

PREFACE

0.01 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Bodos are one of the earliest inhabitants of Assam. They have distinct language and culture. Racially Bodos are Mongolian. Thus, their culture is a part of Mongolian culture. Traditionally Bodos are dweller of village and agriculturalist. The main basis of their economy is agriculture. They have their own religion, social folk-customs and beliefs. Besides, they have their own costume, food habits and traditional knowledge system.

As the Bodos are tribal, it is observed that modern forces have been actively moulding their way of living. Thus, changes may be visualized both in material and in non-material culture. With the emergence of 19th century, changes in social outlook of the Bodos can be visualized. Nowadays, some of new generations prefer small family instead of traditional family structure. Most of the new generations like to have modern houses in place of their traditional housing pattern. Nowadays, some of the new generation irrespective of male and female prefer to wear machine made cloths. It is observed that besides their traditional marriage system, some modern marriage system has been developed and practiced in Bodo society; such as court marriage, church marriage, temple marriage and love marriage. Moreover, marriage ceremony is decorated with modern materials like - balloons, thermo cols and lighting system, which are brought from the market. Besides that, nowadays, band party is widely used in marriage ceremony to receive and amuse the gusts. It is observed that many new items have been added to Bodo traditional diet.

Livelihood and way of living of the Bodos are changing due to impact of modernity. Earlier Bodos produced crops only for domestic and community consumption. However, nowadays, they also produce crops both for family consumption and for marketing. In addition, earlier they reared both poultry and domestic animals only for family and community consumption. But, nowadays, they rear poultry and animal husbandry both for family consumption as well as commercial purpose. Now, crops, poultry and domestic animals are their main source of cash income. Modernity has created new occupations and urban living people. Nowadays, some of the present generations irrespective of male and female do job to earn money besides their agricultural work. In addition to agriculture, some of the new generation irrespective of male and female do business and contract work to earn money. Nevertheless, some has accepted business or contract work as main basis

of income as well as livelihood. Apart from that, some of the new generation engaged in different wage earning jobs like- Rickshaw puller, driver, daily labour etc. at local town for their livelihood.

According to many critics of this language, the contemporary society and its transition are reflected in short stories to a great extent. A close analysis of the selected short stories will ascertain how much the Bodo society and culture is changing in course of time due to impact of modernity. Analysis of selected short stories will give a clue to perceive an idea about the impact of modernity on Bodo culture and society; and this is the basis of this study.

0.02 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Literature mirrors a society. Literature tries to present an extensive glimpse of the social life of human being or any place and natural context. Literature is based on some essential experience. Literature mirrors the thought and the spirit of the age. Literature includes everything of man. Human society is changeable. Changes occur at various levels of the society. The way of living of the social group or a speech community becomes variable and wavering due to impact of emerging modern context, which is accepted as the fundamental factor of social changes. It is observed that due to impact of modernity, the traditional Bodo culture and society is changing in due course of time. Changes have been visualized both in material and in non-material culture. Traditional customs, philosophy, livelihood and way of living of the Bodos are changing gradually.

Thus, the study aims to investigate and highlight about the impact of modernity on Bodo culture and society. The study desires to bring into light that how far extent modernity has impacted on various aspects of Bodo culture as well as how far extent the social and cultural transition has taken place due to impact of modernity. Further, the study aims to bring into light the impulsion cause and effect relationship of modernity on society and culture, which is extant in literary writing, especially in the selected short stories. This is the key aim of the topic that has been taken into consideration for analysis.

