION**



## CHAPTER -I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 An Overview

Literature, in its broadest sense, is a body of written works or is the art of written works. It is a product of someone's imagination, originality, thoughts, feelings, emotions, ideas etc. Literature is a reflection of the society, human nature or reality. Literature has many parts like poetry, prose, short stories, novels, drama etc. The language that is used in literature is different from ordinary language, while scientific and ordinary languages are objective and direct, literary language is creative and imaginative. Writers often use language in innovative ways and experiment with language. They put language to the best use and explore all the possibilities of language. According to the history of literature, the poem is the first and foremost created form among the whole literature in the world. Short stories, novels and dramas then come after.

Short stories are the popular parts of modern literature. The short story turns out to be an unforgettable event at some point in human life. Short stories are the newest creation of the most prominent slip forms of literature. The short story is a gift of 19<sup>th</sup>-century French genius. Short-form storytelling can be traced back to ancient legends, mythology, folklore and fables found in communities all over the world. Some of these stories existed in written forms, but many were passed down through oral traditions. By the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the most well-known stories included *One Thousand and One Nights* (Middle Eastern folk tales by multiple authors, later known as *Arabian Nights*) and *Canterbury Tales* (by Geoffrey Chaucer).

It was not until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century that short story collections by individual authors appeared more regularly in print form. First, it was the publication of Grimm Brothers *Fairy Tales*, then Edgar Allen Poe's *Gothic fiction*, and eventually, stories by Anton Chekov who is often credited as a founder of the modern short story. Short stories come in all kinds of categories like action, adventure, biography, comedy, crime, detective, drama, dystopia, fable, fantasy, history, horror, mystery, philosophy, politics, romance, satire, science fiction, supernatural, thriller and tragedy.

Short stories are the most favourite part of the literature. The Bodos did not have written literature until the second decade of the twentieth century. The Christian missionaries started publishing books on grammar, dictionaries, religion, tales, rhymes and songs. The proper Bodo literature was started in 1920 when Satish Chandra Basumatary brought out the Bibar magazine editing in manuscript form. This Bibar (1924) magazine was a mouthpiece of Boro Chatra Sanmilani which was established in 1919. By the name of this Bibar magazine of Assam Boro Chatra Sanmilani, it is known as the Bibar age in the history of Bodo literature up to 1940. After the Bibar magazine, another magazine called Hathorkhi Hala was published in 1938, whose editor was Pramod Chandra Brahma and in this magazine, Ishan Mushahary wrote the first Bodo short story namely 'Abari.' Pramod Chandra Brahma also wrote a story 'Phaglee' in the magazine Hathorkhi Hala. However, Ishan Mushahary is considered as the first creator of the Bodo short story. After Ishan Mushahary, according to Monoranjan Lahary, Gohin Basumatary is considered as the modern short story creator, as his short story 'Undaha' was published in 1954.

It is to be mentioned that in the context of Bodo literature, the various magazine and journals was taken main role in creating various types of literature. Between the 1924 and 1951, there were only two short stories that are written. After the formation of **Bodo Sahitya Sabha** in 1952, '*The Bodo*' the quarterly magazine was published and many writers began to write short stories from then also. They are Lila Brahma, Gohin Basumatary, Monoranjan Lahary, Maikel Basumata, Siken Brahma, Jagadish Brahma, Surath Narzary, Haresha rBasumatary, Nil Kamal Brahma and many more. Among them Monoranjan Lahary and Nil Kamal Brahma established themselves as a good story writer.

