

# A BRIEF STUDY ON WRITTEN ASSAMESE CHILDREN LITERATURE

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**ABSTRACT-** The literature written centred round children and for the purpose of children is called children literature. From the ancient time successively the oral literature from generation to generation going on as such riddle, proverb, epigram, low songs, songs for child to sooth, to comfort, a foster mother's song for an infant etc. are chief foundations of child literature. According to subject matter Assamese child literature is divided into various sections as fable, soothing songs, child poem, drama, novel, scientific literature, adventurous story, inventive story, translated moral tale, travelling story etc. are discussed here. At present the child litterateurs play sufficient role to interpret new vistas of scientific knowledge for the children. At present Assamese child literature is able to procure high place in national level which denotes the development of it. In this study we have discussed fruitfully about the Assamese child literature for the time being and present time's child magazines "Safura" and "Mouchak"s pivotal role.

**KEYWORDS** - Child's tale, child's story, scientific child literature, translated child literature, child magazine.

## I. INTRODUCTION:

Child's mind is imaginative, inventive or speculative. For them imaginations seem to be real and fun or merriment is real. It is not easy to write a book for children, rather it is complex and painstaking. For this reason Dr. Hemanta Kumar Sharma wrote in the beginning

of his prose “Child literature” included in his book “Asamiya Sahityar Dristipat”, French writer Metarlink gave a very reasonable analogy about child literature that writing child literature and raising Alimpus Mountain is the same thing. Writing and accomplishing suitable books for children, the writer ought to be fit with child’s mind; they must be accustomed with children’s world with imaginative mind set. Then favourable creation will have to be accomplished. The main purpose of child literature should have to be for the child’s benefits showing them tenderness sympathy, helping attitude for their mental health and incresement.

## **II. OBJECTIVE OF THE PAPER:**

The Main objective of this study is to light out all the Assamese literature appropriate for children from birth to adolescence including poetry as well as proeses.

## **III. METHODOLOGY:**

This research is a descriptive research using mixed method of data collection and analysis. Data for this study are mainly collected from secondary reference sources and the base of analysis is on some Assamese child fiction and nonfiction.

## **IV. THE BRIEF HISTORY OF ASSAMESE CHILD LITERATURE**

The growth trend of Assamese child literature is seemed to be as folk lore the prime foundation, stands for child’s succession. From the ancient time consecutively we have found riddle, epigram, adage, soothing songs, a foster mother’s low song, a moral tale e.g. Panchatantra, Ramayana, Mahabharata etc. attract the minds of children. According to Maheswar Neog, “There is deity, newness and laity of childhood in this soothing songs, foster-mother’s low song and boys’ fun songs owing to imaginative child’s mind’s easily perspectives of various trees, animals, there are sufficient low songs in Assamese literature as for example “Sialie Nahibi Rati”, “Rodalie Rod De”, “Jonbai E Bezi eti dia” etc. As the written inspection of first phase of child literature Sankardev’s “Sishulila”, Madhabdev’s “Chordhora, Pimpara Guchuwa” etc. are dramas and Sreedhar Kandali’s “Kankhowa” as writings suitable for children.

In “Shishulia” of Sankardev we have found about incarnation of Lord Krishna in the womb of Daiboki, owing to the advice of Narayana Krishna was altered at the house of Nanda-Yashoda in place of Jogamaya and bringing her cream theft by Krishna, destroying Jamalarjun, rescuing Nanda from the grasp of snake, “Kaliya Daman” etc. are described.

In “Jhumura” Madhabdev described about child Krishna’s wickedness, caught child Krishna after cream theft acutely. Moreover, Krishna character is lit up in Shreedhar Kandali’s “Kankhowa” on his own imagination and on the basis of folk song. And contemporary writer Ram Saraswati, father of “Badha Kabya” in his poetry book “Bhimcharit” attracted all from children to old men.

Assamese child literature has been flourishing in different directions from the age of “Arunodoi” i.e. from 1846. Many books suitable for children were published in “Arunodoi”.

It is to be noted Dr. Nathan Brown and his wife Aliza Brown's books "Gananer Kitap", "Sadhur Puthi" and Anand Ram Dhekial Phukan's "Asamiya Lorar Mitra" composed in almost four hundred pages in two volumes was published in the year 1849. It is specially mentioned that the first child magazine "Lora Bandhu" was published in 1888 edited by Karunabhiram Baruah.

