

THE DEPICTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN THE NORTH-EAST INDIAN POETRY IN ENGLISH

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Abstract:

The present paper tries to show the loss of nature and its surrounding due to advancement going on in the North East region of India. The nature as a mother, as a caretaker, as a source of livelihood has been hailed in Indian poetry in English but as a part of it, North-east Indian poetry in English has also dominated the theme of ecology since its origin and has been carrying out in the present with serious concern about the human –nature bond ship that was existed in the ancient times. The North Eastern part of India comprises of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim, Mizoram and Tripura. The Northeast part of India has rich biodiversity and included in the UNESCO hotspot also. Literature deals with life and society, so the poets expressed over the degradation of nature and environment took place during colonial and postcolonial era in the region. Environment has liveliness, loss of nature and environment is the biggest threat to the rich biodiversity of the land. The environmental issues like soil erosion, deforestation, decrease in rainfall, floods etc. has deeply affected the lives of native tribal people and other people living there.

Keywords: Nature, Environment, Deforestation, Soil Erosion, Degradation and Human Intervention.

Introduction:

Human beings all the basic needs like food, shelter and home are depend on the nature but the selfish man has exploited the nature without taking care of it for the survival of human being on the earth. The cycle of nature has been disturbed by man and it is a serious problem, we all people are facing it worldwide. The Northeast being hotspot includes mountains, rivers, different types of trees that is unique and watch full. Man's greedy nature has caused the deep impact and created environmental crisis in the region. The existence of suitable environment means in hospitability for living organisms is at the risk in the North - East part of India.

The poets like Mamang Dai, Robin Ngangom, Eisther Syiem, Temsula Ao, Bhupati Das, Monalisa Changkija, Mona Zote and others have depicted the glory and devastation of environment over there. Nature is not an object but like a mother for them. Their essence, love for nature and sympathetic attitude has caused to revolt against ongoing destruction in the region.

Mamang Dai from Arunachal Pradesh is a poetess, writer and novelist. In the two collection of poems 'River Poems and Midsummer Survival Lyrics' she has displayed the

great love for nature and it's pathetic ,sorrowful degradation and pollution in the environment. To quote,

"I carried your image
to the world's edge .
Among strangers and friends
suddenly I would recall
rivers and summer rain,
the vivid years.
I laughed,
the holy stones of your dim country
ringing in my ears." (Dai 14)

Here she is proud of her region's physical geography and records the memories spent in contact with natural objects like river and hills. The social, economical and cultural milieus regarding ecology of motherland and seriousness over the obliteration of nature as a prevalent thing is more ethically depicted in her poems. She is for binger in terms of admitting the environmental and ecological loss taking place in the homeland. Being proud of tribal culture and serene nature of the North-east region has immensely sketched-up with love and likeness. Her positive attitude about rejuvenation and restoration of past human-nature connection after extermination of ecology has been shown in plenty of poems composed by her. The most poems and verses are full of big havoc carrying with insanity. The streams, tribal life, hills, mountains, trees, birds and all such things related with nature and biodiversity of the North-east land is beautifully portrayed through different use of symbols, images and ornamentation. Her sympathetic and humanistic attitude about passive human- nature unity has visualized through very simple lines. The modern man's cruel atrocities against Mother Nature has here broken the bond of generosity of nature since the creation of the life on the mother earth offering to all types of living organisms.

The poetry by Esther Syiem mesmerized the reader's with a beauty and bounty of the surrounding nature as a God's gift to all. Being serious about natural degradation the poetess foresees the worst condition of the nature in this century of Science and Technology. The logical comparison between nature land and mother goes hand in hand in her collection of poems.

