



Origin Of The Modern Science Literature Of Assam

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Abstract : The Modern Scientific method began from 1826 when Assam became the part of British Empire. Rich natural resources and minerals of Assam began exploiting by British Empire by using Scientific method .While the Arrival of American Baptist Missionaries at Assam and establishment of first printing press of Assam in 1836 began New Era of Assamese Literature and Modern Science Literature in Assam . Orunodoi first Assamese language monthly news outlet introduced Modern Science Literature in Assam by published number of articles related to Modern Scientific knowledge.

Key Words: Modern Science Literature, Scientific knowledge, Assamese Literature, Orunodoi, American Baptist Missionaries.

1.Intro-

Origin of the Modern Science Literature of Assam was highly contributed by the activities of the American Baptist Missionaries, who established first printing press of Assam. First Assamese monthly news outlet or magazine 'Orunodoi' began New Era of Assamese Literature which also led to the growth of Modern Science Literature in Assam. Writings related to scientific ideas in

Assamese Language became popular and made huge positive impact among the local population of Assam towards adaptation of modern Science.

1.1.OBJECTIVES

-To analyze the Origin of Modern Science Literature of Assam

-To highlight the contribution of Colonial Period towards the beginning of Modern Science Literature in Assam.

2.REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The following books were reviewed for the proposed study:

1. Maheswar Neog re-edition and compiled 'The Orunodoi 1846-1854' published in 1983 by Laxmi Nath Tamuly IAS, Secretary, publication board Assam Guwahati edited all the columns of Orunodoi .

2.'Asamiya Larar Mitra'(No.2 and 3) written by Anandaram Dhekial Phookan in 1846 and published by author 1849 and re edited by Dr Jogendra Narayan Bhuyan in 1999, Guwahati Assam the book was intended as comprehensive literary comprehensive literary companion to guide the Assamese youth and written about several science related topics.

3. Tilottoma Misra in his book Literature and Society in Assam: A Study of the Assamese Renaissance, 1826-1926, Publisher – Bhabani Print & Publications -Guwahati Assam,2011 discussed about Assamese literature of nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the light of the intellectual movement known as Indian Renaissance.

4. Nagan Saikia in his book Asamiya Manuhar Itihas (The History of the Assamese People) , Publisher – Katha Publication & Publications- Guwahati Assam,2013 discussed about the effects of Neo Vaishnavite Movement in society of Assam, tradition and literature of Assam in very detail and contribution of Colonialism towards the growth of Assamese literature in Assam.

5. H.K. Barpujari in his book *The American Missionaries and North-East India (1836-1900 A.D.)*, Publisher-Spectrum Publication & Publications- Guwahati, Assam, 1986 discussed about contribution of American Baptist Mission in Assam but not Assamese literature.

6. Suryya Kumar Bhuyan in his book *Studies in the Literature of Assam* Publisher-Omsons Publications & Publication-RajouriGarden, New Delhi, reprinted 1985 discussed about ancient and modern Science literature.

Methodology:

The study will follow the descriptive, analytical mode of historical enquiry.

3.METHODOLOGY:

The proposed study follows descriptive analytical method of historical enquiry.

4.FINDINGS:

Assam was known for Astrological study from Ancient times when Assam known as Pragjotishpur means "City of Eastern astrology". In context of emergence of Scientific knowledge in Assam was began from 15th century, during the Vaishnavitemovement or more old then that. Practice of Scientific knowledge through natural way to be seen in flock songs, stories, Dakor Boson (a body of Assamese traditional sayings).

The Modern Scientific knowledge among the local population of Assam disseminated during the flourishing growth of the Modern Science Literature. When Assam became the part of British Empire Colonial Government Started exploiting the natural resources of Assam by using Scientific Method .They were not very much interested to grow the Scientific knowledge of natives. However in 1836 American Baptist Missionaries Nathan Brown and O.T.Cutter at Sadiya arrived with religious motive thus for their benefits they established the first printing press in of Assam in 1836 at Sadiya. Establishment of printing press in Assam led to began new era of Assamese Literature.Nathan Brown and O.T.Cutter grasp the usefulness of vernacular language to serve their cause. They learnt Assamese language and started publication in Assamese language. They strongly criticised imposition of Bengali language as official language of Assam from 1836 to 1873 which was known as "Dark Age of Assamese Language".

