

THE DYNAMIC NATURE OF ASSAMESE TRAVEL LITERATURE IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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Abstract:

Travel literature is the result of personal and real experiences of individuals traveling country and abroad. This category of literature is the result of the experiences gained through travel not being confined to oneself but written in an artistic manner with one's own creative talent. Since people are travellers by nature, they naturally travel abroad for various purposes. However, some people are fortunate enough to see the place of their dreams despite their desire or ability. There is always a desire in the heart of man to know what he does not know and to understand those unknown things. This is why people read books or travel to many places to experience new things (Baruah,2022).Therefore, travel writers present their travel stories to the readers by writing their personal travel experiences in a simple, juicy and fluent manner to inform others about the educational, economic, political, social and cultural aspects of an unseen place. Therefore, the research article entitled "The dynamic nature of Assamese travel literature in the 21st century" is designed to discuss the main areas covered by travel writers in the 21st century, aspects of the subject matter and the nature of the movement.

Key words: Travel, literature, artistic, country, abroad

1. Introduction:

Since literature is closely linked to society, travel literature is no exception. Travel literature is not just an expression of a document of the social, economic, political, cultural and historical spheres of a country or abroad. Travel stories are no longer just notes on travel experiences, it is an important branch of literature. In the 21st century, ease of transportation and communication, internet access and improved economic conditions have made it easier for many educated and talented people to travel abroad. This brings hope to the field of travel literature because it is not enough to just travel or write the travel history. It takes on the author's own artistic style to choose experiences for his travel story and integrate personal feelings with the reader. All of which is not possible by the author. Many writers cannot master the subtle power of observation, poetic sensitive mind and sweetness of words that are needed to give the experience of travel a literary charm (Bora,227). Furthermore, in a rapidly changing world, the political, economic, educational or other aspects of a country that one author observes may not be the same when another author

visits the same country. Therefore, although the place or country of travel is the same, there are differences in the subject matter among the authors. Therefore, the research article entitled “The dynamic nature of Assamese travel literature in the 21st century,” is prepared to study the innovation in the travel writings of travel writers in the 21st century and the field of context.

2. Purpose of the study:

The purpose of the research article is to discuss the themes covered by the Assamese travel literature published in the 21st century, the innovations reflected in the author’s perspectives and themes and the impact of the 21st century travel literature on contemporary society.

3. Area of Study:

Since the research article will mainly discuss the dynamic nature of Assamese travel literature published in the 21st century, the scope of the study includes travel books, published in recent times as well as travel articles published in newspapers and magazines.

4. Review of literature:

In preparing the research article “The dynamic nature of Assamese travel literature in the 21st century,” a review of previous studies on this topic was conducted. After the survey, it was found that the subject of travel literature has not been studied much till now. The number of books, research articles on this domain is very small. In the book ‘Asomiya Bhraman Sahitya Samiksha’ (2018) edited by Dr. Chitrajit Saikia and Bhupen Saikia discuss the dynamics of modern Assamese travel literature. The book ‘Adhunik Asomiya Bhraman Sahitya Oitijya Aru Shilpa (2020) discusses the history, dynamics and nature of modern Assamese travel literature. In March 2021, Dr Govinda Prasad Sharma wrote an article about travel literature in ‘Gariyasi’ magazine. This article discusses the literary relevance of travel literature in the field of literature. In the first issue of ‘Gariyasi’ magazine in November 2021, Chitrajit Saikia wrote an article on the nature of modern Assamese travel literature. In March 2022, Jyotishman Das discussed the dynamic nature of travel literature in ‘Gariyasi’ magazine; including modern Assamese travel literature.

5. Method of Study:

This research article has been prepared with the help of descriptive and analytical methods.

6. Discussion of the main themes:

History of travel literature: A Discussion

The history of travel literature began during the Ahom Dynasty. During the reign of Jaydhwaj Singha, Rammishra visited Vrindavan and described the geography, history and folklore of the place in verse and wrote the ‘Vrindavan Charitya’. Ratna Kandali and Arjun Das Bairagi, sent by Rudra Singha to the royal court of king Ratnamanikya of Tripura, visited Tripura and wrote detailed descriptions of the roads, courts, folk culture, architecture, sculpture etc of ‘Tripura Buranji’. These two works of the Ahom era begin the history of travel literature. However, there are also signs of travel literature in the ‘Charit Puthi’. This is because the experiences of Sankardeva and his disciples during their pilgrimage to different parts of India are described in the Charit literature.

The heritage of modern Assamese travel literature:

The seeds of modern Assamese travel literature germinated in the pages of 'Arunodoi' magazine. A translation of 'LankarBiboran' was published in the March 1846 issue of Arunodoi and an original article entitled 'Colicota Aadi Bhati DeshorBibaran' by Pran Nath Boruah in the January 1849 issue. Nichilibai Farwell's essay 'Tini Jon Bhair MisanaryJatra' published in Arunodoi in February 1852, can also be included in the category of travelogs.

