

Characterization Of The Play Rupalim By Jyotiprasad Agarwala: A Study

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ABSTRACT:

Jyotiprasad Agarwala is one of the persons who is recognized for his own contribution to the Assamese literary culture. His another identity is Rupkonwar. He is a composer, lyricist, filmmaker, playwright, storyteller, novelist, and literary figure. His contribution to the field of Assamese drama is quite notable. Six complete plays have been published till now to his name. The story, character, theme of each drama is distinctive. Rupalim is a fictional and allegorical play among the said six plays. There are eight characters in the play Rupalim. Attempts have been made to discuss how the playwright portrays the characters while advancing the story.

KEY WORD: Jyotiprasad Agarwala, drama, Rupalim, Characterization.

INTRODUCTION:

A special part of literature is drama. The word 'natok' has been derived from the Sanskrit word 'nat' which expresses the meaning of 'nritya'. In a word, the narrative created with the coordination of lyrics and dance can be called as drama. A drama is performed in three forms—audible, visual and text. The root of a play is the written manuscript. There are many components in a play. These are—

Story

Character

Dialogue

Creation of atmosphere

Playwright's philosophy of life

Action

Drama is the contribution of western literature. Like other states of India, Assamese literature is particularly influenced by the western literary thoughts. The playwright of Assam have influenced this thought. Various playwrights have contributed

towards the field of Assamese literature in different times. JyotiprasadAgarwala is one of the playwrights among them.

JyotiprasadAgarwala was born on 17 June, 1903 at Tamulpur Tea Estate of Dibrugarh. His father's name is ParamanandaAgarwala and mother is KiranmayeeAgarwala. Agarwala was interested in the Assamese language, literature and culture since the very childhood. He could able to compose the play 'Sonit-kuwori' when he was only fourteen years old. His contribution towards the drama literature is quite notable among all the sphere of Assamese literary culture. The playwright has written total six numbers of complete plays. These are—

Sonit-kuwori(1925), KarengorLigiri (1930), Lavita (1948), Rupalim (1938), NimatiKoina (1968), Khonikar (1977). Apart from these, there are three incomplete play can be found to his name. These are—Kanaklata, Sundarkonwar, Sonpakhili etc. Each of his plays is peculiar in nature. Among those plays, the play Rupalim has been able achieve a special place in the history of Assamese literary culture.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

Jyotiprasad Agarwala has contributed enough to the Assamese drama literature. Each play of him is significant. Among those plays, the play Rupalim has been included in this discussion. The story of a play moves forward through the characters and dialogues. The discussion is going to include how the playwright has portrayed the characters through the play Rupalim and what class of people in the society is represented by these characters.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:

Character is one of the important components of a play. The dialogue of a play unfolds through the characters. The dialogues help to move the story. The picture of people living in a society, social system, greed and love of people, jealousy and affection, likings etc. are visible through the characters. The main objective of this research paper is to discuss how the playwright has portrayed the actual characters of the society through the play Rupalim.

METHODS OF THE STUDY:

The historical, descriptive and analytical method are used to study the subject-matter of the titled paper "Characterization of the play Rupalim by Jyotiprasad Agarwala : a study".

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

The literary works of JyotiprasadAgarwala have been discussed till now. The plays of him are one of his literary contributions. His every play is worth discussing. Critics, essayists, researchers have given a comprehensive discussion about his plays along with the basic discussion of some plays. In the fifth chapter of the book 'AsomiyaNatyoSahityo' of Satyendranath Sharma, the author has discussed the plays 'KarengorLigiri' and 'Rupalim' as fictional play based on events. The discussion about JyotiprasadAgarwala and Assamese play was done in the very beginning of the book 'AsomiyaNatyoSahityo: ParamparaaruPariborton' published by Assam PrakashanParishad. In the book "JyotiprasadRasanawali" edited by Hiren Gohain, every play of JyotiprasadAgarwala was highlighted. The play 'Rupalim' is also available in it. KanakchandraSahariya has discussed about the play Rupalim in the article 'JyotiprasadorMohotSristiRupalim' which was included in the book 'AsomiyaNatokParamparaaruPariborton' edited by ParamanandaRajbanshi. Although Jyotiprasad Agarwala's other plays have been discussed but there has not been sufficient discussion about the characterization of the play 'Rupalim.' Therefore, this topic is chosen for research study.

