

## POSITION OF RAM GOGOI'S POEM IN THE HISTORY OF ASSAMESE POETRY

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Ram Gogoi is one of pioneer poet of modern Assamese literature. He is known as patharkobi or matirkobi in Assamese literature. In his poems we can find out some major peculiarities viz. trying of establishment of a classless society, stand with farmers and other general people, trying to establishment of Marxist ideology, reflection of rural life etc. He was a poet of Ramdhenu era of Assamese literature. In this article the major object is to find out the position of poet Ram Gogoi in the history of Assamese poem literature. Descriptive analytical method has been adopted for the study.*

### **INTRODUCTION:**

Ram Gogoi was one the prime devotee of Assamese poem literature emerged in the era of Ramdhenu. Practicing poem was his aim and thus he created beautiful poems till his last days. His poems were included in three books *MATIR SWAPN(1963)*, *HEY PRTIHIVI ANTARTAMA(1986)*, *KOMAL GANDHAR(1993)* and shining in Assamese literature with its own traits. Strong attitude and humanitarian appeal gave Ram Gogoi's poetry a separate place.

“In present days’ poems Ram Gogoi’s poems are shining with free will by its own believe and power. In melody of his poems mutiny can be noticed, one can notice sympathy for needy and hope for the better days. In new suggestive symbolic poetry Ram Gogoi’s poems are beautiful and healthy with masculine vision.” (AxomiyaKobita, KarabiDekaHazarika, Pg no-209)

Ram Gogoi expressed real world he had experienced in his poem and he firmly believed that poem had the power to destroy evilness and establish peace.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

The main objectives of the study are as follows-

- To introduce the poems of Ram Gogoi and find out the peculiarities.
- To find out the position of Ram Gogoi's poems in the history of modern Assamese poem.

### **METHODOLOGY:**

Descriptive analytical method has been adopted for the study.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Ram Gogoi acquired deep knowledge and had performed research on present political, cultural, and economical and social events. Thus his poems help in gathering ideas about present political, economic, cultural and social scenario. He tried to grow humanity in society by his poems. His poems hold the whistle of revolution. His poems have empathy for the common people. A poet who dreamt about an equal society had waited for a new dawn with high hopes. Extortion, oppression, chaos created an uncertainty in poets minds regarding the upcoming future generation. Poet tried to warn people with poems. Poet wished

For a classless society consisting own people, a society that exclude the concept of upper class-lower class, rich-poor, a society that would set an example to the world. Ram Gogoi preferred a classless society and was a master in presenting the Marxism through his verse.

Sacrifice for extorted people are present in Ram Gogoi's poems. Irrespective of place and class poet fought for the people. And that left a different mark in Ram Gogoi's poem.

In the olden times of Assamese poem Ram Gogoi's poem excelled with different taste. So his poems are relevant in present times too. Through his poem he presented his farsighted rebellion nature. With the awareness of politics, economics, sociology poet was concerned about creating an equal society. His poem reflected his communist nature

Ram Gogoi was a neat-handed poet. His poems contain not only the melody of mutiny but essence of life and feelings of love can also be found. It is rare to find someone who can write in two streams at same time. Ram Gogoi was an exception and thus he held a strong position in Assamese poem history. Messages of revolution together with hidden stance of love could be felt only by going through his verse. Personal experience attained a public identity.

Ram Gogoi's poems have empathy for the poor people. Poet did not write poem from arts prospective, he created poems thinking about people. Hence his thought outburst in his poems. He did not observe the world from outside leading a luxurious life. He went close people to understand their pain. He led his life with those people for whom it was hard to arrange two times meal. Ram Gogoi had no difference with his words and deed and with his attitude and beautiful creativity he left some remarkable work in Assamese poem history.

Collecting experiences from different field's poet wrote poems that were inspiration to the people's life. With his deeds he showed that to lead a life as human being possessions are not enough. To become human one must have a thought process and extended knowledge. Sacrifice and struggle can build the base of humanity. This thinking or concepts of poet can act like a capital for the upcoming generations. This ideology can be helpful for a good society as well as for good country. This kind of explanations gave Ram Gogoi's poem a high position.

