

## CHAPTER-1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Introduction:

Fiction is a vital aspect of literature. As literature developed as a formal field, the novel emerged as a prominent form within it, growing steadily to become a core component. Literature serves as the backbone of society, as it reflects and addresses human experiences, societal issues, and varied situations. It thus provides a critical platform for interpreting diverse knowledge and perspectives from around the world. Literature can be seen as an art form that embodies the emotions, expressions, and insights of authors, which is effectively communicated to readers and scholars alike. This artful ordering of words is followed by any dedicated scholar within the field, helping to maintain and enrich the study of literature.

Today, literary study has become an essential discipline for acquiring new knowledge and insights. Within this field, creative trends present readers with some of the most engaging and challenging works, with novels often standing out as crucial pieces for understanding cultural and contextual backgrounds. W. Hudson defined as *“Literature is composed of those books, and of those books only, which in the first place, because of their subject matter and their mode of treating it, are of general human interest, and in which, in the second place, the element of form and the pleasure which form gives are to be regarded as essential.”*<sup>1</sup> This analytical study draws upon these principles to clarify the themes and ideas within Rita Boro's works, addressing any ambiguities or dilemmas found in her fiction. Wosfold said *“Criticism is the exercise of judgement in the province of art and literature”*<sup>2</sup> highlighting the importance of clear, accessible language in literary criticism for a broad audience.

According to Kalyannath Dutta 1967 *“Fiction is any narrative which is feigned or invented rather than historically or factually true. The term fiction is, however,*

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<sup>1</sup> Hudson, W.H. *An Introduction to the Study of English Literature*. A.I.T.B.S Publishers & Distributor j-5/6, Krishan Nagar, Delhi-51. 2000. p.10

<sup>2</sup> Jacob Abraham. *A handbook of Literary Terms*. Kalyani Publishers, B-1/ 1292, Rajinder Nagar, Ludhiana-08. 1990, p. 41

applied primarily today to any prose narrative, including the novel and the story. It is, of course, often used simply as the synonym for the novel.”<sup>3</sup>

According to Georg Lukas “*The composition of the novel is the paradoxical fusion of heterogeneous and discrete components into an organic whole which is then abolished over and over again. The relationships which create cohesion between the abstract components are abstractly pure and formal, and the ultimate unifying principle therefore has to be the ethic of the creative subjectivity, and ethic which the content reveals.*”<sup>4</sup>

The development of the creative novel in Bodo literature began later than in many other literary traditions. English literature led the way, establishing the novel as a prominent genre worldwide. In examining the origins of the English novel, *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe, published in 1719, is often regarded as the first English novel. This work not only presents various character archetypes but also reflects social stereotypes of its time.

In India, *Babubilas* by Bhavani Charan Bandyopadhyay, published in 1823, is considered one of the earliest novels. However, due to its comedic style, some hesitate to recognize it as a foundational novel. Consequently, *Durgeshnandini* by Bankim Chandra, published in 1864, is widely regarded as the beginning of the Indian novel tradition. In Assamese literature, *Bhanumati* by Padmanath Gohain Barua, published in 1890, is considered a pioneering work, notable for its representation of social issues. Gohain Barua’s fiction addresses significant societal themes, making it essential for future studies and continued exploration in the context of Assamese and Indian literature.

The novel, unlike dramatic performances staged before an audience, offers entertainment through the immersive experience of reading. Marino Crawford aptly defines the novel as a “*pocket theatre.*”<sup>5</sup> This suggests that while the novel may not physically perform as drama does, it functions similarly by presenting a narrative. Each of Rita Boro’s novels explores rich tapestry of socio-cultural, religious, economic, political, and historical elements, which are reflected across her body of work.

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<sup>3</sup> Dutta, Kalyannath. *Some Aspects of the Study of Literature*. Sribhumi Publishing Comp, Calcutta. 1967. p. Sec-1-3

<sup>4</sup> Lukacs, Georg. *The Theory of the Novel*. AAKAR Book, Delhi 110091, India. 2003. p. 85

<sup>5</sup> Hudson, W.H. *An Introduction to the Study of English Literature*. A.I.T.B.S Publishers & Distributor j-5/6, Krishan Nagar, Delhi-51. 2000. p. 129

In the modern literary landscape, several notable Bodo novelists have contributed to this tradition, including Manaranjan Lahary, Dharanidhar Wary, Kanteswar Brahma, Nandeswar Daimary, Daimalu Boro, Katindra Swargiary, Bidhyasagor Narzary, Tiren Boro, and Aron Raja Basumatary. These writers have portrayed the social realities of their time, reflecting the complexities and consciousness of their communities through their works. However, these novelists faced significant challenges in their period, especially as many traditionalists and conservatives in Bodo society were reluctant to embrace these evolving narratives, which revealed the true nature of their social fabric.

Rita Baro's creative novels offer ample opportunities for scholarly research. As a result, her works have been selected for an in-depth study, culminating in the Ph.D. research titled "*A Critical Study on Rita Baro's Novels*" in the Bodo Department at Bodoland University. This research falls within the realm of textual or pure literature, with a clear focus on Baro's literary contributions. The study is structured into five chapters: Chapter 1: Introduction, Chapter 2: Construction of Plot, Characterization, Dialogue, and Theme, Chapter 3: Social, Cultural, Economic, Political, Religious, and Historical Aspects in Rita Baro's Novels, Chapter 4: The Art of Writing in Rita Baro's Novels, and Chapter 5 - Conclusion. The second, third, and fourth chapters are the core sections of the study.