0.03 AREA OF THE STUDY

The study is confined within the statement of research, which aims to focus the impact of modernity on Bodo culture as reflected in short stories of Bodo Literature. Some selected short stories of talented storytellers are taken into consideration as required data for the

present study. Especially the short stories of Ishan Chandra Mushahary, Prasenjit Brahma, Chittaranjan Mushahary, Nilkamal Brahma, Monoranjan Lahary, Haribhusan Brahma, Nandeswar Daimary, Gobindo Basumatary, Janil Kr. Brahma and Zumaidala Basumatary are taken for analysis. Since the 40s decade of 20th century the Bodo short story has been flourishing with a literary flavor in which social life has been reflected to a great extent. Thus, special emphasis is given on socio-cultural and socio-economic aspects of the Bodos. The tremendous impact of modernity, which has influential role in inspiring the society towards the transition, has been analyzed from a sociological and cultural viewpoint.

0.04 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Literature is the most vital element in our social heritage. Literature is not of one age but of all ages, not of one country but of all countries. Literature is a vast treasury of ideas, experience and wisdom, from which people can collect require materials for building up of his or her intellectual and moral knowledge. Short story is immensely popular in every country in present-day literary history. Irrespective of age, the short story get close attachment for which this is the most popular means of entertainment nowadays. The modern short story writers are like an artist; and they are close observer of life and society. Literature flourishes up directly out of human life and society.

This is important to note that Bodo literature has recognized as one of the Indian literatures. It has gain a status in the context of literary discipline. From this light literary text may be taken into account for critical discussion from multifarious aspects. Being a means of expression of human behavior or society as a whole, the Bodo literature is also able to visualize many more things of the society and the culture. Critics of Bodo literature are of the opinion that the fictional writing in Bodo literature has thrived on wide diversity of themes drawn from the reality of life. The world of Bodo short story is the world where the social reality predominates over fantasy and imagination. It may be observed that many of the short stories are written based on new middle class society where influence of modernity on culture and social life may easily be noticed. Besides, changing of the culture and society may be observed largely. According to critics, Nilkamal Brahma was the first serious writer of fiction to write stories on the ethnic uprising of the Bodos and its impact on social and individual live of the people. Critics also observed that the short story writers like- Nandeswar Daimary, Gobinda Basumatary and Z. D. Basumatary focus on

the new middle class and their pride and frivolity. The middle class includes officials, clerks, teachers, doctors, engineers and the new business class like the contractors. Besides, successful stories on the eventful days of the Bodo movement have written by the writers like Nandeswar Daimary, Gobinda Basumatary and Z. D. Basumatary.

It is observed that prior to this research work, no research scholars undertook any attempt to investigate and focus about the impact of modernity on Bodo culture and society, especially based on Bodo short stories. In addition, so far, no scholar undertook any research work on the topic. Therefore, the topic namely 'Impact of modernity on Bodo culture as reflected in Bodo short stories' is undertaken to investigate and to bring out how modernity has impacted on Bodo culture, and how far extent the traditional Bodo culture and society is changing due to influence of modernity in due course of time. The study has a relation with Sociology of literature. Thus, the topic may be analyzed from sociological and cultural point of view. Literature reflects human society and culture. Sociology of literature studies literature for understanding human society. Thus, the study may help the readers and scholars in studying the contemporary Bodo society and culture, from the viewpoint of sociological and cultural studies. Apart from that, the study may pave integration in society since a person or society or community cannot live in isolation and exclusion. Thus, to speak fairly the study has a sociological and literary significance besides its academic importance.

0.05 HYPOTHESIS

Though literature is a creative art form, it is the visualization of human life what they have experienced of it and what they have thought and felt about those aspects of life. Literature reflects the realistic picture of human life and human society and that is the immediate and enduring interest for all of us. Literature is concerned about man's social world, about his adaptation to it and about his desire to change it. The main hypothesis of the study is - society and culture of the Bodos is changing slowly due to impact of modernity. The livelihood of the Bodos is changing slowly. Also it is assumed that the changes in various cultural aspects e.g. socio-cultural and socio-economic lead the traditional way of living to modern way of living. It is assumed that changes of society and culture are reflected in the selected short stories.