Orunodoi was first published in January 1846 by the Baptist Missionary press from Sibsagar. It was the first Assamese periodical. It published articles related to science, current affairs, astrology, History. Orunodoi means "Sunrise" which was the rising of a new Sun of Assamese Literature. Orunodoi was edited continuously over the first nine volumes by Nathan Brown. He also wrote and published books of Elementary Arithmetic (1845 -1855) and Geography (1851) for school children. The columns of Orunodoi brought various news from all corner of the World. It keeps explained the global geography and given descriptions of the night sky with its star and Planet example-

'The solar system and shape of the earth' in volume 1 February 1846, passage of the moon through the earth's Shadow in volume III Monday morning March 20, 1848, Eclipse of the sun is February 23, 1849 explained about some of the important machine example: Thermometer in volume IX, September 1854 Accounts of telescope in volume VIII, October 1853 "A drop of water as seen through a large microscope in volume II, June 1847, "Measuring the weight of Air in volume VIII, April 1853. These columns are also provided scientific description about different animals and plants example: locusts in 1844 in volume I June 1846, and 'Description of Tiger' and 'Description of Elephant' in volume I August 1846, The Rhinoceros in volume I October 1846, 'The clove tree in volume II December 1847, 'The Netmug tree' in volume III March 1848 'Skeleton of a Mammoth found in Siberia in Volume VI April 1851. 'Description of the Cobra' volume VIII, December 1853. There was also some of the important scientific articles like cause of rain in and what o'clock it is 1853 and depth of the ocean and arithmetical questions in 1853 and so on.

Orunodoi played a significant role towards the growth of scientific temperament of the people of Assam. Publication of Orunodoi ended when the printing press was sold in 1883.

Followed by the Orunodoi from mid 19th century almost all the magazines of Assam published Science related articles and news which helps to pertaining Scientific agriculture practices as well as health and sanitation .In 1849, Anandaram DhekialPhukan published in three volumes Asomiya Larar Mitra which is considered a milestone in the history of the Assamese literature. It was one of the most significant books which also helped in creating awareness about science among the people of Assam. It dealt with several scientific topics titled, 'Of the shape and the size of the Earth,' 'Indian Peninsular River and Mountain'. These accounts provided geographical information about the world. Some other chapters like clocks and the Barometer and Thermometer, Microscope ,Telescope, steam engine, steam carriage, steam boats, balloon,

Airmanship, and Mariner's compass', fire escapes and the Fire engine, life preserver driving bill, Air Gun, Air pump Lighting Rod, Telegraph etc.

In 1898 was published a medical book 'Prasuti' written by Kukha Konta Borkatoky from Dibrugarh. According to the monthly Assamese Journal Jonaki, it was the first Assamese language modern medicine book.

The first Assamese science fiction story Biscorotian Desh(Biseratio's Country) was published in the seventh edition of the eight volume of the 'Abahan' magazine in 1937 by HariprasadBaruah. In this story, there is a lead character named Fagunawho eats hashish from a priest of Sivasagar and in the night because of the hangover of the hashish, he dreams where he interacts with an alien from the planet Jupiter through telephone. Due to it related with science this story characterised as the first Assamese Science fiction story. In 1938 was published a short story 'Rasayan' (Chemistry) published in 'Abahan' by Nagendra Narayan Choudhury. It narrates the story of a scientist who exerted much effort for eternal youth by introducing a special bind of chemical in his body. This kind of Science fiction stories later became widely famous among children which created curiosity about Science within them. Beside that writings like 'Halir Nejal Tora' published in Assam Bandhu, 'Pani aru Borof' published in Baani also introduced Modern Scientific ideas of children.

However, a number of notable writings about science were highly contributed by the Christian missionaries and native modern western educated personalities. Their writings led to the emergence of the scientific temperament and dissemination of scientific knowledge among the local population of Assam.

5. Conclusion:

The Growth of Modern Scientific Literature in Assam was inextricably related with the initiatives of American Baptist Missionaries. Ideas of Science dilated through the writings published in Assamese Language which led to disseminated Scientific knowledge among the local population of Assam. Imposition of Bengali language in Assam during Colonial domination, the progress of Assamese Literature naturally suffered. Despite that after arrival of American Baptist Missionaries and establishment of first printing press of Assam bring the revolution for Assamese Literature. First Assamese monthly news outlet Orunodoi published by them rise the new Sun in the World of Assamese Literature which began publications of Scientific ideas in Assamese Language.

REFERENCE:

A)Books:

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2. ' Asomiya Larar Mitra' by Phukan DhekialAnandaram Published in 1849 Re-edited (No.2 and 3) by Dr. Bhuyan Narayan Jogendra in 1999 .

B)Articles:

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2. AMC-Pioneer in health care service by PoddarKumar Anil in The Assam Tribun November 3,2022.
3. Disease and Medicine in the Colonial Assam during 19th Century by Dr. Tahir Hussain Ansari in Journal of Business Management & Social Science Research, January 2013.
4. Prashanta J Baruah interview with an eminent Assamese Scientist as well as science fiction writer Dr Dinesh Chandra Goswami, Published- The Assam Tribune, Guwahati,Assam, on 13 November 2022 discusses about the glorious history of science in Assam.