Kokrajhar College Bodo Literary Society started to publish a magazine namely *ONZIMA*. Zaraphagla's short story *Bobi Hathasi* was published in this magazine in 1975. In 1979, Zaraphagla's short story *Raobw Gwiya* was published in *Aabir* Magazine. But earlier in 1977, '*Bwiswni Dengkhw*' by Zaraphagla, a novel was published serially in a magazine. His Novel '*Bishni Lwithw*' was published in 1981 and '*Ishadi*' in 1988. In the second edition of *Ishadi*, which was published again in the year 2004, another novelette namely *Udrainai* is included. Then he published short story books like *Gunda* (1994), *Banalata* (1997), and

*Dantharu* (2004) respectively. Zaraphagla's Original name is Navin Wary and he has prose collection in his original name *Nwithi KhebThwinai...Daimaluni* (2016). He was awarded by 'Rangsar Award' by Bodo Sahitya Sabha in 2007 for his book *Dantharu* and for the book 'Gunda' he was awarded the prestigious 'Praban Borgoyary Literary Award' in 2017. He edited many priceless magazines like *ONZIMA*(1975-76) yearly mouthpiece of Kokrajhar College Bodo Students Literary Society, *AABIR*(1977) Monthly socio-literary magazine, *SONGALI*(1982) Monthly socio-literary magazine, *ARONAI*(1986) fortnightly News magazine, *DANALI*(1977) monthly socio-literary magazine, *RONGJATHILI* (2017) monthly socio-literary magazine etc. It is to say that in the writings of novels and short stories are deeply influenced by Bangla literature. His thought and influence in literature is not only for his own creation but he is known as backbone of many bodo writers like Brajendra Kumar Brahma, Surath Narzary, Praban Borgoyary etc. He is known as the influential and having power of many renowned writers of Bodos or he is the man of behind the screen who is working for establish and innovation of many Bodo writers. Wherever, his creation and contribution towards the Bodo literature is unforgettable.

Further, the proposed research work is going to analyse on his short story collections, i.e. 1. *Gunda* 2. *Banalata* and 3. *Dantharu* and their influence in Bodo society.

## 1.2 Area of the Study

In the present research, the study area has been considered in the 'An Analytical Study on the Short Stories of Zaraphagla'. As stated the three selected short stories of Zaraphagla which have been undertaken are- *Gunda*, *Banalata* and *Dantharu*. In the present research, only three selected short story collections by Zaraphagla have been considered and it has been studied extensively on the critical analysis of the short stories. The socio-cultural perspectives like human behaviour, women's character, village life, traditions, social customs, beliefs, brotherhood, amicable relationships, romantic and tragic state of affairs, economic conditions as well as social conflict and others which are depicted in the short stories.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

The present study has been focusing on the critical analysis of three selected short story collections of Zaraphagla. In these short story collections, the plots and behind the plot socio-cultural scenery, economical, religion, customs, traditions as well as political, and social conflict, womanhood and others will analyzed critically. Moreover, in the aspects economy, it also includes the rural economy, agro-based economy and urban economy. On the other hand, in the aspects of society, this includes both rural and urban lifestyles and other social behaviours. Mostly Zaraphagla's short stories were created with the detective style and philosophical thoughts of social and cultural values of the Bodo society. However, it is to be mentioned that in every society of human life, there appear to be different social issues, social conflict, obscurity and other problems where the society exists and people live. So, there is a need for understanding to explore the sociocultural perspectives that are reflected in Zaraphagla's short stories for the extensive study.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The importance and principles of the study is basically known as the significance of the study. In this present research work on the short stories written by Zaraphagla, the study defines the importance of knowledge, skill and behaviours, customs, traditions, and beliefs as well as covers all other aspects of socio-cultural fields. Through the study, it also contributes to experiencing vast literary knowledge and critics relating to human life and society as a whole, moreover, it tries to further enrich of literary works of Zaraphagla in the field of language and literature. It is also considered in helping various researchers and academics for competence as well as in the critical studies in the field of language and literature in general and Bodo literature in particular. Thus, the significance of the study has an endeavour impact on all aspects of literary fields and it also depicted motivation with the critical studies. Moreover, the outcome of this research will throw a new light and detail information about the short stories of Zaraphagla.

### **1.5 Aims and Objectives of the Study**

Following are the aims and objectives of the present research work:

- I) To explore literary element, theme and plot construction Zaraphagla's short stories.
- II) To study about characterization and dialogues in Zaraphagla's Short story.

- III) To study the socio-cultural and economical conditions of contemporary Bodo Society as depicted in Zaraphagla's short story.
- IV) To Study the technique of Zaraphagla's story, the way he has explored the story.

