

How to Cite:

Sarmah, S. (2022). Nirupama Borgohain and her novels: A study. *Linguistics and Culture Review*, 6(S2), 529-533. <https://doi.org/10.21744/lingcure.v6nS2.2174>

Nirupama Borgohain and Her Novels: A Study

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Abstract---Nirupama Borgohain is one of the most prominent female voices of Assam. She has contributed more than thirty books to Assamese literature. Her novels are mainly based on realism where she has consciously dealt with the problem of inequality that exist men and women in society. She always highlights the plight of women and their protest against patriarchal values. She is an Indian journalist and novelist in the Assamese Language. She is a Sahitya Akademi Award winner and best known for her novel 'Abhiyatri'. She was a recipient of the Assam Valley Literary Award.

Keywords---contribution, freedom, involvement, Nirupama Gorgonian, society.

Introduction

Nirupama Borgohain is one of the most important women voices in Assamese literature. She was born in Guwahati, Assam on 17th March, 1932. The name of her father and mother were Jadab Tamuly and Kashiswari Tamuly. She attended Cotton College, Guwahati and Calcutta University from where she received post-graduate degrees in English literature and Assamese. She worked as a lecturer of English at various Colleges. She was editor of Saptahik Sanchipat and Chitrangada too. Some of her novels are - 'Sei Nodi Nirabadhi' (1963), 'Dinor Pisat Din' (1968), 'Antah Shrota' (1969), 'Hriday Ek Bigyapan' (1970), 'Samanya Asamanya' (1971), 'Cactus Phul' (1976), 'Iparar Ghar Siparar That's' (1979), 'Bhabisyat Ronga Surya' (1980), 'Anya Jeevan' (1986), 'Champabati' (1990), 'Abhiyatri' (1995), 'Barasun' (2011) etc. A collected version of her selected short stories are published in 2004. She has an autobiography named 'Biswas Aru Sangsayar Majedi' (Song et al., 2007; Kim et al., 2014). She has received many awards for her literary achievements like - 'Asom Sahitya Sabha's Hem Baruah Award' (1983), 'Asom Sahitya Sabha's Basanti Devi Award' (1988), 'Sahitya Academy Award' (1996), 'Assam Valley Literary Award' (2004), 'Asom Sahitya Sasha's Prajnaratna' (2012) etc (Singh et al., 2020; Loey et al., 2021).

Novels of Nirupama Borgohain

At first Nirupama Borgohain began publishing short stories in the journal 'Ramdhenu'. Her first novel was 'Sei Nodi Nirabadhi'. It was published in 1963. There are many boundaries in a woman's life which have been imposed on her. The many taboos and narrow social norms constrain her to obliterate her 'Self', her individuality and separate identity. Nirupama Borgohain has highlighted these issues in her novels including 'Sei Nodi Nirabadhi', 'Iparar Ghar Siparar Ghar', 'Anyajeevan', 'Champawati' and 'Abhiyatri' (Borgohain & Borgohain, 1990). 'Sei Nodi Nirabadhi' is intertwined the story of a woman with the fate of a river. Lakshmi, the main character of this novel wants to restart her education and becomes a teacher. But due to flood where her young son was washed away her desire remains unfulfilled. Her another novel 'Ejon Budha Manuh' is centered on the relationship between a father and son, laying bare the tensions fraying it owing to an inter caste marriage (Devi, 2015; Sarma, 1970). In 'Iparar Ghar Siparar Ghar' 'Pateswari' and other female characters couldn't break the social shackles to establish their own identity. This novel depicted the migration of rural folks to urban areas in search of better life. The tale was told in a naturalistic form, realistic but suffused with pessimism. 'Dinar Pisat Din', 'Anyajeevan', 'Champawati' are her feminist novels. Here she noted sympathetic portrayals of women facing up to oppressive social mores and the patriarchy. Meanwhile, the degradation faced by the indigent, owing to rural migration as well as the breakdown of the old established social orders, was actually described in her 'Dinar posts Din' as well as 'Bhabisyat Ronga Surya' (Cohen & Stackman Jr, 2015; Burnstock, 2009).

In 1995, Borgohain has written a novel named 'Abhiyatri'. This is a biographical novel. Here the author draws the life of an Assamese freedom fighter, feminist and social activist 'Chandraprabha Saikiani'. Chandraprabha Saikiani was one of the pioneers in the field of social activism, especially the rights of women. She emerged from the misty obscurity of a remote Assamese Village to register many triumphs for the oppressed and the victimised including persecuted women life herself. Nirupama Borgohain has conducted extensive research on Chandraprabha, to draw a living portrait of a woman. Of that time. In this novel the author describes the trajectory of the unusually bold heroine Chandraprabha, who not only fights for her own dignity, but also awakens the whole Assamese women regarding their deprived status. As a feminist writer Nirupama Borgohain always try to give an identify to the women in a wide coverage (Leadley Jr et al., 2000; Ognibene et al., 2020).

'Anyajeevan' is her another novel which is totally feminist both thematically and artistically. The main characters of this novel is newly married Manoj Dutta and his wife Anima. The novel celebrates women's coming together with men as friends and companions and sharers of life rather than a rivals. "For successful realization of her true identity a woman should be aware, strong-willed, self-reliant, having faith in the inner strength of Womanhood. Eminent scholar Dr. Hiren Gohain has pertinently observed, "In Anyajeevan the author's in dubitable faith has been expressed for a future gender free society where women would no more be the beast of burden" (Barman & Boruah, 2018; Barman & Choudhury, 2020).

The first Assamese novelist to deal with feminism consciously in Nirupama Borgohain. In order to carry forward the discourse of feminism, the author has strikingly programmed the behaviour and attitudes of many male members in her novels, who are otherwise very much enlightened and cultured. Though the novel 'Anya Jeevan' is set in an interior village, its society can be regarded as a representation of society at large. In this novel, the author shows the pathetic secondary position of women in the society or at home. Woman suffers inhuman repression in home and society and that causes death of her (Yehorova et al., 2021; Oliinyk, 2021).

"The novelist identifies this social malady as the patriarchal male chauvinism and makes the young protagonist of story stand up for creating a new social order where the women will have complete freedom to realize themselves. In her attempt to break the trammels of the society dominated by the male, she comes out with her new mindset and new ways of an independent life as a new woman of the Western feminist movement without ever using the appellation". Nirupama Borgohain's 'Anya Jeevan' - is the first novel which sets the trend of feminism in Assamese novels. Here the author projects the lives of the middle class, women in Assamese society (Sankar & Soundararajan, 2018; Artawan, 2017).

Aims and objectives

The main objects of the paper is to search out the contribution of Nirupama Borgohain to Assamese Novel.

Methodology

The study is mainly based on primary data, it includes chosen work of the author. The secondary data includes research article, journal and internet sources (Amori, 2021; Suryasa et al., 2019).

Conclusion

Thus, we have seen that Nirupama Borgohain is the most prominent author in greater Assamese Literature. She has a strong voice. It reflects in her writings. She has contributed many powerful novels based on realism where she has consciously dealt with the problem of inequality that exist between men and women in society. For her unique contribution to the world of literature she is awarded many accolades Sahitya Academy Awards. She is very brave and revolutionary writer. For the narrations of various issues associated of women's life in her writings she is regarded as a feminist writer.

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