

Prose Style of Rajanikanta Bardoloi

(With reference to his novel 'Manomati')

Dr. Banalata Das

Assistant Professor

Dept. of Assamese

PDUAM, Tulungia, Bongaigaon

Assam, India

Abstract

"The King of Assamese novel" Rajanikanta Bardoloi is remembered first of all in Assamese literature. The novelist of 'Jonaki Yug' Rajanikanta Bardoloi's 'Manomati' (1900) is remarkable among the historical novels. His writings are significant because of his presentation of themes, simple expressions, phrases and idioms, dialects and uses of different languages for different characters. Here, through this novel 'Manomati' I am trying to discuss about Bardoloi's writing style.

Keywords : Rajanikanta Bardoloi, Prose, Style, Historical novel.

Introduction :

Assamese historical novel gets its development in the hands of 'Assam's Scott' – Rajanikanta Bardoloi. Except 'Miri Jiyari' (1985) the social novel, 'Manomati' (1900), 'Danduwa-Droh' (1909), 'Rangili' (1925), 'Radha Rukminir Ran' (1925), 'Nirmal Bhakat' (1926), 'Tamreswarir Mandir' (1926) and 'Rohdoi Ligiri' (1930) – all these seven are his historical novels. (Thakur, Nagen : Esha Bacharar Asomiya Upanyash, Pg. 32), Bardoloi's all the novels are historical, regional and humanitarians. To describe the historical themes and love relations, Bardoloi prefers easy language and communicating style. He is one of the pioneers of romanticism in Assamese literature. Patriotism, nationalism, historical and ethnographic materials are remarkable in his writings.

Method of study :

In this research paper, descriptive method is used. For references of books, M.L.A. method is applied. The novel 'Manomati' is Rajanikanta Bardoloi's main source and books and essays of dignified writers are taken as subordinate source.

Aims of Study :

From the initial stage of 16th Century till the beginning of 19th Century – the period is called as the expansion era of Assamese period. Behind the evolution and changes of Assamese

prose, social, cultural, intellectual bases and its changes are writers own talents and ideas. Variety in subject-matter is also specific in his writings.

Analysis of the study :

The word 'prose-style' is of two different meaningful words – 'Prose' and 'Style'. The word 'prose' comes from the Latin word – 'Prosaration', Chambers Dictionary has given the definition of prose – "Written or spoken language that is not in verse." According to Sahitya Darpanam, prose means "Brittagandhojwitang gadyam" (Kabiraj, Biswanath : Sahitya Darpanam, Pg. – 468) or what literary work is written without rhyming, is called prose.

The other word related with prose is 'style' – its meaning is method, ceremony and writing skill, (Chandrakanta Dictionary, Pg. – 801). 'Style' means a stick made of material for writing. (Konwar, Aparna : Adhunik Asomiya Gadyashoily, Pg. – V). Here, style means the special art of writing.

Prose-style means the way of expression and techniques used by a writer in his writings to focus his feelings. Each writer reflects some special characteristics in the language of prose. By this specific characteristic in language, the prose style develops by a writer. (Konwar, Aparna : Adhunik Asomiya Gadyashoily, Pg. – VII). By such characteristics, the King of Novels,

Rajanikanta Bardoloi focuses in the field of Assamese literature.

Rajanikanta Bardoloi, through his novels, develops the Assamese prose in a healthy way. If we study all his works, then it is proved clearly. In his prose, we can identify the presentation of themes, simple expression style, use of Assamese proverbs, phrases and idioms. For example :-

- (a) “Betir rupei harinar mangsar dore boiri hol.” (Manomati)
- (b) “Naakto dighal, tontonia, sailakh bahi etir dore.” (Manomati)
- (c) “Akakhat chandra nathakile torao nijilike.” (Manomati)

In his prose, short short sentences and somewhere the uses of long sentences is also remarkable. For example :-

“Manomatir kakalat ekhon patar phulam mekhela, gat ekhon pator riha. Hatat ejor sonor bala. Nakat eta nakphul. Kanat ejor Kariya. Kapalat eta senduror phota. Murar chulitarir eta khekerupatia khopa, tamolar rangere othduti tiktik kare ranga.”

(Manomati, Pg. – 16)

Bardoloi uses tribal languages vastly in his writings. For example – ‘Apang’, ‘Aram’, ‘Kaneng’, ‘Karching-Katang’, ‘Changdop’, ‘Cheneng’, ‘Murang’ etc. are the words from Missing and Ahom languages reflected in his prose. So, using these words in the novel ‘Manomati’ it helps in providing a special atmosphere.

The characters’ language is conversational in the novel, but mostly dramatical through easy. This conversational style cannot dismiss the beauty of the novel. Instead of it, this style helps bringing the characters’ mental state boldly among readers. We can see the uses of Sanskrit words in describing the royal atmosphere, religious themes etc. Though he applies all these words, still he maintains the appropriate utilization of all these. So, this is remarkable in Bardoloi’s writing style.

Appropriate uses of proverbs, phrases and idioms also plays an important role in describing the inner meaning of Bardoloi’s writings. All these make his prose-style significant and attractive. Proverbs, for example, in his writings are –

“Ek kay dekhi, ek kay lekhi.”

(Manomati)

As such, the uses of lower Assam’s dialects are also reflected in his prose. For example, - ‘Phota’, ‘Tirijati’, ‘Chaita’ etc.

Bardoloi has a unique style in construction of a sentence. Though his sentences are easy but influenced by the uses of English sentences. It happens due to the habit of studying English language.

Moreover, we see the uses of imitation and corresponding dichotomous words in Bardoloi’s writings. Thus, uses of these words make his writings interesting. For example – ‘Rib-rib’, ‘Chewe-chewe’, ‘Girip-girip’, ‘Suda-suda’, ‘Sudhi-puchi’, ‘Umali-Jamali’, ‘Goch-birikh’, ‘Pase-tase’ etc.

Another important characteristic in Bardoloi’s writing is mobility. Aiming to give mobility in the language, Bardoloi depicts the easy-going people’s words through their life-style. So, his prose style is not artificial and easy to understand.

Conclusion :

In terms of prose-style, Bardoloi’s writings are very important in connection to Assamese literature. Interesting expression proper utilization of proverbs and humanitarian conversations are reflected in his works. Bardoloi’s deep knowledge of studies is reflected through his language style and expression style which make them interesting. Due to the unique expression style, Bardoloi deserves a special place in the history of Assamese prose.

Bibliography :

Main Book

Bardoloi, Rajanikanta : Manomati, Sahitya Prakash, Year – 2000.

Reference Books :

1. Bhuyan, Smritirekha : Asomiya Gadyarity, Aak-Bak Sanskaran, Guwahati, Year – 2012
2. Chandrakanta Abhidhan : Guwahati University, Year – 2012
3. Kabiraj, Biswanath : Sahitya Darpanam, Prakashak – Krishnadas Akademi, Baranashi, Year-1981
4. Konwar, Aparna (Ed.) : Adhunik Asomiya Gadyashoili, Banalata, Year – 2016
5. Sarma Doloi, Harinath : Asomiya Gadya Sahityar Gati-path, Padmapriya Library, Nalbari, Year – 2013
6. Thakur, Nagen (Ed) : Esha Bacharar Asomiya Upanyash, Jyoti Prakashan, Guwahati, Year – 2018.