## 1.6 Scope of the Study

As the research study is a part of analysis and discussion, here the present study has been considered with an extensive level of conceptual framework as well as analytical study. Hence, from this point of view, the study has an academic and sociological importance in present-day literary criticism and society. It is to be mentioned that the study has been done based on the select short stories of Zaraphagla which will help the literary critics to design the framework for the history of the Bodo literature and also to have an extensive discussion about the short story created by Zaraphagla. Further, it is to be mentioned that Zaraphagla's contributions are not less in literary value and have shown significant importance in the field of contemporary Bodo literature. Thus, this present study has a prime value in all literary aspects. Further, the present study on the socio-cultural aspects of Zaraphagla's short stories has explored the various angles of social pictures like human behaviour, village life, role of women, romanticism, affection, customs, beliefs, brotherhood, amicable relationships, romantic and tragic state of affairs, economy as well as other various aspects of the society in general and Bodo society in particular.

## 1.7 Hypotheses

Initially, in the proposed study striking hypothesis has been adopted. These are

- i. Zaraphagla's short story is a collection of bizarre events. Zaraphagla's stories will give a real picture of the Bodo Society.
- ii. Zaraphagla's stories will give a glimpse of the socio-cultural and economic picture of Bodo society.
- iii. The techniques that are adopted in short story writing; Zaraphagla's stories will also be able to use all those techniques.
- iv. Short stories are made up of different characters. Each and every character is a messenger of the society. The characters in Zaraphagla's stories will get social messengers as well as the dialogues given through the characters will also be able to show the condition of the Bodo society.

## **1.8 Data Collection**

The present study has been undertaken in an analytical method. The data for the present study has been collected from both primary and secondary sources. As in every scientific research using techniques and methodology is the way of finding the objective result (Ahuja, 2009). It is to be mentioned that since the study is an analytical one, and the research has been considered mostly on the secondary data. All three short story collections created by Zaraphagla has been considered as the form of primary source of data. The secondary data has been collected from various sources like books, magazines, and journals as well as critical writings by different scholars and others.

## **1.9 Methodology**

The Methodology is a process of investigation and analysis followed in a research work. To complete the present study analytical method has been adopted.

## **1.10 Delimitation of the Study**

The present analytical study on the short story collections by Zaraphagla is limited to the following points.

- i) The study is limited to the three published short story book by Zaraphagla only.
- ii) The study is limited only to the analysis of on the short stories of Zaraphagla.
- iii) The study is mainly concerned with the socio-cultural and economic aspects of Zaraphagla's short stories.
- iv) The study is limited only in the technique how Zaraphagla describes stories.

## **1.11 Review of Literature**

In the proposed research on the topic of '**An Analytical Study on the Short Stories of Zaraphagla**', a special analysis would be carried out on the techniques and methods used by the different writers in their activities. In the field of Bodo short stories, there are many writers who wrote with different techniques and modern technological ideas. Nowadays it has been seen much critical analysis on the part of literature, language, culture, novels and short stories etc., but



most of them are analyzed only along the lines of the popular article. The efforts and values of the short stories by Zaraphagla were also studied through various analyses.

There are some particular magazines, journals, books of poetry, novels, short stories and dramas in Bodo literature where the social, educational, economic, cultural, religious and political problems of the Bodos with reference to the writing technique used by various writers have already been discussed and especially the same is found which a great help the research work are. There are some Bodo novels, short stories and dramas where the socio-political, economic, cultural and cultural problems of the Bodo society have been found. The authors discussed and analyzed the Bodos social problems and the backwardness of the Bodo society through their plots. The trend of the literature was to build the Bodo people. During the early 20th century the Bodo society periodically changed step by step through the ethnic Bodo organization, whose change and transition have been taking place which are reflected in Bodo literature. Therefore based on different writers short stories, novels and poetry, many critics have already given their own views by criticising their creations through their articles published in magazines, journals and books.