Ram Gogoi's thoughts were expressed beautifully all through his poems. Keeping his feet grounded to motherland poet was able to be a part of world sufferings. His poems reflected this. From a flood affected field to some desert, Mississippi or peoples' from the shore of Volga the poet was hurt by all the pain people faced. Through his poem he declared himself as 'The poet of The World'. Hope for new dawn could be noticed in the poem of this optimistic poet. Thus poet's tremendous feelings promoted his poems to a public dimension.

In the history of Assamese poem ram Gogoi's poems were able to hold a special position. International capitalism is another melody of Ram Gogoi's poems. Progressiveness is rooted in Ram Gogoi's poems. Depth of thinking and international appeal gave a new direction to his poems'. Philosophy of life, Philosophy of politics introduced the poet with the readers'. Presence of rhythmic dynamism in the poetry made his poem long lasting in readers' society. Rejecting hollowness occurring everyday poet proposed a scientific way of thinking in leading a bigger life. In every step of poem expression of human love and real feeling happened. This is the reason of popularity of his poems in today's readers. Introduction of Ram Gogoi's poems in university curriculum in the proof that he holds a special position in Assamese literature. Fighting for the society and tribe Ram Gogoi wrote poems with progressive thoughts and was a silent devotee of Assamese poem. In his romantic poems readers were able to find eternal lover Ram Gogoi.

From the angle of literary creativeness also Ram Gogoi's poems are shining. With the beautiful use of symbols, imagery, and rhythms Ram Gogoi grabbed the attention of the people. He used lot of symbols in his poems. He symbolized things he wanted to express. His beautiful mind was expressed with symbols. In many of his poems moon and river were used as symbols. Moon is the symbols of creative power and river is the symbol of dynamic nature. 'Yellow moon' was drawn as pale or powerless. Past experiences hidden in his sub-conscious were presented as symbols in his poems<sup>(2.Rati.)</sup>. Symbolization 'moon' in his poems is noticeable. Moon played the role of creative power<sup>(3. KhrikireyXitorBotahEsati.Kumol)</sup>. Moon light can destroy degradation of society he believed. Yellow moon is the symbol for powerless or weak.

শেতপৰাহালধীয়া

এটিজোনবাই।

( কোরাপ্ৰিয়তম)

(One pale yellow moon)

Poet represented the adolescence love with symbol. Adolescence period is the prime period of life. Poet felt peace with the presence of his lover in the period (4.Bhor DuporiyaTumarMonot). Being a forever grateful for life poet symbolizes death in his poems. Golden thread was symbolized as life in his poems. He did not know when he would break his relation with the world(5.Hey Jibon.). Recklessness was observed in the poet's life. The sun was another commonly used symbol in his poems. The sun was related to power and hope. Hammer, Axe, Knives, Cutter, Plow, Spikes were other symbols he used. He expressed the revolt of common people against the present day capitalist(6. EmanOsthira.). Uses of symbols added a different taste in Ram Gogoi's poems.

Presence of metaphors was one of the qualities of Ram Gogoi's poems. Rage, frustration, abuse that was faced by the poet expressed with similes. Close live images of visible world added depth to his work. Ram Gogoi's metaphors helped readers to feel his poem from closer angle.

৫০ন

নদীৰবুকুতভাঁহিৱোৱা

এটিমৃতকল্প।

( আজিবহুদিনহল)

( Like

A dead moon

Floating in the river)

With the help of metaphors poet draw the picture of simple yet attractive village society full of lives. Poet depicted the real image of the society(7. KomarXalorGan).

Tired and bad days also inspired poet's mind. Poet faced harsh reality. That can be found in his poems(8Protidhwani.). Metaphors of Ram Gogoi's poems forced reader to think. Sensible readers can sense poet's thinking capability and responsibility towards society through his poems'. Poet used metaphor to describe physical feelings:

বিষাদৰাতিৰ

জোনাকীসখী

তুমিগুণগুণাইআছা

মোৰবুকুৰমাজত

( মোৰঅনুভৱৰমাজত)

(In the bad nights

Fireflies are my friend.

Yet you are humming

Inside my heart)

Ram Gogoi did not use metaphors excessively. That is why it is not hard to understand his poems. Complexity is not observed in his writings. Beautiful and disciplined use of metaphors added charm to his poems.