The Introduction chapter sets the foundation by addressing key components such as the life and works of Rita Baro, the objectives, problem statement, scope of study, methodology, data collection, hypothesis, and a review of the literature. This section outlines the central theme of Rita Baro's literary contributions to Bodo literature. Creative writing is inherently challenging, yet Rita Baro has masterfully simplified it, offering a transparent and accessible style that resonates with her readers. Her work serves as a vital foundation for the development of Bodo literature, representing a milestone for future generations. Rita Baro's fiction has earned a strong reputation within the Bodo literary community, and this research aims to critically explore her novels from various scholarly perspectives.

In this regard, Rita Baro's creations and contributions stand as a remarkable achievement in the field of Bodo literature. This research focuses on an in-depth study of Rita Baro's fiction.

This research examines the fiction created by Rita Baro through both practical and scientific approaches. It represents an innovative study of the fictional structure, which is a crucial aspect for scholars analysing literary works. Rita Baro's novels, with their distinctive writing style and techniques, have significantly influenced Bodo literature. By the time this research reached its final stages, Rita Baro had completed five novels, each of which emphasizes important social phenomena. As a novelist in the modern age of Bodo literature, her creative works have become a pivotal point for further studies. Before advancing such research, it is essential to understand the fictional background of Bodo novels. In Bodo literature, Chittaranjan Mushahary is considered the first novelist, with his novel "*Jujaini Or*"<sup>6</sup> (Fire of Paddy Husk), published in 1970. As Professor Madhuram Boro states in "The History of the Boro Literature," "*He has contributed maximum number of Novels, but in appearing he will be appreciated if he can produce standard Novels than commercial ones to maintain morality and establish sound change in the society.*"<sup>7</sup> *Jujaini Or*' is a social novel that reflects the social realities of Bodo society. Its central theme explores the love affair between a boy and a girl, culminating in a breakup. The tragic ending reflects a painful and abnormal situation that both characters endure, leaving the readers with a sense of sorrow. Despite its sadness, the story is often recognized as a comprehensive portrayal of societal issues and has been appreciated by readers and followers alike.

The five novels by Rita Baro that form the focus of this research are "*Gongse Okhrangni Singao*" (Beneath the Sky), 2002; "*Thwisam*" (Blood Cot), 2014; Saikhong (Shadow), 2016; *Bachiram Jwhwlao* (Hero Basiram), 2017; and *Swmaosarnaini Orgeng* (Volcano of Revolution), 2020. These works serve as the primary texts for this study. Rita Boro's storytelling offers readers a form of entertainment that engages the mind, leaving a lasting impression. This research will explore her novels through three core chapters: Chapter 2 will analyse the construction of plot, characterization, and dialogue; Chapter 3 will delve into the social, cultural, economic, political, historical, and religious themes present in her works; and Chapter: 4 will focus on the art of writing, which is central to Boro's literary style.

This research aims to explore and understand the creative aspects of Boro's fiction, with a particular focus on how her storytelling reflects human experiences and

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<sup>6</sup> Mushahary, Chittaranjan. *Juzaini Or*. 1962

<sup>7</sup> Ovary, Dharanidhar. *Boro Thunlaini Mohor*. K.L. Publication, Guwahati-01. 1994. p. 80

societal issues. Through this study, the research emphasizes the importance of literary analysis and interpretation. It can be inferred that the arrangement of events in her novels is intricately tied to human strategy, a crucial element for understanding the narratives. This research underscores the significance of imaginative expression in literature and the role it plays in the development of both the author and the literary tradition. It is essential that the progress of authorship be based on a balance of creativity and the art of expression. According to Ragukul Tilak “*a long story in prose, meant primarily for entertainment, and presenting a realistic picture of life*”<sup>8</sup>

The above expression offers a qualitative perspective that can be applied to the prominent figures in story construction. While there are many possibilities to consider, the overall scenes and facts are central to the analytical framework of this research study. Therefore, the procedure of this study aims to examine Rita Baro’s creations, ideas, and narrative structure to identify and analyze the key aspects of her work.

## 1.2 Review of Literature:

There are the following recommended writers clarify some information through their article analysis. In the recent past, some schoolings have exposed their views in regards to Rita Baro’s novel. Those interested in studying Rita Baro’s work can find articles in different fields of publication, as mentioned below.

Chinan Narzary provides an analytical discussion in his book “सल’मा आरो बर’ सल’मा”<sup>9</sup> (*Novel and Boro Novel*) as a book Soloma Arw Boro Soloma” 2010, In this book Narzary focuses on “*Gongse Okhrangni Singao*” examining the stylistic use of language in Rita Baro’s storytelling. Narzary highlights how Baro’s choice of words and narrative style contributes to the depth and impact of the novel.

Sailendra Baro published an article titled “ड° रिता बर’नि थैसाम सलमायाव हारिमुआरि आरो समाजारि सावगारिनि सायाव मोनसे नोजोर” (*A Reflection of Social and Cultural Themes in Rita Boro’s “Thwisam” Novel*) in the 4th issue of the 2017 “*Jnanam,*” the Yearly Journal of the Darrang-Udalguri zone ACTA. The article delves

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<sup>8</sup> Tilak, Ragukul. *Literary Forms Trends and Movements*. Rama Brothers New Delhi 05. 1999. p. 112

<sup>9</sup> Narzary, Chinan. *Soloma Arw Boro Soloma*. N.L. Publications. 2010. P. 15

into the social and cultural dimensions as a central theme explored in Rita Boro's "*Thwisam*" novel.