SUBJECT-MATTER:

'Rupalim' is one of the significant plays composed by Jyotiprasad Agarwala. This play is the third published complete play of Jyotiprasad Agarwala. He was around 35 or 36 years old at the time of composing of this play. Though the play was written in 1936 but it was published in 1960. The play was first staged in Ban Theatre of Tezpur in 1937. The playwright has mentioned at the introduction of the play that a distant shadow of the famous play Monna Vanna by Maeterlinch has fallen in the play Rupalim. In this play, Jyotiprasad Agarwala expresses the diversity and colourfulness of human nature. There are total eight characters in the play Rupalim. They are—Manimugdha, Renthiang, Rukomi Raja, Mayabo, Rimu, Junafa, Itibhen, Rupalim etc. The play is divided into seven parts. Rupalim is the main protagonist of the play. The story of the play is based on the love of two love couple of Rukomi community of Eastern border of India. The characters Rupalim and Mayabo love each other very dearly. Rupalim's father Junafa stood up against this love. Junafa told Mayabo that he would accept Mayabo worthy for Rupalim if he brings him a tiger's head by hunting it and according to that condition he would give Mayabo his daughter Rupalim. There begins the conflict in the play—the conflict between Mayabo and the commander of the ruler Manimugdha, Renthiang over tiger hunting. Renthiang started torturing Junafa and Mayabo with his force of

soldiers. Manimugdha's eyes fell into beautiful Rupalim while she begging not to hurt Junafa. Manimugdha becomes obsessed with the beauty of Rupalim and despite her unwillingness, he took her to his palace by using his ruling power. Junafa reports this to the Rukomi king. When the Rukomi king did not take any action, his sister takes over the kingdom and conducts her own investigation regarding the entire matter. The reason behind not taking any action by Rukomi king was that Manimugdha was his would be sister-in-law i.e. Itibhen's would be husband. Still she decided to take action against Manimugdha without any fear. Manimugdha wins the war and Itibhen loses the war. Though Rupalim escaped from the palace at that time, but Manimugdha brings back Rupalim to the palace with the help of his soldiers. At last, to save Junafa, Mayabo and her own village, Rupalim decided to surrender herself to Manimugdha. But in the end, the king freed Rupalim. When Rupalim comes back to her own home when all the villagers along with Junafa blames Rupalim and at the end, Itibhen with the right to rule, sentenced Rupalim to death.

Four categories of people live in society is mentioned in the play Rupalim. They are—

First category—Rupalim, Mayabo, Junafa

Second category— Rukomi king, Manimugdha, Renthiang

Third category— Itibhen

Fourth category— Rimu

Characters of first category:

Rupalim, Junafa, Mayabo—these three characters are included in the characters of first category.. Simple and weak section of people live in society is represented by these three characters.

Rupalim:

Rupalim is the protagonist of the play. She is a simple girl of Rukmi community with a gentle heart. The playwright tries to give completeness to this character. In the heart of an ordinary girl, the dramatist imposes all the characteristics such as love, affection, motherly nature, responsible, hard-working, self-sacrificing nature etc. Her simplicity is found in every dialogue of the play. Rupalim's motherly nature is revealed in the very first part of the play. In the conversation between Rupalim and Mayabo, Rupalim mentions about her niece. The love for children has been revealed when Rupalim talks about the child. In one or two more dialogues, it is also evident that Rupalim was jealous of Mayabo. The comparison of love between Rupalim and the pepa (a musical instrument) of Mayabo is also seen. Rupalim was much responsible for her community besides Junafa and Mayabo. For

which she did not even hesitate to surrender herself to Manimugdha. The character Rupalim was not an antagonistic character. Accepting the situation is the main characteristics of this character. Due to which this character is eventually drawn to death.

Mayabo:

Mayabo is the main male character of the play Rupalim. Though this character stands as main character yet it is not attractive in the play. Mayabo is the lover of Rupalim. In the first phase, though this character puts hand in tiger's mouth to achieve Rupalim but in late phase, this character becomes silent. This character begged with Junafa to the Rukomi king to rescue Rupalim when Manimugdha captured Rupalim and takes her to the palace. But at that time Mayabo's character should have been revolutionary but it didn't happen. Later, when the society made Rupalim guilty and put her on death bed, Mayabo remained silent at that time also. It can be felt from the study of the play that this character became a slave to the situation.

