

National Consciousness In The Songs Of Bhupen Hazarika: A Descriptive Study

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ABSTRACT:

Literature is created when new words are emerged by the aesthetic realization of the human mind. These literatures can be divided into different genres on the basis of different features. One of the notable genres of literature is lyrical literature. In this genre of literature, the literature is transformed into a song by applying melody, rhythm, rhyme and harmony. One of the most popular genres that have recently gained prominence in modern Assamese literature is lyrical literature. Like other genres of literature, lyrical literature also has the power to play a role in the management of a society in a healthy, strong and powerful way. Many stalwarts have enriched the Assamese lyrical literature. We must first name Bishnuprasad Rabha and Jyotiprasad Agarwala as the guide of this route. These two persons have established this trend in a strong form by adding new thoughts and ideas to the genre of Assamese lyrical literature. By imitating Jyoti-Bishnu, the later lyricists have enhanced the repository of Assamese lyrical literature.

One of the most prominent and finest artists of modern era, inspired by the ideals of Jyoti-Bishnu is Bhupen Hazarika. The songs of this artist who has been able to achieve fame at the national and international level through his creations, beautifully reflect the characteristics of humanity, patriotism, nationalism, historical consciousness, political consciousness, spirit of love and nature etc. The research paper attempts to discuss how the national consciousness is reflected in the songs of Bhupen Hazarika.

KEYWORDS: Literature, song, lyricist, Bhupen Hazarika, National Consciousness etc.

INTRODUCTION:

The person to start the modern era of lyrical literature through the inspirations of Jyoti-Bishnu, the initiators of Assamese Lyrical

Literature is Bhupen Hazarika. The mass oriented thinking that has developed in the proximity of Jyoti-Bishnu has played a role in getting priority about the society and people in Bhupen Hazarika's songs. Since the early 80s this great artist has contributed to the modern Assamese Music Industry. The main artist to lead and support the people who sing songs for the nation's soil is Bhupen Hazarika. Whose every song teaches people to live as human beings, teaches to love people, teaches to love the nation, teaches to respect history, teaches to be a revolutionary and teaches to love nature. Whose leadership created a group of socially responsible intellectual artists. He was able to gain fame in the international context because of these qualities. It's not just Lyrical Literature or the Assamese Music Industry that Bhupen Hazarika has enriched. Apart from this, he contributed to the world of Hindi and Bengali music. Hazarika's songs are seen portraying to send a message of harmony covering every caste and tribe living in the erstwhile state of Assam and the seven sisters as Assam. Due to which he became a proud person of North East as well as the whole India. The real success of an artist lies in where he can establish himself above the country, caste and religion. Hazarika's songs generally show widespread expressions of love for nature, love for human being, patriotism, revolutionary consciousness, historical consciousness, social consciousness, etc.

An important feature of Hazarika's song is the national consciousness. National consciousness denotes responsibility towards one's nation, motherland and country. The steps taken in the interest of the nation through one's actions are called national consciousness. Hazarika has composed many songs aimed at the people to protect the interests of the nation and the country. This research paper discusses about that.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

There has been some material of previous studies conducted by various individuals regarding the selected subject of the research paper. Niharika Phukan's article 'Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's Geet: Jatiyatabad Aaru Xamajik Prasanga', written in the book 'Chirojugomiya Byektitwo', published in Arpana Konwar and Hemanta Koch's joint edit, seems to give an idea of how Bhupen Hazarika's songs reflect national consciousness. The essay 'Bhupen Hazarika's Geet Aru Asomiya Jatiya Chetona' of Ankumoni Das, published in 'Gariyasi', edited by Lakshminandan Bora in November 2014, provides an analysis of Bhupen Hazarika and about the national consciousness reflected in Bhupen Hazarika's songs. Pankaj Bora's article titled 'Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's Geet Aru Jatiya Chetona', published on June 23, 2019 in 'Axom Aditya',

edited by Arun Kumar Das, gives some idea about the songs and the national consciousness expressed in Bhupen Hazarika's songs.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:

Bhupen Hazarika is the vigorous and ingenious person who took the lead in creating a new era in the field of modern Assamese Music. It was under his leadership that a group of mass artists who sang songs for the motherland was born. Therefore, there is a great need to talk about the person under whose strong leadership a group of mass artists was born, and who has greatly enriched the Assamese lyrical literature, world of music and film. Therefore, the subject chosen to appreciate the depth of his public consciousness, his immense love for the nation, is of great importance.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY:

The objectives of the study of the selected subject are -

- 1) To deeply understand the thoughts and consciousness of Bhupen Hazarika.
- 2) To study how the people have accepted the ideals of Bhupen Hazarika.
- 3) To look at how the spirit of nationalism is reflected in Bhupen Hazarika's songs.