Zaraphagla's creation is limited not only to novels. He has created short stories also. Earlier the stories were published in various magazines which were edited by him. In this proposed study as well as in other areas of study it is found that different individual authors and writers have written about critical works on Zaraphagla's novels. On the other hand, there is not much more criticism about his short story. Zaraphagla is also known as the first detective-style novel writer in Bodo. Following him many Bodo writers have also written detective stories in later. However, there is too much scope to study and critically analyse on his short stories, because still there is no available discussion written by him. In this present study, different individual authors and writers have written critical views and articles on his short stories, novels and writings which have been reviewed systematically. In the book ***Boro Sungdo Soloni Jarimin*** (2013) by Rakhao Basumatary it is mentioned by Rakhao Basumatary that *Anil Kumar Boro has criticized Zaraphagla's Short stories saying that 'Stories by Zaraphagla make an attempt to throw off the restrictions of connection and depict the strong undercurrent of libido and the sexual urge in the life of man.'* In the Book ***Boro Sungdo Soloni Dahar*** (2011), in his article *Boro Sungdo Soloni*

*Style, criticising the styles of writing Bodo short story Birupakhsha Basumatary defined as – ‘After Nandeswar Daimary, Zaraphagla is one of the short story writer who is most promising. The stories of Zaraphagla's **Banalata** and **Dantharu** short stories have touched the heart of the reader. The descriptions technique of Zaraphagla is very strong. Through art, he describes sex and violence very well. Zaraphagla's story telling style is simple and quite interesting.’<sup>1</sup>*

## **1.12 Life and Literary Creation of Zaraphagla**

The Anglo-Irish playwright George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) has said- *‘Imagination is the beginning of creation. You imagine what you desire, you will what you imagine and at last you create what you will. Life isn't about finding yourself; it's about creating yourself.’<sup>2</sup>*

### **1.12 (A) Brief Note about the Writer**

Navin Wary whose pen name is Zaraphagla was born in Khayerguri village of Bijni Jharbishpani area under Chirang District in 1<sup>st</sup> March of 1959. His father's name was Lt. Meghnath Wary and his mother was Lt. Omeh Wary. He has three brothers and five sisters. He is the eldest son of the family. The names of his younger brothers are as follows- Upen Wary, Mwnsing Wary and Sickna John Wary. He has five sisters namely- Sukhushree Wary, Latika Wary, Antika Wary, Rimba Wary and Hirimba Wary.

His younger brother Upen Wary is a High School Teacher.

Mwnsing Wary is a farmer.

His youngest brother Sickna John Wary is an Associate Professor of Kokrajhar Govt. College, Kokrajhar, Assam.

His sister Sukhushree Wary is a housewife.

Latika Wary is a house wife

Antika Wary also a house wife.

Rimba Wary is an emerging writer.

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<sup>1</sup>Basumatary, Birupakhshagiri, *Boro Sungdo Soloni Style, Boro Sungdo Soloni Bwhwithi Dahar*, Chief Editor: Swarna Prabha Chainary, New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2011, p-16.

<sup>2</sup> <https://help.imdb.com/article/imdb/general-information/imdb-site-index/GNCX7BHNSPBTFAQ#so>

His youngest sister Hirimba Wary is a Science Teacher in a Higher Secondary School, Kokrajhar, Assam.

Zaraphagla started his primary education at No. 141 Khayerguri L.P. School and then Elementary Education at Bijni Bandhab High school, Chirang. He studied high school at St. Josheph's High school at Barpeta Road, Barpeta. He studied his pre-university at Kokrajhar College, Kokrajhar and after that he started to his own business by owning a printing press named Pioneer. He married to Lakshmi Wary and had three daughters and one son. The names of daughters are Dolly Wary and Dalimi wary.

His eldest daughter Dolly wary is a High School Teacher.

His younger daughter Dalimi Wary is an Assistant Professor of Bodoland University, Kokrajhar, Assam.

His youngest daughter Pinki Wary is an Assistant Professor at Don Bosco College.

He has one son and the name of his son is Sidhartha Wary, he is a B.tech.