In this analysis, Baro emphasizes how Boro's narrative skillfully portrays the complex social dynamics and cultural values, reflecting the broader issues faced by the community depicted in the novel. Through a close reading of "*Thwisam*," the article underscores the interplay between personal experiences and societal expectations, offering insightful commentary on the evolving cultural landscape and its impact on the characters within the story.

Rita Baro herself published an article there on the novel "*Bachiram Jwhwlao*" (Bachiram Hero) titled "बासिराम जोहोलावनि उन संनानै" <sup>10</sup> (*The Background of Bachiram Jwhwlao*) as article in the "The Bodo" (Mouth Piece of Bodo Sahitya Sabha) 43rd Issue, 2018 The article provides an analytical study of the novel, emphasising its historical significance as depicted in the story of "*Bachiram Jwhwlao*."

In this regard, Pramela Boro was published an article in "The Bodo"<sup>11</sup> titled "सायखं सल'मायाव बेरखांनाय समाजारि सावगारि मोनसे सावरायनाय" (*Reflection of Social Aspects in Rita Boro's Novel "Saikhong*) in "The Bodo" (Mouth Piece Of Bodo Sahitya Sabha) 43rd Issue, 2018 The writer Pramala Baro highlight how the novel *Saikhong* portrays an evolving cultural landscape, reflecting the social dynamics and emerging cultural elements captured by Rita Baro in her work.

The *Saikhong* novel is recognised as a social novel as well as a historical aspect. In this regard, Dr. Laishri Mahilary has published an article in "*Phwrwnglai*"<sup>12</sup> topic as "जारिमिनारि बर' सल'मा महरै सायखं"(Saikhong: A Historical novel of the Bodo) in "A Journal of Bodo Department Teacher's Association" (ed) 2019. This topic's analytical study has discussed the historical importance while the British colonialism contributed to the development of the Bodo language and development.

Dr. Anil Boro defined a note in the preface on "*Swmaosarnaini Organg*,"<sup>13</sup> (2020) that was created by Rita Boro having verities socio-cultural statuses of the Bodo

<sup>10</sup> Boro, Rita. *The Bodo Mouth Piece of Bodo Sahitya Sabha*. 43rd Issue. 2018. p.13

<sup>11</sup> Boro, Pramala. *The Bodo Mouth Piece of Bodo Sahitya Sabha*. 43<sup>rd</sup> Issue. 2018. p.29

<sup>12</sup> Mahilary, Laishri. *Phwrwnglai, A Journal of Bodo Department Teacher's Association* (ed). 2019. p. 21

<sup>13</sup> Boro, Rita. *Swmaosarnaini Organg*. Nilima Prakashan, Barama. 2020. p. 5

community as well as the revolution of the Bodoland movement as historic and political one.

With this research-related subject matter, an article by Chittaranjan Mushahary titled “थैसाम सल’मायाव समाजारि सावगारि”<sup>14</sup> (*The Social Aspects in the Novel Saikhong*) published in the Research Journal of the Bodo Department VI No-VII, 2020. This work emphasizes the depiction of the Bodo community’s evolving culture through the stories of various characters. The article explores themes such as Bodo religious practices, social folk customs, weaving, fishing, and other cultural elements intricately woven into the narrative of “*Saikhong*”.

Suman Machahary, also published an article on “*Somni Thandai*,” mouth piece magazine of All Bodo Students Union, of Udalguri district, titled, 22<sup>nd</sup> issue 2021 “रिता बर’नि सोमावसारनायनि अरगें सल’मानि सायाव सुंद’ सावरायनाय” (*A Critical Study on Rita Baro’s Swmaosarnaini Organg novel’s*). The writer critically discussed on the “*Swmaosarnaini Organg*” novel.

Chittaranjan Mushahary’s also published an article titled “*Reflection on Socio-Cultural Life in the Novels of Rita Baro: A Selective Study*”<sup>15</sup> is published in the SSRG International Journal Vol:9, 2022, The article examines the socio-cultural aspects of Rita Baro’s fiction, focusing on her novels “*Gongse Okhrangni Singao*” and “*Thwisam*”. The analysis vividly highlights the intricate portrayal of socio-cultural life within these works, offering profound insights into their thematic richness.

### 1.3 Problem Statement:

The topic entitled “*A Critical Study on Rita Baro’s Novels*” serves as a pivotal area of research, particularly within the context of Bodo literature. Rita Baro’s contributions to modern literature have garnered significant attention and are steadily gaining importance as a focal point for further academic exploration. This study aims to examine her literary works, which reflect her unique perspective and address various social issues within Bodo society.

Despite the challenges inherent in the creative process, Rita Baro’s novels present a continuous effort to engage with and explore the complexities of social

<sup>14</sup> Mushahary, Chittaranjan. *Research Journal of the Bodo Department*. VI No-VII. 2020. p. 228

<sup>15</sup> Mushahary, Chittaranjan. *SSRG International Journal*. Vol:9. 2022. p. 82

existence. The primary focus of this research will be five of Rita Baro's selected novels, which provide a rich foundation for analysis. The study will delve into several key areas of literary critique, including the construction of plot, characterization, dialogue, and the thematic representations in her works. Additionally, this research will examine the socio-cultural, economic, political, historical, and religious dimensions as portrayed in Baro's novels.

Rita Baro's works reflect the social issues and problems prevalent within Bodo society, shedding light on the realities of social life and the challenges faced by its people. However, there is a noticeable gap in comprehensive academic studies that address these critical social issues in Baro literature. Furthermore, Baro's skillful handling of the art of writing through authors innovative use of literary techniques plays a crucial role in shaping the impact of the works. This aspect of her creative expression is essential for understanding her novels on a deeper level.