Literary ornaments are important in writings. These components add charisma to a write up. They add colors to the poet's feelings. It also determines the quality of poem. Presences of literary ornaments in Ram Gogoi's poems were noticeable. Uses of beautiful words added magnetic property to the poems. It is observed that Ram Gogoi use words and meaning as garments to the poem. Example:

এইস্বপ্নতীহীনজীৱনকাব্যৰ  
মইমাথোঁবিচাৰিছোঁগতিময়  
সেইটোনদীৰবুকুৰ।সৰুএটি  
টোহৈউটিবলৈ(মুক্তি)

(In this endless life poem

I want my life to be a wave of that river.

To sail away like a small wave)

In then stanza above poet mentioned about a flowing river, secondly he compared life with a wave. Here using the word “*DHOU*” (wave) twice excelled the hearing quality. Alliteration added saturation to his poems. In many of his poems alliteration can be found.

Words play a minor role in arthalankar. Use of such ornaments can be found in Ram Gogoi's poems.

অতম্ৰঅৰুণেআনেকিহৰইংগিত  
আজিএইস্বপ্ন-নীলআৰক্তসন্ধিয়া ?  
( বৰ্ষাৰশেষত)

(What message does the sharp sun bring?

In today's dreamy blue bloody evening?)

In the example it is shown that in replacement to the word ARUN (The sun) other synonyms SURYA, DIBAKAR, ADITYA, ANGSUMAN, ANGSUMONI can be used without hampering the meaning of the stanza. Thus in this case word is less important, prime concern is to

express the meaning. Thus existence of ornaments is observed in Ram Gogoi's poem(10. DukhMorAshrumoti). Presence of such elements beatified poems.

Existence of free verse is observed in Ram Gogoi's poems. Free verse is the poetry that does not rhyme or have a regular rhythm. In free verse expression of feelings is important rather than word. Free verse does not follow a strict set of rules and does not have a formal structure. Presence of free verse is noticeable in Ram Gogoi's poem-

পাৰভাঙিপানীআহে  
 সোঁতৰছেৰেছেৰেবাঢ়ে, নাচেআৰুহাঁহে  
 কৰুৰস্পৰ্শ।ফেনিলউত্তালতৰংগৰাজি  
 বুকুৰসেউজসপোনটোকোকাটিলৈৱায়।  
 বাধানাইআবাধেআহিলআৰুগল।তেতিয়া  
 মইকান্দোঁআৰুপথাৰেওইনাই- বিনাইকান্দে। (পথাৰ)

(Water that comes dancing and laughing, wipes out my field with its cruel touch. It comes and goes without any hurdle. Then I cry and fields howls.)

In creation of poem rhyme is an important aspect. Rhyming brings joy to listeners. Numbers of words in a line, numbers of lines, stanza etc control the rules of rhyming. Expectation of dynamism after the delay or stop created by a full-stop or coma is rhyme. In Ram Gogoi's poem rhyme exist. Beauty of free verse helped the poet to reach people's heart. Apart from that poems that were suitable for recitation attracted readers and created a special room in their heart.

### Conclusion:

From the above discussion we can say that-

- Ram Gogoi emerged in the era of Ramdhenu and made serious contribution to the Assamese poem history. He practiced poetry from the day he expressed himself as a poet. Subject and writing skills of Ram Gogoi placed himself in a different position from the contemporary poets.
- Ram Gogoi is shining with his independent and progressive way of writing. His poems preferred concepts of Marx-Lenin's communism and acted as a weapon to uncover people's mind. At the same time he was a romantic poet too.
- He was a poet with a progressive thoughts and a poet with romantic flavor. These showed his ability of writing in different subjects. He reflected this ability of himself with his poems. He was a poet who created some progressive poems as well romantic poems in parallel at the same time. Hence he is shining in Assamese poem history.
- We can say in the history of Assamese literature it is difficult to find a poet who can write in to different subjects at the same time.

- In the history of modern Assamese poem Ram Gogoi's poems are important from the point of view of qualities literature. Along with artistic point of view his poems have scope to perform research study on literary beauty. At last it is observed that Ram Gogoi's poems are shining in Assamese literature history with its own qualities like an incomparable asset.

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