Zaraphagla started his business life through the establishment of printing press namely Pioneer. Under this printing press Danali Publication is established and he published various Bodo magazines. These are-

1. *ONZIMA* (1975-76): A yearly mouthpiece of Kokrajhar College Bodo Students Literary Society.
2. *AABIR* (1977, Rgd): Monthly Socio-Literary Magazine.
3. *SONGALI* (1982): Monthly Socio-Literary Magazine.
4. *ARONAI* (1986): Fortnightly News Magazine.
5. *DANALI* (1997): Monthly Socio Literary Magazine.
6. *RONGJATHILI* (2017): Monthly Socio-Literary Magazine.

It is to be mentioned that *AABIR*, which was published in 1977, was the first registered magazine in Bodo. Through the edited magazines by him, he also started to write stories and novels. He published his novels serially through this magazine.

When he was reading in Kokrajhar College, he became the editor of *ONZIMA* magazine. This magazine was published by the Bodo Student Literary Organization of Kokrajhar College. The first editor of this magazine was Heramba Narzary. Zaraphagla was the editor of fifth issue of the

magazine *ONZIMA* (1975). The first short story by Zaraphagla was published in the magazine and the name of this story was *Bobi Hathasi*. After that, he edited the magazine *AABIR* (1979). Then his story namely *Raobw Gwiya* is published in this magazine. His short story *Zuwa* was published in 1981. After that he published his first novel *Bwiswni Dengkhw* serially in this magazine. In an interview with Zaraphagla, he mentioned that at that period of Bodo literature, the writers were very less in number. So, taking extraordinary names, one writer wrote many stories or articles in the same magazines. Prasenjit Brahma, Pramod Chandra Brahma, and Satish Chandra Basumatary were the example. They took two or three pennames and wrote many articles at the same time. Zaraphagla also took more than two pen names and published his short stories in magazines. He has written many short stories simultaneously with his pen names and articles by his original name. Navin Wary established himself by the pen name Zaraphagla. His maximum writing is influenced by Bengali and English literature.

Zaraphagla's first novel *Bwiswni Dengkhw* was published in book form in the year 2023 with his original name Navin Wary which was published through his edited magazine *AABIR* in the year 1979. Zaraphagla's first published novel book is *Bishni Lwithw* and it is published in the year 1981. The critics mentioned that *Bishni Lwithw* is a kind of detective novel. This novel became very popular among readers. In 1988, his novel *Ishadi* was published. His short story collection *Bajwi Sonashree* was published in 1993. This short story collection book includes each story of famous short story writers Neel Kamal Brahma and Upendranath Brahma. Again other two stories which were written by his other pen names Rabin Basumatary and Satyandra Muchahary also included in this short story collection.

*Gunda* is the first short story collection and it was published in the year 1994. Again adding two more stories, *Gunda* was re-published in 2014 by Omeh Publications, Kokrajhar. Then *Banalata* another short story collection was published in the year 1997 and this *Banalata* short story too, was added with two new short stories re-published in 2020 by Words & Words Publication, Kokrajhar. The third short story collection *Dantharu* was published in the year 2004 by Danali Publications, Kokrajhar. The articles written by his original name Navin Wary were published in book form as *Nwithi Kheb Thwinai-Dwimaluni* in 2016. He also translated many stories into

Bodo from Bangla and English. In an interview, the writer claims that he never wrote any poems.

### 1.12 (B) Achievements

1. He received '**Rangsar Award**' by Bodo Sahitya Sabha for his book *Dantharu* in 2007-2008.
2. He was awarded prestigious '**Praban Borgoyary Literary Award**' in 2017-18 by Bodo Sahitya Sabha for his short story collection '*Gunda.*'

### 1.13 Organization of the Chapter

The study has been organized in the following manner and the whole study is divided into six chapters.

#### CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

The introductory chapter 'Introduction' is covered with following points: An Overview – Area of the Study - Statement of the Problem - Significance of the study - Aims and Objectives of the Study – Scope of the Study – Hypothesis –Data Collection-Methodology–Delimitation of the Study – Review of Literature - Life and Literary Creation of Zaraphagla – Brief Note About the Writer- Achievements-Organization of the Chapter – Citation Adopted – Conclusions.