The primary aim of this study is to explore these facets of Rita Baro's novels and to contribute valuable insights into the social phenomena and artistic nuances present in her works. By focusing on the interplay between social issues and literary art, this research seeks to create a comprehensive understanding of her novels and their relevance to contemporary Bodo society. In doing so, it is hoped that this study will serve as a resource for future generations of scholars and readers, offering them a window into the profound social and literary contributions of Rita Baro.

#### **1.4 Aims and Objectives:**

The primary aim of this study is to complete the thesis within the stipulated time, with a focus on providing a comprehensive critical analysis of Rita Baro's novels. The objectives of this research work are outlined as follows:

1. To critically analyse the plot construction and characterization in Rita Baro's novels, examining how these elements contribute to the overall narrative structure and thematic development.
2. To analyse the dialogue and themes within Rita Baro's novels, exploring how they reflect the author's intentions, the societal issues depicted, and their relevance to the broader context of Bodo literature.
3. To study the social, cultural, economic, religious, political, and historical aspects represented in Rita Baro's novels, highlighting the way in which these

dimensions are woven into the fabric of her storytelling and how they reflect the realities of Bodo society.

4. To critically evaluate the art of writing in Rita Baro's novels, focusing on her literary techniques, use of language, and stylistic approaches that enhance the depth and impact of her works.

### **1.5 Area of the Study:**

This research focuses on a critical study of Rita Baro's novels, specifically examining the pure literary texts of the creation. The research, entitled "*A Critical Study on Rita Baro's Novels*," explores five of her major works:

1. "*Gongse Okhrangni Singao*" (Beneath the Sky)
2. "*Thwisam*" (Blood Cot)
3. "*Saikhong*" (Shadow)
4. "*Bachiram Jwhwlao*" (Hero Bachiram)
5. "*Swmaosarnaini Orgeng*" (Volcano of Revolution)

These novels have been selected for this study due to their rich exploration of various themes and social issues. The research will focus on the following key areas:

- Plot Construction and Characterization
- Dialogue and Thematic Analysis
- Social, Cultural, Economic, Political, Historical, and Religious Aspects
- The Art of Writing

Each of these novels reflects important elements of Bodo society, and the research will explore how these social, cultural, and historical factors are embedded in their narratives. Additionally, the study will critically assess the author's use of language and writing techniques as a significant aspect of her literary craft.

### **1.6 Significance of the Study:**

The significance of this study lies in its exploration of Rita Baro's novels, as detailed in the thesis titled "*A Critical Study on Rita Baro's Novels*." The research primarily focuses on five key novels by Rita Baro, which are discussed in-depth. The study aims to critically analyze various aspects of these novels, with particular emphasis on plot construction, characterization, dialogue, and themes.

This research will provide an authentic and comprehensive examination based on the original texts of Rita Baro's work. It will explore how social, cultural, economic, political, historical, and religious elements are integrated into the narrative of each novel, providing deeper insights into Bodo society and its reflections in the author's work.

Furthermore, one of the central aims of this study is to analyze the art of writing in Rita Baro's novels. By doing so, the research will highlight the distinctive literary techniques she employs to depict the complexities of rural life, familial conflicts, educational development, language growth, and the broader theme of nation-building. These elements constitute the foundation of Rita Baro's storytelling, and this study intends to contribute to a deeper understanding of her contribution to Bodo literature.

### **1.7 Methodology:**

Methodology is a crucial aspect of any research, providing a structured approach to ensure the success of the study. This research employs both descriptive and analytical methods. The descriptive method is used to provide a detailed account of the human condition as depicted in the text, focusing on the social, cultural, economic, and other relevant aspects portrayed in Rita Baro's novels.

The research analyzes the selected novels as pure literary texts, examining their narrative structures, themes, character development, and other critical elements. The analytical approach is employed to interpret and evaluate these literary components, offering insights into their significance and how they reflect the realities of Bodo society.

These combined methods are deemed most suitable for the study, as they allow for a comprehensive exploration of the novels while maintaining a systematic and objective approach to understanding their deeper meanings.

### **1.8 Collection of Data:**

Data collection is a vital component of the research process, providing the foundation for analysis and discussion. In this study, data has been gathered through both primary and secondary sources, ensuring a comprehensive approach to the research.

#### **Primary Sources:**

The primary data for this research is collected directly from the novels written by Rita Baro. These texts are central to the study and are examined closely to understand the social realities and issues depicted in her work. Additionally, direct interaction with the

author, including interviews and discussions, has contributed valuable insights. Communication has been established through various means such as telephone conversations or face-to-face meetings. Audio and video recording tools are used during these interactions to accurately capture the author's perspectives.

### **Secondary Sources:**

Secondary data is collected from a variety of reference materials, including books, journals, magazines, and articles that are related to the research topic. Libraries, both national and international, are visited to access relevant journals, newspapers, and publications. Online resources, including academic databases and websites, are also consulted to gather additional information and broaden the scope of the study.

By using both primary and secondary sources, this research aims to construct a well-rounded analysis of Rita Baro's novels and their socio-cultural implications.

### **1.9 Hypothesis:**

The hypothesis serves as a tentative prediction or assumption regarding the research study, outlining the core themes and areas of analysis that are explored in the thesis. It offers a philosophical framework to understand the underlying factors at play in Rita Baro's novels and provides a clear direction for the research.