The magazine 'Jonaki' published in 1889, firmly and clearly paved the way for Assamese travel literature that began in 'Arunodoi' magazine. Gunaviram Baruah published 'Souma's Bhraman Brittantra' in the pages of Jonaki magazine. Although 'Souma's Bhraman Brittantra' is not a complete travel story of the author, it contains only a small part of the specific journey but the story is based on internal travel and expresses the imagination and the author's conscious and artistic thought. In 1893, Ananda Chandra Agarwala published a comprehensive and literary travel story of Brahmadesh covering the culture, education, politics, communication system and the mentality of the people of the country in the 'Brahmajatir Dairy'. The ninth issue of Jonaki part II published Golok Chandra Sharma Baruah's 'Horidwar Bhraman'. This travel essay describes how he was impressed by visiting the Ganga and touching holy water of Ganga and taking a bath in that.

Assamese travel literature developed strongly in the magazine "Bahi". Artistic and high-quality travel stories were published in 'Bahi' magazine. In the second issue of the first year of Bahi, Anandaram Baruah's 'Bilator Sithi' was published. This was the first complete and meaningful travelog in Assamese to be published in book form (Bhuyan, 37). The authors of Bahi magazine have enriched travel literature with their original, theoretical, thoughtful and fluent descriptions.

After 'Bahi' magazine, the trend of travel literature continued in 'Chetana' magazine but it did not receive much appreciation from the readers. However, 'Abahan' magazine has contributed to revitalizing the genre of travel literature.

There are many high-quality magazines like Satsari, Gariyashi, Prantik etc. as well as e-magazines like Manikut, Jakhala etc. have played an important role in the development of travel literature.

Assamese travel literature published in the 21st century:

The Assamese travel literature published in the 21st century has been rich in both quality and quantity. A considerable amount of travel literature has been written in this century both in India and abroad. However, the majority of books on traveling in this century are travel stories about pilgrimage experiences such as 'Romoniyo Prantar' (2006) by Nirod Kumar Goswami, 'Himalayar Ashurt Kahini' (2008) by Hemchandra Sarma.

The beautiful scenery of Arunachal Pradesh naturally touches the hearts of every visitor. There are many stories in Assamese literature that give the reader a taste of travel and inspire the desire to travel in emotional and poetic words in this natural scene. Such travel books written in the 21st century is 'Seujiya Paharor Maje Maje' by Hemlata Bora and 'Aparupa Arunachal' by Soumyadeep Dutta.

Whatever for private, academic or governmental purposes, there are also a number of books on travel to China in the 21st century published in Assamese language. Authors describe Chinese society, culture, streets, architecture, sculptures and especially the attractive Chinese food in books on China travel. They have realized the genuine humanity of the people of China, commonly known as 'Red China'. Another talented author Karabi Deka Hazarika has written 'Seujia Chin' praising Chinese humanity in her book.

Similarly, many books on travel to America have been written in the 21st century. There are many travel stories that present both the positive and negative aspects of America in a very clear and comprehensive manner and introduce readers to the social life of Americans. 'Akhyana Aaror America' by Hiren Gohain and 'Mon Mur Uroniya Pakshi' by Anima Guha are two Assamese notable and informative travel books on travel to America.

There are also other travel experiences such as Japanese people, their national consciousness, culture, patriotism, manners and their daily life is presented in a travel book published in Assamese. Tukhaprabha Kalita's 'Tattrachanor Dekhot' and Anuradha Boruah's 'Japanor Rajdhani Tokio Aru Kiyot Bhraman Kahini' are notable books on travel to Japan published in the 21st century.

Thus, a number of books on travel within the country and abroad have been published in the 21st century. Fortunately, there are many travel stories during this period by the skilful and thoughtful presentation of an experienced person. Travel writers have noticed the subtleties of tourist destinations and the travel story portrays the social, economic, political, educational spheres of the place. To make the content deep and meaningful and to attract the attention of the reader, they are natural in their descriptive themes, clever in their language style, use of figurative language and appropriate artistic style.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, there is a considerable amount of travel literature published by creative writers with new ideas and new information in the 21st century. As a result, this branch of literature is rich in character, form and variety. There is one thing that travel stories are not travel literature. Travel stories are literacy only if they can universalize the personal feelings and experiences of the traveller, if it is not rich in literacy juices, travel books are a collection of boring information. Consequently, it will not be appreciated by the readers. Moreover, the free trade of globalization has created a number of tourists similarly in the age of the internet and information technology, it seems to have greatly reduced the joy and excitement once associated with travel. In short, in the last two decades we have experienced a lot of travel literature whether good or bad, boring or juicy, informative or personal experience which nourish this field of literature. This travel story is growing like the grass of the rainy season and it is difficult to keep track of it. Many of them will disappear in the course of time. However, a part can be expected to gain stability due to its joyful literacy qualities (Sharma, 405). So, in conclusion, let there be innovation in the field of travel literature, let the new generation be attracted to travel books and criticize the creativity of the writers from a positive perspective. Therefore, it is important to ensure that the Assamese travel literature has a high and distinct place in the 21st century.

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