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CERTIFICATE OF THE SUPERVISOR

This is to certify that the thesis entitled **ETHNICITY AND SOCIAL ISSUES AS REPRESENTED IN SOME SELECTED BODO NOVELS** submitted to the Bodoland University in the Department of the Bodo, under the faculty of Languages, for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy is the bonafide record of the research work carried out by Nihirbili Lahary under my supervision. The thesis has not been submitted in any other University or institute for the award of any degree or diploma.

I am pleased to forward the thesis to the Bodoland University for its evaluation by the concerned examiners.

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DECLARATION

I, Nihirbili Lahary, hereby declare that the subject matter of this thesis is the original record of research work done by me and the contents of the thesis has not been in any form to the best of my knowledge submitted for the award of any previous degree to any institution or university. This thesis is being submitted to the Bodoland University, Kokrajhar for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Bodo under the faculty of Languages.

Date:

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PREFACE

The title of the topic selected for doing the research work is **“A Study of Ethnicity and Social Issues as Represented in some Selected Bodo novels.”** In the contemporary times, the study of Ethnicity and Social Issues has become a major passion of Anthropology, Sociology and other branches of Social Sciences and Art and Humanities. The concept of ethnicity is linked with the concept of identity as well as with aspects of culture. The Bodos is a distinct Ethnic group with distinct language and culture. It becomes important to study their ethnicity and social issues. They have a distinct culture, tradition, religion, customs, language, folk literature etc. which have been passed onto them from their ancestors from one generation to the next and which are a major part of their Ethnicity.

Social issues are the hindrances that usually influence the common people of a society. Literature is a way and a path of a society by which the issues prevalent in it can be understood and paves the way for solving them. It is the mirror of a community which reflects all the feelings, thoughts, emotions, happiness, sorrow, habitual activities, clothing, success, loss, faith, language and religion.

It is based upon both primary and secondary data and the Analytical methodology has been used to study it. This study is highly demanded for academic purposes and at the same time is of great value to literature, cultural, anthropology, sociology and humanities studies. This study explores the Ethnicity, Social Issues and Social Reality of the Bodo society as well as Artistic Style and Devices of the writers.

This thesis consists of five chapters including introduction and conclusion. In the Chapter- I it attempts to study about the Bodo literature, Bodo novels and its trends, Reviews of literature, Problem statement, Aims and Objectives, Area of study, Data collection, Methodology and Hypothesis.

In the Chapter - II, the study deals with the representation of Ethnicity in the selected Bodo novels. The concepts of Ethnicity, its perspective and Folk culture are discussed here. In this chapter Folk Culture is discussed into different categories like Family Life, Agricultural practices, Hunting and Fishing, Weaving, Food Habits, Live-stock and Poultry farming, Hospitality, Community Work, Traditional games. Besides these categories Religious traditions,

Customs, Rites de Passage, Folk festivals, Folk belief, Superstitious beliefs, Folk element are also discussed in this chapter.

The Third Chapter deals with the discussion of Social Issues with sociological view point as represented in the selected novels. The different issues of the society like identity crisis, communal conflicts, suppression and violence against women, witch-hunting, crisis of young generation and Identity movement are discussed.

The Fourth Chapter attempts to discuss the Social reality of the Bodo society through plot construction and characterization as reflected in the selected Bodo novels.

The Fifth Chapter is the concluding remarks including the outcomes of the whole research work which are analyzed in the previous chapters.

Date:

Nihirbili Lahary