(i) This research aims to analyse the construction of plots, characterization, dialogues, and themes in Rita Baro's novels. It is exploring various aspects of human life as depicted in her work, including attitudes toward society, the role of women, and the spirit of nationalism. Each of these elements is critically examined to understand their significance within the novels and the broader social context.

(ii) The study also delved into the social, cultural, economic, political, historical, and religious themes embedded in Rita Baro's novels. These aspects are central to the narrative, as Baro's works often reflect the social realities and conditions of Bodo society. Through an examination of these themes, the research has shed light on how these elements influence and shape the narrative and character development in the novels.

(iii) The research is further highlight the distinctive art of writing and language in Rita Baro's novels, focusing on her unique literary contributions. Attention has given to the language used in her work, including the integration of dialects and influences from other languages such as Assamese. By analysing the variations in language, speech, and

their impact on the stories, this study aims to uncover the nuances of Baro's creative techniques and her ability to weave together multiple linguistic influences within the fiction.

### **1.10 Life and Works of Rita Baro:**

Rita Baro is a prominent figure in Bodo literature, renowned for her profound contributions and creative works. Her life and writings have become pivotal subjects of study, offering a rich needlepoint of themes and ideas that captivate both researchers and scholars. Baro's literary creations stand out for their uniqueness and the fresh perspectives they bring to Bodo literature. Her works often delve into themes that are deeply rooted in cultural heritage yet resonate universally, making them a valuable focus for academic exploration. Her significant contributions to Bodo literature can be classified into several key aspects.

#### **1.10.1 Rita Baro's Childhood Period:**

Dr. Rita Baro, born on August 28, 1975, in Sastrapara Bathabari, in the undivided Darrang district of Assam, is a prominent figure in Bodo literature and academia. Her parents, Mela Ram Baro and Showki Baro, belonged to a humble farming family that relied on agriculture for their livelihood. Despite these modest beginnings, Rita Baro displayed a strong inclination towards education from a young age. Formal education became a cornerstone in her life, shaping her worldview and aspirations.

Rita Baro's early enthusiasm for learning highlights her proactive engagement with knowledge and intellectual pursuits. This passion was likely influenced by her family's values and the communal emphasis on education, despite the limited access to formal schooling in rural areas. Her dedication not only reflects her personal ambition but also underscores the transformative power of education in overcoming societal and economic barriers.

It is noteworthy that, during a time when modern conveniences and opportunities were not as accessible, Rita Baro pursued the goals with unwavering determination. While academically accomplished, she remained deeply connected to her roots, balancing in societal responsibilities with her family's needs. Remarkably,

Rita Baro actively participated in traditional agricultural work, such as paddy farming, a role often undertaken by Bodo women. These experiences shaped her resilience and grounded her literary works in rural life's realities, reflecting to personal challenges and dedication to her community.

### **1.10.2 Marriage Life:**

Rita Baro married with Arun Chandra Baro, whose birthplace is situated at Ulubari in Khairabari, district of Udalguri. Her husband Arun Chandra Baro worked as Junior Engineer (C), Directorate of Municipal Administration Assam Guwahati -06, and was joined on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2001. Rita Baro has both a son and a daughter. The name of the son is Rangjalu and the name of the daughter Araicha. From the reliable information, it is known that Rita Baro's husband is a very helpful person with potential cooperation in Rita Baro's progress. The husband was concerned about Rita Baro's interest in matters relating to creative literature. While in a different place, commenced various seminars, workshops, counseling, and academic-related courses, there was not less participation from Rita Boro. As a resource person, paper presenter, and participant, there can be seen a progressing initiative in life. Any kind of opportunity the husband was inculcating to the success of the author's dreams. At present, the author's permanent residence is in Tangla, Jalukbari Ward No. 02, P.O. Tangla, Dist. Udalguri (BTR), Assam. It is 30 kilometers from the Udalguri district headquarters. Tangla is a mini-town and the most popular place in the Udalguri district. The author's residence is within Tongla town. The Satrapara village there is five kilometer distance from Tongla town.

### **1.10.3 Education:**

Rita Baro's academic journey began with primary education at Sastrapara Bathabari LP School in 1985, followed by middle school at Murmela M.E. School in 1988. Rita Boro's father, being a cultivator of dreams for higher education achievement, was in such a hard position at the time. But any problems were not surviving at that time, and academic seriousness became an important matter in their family. That thoughtful interest prompted Rita Baros to develop her education career. Rita Baro was a student, yet she was a very helpful girl for their family if needed for various purposes like agricultural work in the paddy field, cooking, weaving, collecting

vegetables, etc. These are sincerely maintained by Rita Baro's. The author passed the HSLC examination from Tangla Girls High School in 1991 and her H.S. examination in 1993 from Tangla College.

Continuing for education, Dr. Rita Baro obtained the B.A. degree with Assamese major in 1996 and went on to complete the M.A. in the Assamese department at Gauhati University in 2000. The author further pursued an M.A. in the Bodo Department at Gauhati University's Kokrajhar Campus in 2003. One of the most prestigious Ph.D. award achieved the topic on "*Boro Natyasahityat Nari Charitra: Eti Vislesanatmak Adhyayan,*" Gauhati University in faculty of Arts (MIL) 2010. The research work was completed under the supervision of Professor Dr. Anil Kumar Boro, Folklore department of Gauhati University.

Apart from the academic pursuits, Dr. Rita Baro has made significant contributions to Bodo literature through the scholarly work and writings. Baros research interests likely encompass various aspects of Bodo language, literature, and culture, that is reflecting with deep commitment to the promotion and study of Bodo identity and heritage.