#### CHAPTER II: STORY AND PLOT CONSTRUCTION OF THE SHORT STORIES

The second chapter discussed about introduction of the story and the plot construction of the short stories. The story and plot of inside the stories of *Gunda (Rwikhagiri, Gunda, Zmwngara, Habilani Zengna, Zengnani Habila)*, the stories inside the *Banalata(Guthal, Banalata, Songsar and Ziuni Khobam)* and the stories inside the *Dantharu (Rajkhanthini Rajmistri, Phaglee, Barmwdai, Iswrni Thandwi, Dantharu, Master Race and Dainee )* and Conclusion.

#### CHAPTER III: CHARACTERIZATION AND DIALOGUE

In this chapter the characterization and dialogues thrown by the characters in various situations of the stories will be discussed extensively.

## **CHAPTER IV: SOCIO-CULTURAL AND ECONOMY PERSPECTIVES**

The Fourth Chapter will discuss about the social pictures as depicted in the short stories. The social pictures like culture, economy (village & city life), religion (traditional & transitional), political (social conflict) and others will be discussed extensively.

## **CHAPTER V: WRITING TECHNIQUE OF SHORT STORY**

In the Fifth Chapter, the technique of writing of short story by Zaraphagla will be discussed.

## **CHAPTER VI: FINDINGS & CONCLUSION**

This is a conclusive and short comment of researcher. The proposed work entitled '*An Analytical Study on the Short Stories of Zaraphagla*' has been discussed under six chapters including general introduction to conclusion chapters.

### **1.14 Citation Adopted**

There are different methods and styles of inserting citations and references available for the adoption of research study references. In the present research study citation style of MLA has been adopted, while typing text and reference citations in the entire course of the study. The citation will be applicable to all types of information resources that have been referred to and consulted in the various aspects and sections of the study.

### **1.15 Conclusion**

The Bodo Literature came into being in the second decade of the twenty century. It is said that *Bibar (1924)* is the first magazine in Bodo Language that marked the beginning of a new epoch in Bodo written literature and this is the year mark of the Bodo literature. During the time, when the Bodos were critical on various levels; the students personally or organizationally took responsibility for reforming the Bodo Society, through creative literature. The fact is that, during the period, the creation of literature was only the way to bring change in the Bodo society to upgrade the people in the society. Hence, the young Bodo writers created the literature contemporarily and developed through the organization as well as personally. After the birth of

Bodo Sahitya Sabha, the literature developed more than before and contemporarily created the literature for the upliftment of society. Anyhow the organizational leaders took a role in creating the contemporary development of the Bodo literature through the creative young writer in the early phase of the 20th Century that only interested in reforming the Bodo society. Zaraphagla is also one of those who has edited many magazines to uplift the Bodo literature. Along with the editorial duty, he started to write short stories and novelettes and published these through magazines. As he established Danali Publications under his press Pioneer Printers it was his opportunity to publish such magazines. He published three short story books and three novels. It is to be mentioned that the first novel *Bishni Lwithw* by Zaraphagla established him as a detective novelist. It is also mentioned that his short stories highlighted deep inside the socio-cultural perspectives of the Bodo society like human behaviour and values, rural life, urban life, the role of women, romanticism, affection, customs, beliefs, brotherhood, sisterhood, amicable relationship, romantic, economy, social conflict as well as other various aspects of the society in general and Bodo society in particular. In the writings of Zaraphagla along with socio-cultural aspects, the philosophical thoughts of humanism and feminism and sex with violence are also found to be reflected accordingly. Moreover, it is to be mentioned that the review of related literature has also shown us many clues and information about the philosophical foundation of Zaraphagla's short stories where the characteristics of the society are reflected.

Although there have been numerous research works done by different researchers in the field of novels, short stories and poems written by different writers such research on short stories by Zaraphagla has not been done. Therefore, it is an attempt to research his short stories from various angles. In the field of Bodo short stories, there are many writers who wrote with different techniques and modern technological ideas. Zaraphagla is a contemporary short story writer and therefore discussion on his writing technique will be a part of this analytical work. As a whole, the story written by Navin Wary under the pen name Zaraphagla will be taken here for this analytical study.