In the age of romanticism, specially in the field of child literature the role of Lakshminath Bezbaruah is note-worthy. He wrote many moral tales. Many moral tales to commit to memory, he wrote in juicy language "Burhi Aair Sadhu (1911), Kakadeuta Aru Nati Lora (1912), Junuka (1913) and published. The granary of Assamese child literature has been found rich by noted writers' child literature. As for example we have to mention Padma Nath Gohain Baruah's "Neeti Shiksha", Paneendra Nath Gogoi's "Shikshar Aagsowa, Mazsowa aru Shekhsowa", Durga Prasad Mazinder Baruah's "Uzu Kabita", "Phul" and "Lora Kobita", Ananda Ch. Agarwala's "Komal Path", "Sishu Path"; Sarat Ch. Goswami's "Asomiya Sadhu Kotha", Chandradhar Baruah's "Natun Path", "Uzu Path", Bishnupuria Devi's "Sadhu Kotha", Trailokeswari Devi Baruah's "Saandhiyar Sadhu", Hari Prasad Baruah's "Moina", "Birchateear Desh" etc. Moreover Sarat Ch. Goswami's "Asamiya Sadhukotha", Gnanananda Jagati's "Sadhukathar Jolonga", Kumudeswar Borhakur's "Sadhur Bharal", Benudhar Sarma's "Rangpata" etc. are to be mentioned.

In the field of Assamese child literature, child magazines and newspapers play pivotal role. Amongst them Karunabhiram Baruah's "Lora Bandhu (1888)", Hem Ch. Goswami's "Akan(1916)", Raghunath Choudhury's "Moina(1923)", brinchi Kumar Baruah's "Akan(1935)", "Rang Ghar (1948)", Nabakanta Baruah's "Jonbai (1961)", Santanu Tamuli's "Mouchak (1984)", Bhabendra Nath Saikia's "Safura (1982)" etc. are note-worthy.

## V. ASSAMESE CHILD STORY LITERATURE

After 2<sup>nd</sup> world war Assamese literature has been witnessing change in different categories or sections as like as the change or manifestation shown in literature if many countries. In ancient times we have come across the child literature about moral incentive that encourages youths for morality; instead of that at present time the child litterateurs take sufficient important role incentive to new incipient in the field of scientific knowledge. The children are much more inspired to open the doors of knowledge in the subjects of science i.e. geology, biology, chemistry, physics etc. through parable to illustrate some doctrine. At present many writers come forward writing child literature with paradigm, comparison, resemblance to rich the knowledge. In this respect publishers show deep interest in publishing child literature, and it is praise-worthy. It becomes the positive point of view for the sake of child literature. Really it is to be said that at present time in the field of child literature, there prevailed many change and development. We recollect the names of Nabakanta Baruah, Nirmalprabha Bordoloi, Bhabendra Nath Saikia and further the inspiring and recognised writers such as Barendra Borkataki, Gagan Ch. Adhikary. Bandita Phukan, Nupur Momaideu, Lochan Kokaideu, Pranati Goswami for whom the field of child literature is revived to freshers.

At present certainly in the condition of reality the exact composition has been found changed by rescuing the oldest ideas into new ones. Now the children fond of reading the science story about space, planet, star or the surprising events with amazement instead of reading about step mother's oppression of Tezimala etc.

In contemporary time the field of Assamese child literature is riched, being prosperous with creations songs, poems, tales, stories, translated works, novels, dramas, biographies, science reviews etc. To become suitable human being, worthwhile growth of child's intelligentsia, litterateurs of all languages write favourable literature for children. In this reason Assamese child literature is no exception while our subject matter of discussion is contemporary Assamese child story literature, so we have to give attention primarily in connection with the vast span of this. Of course, it is to be mentioned that many child literature's topics are based on narrative, storytelling. The narratives are promulgated in the form of both prose and poetry. The emerging writers of that time joining heartiestly with creative apprehension of newness gave a new dimension of Assamese literature. In this respect to summarize range of our discussion we have to mention about some pioneer litterateurs' contributions that have influenced the writers of child literature.

Nabakanta Baruah was familiar with child learners and his contributions to Assamese child literature are ever to be remembered. He published "Alis in Wonderland" on 1956 and its stories' characters sometimes recall us. He tried to provide knowledge to the children through different subject matter and in eight stories. Among the eight stories there are "Akharar Jokhala", "Ishwar Chandra", "Washington", "Magic", "Anka Janka Panka", "Pramanee Darav", "Kabitar Desh", "Sabda Niruddesh Aru Rakta Badan Raza". Although each story is distinct, its main character is one, who is known as "Jon". Through the mind of Jon children's mind's splendid pictures can be evolved out. A remarkable story Pramanee Darav is to be mentioned herewith. Here Jon is in confrontation with an old man, who brings Jon to many a curiosity. Here it is described about some perpetual questions and gravity of them and complexity arised in attractive way meanwhile. His child drama "Kereluar Rail Hou" was broadcasted through Guwahati AIR. And other broadcasted dramas were "Kagaj Aru Kalamar Ron", "Moi Tun Tunie Tuntunelo" etc. In his book "Na Aita" his description is assembled with various exercise, spelling and pronunciation.