0.06 METHODOLOGY

The proposed study depends on literary texts. Library works has been done for collection of data; and many of the data have been gathered from anthology of short stories. For organizing the research, approaches like sociological and cultural studies have been used from theoretical perspective, as the study is related with sociology of literature. Based on storytelling and characterization of some selected short stories, the research topic has been analyzed from the perspective of sociological and cultural studies. Apart from that, short story writers and literary critics are formally interviewed to know the social attitude and responses on the short stories as well as modernity impact on Bodo culture as a whole; and their responses are analyzed. Moreover, published books and articles related to the study are used as secondary data for supporting the analysis. Thus, footnotes, references and bibliography are arranged based on the MLA Referencing style.

0.07 SCHEME OF CHAPTERS

The proposed study has been divided into five interrelated chapters for detail analysis.

In first chapter based on secondary data, attempt has been made to throw light on generic term 'Bodo', historical background of the Bodo, origin of the Bodo, migration of the Bodo and about Bodo concentrated areas. Apart from that based on secondary data as well as based on data collected from fieldwork light is thrown on historical development of Bodo short story.

In the second chapter, it has been discussed about theoretical perspective of modernity and changes occurred in social and cultural life as well as about transition of the Bodo society.

In the third chapter, based on chosen short stories the impact of modernity on socio-cultural aspects as well as transition of Bodo society have been analyzed from the perspective of sociological and cultural studies. Changes occurred in different aspects of social and cultural lives as well as transition of society have been analyzed from a critical viewpoint.

In the fourth chapter, based on chosen short stories the impact of modernity on socio-economic aspects and changes occurred on livelihood have been analyzed from the perspective of sociological and cultural studies. The changes occurred in different aspects of socio - economic as well as on livelihood have been analyzed from a critical viewpoint.

In the fifth chapter, taking the previous discussion into account the study is drawn to logical conclusion.

0.08 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Review of literature is an important part of the scientific research. This is helpful for searching of preliminary problem and hypothetical statement on the chosen topic. The researcher is always in anxiety of searching related literatures and for investigation of source of data for designing the research methodically.

Some renowned Bodo literary historians as well as critics namely Manoranjan Lahary, Madhuram Boro, Riju Kumar Brahma, Anil Kumar Boro, Rakhao Basumatary, Phukan Ch. Basumatary and Swarna Prabha Chainary have given some information and brief analysis on Bodo short stories.

Eminent writer Madhuram Boro in his book entitled '*The History of Bodo Literature*' has observed about the themes, characters and social picture of the some short stories. In the book called '*Boro Thunlaini Jarimin*' (History of Boro Literature, 2008), Monoranjan Lahary, a renowned writer and critic of Bodo literature has highlighted observations on the stories of some renowned story writers namely NilKamal Brahma, Haribhusan Brahma, Nandeswar Daimary, Katindra Swargayary and so on. Phukan Ch. Basumatary and Swarna Prabha Chinary have highlighted their observation and analysis about the themes, trend, character and social picture in a book called '*Monograph of the Boros*' (2017) with reference to the short stories of some renowned writers. About the trends, themes, plots, characters and social pictures of the Bodo short stories, Anil Kumar Boro, a renowned writer and critic has written his observation and analysis in the book called '*A History of Bodo Literature*' (2012). In the book, he has highlighted his observation about some talented short story writers. Rakhao Basumatary has written a history of Bodo short stories called '*Boro Sungdo Soloni Jarimin*' (2013). In his book, he has given a chronology of Bodo short story writers with the stories as well as story collections. Besides, Basumatary has highlighted his observation on the themes, characters and social pictures related to the short stories of some talented short story writers. In his book, namely '*Boro Thunlaini Mohor*' (2004), Dharanidhar Wary, a renowned writer as well as critic of the Bodo literature has written an essay on Bodo short stories. In his essay namely '*Boro Sungdo Solo*' (Boro short story), Wary has highlighted about the theme, social picture, plot construction, characterization and trends of the Bodo short stories. Mongal Sing

Hazowary, a renowned writer as well as critic has written about the theme, social picture, character and about the developing trends of the Bodo short stories in his article called '*Sungdo Solo: Boro Thunlaido Sungdo Solo*' (Short Story: Short Story in Bodo Literature). The article is included in his book known as '*Jothai Bidang*' (1996).