Junafa:

Junafa is the father of Rupalim. The playwright has portrayed the character as one of the weaker class people of the society. At first the character was active. He perfectly performed the responsibilities of a father to a daughter. This character becomes attractive when Manimugdha captured Rupalim and took her with him. When Itibhen sent Rupalim to her death bed, he should have been there for his daughter Rupalim but instead of doing so he gave importance to the timeworn culture and tradition. He gives more importance to the society, people live in society and the culture prevailing in the society than to his own daughter. This character fails to attract people who love drama.

Characters of second category:

Rukmi king, Manimugdha, Renthiang etc. characters are included in the second category of characters. The ruler class of the society is represented by these characters. The ruler class tries to exploit the weaker section of the society. These characters help to make that statement true.

Manimugdha:

Manimugdha is the ruler of the territory and a powerful king. The ruler class of the society has been represented by this character. Very arrogant. Powerful and lusty king tortured upon the young Rukomi woman Rupalim. He captured Rupalim without her will in

front of her father Junafa. But Junafa felt powerless in front of the power of the powerful king. Rupalim's beauty becomes has become the weakness of the king. Though he fell for Rupalim's beauty but at the end the way he releases Rupalim without doing any harm increases the attractiveness of this character. The character Manimugdha is characterized as the changeable character. He abducted Rupalim in order to fulfill his heart's desire but at the end, he finally made her feel that it is not right for a man to drag someone forcefully into himself. The king understood that Rupalim would surrender her whole body to him but Mayabo would always remain the owner of her heart.

Rukomi King:

The king is the root of monarchy. All the affairs of the state are conducted under the direction of the king. It is the king who is the friend of all the people dwell in the state in all their happiness and sadness. It is the king who judges justice and injustice in a monarchy. The playwright has portrayed the character of the king complete oppositely. The Rukomi king is addicted to alcohol and women. The Rukomi king did not pay any attention to the matter that a girl of Rukomi state is abducted by Manimugdha. For which the kingship was passed from his hand to his sister Itibhen. He had to wander around forests after losing the state. The changed position of a king addicted to luxury has been expressed through this character.

Renthiang:

Renthiang is the commander of the king of the province Manimugdha. It can be said that this character doesn't have any individuality. All the affairs of this character are done as directed by the king. This character tries to do all the affairs according to the order of the king. What the king says, how he says these all are followed as it is by this character.

Characters of third category:

Many people live in the society. Every person in the society is opposite to each other. Some characters of a society may simple, some may artificial and some are jealous. Through the character Itibhen this thought is reflected.

Itibhen:

The most attractive character in the play Rupalim is Itibhen. A number of characteristics are reflected by the character Itibhen. Firstly, the love for own community and secondly, jealousy etc. This character is portrayed complete differently to the character

Rupalim in the play Rupalim. The character Itibhen is an antagonist character. Rupalim's father Junafa went to the Rukomi king seeking justice for his daughter Rupalim. She didn't hesitate to speak for the Rukomi people when the Rukomi king didn't pay any attention to the matter. Even though the king was her own brother she sued the king and took over the matter when the king did not fulfill his duty. Though Manimugdha was Itibhen's fiancé yet she fought against Manimugdha. Through this character, one more characteristics is reflected that is the jealousy of woman towards another woman. It can be felt after studying the whole play that though Itibhen was jealous of Rupalim but this jealousy was not unusual. This character becomes more attractive when it gives death sentence to Rupalim at the end.

Characters of fourth category:

The character Rimu can be mentioned as the character of fourth category. The character Rimu is represented in the fifth part of the play. The playwright has portrayed the characteristics of awareness among the people of the society. Rimu is a common man. But through the character, the playwright portrays the feeling of emotion, love etc. for one's own community and nation. Rimu is not a powerful man yet he reflects that one can be aware of his own community and land without having power.

CONCLUSION:

Rupalim is an allegorical fictional play of Jyotiprasad Agarwala. The play is divided into seven parts. Each character in each part of the play is identified with unique characteristics. All the good and bad sides are tried to reflect in the characters. Due to which the play could move forward to the success. One of the attractive characters of the play is Itibhen. The prolonged jealousy of a woman towards another woman is reflected through the character Itibhen. In the same way, an artistic mind is introduced beyond the desire of a man is portrayed through the character Manimugdha. In the whole play, the death of Rupalim and the change in Manimugdha could able to increase the attraction among the drama loving people.

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