#### **1.10.4 Service Life:**

Dr. Rita Baro currently serves as an Associate Professor at in the Department of Bodo at Tangla College, district Udalguri BTR Assam. Before, the joining as a college teacher Rita Baro was working as a supervisor of Mallika School under the District Primary Education Program in 1997. After that she was working as an assistant teacher at Lombudhar High School, Tangla in 1998 for two years. Again one after with two years gap Rita Baro was joined another school is Murmela High School from 1999 to 2000 for two years. Rita Baro continue process of service life often came a dynamic change to better position look at the same. While Rita Baro completed her post-graduation degree then came in better position in life and that is invite her to new opportunities to higher job. In this way Rita Baro propounded better opportunity in service life. After an M.A. Rita Baro worked as College teacher in the non-sanction post in the Bodo department at Tangla College, Tangla 2001. In the same position Rita Baro's service regularized in 2006 and appointed as assistant professor. Till today Rita Baro serve as associate professor in Bodo Department in the same college.

### **1.10.5 Literary Contribution of Rita Baro:**

At present, Rita Baro is a renowned writer in Bodo literature, contributing to different fields of creative literature. In this regard, Rita Baro has completed different creative books, articles, etc. The creative sources are poems, short stories, novels, and dramas already published by the author. On the other hand, prose, child literature, translation literature, and articles in different magazines had been contributed by the author. These outstanding initiatives of the author should be exposed in this study.

#### **1.10.5.1 Contribution in Fiction:**

Rita Baro is a well-known novelist in Bodo literature, having published five novels to date: “*Gongse Okhrangni Singao*” (2002), “*Thwisam*” (2014), “*Saikhong*” (2016), “*Bachiram Jhwlwao*” (2017), and “*Swmaosarnani Orgeng*” (2019). She has also translated a novel, “*Aoama Sobnai Fwtharao Maniki Madhuri*” (2013), and most recently, “*Lwithw Ruguangao Bi Arw Ang*” (2023).

Her novel “*Thwisam*” won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award in 2017, a testament to the courage and creativity of the author. This award reflects not only her literary skill but also the depth of her knowledge and understanding of Bodo society. Dr. Baro's work stands out for its originality, insightful perspective, and rich portrayal of cultural and societal nuances.

As a novelist, Baro's contributions to Bodo literature go beyond mere storytelling they showcase her profound connection to her community and a deep commitment to exploring the complexities of human experience through fiction. Her achievements as a novelist highlight the significance of literature in shaping and reflecting societal values.

##### **1.10.5.1.1 Overview of Gongse Okhrangni Singao:**

Rita Baro's “*Gongse Okhrangni Singao*” is a poignant social novel, with the central theme focused on the complexities of social phenomena. The novel is primarily driven by a female protagonist, and it encapsulates various facets of social life, including personal struggles, familial conflict, and societal expectations. The plot addresses serious issues with a deep sense of realism, allowing readers to feel the impact of the events on the characters' lives. As *Kalyannath Dutta* aptly noted, the

novel “*It deals with certain events and situations and episodes. Something happens, or is done, some tragedy or comedy take place, someone struggles, suffers, succeeds, survive, or does.*”<sup>16</sup> The story features a wide range of characters, all contributing to the narrative’s social context. The protagonist, Fwisali, is an orphan girl who faces constant mistreatment by her adoptive parents, Khwrwmdao and Nichibala. Despite her straightforward, simple, and ambitious nature, Fwisali’s desires and needs are ignored, leading to tension and eventual tragedy. The central familial conflict portrays the emotional struggles of the protagonist, whose aspirations are disregarded by her parents.

Through Fwisali’s character, Baro portrays a powerful social commentary, reflecting the traditions and struggles within Bodo society. Activities like traditional cooking, weaving, vegetable collection, and religious worship are skillfully woven into the narrative, showcasing the culture and customs of the community. The novel’s artistic writing stands out due to the effective use of literary devices. Rita Baro employs similes, metaphors, imagery, onomatopoeia, and irony to enhance the emotional depth of the story. These elements of creative writing highlight Baro’s mastery of language and her ability to craft a compelling narrative that resonates with readers.

#### **1.10.5.1.2 Overview of Thwisam:**

“*Thwisam*” is another significant social novel by Rita Baro, focusing on the life conditions of women in Bodo society. The central character, Thelab, is a widow woman whose life is shaped by the struggles following the tragic death of her husband, who was involved in the Bodoland movement. Thelab's journey highlights the burdens of widowhood, especially in the context of the social and political upheaval of the time. Despite these hardships, Thelab maintains a strong social standing and works tirelessly to build an academic career for her son, Ansai. However, Ansai ultimately fails to live up to his mother’s expectations, a narrative that underscores the challenges faced by women and the unpredictability of life.

The novel offers a powerful lesson for future generations, particularly through its exploration of Thelab's resilience. Through *Thelab’s* character, Boro examines the

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<sup>16</sup> Dutta, kalyanath. *Some Aspects of the Study of Literature*. Sribhumi, Publishing Company 79, Mahatma Gandhi, Road, Calcutta- 09. 1967. p. Sec-1-5

complex role of women in society and their inner strength in the face of adversity. Thelab symbolizes simplicity and perseverance, and her character serves as a mirror reflecting the broader societal dynamics.