Bhabendra Nath Saikia was the able director, dramatist of Assamese cinema who provided new dimensions. Assam's pioneer publication "Banalata" published his book "Sishu Sahitya Samagra". In that book there are inserted, "Kakadeutar Chithi", "Tomalukar Bhal Howak", "Padyar Dhemali", "Santa-Shistha, Hrista-Pusta Moha-Dusta". We have found deep thoughts (long thoughts) in Kakadeutar Chithi. Here he expressed about some daily problem of puzzle in an attractive form. His scientific mind had to expand minutely. There are sources of inspiration for the children. There are fifteen poems in "Padyar Dhemali". In these poems there are presentations of every day's environment innovatively. Many of the poems are funny, yet there are ethical poems also. In the inception of "Dusta Buddhi" of "Moha Dusta" Saikiadev wrote, "Dear brothers and sisters, it is a book on fun. Who does not know fun, with them do not be funny as you read in book." In this book there are ninety two fun as story published from the year 1982 to 1996. Each story is not alike. There are stories, become juicy

according to simplicity of description and the pleasant side of expression. There are five stories in "Maram". Though stories were written for the children, adults are able to read them also. The stories are accordingly "Gharuwa Sathar", "Bhoi", "Maram", "Aami Bahut Kotha Najano", "Bhoj". It is to be mentioned that in each appendix of "Gharuwa Sathar", "Bhoi", and "Bhoj" there are a note. In the note we have had word's spelling, pronunciation and purifying grammatical knowledge. It proves that Saikiadev gave importance about student's knowledge of language education. "Maramar Deuta" is a memorable book of Saikia. This small novel comprises of 17 volumes and it was published in the magazine "Safura" part by part. Juvenile delinquency is the problem shown mainly in this novel. In "Maramar Deuta" we have come to know that father was harassed mentally owing to his son's deceitful crooked behaviour.

In the compilation of editorials of Safura- "Asha Karu Tomalok Bhale Asa". Reading this book we feel that someone seems to be saying things next to the ear. Every day he was careful about the feelings of child so that his writings can never hurt them in any respect. In childhood day's readings and writings, playings, eatings and drinkings, all the matters are discussed importantly altogether in his keen writings. He described many juicy things suitable for the children in his book "Tomalokar Bhal Hawok".

"Santa-Shistha, Hrista-Pusta Moha-Dusta" is broadcasted through Guwahati Radio centre and it comprises of seven radio drama. These dramas were broadcasted through Dibrugarh Radio centre also. At present these dramas are promulgated through cinema also. This story stands as new and courageous addition in the world of the Assamese film.

## VI. CHILD LITERATURE OF TWENTIETH CENTURY BY FEMALE WRITERS

The women are concerned or involved with child's mind closely, so they can enter into the depth of child psychology. Assamese female writers of twentieth century penetrate into child's psychological depth and they have been writing to contribute impeccable writings of child literature. They immensely contributed for the opulent granery of Assamese child literature by writing and publishing various translated literature, bio-graphy, science message, drama, poetry, tale, fiction etc. Amongst them Keshada Mahanta, Dr. Minati Hazarika, Purobi Chakraborti, Geeta Upadhyaya, Parineeta Buzar baruah, Nirupoma Borgohain, Bandita Phkan, Haripriya Barukial Borgohain, Mina Bordoloi, Dr. Malini Goswami, Chitralata Phukan, Aradhana Dutta are note-worthy. Chitralata Phkan's "Bon Aamlokhi, Ponakon Aru Moi" is a great work of Assamese literature. In her story named "Aananda Artu Bedana" we have found relations and conflicts between birds and child's mind and thus there is a beautiful picture of child's psychology that reflected here. In Parineeta Buzar Baruah's "Bela Aru Tom" story, the owner's view is reflected regarding the relation between cow and dog. It turns out that these women writers' writings are published in innovative form regarding child psychology, science, social culture, messages in different directions. These writings provide new dimensions in the field of child literature.

## VII. CHILDREN'S BOOKS ON SCIENCE

On the subject matter of science there are some books written suitable for the children. In 1943 "Bigyanar Sadhu" was published, written by Rohini Kumar Baruah. "Adim Jugar Katha" written by Hari Prasanna Das; Dr. Prasanna Goswami's "Traitoron Abhiyan", "Telegraph", "Telephone", "Tape Recorder"; Dinesh Baishya's "Bayu Aru Pani", Ksheeradhar Baruah's "Aakashi Yanaar Katha"; Shantanu Tamuli's in a state of being envious "Mahakashar Taraka Aru Electronic" are remarkable.

Bandita Phukan wrote some books on technical science such as "Kone Keneke Kam Kare?", "Matar Gari Kenekoi Chole?", "Pariksha Karo Aaha" etc.