Robin Ngangom is the most celebrated poet and writer whose poetry attacked the man's greediness and exploitation of nature for the sake of happiness and luxurious life. The use of imagery and the use of figure of speech for nature belonging to motherland have alarmingly awaking to the whole word with cry in the poetry by him. To quote,

" in contemporary Manipuri poetry, there is a predominance of images of 'bullets' 'blood', 'mother', the colour , 'red' and ,paradoxically , 'flowers' too.(Ngangom 299)

The charm of ecology and local problem of insurgency are crafted at the centre in a lucid and simple language. The ecology of Meghalaya, Manipur and other surrounding states is depicted to present worry about the environmental loss and sorrows as well.

Bhupathi Das from Assam has used natural imagery to inform the greatness of nature in the North-East part of India. The romantic elements in Bhupathi Das' poetry are joyful and enchanting ones. The nature in his poetry feels like having past interaction when there was harmony between human being and nature.

Dayanand Pathak, another outstanding poet represents the philosophy of life through the comparison between nature and human life. Serenity and purity of the nature has been polluted and contaminated by man in the poetry composed by him.

R.K. Madhubir is a poetic genius and literary figure in the North-east Indian poetry in English. Being ungrateful, selfish and greedy nature of man towards nature has been dream for the poet and prophesying the end of the world by human interference and crime in the nature. To quote,

"He is forerunner of all contemporary Indian English poets of Northeast in reacting against man's atrocity against mother Nature and his rootless insensibility in destroying the Nature carelessly." (Das 157)

Lakshahira Das is bilingual and minor poetess writing both in mother tongue and English, has been translated into English. But being the minor poetess writing in English with very few verses, her poems are the true and actual reflections of local nature and landscape attracting people with its natural phenomenon and uniqueness. The real elegance of local charming biopic is depicted with its gorgeousness than other themes in her only 10 verses in English.

The Sikkim region's ecology and physical Geography, both are more than a pleasure and wealth for Rajendra Bhandari of the home state of Sikkim. His ecofeministic approach is very serious and pessimistic about the mindset for girls and nature's exploitation in the Sikkim home land.

Niranjan Chamka from Tripura state reacts against the pitiful situation of Mother Nature that has been recklessly exploited. The rural and hilly area of Chamka tribes is the major subject of poems by him. Anti-nature dominance with cruelty and egoism has truly affected the hills in the state of Tripura where the over burden of Bangladeshi refugees are revoking laws with both against nature and Indian residents creating ecological tension and imbalance.

Jogmaya Chamka is currently writing poetry, very disturbed about the loss and calmness in the nature's part like mountain, hills of the land. The landscape and its physiological make-up has almost disoriented by the modern human's interference in the environmental cycle of the part of North- East. Regression for the degenerative by human has affected her consciousness for the reestablishment of human -nature relationship.

Mona Zote is a poetess is from Mizoram, very sentimental about the position and expression of biodiversity and nature of the local world. Her psyche has the different kind of attitude for the attraction of ecology of the regional landscape.

The leading poetess from Nagaland such as Temsula Ao, Easterine Iralu and Monalisa Changkija are very careful and worried about the human insensitiveness about nature and motherland. These entire poetesses record the selfish and carelessness degradation

over there. The most famous poetess from Nagaland have the faith in their ancestral legacy that have been worshipping nature for the blessings offered by the nature to tribal people whose life is totally Impossible without the existence of nature. To quote,

" LUNGTEROK,
The six stones
Where the progenitors
And forebears
Of the stone-people
Were born
Out of the womb
Of the earth." (Ao 49)

In the poem 'Earthquake' the poetess Tamsula Ao compares land or the Earth to pregnant women who replies to the destructive human activities in the form of earthquake causing terror among the people and surrounding living organisms residing there.

Conclusion:

All the above mentioned poets are eco-sensitive and very worried about the cruel attitude man having for nature and environment affecting the life of north eastern people, where nature provides everything to tribal people. The recurrent theme of these poets is the degradation of nature and surrounding environment. All these poets predict the existence of life on the earth is in danger until the human stop the atrocities against nature; otherwise the future of life on the earth will vanish causing to make it inhospitable for all of us. These poets urge to restore the human-nature interaction once again.

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