Apart from that, in one of his essays called '*Dwngse Boro Sungdo Soloni Style Arw Akhu*' (Style and Character of a Bodo Short Story) Brojendra Kumar Brahma, a renowned writer as well as critic, discussed about the theme and style of Bodo short story, especially with reference to the short story of Prasenjit Brahma. The essay is included in his book namely '*Nwjwr Arw Swrji*' (1994). In his essay entitled '*Abari: Bodoni Gibi Sungdo Solo*' (Abari: The first Short Story of the Bodos) Brojendra Kumar Brahma has discussed regarding the techniques of a short story in general and regarding the theme and style of 'Abari' in particular. The article is incorporated in his book '*Thunlai Arw Thunlai*' (2004). Guneswar Mushary, a writer and critic, has written regarding the theme, character and social picture of the Bodo short stories in his article namely '*Boro Sungdo Solo Arw Soloma*' (Boro Short Story and Novel) which is included in '*Laithun*' (1994). Hareswar Basumatary in his article called '*Sungdo Solo: Boro Sungdo Soloni Phari Daoga*' has discussed about the theme and developing trends of the Bodo short stories, which is included in a book '*Jariminni Nwjwrao Boro Thunlai*' (A History of Bodo Literature, 1988). Swarna Prabha Chainary has written an article about the short stories of Monoranjan Lahary. In her article called '*Monoranjan Laharyni Sungdo Solo*' (Short Story of Monoranjan Lahary), she has discussed about the plot, character and social picture the short stories of Monoranjan Lahary. In his article called '*Boro Sungdo Soloni Sayao Mwnse Saoraini*' (An Analysis of Bodo short Story) Adaram Basumatary, a young writer as well as critic has discussed about the theme, social picture and style of Bodo short stories. He has written some article with reference to the short stories of some selective writers. Basumatary's article incorporated in a book called '*Fwrwnglai*' (2005). Anil Boro's '*Gwdan Boro Thunlai*' (2003), '*Boro Thunlai Arw Harimu*' (2004), '*Serja Sifung*' (2004), '*Folk Literature of the Bodos*' (2010), Indramalati Narzaree's '*Boro Harimu Arw Thunlai Bijirnai*' (2005), Brajendra Kumar Brahma's '*Thunlai Baidi Baidi*' (2009), M.R. Lahary's '*Nojor*' (1992) and Indramalati Narzaree and Birlang Narzary's (ed.) '*Laisini Bikhayao Indramaliti*' (2008) all discuss beautifully about Bodo society, culture and literature.

For understanding the literary theory, some related published materials are reviewed. Books like- '*An Introduction to the studies of literature*' of William Henry Hudson, '*Literary Criticism A Reading*' (1999) by B. Das and J.M. Mohanty; '*A Dictionary of Literary Terms*' (1986) by J.A. Cuddon; '*New Criticism*' (2000) By Naresh Chandra; '*A Primer of Literary Criticism*' (2001) by G.E. Hollingworth all helps me in understanding some related literary terms. Besides, books like- '*A Glossary of Literary Terms*' (1993) by M.H. Abrams, '*A Dictionary of Modern Critical Terms*' (2008) edited by Roger Fowler; '*A Dictionary of literary Terms*' (2008) by Marten Gray; '*Practical Criticism*' (1997) by I.A. Richards and '*Beginning Postmodernism*' (2007) by Tim Woods helps me in understanding some important literary terms. Apart from that books like- '*A Hand book of Critical Approaches to Literature*' (2004) by Wilfred L. Guerin, Earle Labor, Lee Morgan Jeanne C. Reesman, John R. Willingham; '*Critical Theory Today*' (2008) of Lois Tyson; '*Beginning Theory*' (2008) by Peter Berry and '*Postcolonial Theory A Critical Introduction*' (2001) by Leela Gandhi all help in understanding literary terms.