Now-a-days child literature is enriched with scientific acknowledgement and victory of science is touched in different sections of science i.e. health sector, chemistry, physics, geology, biology etc. are raised before children by writing some pleasant stories.

## VIII. TRANSLATED CHILD LITERATURE

From twentieth century to the present, many famous children's books of many countries are translated into Assamese language. Amongst them we have to mention "Deen Dukhi" of Thaneswar Hazarika, "Gulibharar Bhraman", "Neel Sagarar sadhu" of Mahendra Bora, Akanmani Konwar" of Nirupoma Borgohain, "David Coperfield" of Bimal Nath, "Ratnadeep" of Jayanta Madhab Bora, "Mahajagatic Juddhya" of Azizul Hussain, "Maa, Burha Aru Sagar" of Nabanita Saikia, "Biswar Shrestha Sishu sahitya" of Ranju Hazarika are remarkable. As worthwhile translators we have to mention the names of Harunar Rashid, Rohini Kanta Baruah, Basanta Kumar Barua, Abul Lais, M Abdul Majid and many more are notable.

## IX. ASSAMESE CHILDREN'S MAGAZINES:

We have to mention boldly about children's magazines respectively in connection with the conduct of discussing child literature. We have come across knowing about "Lora Bandhu", first Assamese children's magazine published in 1888, edited by Karunabhiram Baruah. Then we are accustomed to read many children's magazines like "Safura", "Mouchak", "Sapon", "Rang Mela", "Rang man" etc. are notable.

To enrich Assamese children's literature newspapers and other magazines of schools and colleges added remarkable contributions. After 1940 Paresh Ch. Baruah's "Kishor", Surya Kumar Bhuyan's "Moina", Preeti Baruah's "Akash", Badan Baruah's "Runjun", Mrinal Kataki's "Pakhila", Ranju Hazarika's "Kan Kan", Sarat Rajkhowa's "Mou", Shantanu Koushik Baruah's "Aikyatan", Rahima Haque's "Fulkani", Suresh ch. Rajkhowa's "Rodali", Hem Baruah's "Kheuti", Arun Sharma's "Kheuji Kheuji", Nagen Borah's "Jontora", Jagat chetiya's "Aamar Ghar", Johns Mahaliya's "Notun beli", Haladhar sharma's "Na-jeuti" are the prime children's magazines.

#### X. **ROLE OF 'SAFURA' AND 'MOUCHAK' IN CURRENT ASSAMESE CHILDREN'S LITERATURE:**

In 1982 BaniPrakashan published "Safura" edited by Dr. Bhabendra Nath Saikia which has been received civility in respected manner. Children's interest and desire, emotion-rhyme, will and unwillingness are regarded greatly in this magazine. The magazine is being published monthly. Now this magazine is edited by Rupam Baruah, the magazine given importance on children's enlightenment, pleasing mode of winning the heart. Here bio-graphy, history, geography, foreign tale, living world, biodiversity etc. gain priority. It is noteworthy that every year in the magazine's efforts they have been organising "Safura genius or talent seeker test", "Summer camp", "Child drama competition" etc. for encouraging the children and for increasing their educational, intellectual and mental progress. At present the basic form of "Safura" has been found changed from the incipient time of Saikiadev in its mode of conducting, tendency and it is lit up fruitfully. Changing attitude of meditation, ideas and age exportation of printing and printing technology are playing pivotal role in this magazine.

Another magazine "Mouchak" edited by Shantanu Tamuli has been publishing since 1984 and this magazine is receiving respect among all the readers. In this magazine various stories, tales, poetry are published written by the students and some scholars. Moreover, there are matters of scientific knowledge, cultural and literary performance, contemporary events published according to interest and desire of children. At present how the atmosphere of violence, terror impacts the soft minds of children is reflected. Dilip Kumar Baruah and Prabhat Goswami's writings in this magazine give hint to it. In this magazine we have had ideas about travelling story. Shashanka Jyoti Khaund's "Shile Kotha Koi" shows adeptly Assam's many temples, historical sites of various places. As such Mouchak was enriched by so many writings like "O Bideshi Bandhu", "Endi Khurar Samidhan", "Atmajeevani", "Aami Kenedore Parhichilo" etc.

Mouchak's popularity is praiseworthy which has been published in off-set printings. Its standard an determinant index column is note-worthy and its promulgation is spreaded over for the benefit of the inquisitive students.

#### XI. **CONCLUSION:**

Hence after analysis it is clear that current Assamese child literature occupied a determined place. In front of the eyes of children new doors are open for investigation and acquiring knowledge, education of science and technology. Currently children's literature is able to occupy high place in national level and it is praiseworthy of child-centred progressive atmosphere. Mainly the children of specific age limit, from the age of 5 years to 14 years, knowledge acquiring performance with the help of audio-visual medium are found to be apt. and to be peripasis fulfilling the main purpose.

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