The plot of “*Thwisam*” is both simple and layered, capturing the intertwining of personal lives with the larger socio-political, cultural, economic, and religious events of the time. Thelab’s journey, alongside other characters’ experiences, highlights the social and political challenges that shape the narrative. It is defined “*The plot of a novel may be simple or compound i.e. it may be composed of one story or of more than one story running together.*”<sup>17</sup> In “*Thwisam*” novel, throughout the characters of Thelab’s her role and initiative performance show the social, cultural, economic, political, historical, and religious events in the story. At the same rhythms, other characters are showing different actions and situations; all are similar factors that happen in the fictional outcomes.

The novel’s artistic writing style is another noteworthy aspect. Rita Boro uses literary devices such as metaphor, simile, rhetoric, irony, and vivid imagery to enhance the depth of the story. These techniques not only make the narrative compelling but also draw readers into the emotional and societal themes that are explored in “*Thwisam.*”

### **1.10.5.1.3 Overview of Saikhong:**

“*Saikhong*” is one of the most significant novels in Rita Baro's body of work, standing out as a pivotal contribution to Bodo literature. The novel highlights the social dynamics within the Bodo community, with a particular focus on the life and struggles of Padma, the daughter-in-law of Dayananda Patgiri. Padma is depicted as a simple, kind-hearted, and capable woman, reflecting the idealized role of women in traditional families.

The story is set during British colonial rule, a period that significantly influenced the Kachari people, who are historically referred to as Bodos. *Dayananda Patgiri*, a Mouzadara (revenue officer) in the Thwijapur area, represents the social standing of the Bodo community during this time. The impact of British colonialism on the Bodo people is a key theme, with characters such as the British officials Sydney Endle and J.D. Anderson playing pivotal roles in the narrative. These British figures

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<sup>17</sup>Tilak, Raghukul. *Literary Forms Trends and Movements*. Rama Brothers New Delhi 05. 1999. p. 114

are portrayed as engaged with the Bodo community, particularly through their interest in studying the Bodo language and culture. This interaction marks a turning point in the community's history, as the British presence led to both positive and negative consequences, including the development of Bodo literature and a shift in societal dynamics.

Rita Baro weaves a complex narrative that examines how colonialism shaped the Bodo community, blending historical, cultural, social, and political themes. The integration of British characters in the plot reflects a critical period in Bodo society, where both external influence and internal struggles converge. As Socrates once said, "*The life which is unexamined is not worth living,*"<sup>18</sup> and through "*Saikhong,*" Boro compels readers to critically examine the social and cultural fabric of the Bodo community, reflecting on the forces that have shaped their identity.

The novel's artistic style is equally notable. Rita Baro employs a rich use of language, incorporating figurative speech such as similes, metaphors, rhymes, imagery, onomatopoeia, and irony to enhance the storytelling. Additionally, the author's skilful use of linguistic variation and dialects adds authenticity to the characters' voices and the cultural setting of the narrative, making it an important subject for linguistic analysis in this research.

#### **1.10.5.1.4 Overview of Bachiram Jwhwlao:**

The "*Bachiram Jwhwlao*" novel, published in 2017, highlights the legendary hero *Bachiram*, the chief infantry of the Kachari Kingdom. The term "*Jwhwlao*" translates to "hero," making "*Bachiram Jwhwlao*" synonymous with *Bachiram the Hero*." The central theme revolves around historical events, particularly the conflict between the Bodo people and the Bhutanese. Legendary Hero Degh says, "*the reason for telling a legend is basically not to entertain but to educate people, to inform them about an important fact, to arm them against danger within their cultural environment.*" Therefore, as Mathias Zeder expresses it, "*understanding of the legend is possible if one views it through the general living conditions, beliefs and ideology of culture*"<sup>19</sup> This perspective resonates deeply with the story of *Bachiram*, who symbolizes bravery, loyalty, and the defence of cultural identity Set against the reign of king Devthairwn in

<sup>18</sup> Sanunke, Vilas. *Basics of Literary Criticism*. Diamond Publications, Mumbai. 2010. p. 1

<sup>19</sup> Boro, Anil. *Folk Literature of the Bodos*. N. L. Publications, Panbazar Guwahati-01. 2001. p. 165

the Kachari Kingdom, the narrative unfolds in Bhuirobkundo, a place of natural beauty that housed the King's palace. The story portrays the Bhutanese royal army's attempts to seize control, leading to conflict with the Bodo people. Bachiram emerges as the protector, ultimately defeating the Bhutanese and ensuring his people's safety. His actions exemplify legendary heroism and carry significant historical importance.

The novel delves into various aspects of social, cultural, economic, political, historical, and religious life, providing a comprehensive view of the Bodo community's struggles and resilience. The King's focus on safeguarding his people's identity and property is a recurring theme. Moreover, the author's use of literary devices such as metaphors, similes, and imagery enriches the narrative, making it a compelling and instructive read. These elements should be analysed in detail to fully appreciate the novel's artistic and historical significance.

#### **1.10.5.1.5 Overview of Swmaosarnaini Organg:**

Published in 2020, "*Swmaosarnaini Organg*" is a significant novel by Rita Baro that explores the political and historical backdrop of the Bodoland movement. The novel portrays the struggles, negotiations, and conflicts that shaped the movement, involving Bodo organizations, leaders, and the common people. This historical depth aligns with Sir Walter Scott is the creator of the Historical novel<sup>20</sup>. The story centres around Angli, the protagonist, whose journey unfolds from her childhood. Angli's early life reflects the challenges of inadequate school infrastructure and poor transportation in the Bodo community. Despite these obstacles, her determination remains unwavering. Her parents, Mwnbaru and Saoli, initially hesitant, take on the responsibility of her education, which becomes a transformative factor for Angli's life. Angli's name later changes to Anita as she transitions to another school and continues her academic progress into college.