For understanding the theoretical perspective of society, culture and modernity various related published materials are reviewed. Piter Child's book called '*Modernism*' (2013), S.L. Doshi's book called '*Modernity, Post modernity and Neo-Sociological Theories*' (2009) and S.N. Eisenstadt's book called '*Modernization: Protest and Change*' (1969) all describes about the theoretical aspect of modernity as well as about the history of modernity. Besides, books like- '*Modernization of Indian Tradition*' (2011) and '*Culture Change in India*' (2009) of Yogendra Sing; '*The Tribal Culture of India*' (1985) by L.P. Vidyarthi and Binay Kumar Rai; '*Tribals in India*' (2004) edited by Amar Kumar Singh and M.K. Jabbi all describe modernity and cultural change. Moreover, books like '*Sociology*' (1995) of C.N. Shankra Rao, '*An Introduction to Cultural Studies*' (2014) of Pramod K Nayar; '*Theoretical Perspectives on Sociology and Cultural Anthropology*' (2064) by Tika Ram Gautam all describe elaborately regarding society and culture.

Sivanath Barman's book called '*Tradition to Modernity*' (2013), V.D. Kumar's (ed.) '*Modernity and Ethnic Processes in India*' (2014) and Nitul Kumar Gogoi's '*Continuity and Change among the Ahom*' (2006) all help in understanding both modernity and social change. Also, Salam Irene, Ginneiching Simte and Thenkhogin Haokip's (ed.) '*Tribals of Manipur and Modernization*' (2014); Sanjay Pulipaka, Rakhee Bhattacharya and Sarit K. Chaudhuri's (ed.) '*Tradition and Modernity in Arunachal Pradesh*' (2013) all describe

about modernity and cultural change. Mathew Aerthayil discusses about globalization and cultural change in *'Impact of Globalization on Tribals'* (2008).

Binoy Kumar Brahma's *'Social Mobility'* (2008), Sekhar Brahma's *'Religion of the Boros and their Socio-Cultural Transition'* (2011), Kameswar Brahma's *'A study of Socio-Religious Beliefs, Practices and ceremonies of the Bodos'*(1992) and Liladhar Brahma's *'Religion and Dances of the Bodos'* (2003) all elaborately describe about the Bodo society and culture as well as about social and cultural changes of Bodos. Moreover, Dhananjoy Brahma's (ed.) *'The Tribal at the Threshold of the Millennium'* (2015), B.N. Bordoloi, G.C. Sharmah Thakur and M.C. Saikia's (ed.) *'Tribes of Assam'* (1987, Part-1) and Mohini Mohon Brahma's *'Folk-Songs of the Bodos'* (1960) all describe about the Bodo society and culture as well as about social and cultural changes of Bodos.

Edward Gait's *'A History of Assam'* (1997), S. Endle's *'The Kacharis'* (Reprinted, 1990), Suniti Kumar Chatterji's *'Kirata Jana Kriti'* (2007), William Robinson's *'A Descriptive Account of Assam'* (2011), R.M. Nath's *'The Back Ground of Assamese Culture'* (1978) all describe regarding historical background and identity of the Bodos along with other people. Besides, B.K. Barua's *'A cultural History of Assam'*(2003), Maheswar Neog's (ed.) *'Studies in the Early History of Assam'* (1973), Nagendra Nath Vasu's *'The Social History of Kamarupa'* (1983, Part-1 & 2) and Iman Singh Chemjong's *'History and Culture of Kirat People'* (2003) all highlight about identity and historical background of Bodos along with other indigenous people of Assam.