The narrative shifts as the Bodoland statehood demand gains momentum, deeply influencing Anita's perspective and actions. Through Anita's role as an all-rounder engaging in activities like cooking, weaving, and fishing the novel highlights the socio-cultural and economic dimensions of Bodo society in the story. Anita's character becomes a symbolic representation of resilience and adaptability within a turbulent historical context.

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<sup>20</sup> Tilak, Raghukul. *Literary Forms Trends and Movements*. Rama Brothers, New Delhi 05.1999. p. 120

The central theme of the novel revolves around political and historical events, providing a lens into the Bodoland movement's impact on individual and collective lives. Rita Baro's artful storytelling employs diverse linguistic techniques, including situational dialogues and ornamental language, effectively capturing readers' attention. These elements warrant detailed analysis in this research study to uncover the novel's artistic and cultural significance.

#### **1.10.5.2 Contribution in Poem:**

Rita Baro, beyond her accomplishments as a novelist, has shown a deep interest in poetry. She has authored several poetic works and contributed to various magazines within the realm of Bodo literature. Her notable poetry collections include:

“*Gwdan Lathikho*” (The Modern is Empty) - 2004

“*Nwng Jwngni Gamijwng Fwiywbla*” (When you Visit Through My Village) – 2013

#### **1.10.5.3 Contribution in Short Story:**

Rita Baro has also made notable contributions in the realm of short stories. One of her significant works, *Mwndangthi* (2002), is a social story that delves into various aspects of social life. The narrative captures the essence of different social milieus, providing a deep insight into the social status and the complexities of life within these communities. Through this short story, Rita Baro interprets and reflects the social realities of her time.

#### **1.10.5.4 Contribution in Prose Fiction and Article:**

Rita Baro has not only excelled in creative writing but also made significant contributions to prose fiction in Bodo literature. Among her works in prose, she has published books that collect articles on various subjects. These include “*Swbkhonai Arw Dai*” (The Crime and Corruption) (2018), a collection of articles addressing issues like crime and corruption, and “*Nwjwr Arw Saoraitai*” (The Perspective of Criticism) (2019), which offers critical insights into various social topics. Some of the articles in these collections are also relevant to academic study. Through these works, Rita Baro provides valuable perspectives on the challenges faced by individuals and society, highlighting her intellectual engagement with human rights and social issues.

### 1.10.5.5 Contribution in Biography:

"*Gamibwrai Galong Kochari Sungdo Jiu Khworang*" 2017 is one of Rita Baro's notable literary contributions. As a multifaceted writer in Bodo literature, Rita Baro compiled this bibliography book, which highlights her work and influence.

### 1.10.5.6 Contribution in Translation:

Rita Baro works in the field of translation literature has been successfully culminated the composed of translation books respectively "নাৰীৰ অধিকাৰ এখন আদি পাঠ"<sup>21</sup> by Tapani Baruah Kyashob (Assamese Book), translated by Rita Baro as "आइजोनि मोन्थाय गांसे गिबि फरा"<sup>22</sup> to Boro language. Another contribution of Rita Baro in translation literature can be add in the list that book is "মোৱাধৰা পথাৰৰ মানিকী-মধুৰি"<sup>23</sup> by Arupa Patangia Kalita, translated as "आवामा सोबनाय फोथाराव जोसा मायनाव"<sup>24</sup> in 2008. "*Bhutsudi Kriyani Darwi Suthini Jowgasarnai 2023*" (translation) is an important development in Bodo literature. Many writers and authors are engaged in translation work. In this context, Rita Boros has shown a particular interest in translating literature.

### 1.10.5.7 Social Work:

Rita Baro has made significant contributions not only to Bodo literature but also to society, dedicating herself to various leadership roles in Bodo organizations. Her involvement spans several key positions within the All Bodo Women Welfare Federation (ABWWF) and other prominent social organizations. Some of her notable leadership roles include:

1. General Secretary, Tangla Ancholic Committee, ABWWF (1992-1994)
2. Vice President, Tangla Ancholic Committee, ABWWF (1994-1996)
3. Literary Secretary, Darrang District Committee, ABWWF (2000-2002)
4. General Secretary, Udalguri District Committee, ABWWF (2001-2006)
5. General Secretary, ABWWF (2006-2010)

<sup>21</sup> Baruah Kyshab, Tapani. *Narir Adhikar Akhon Adi path*.

<sup>22</sup> Baro, Rita. *Aijwni Mwnthai Gongse gibi phora*. 2013

<sup>23</sup> Kalita, Arupa Patangi. *Moya Dhara Patharor Manaki Madhur*. 2008.

<sup>24</sup> Baro, Rita. *Aoama Swbnai Phwtharao Jwsa Maibra*. 2008.

6. Vice President, ABWWF (2012-2014)

7. Member, Sahitya Akademi Boro Advisory Board (2008-2012)

Rita Baro's work as a leader in ABWWF, along with her role as a college teacher, reflects her commitment to the social and cultural development of the Bodo community. Her leadership has been instrumental in driving initiatives that foster social welfare and empowerment. Her efforts have earned her recognition, culminating in prestigious awards such as the Mongal Sandhi Brahma Literary Award (2016) and the Pramod Chandra Brahma Literary Award (2018), further acknowledging her contribution to literature and society.

Her life story is one of dedication, courage, and a deep sense of responsibility, making her a remarkable figure in both the literary and social spheres.