METHOD OF THE STUDY:

Descriptive methods have been used mainly in preparing the paper and the decimal method has been used to facilitate the presentation of the topics.

SCOPE OF THE STUDY:

The study of the topic "National Consciousness in the songs of Bhupen Hazarika: a Descriptive Study" is very extensive because every song of Bhupen Hazarika more or less reflects national consciousness. And this consciousness is of two types— Assam-centric consciousness and India-centric consciousness. To facilitate the preparation of the research paper, a selection has been made for analysis some of Bhupen Hazarika's songs reflecting the Assam-centric national consciousness in the scope of the study and only a few songs that reflect the Indian-centric national consciousness will be mentioned. The songs that reflect the Assam-centric national consciousness selected for the analysis are-

'Axom Amar RupoheeGunoruNaiXekh...'

'AxomiAaireLaalitaPalita...'

'Akashi Janere..'

'AamiAxomiyaNohouDukhiya...'

'Junakore Rati AxomireeMati...'

'MukJongleeJonglee...' etc.

BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF BHUPEN HAZARIKA:

Bhupen Hazarika is one and unique for his contribution to the world of music as a lyricist, composer and music director. Each of his songs occupies a place in the deepest corners of the hearts of people. Hazarika conveyed the message of peace, harmony and unity among the people through his songs. His songs encouraged people to work for people. Just as Sankardeva and Madhavadeva sang songs for their devotion, there are instances of national consciousness, humanity, relationship, patriotism, love for nature in the songs of Bhupen Hazarika due to his love and responsibility of the Motherly Assam and Assamese culture. This man of international stature, a saint of Assamese national culture, was born in 1926. His birth can be said to have opened up the golden era in the Assamese music world. Bhupen Hazarika's songs clearly depict various aspects of contemporary society, culture, politics, corruption, etc.

Just as the songs of Rabindranath Tagore are called RabindraSangeet, Jyoti - Bhishnu's songs are called JyotiSangeet, RabhaSangeet, the songs of Bhupen Hazarika are called BhupendraSangeet. Rabindranath gave a narration about more than two and a half thousand songs composed by him – that is his 'AhetukSristileela' (Unaccountable Creation). In order to describe some description of the huge school of about four hundred songs of Hazarika, who has composed melodies in the world of Assamese music, can be said as 'AnirbachaniyaSristileela'(incredible creation).

Bhupen Hazarika stepped into the world of music when he was in school by writing and composing the song 'Kusumbare Putra Sri SankaraGuruweBarisil Mamore Taan' by himself. Since then, Bhupen Hazarika has been able to gain international fame due to his great talent. He was able to receive selfless love of people of his country and abroad as a lyricist, composer, music director of Assamese-Bangla-Hindi films, film director, writer, etc. Apart from this, he has received many awards and honours. His notable awards are-

Padmashri, 1977

SangeetNatak Academy Award, 1987

Dada SahebPhalkeAward, 1993

Padmabhushan, 2001

AxomRatna, 2009

Padmabibhushan, 2012 (posthumously)

Bharatratna, 2019 (posthumously)

NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN THE SONGS OF BHUPEN HAZARIKA

The term national consciousness generally refers to the immense love and respect for one's nation. It is because of the national consciousness that a nation is dynamic from its origin to the present. It is because of the national consciousness that we seem to be angry against the threats and problems faced by the Assamese. It is because of the national consciousness that if anyone wants to distort the Assamese culture, then everyone comes out in good faith to raise our voice against it. The root of being proud of being identified as Assamese is national consciousness.

National consciousness is at the root of all the bravery and valour of the past and present of the Assamese people. At the root of deepening this consciousness and encouraging every Assamese for the national consciousness is a handful of talented people. The leadership of these individuals has played the role of the nation being proudly active. Bhupen Hazarika is the person who has established the Assamese national consciousness in a greater picture since the fifties of the 20th century. The popularity of a man for whom people spontaneously came out in millions to pay their last respects to the person and had to postpone the funeral for the sake of the crowd, could not be bigger than this. If it is, that's because of his selfless contribution to those people. "Through the songs of Bhupen Hazarika, spiritualism, humanism, revolutionary consciousness, romance, patriotism, the history of the world, the fragmented events of culture as well as strong national consciousness have blossomed."

The songs reflecting the national consciousness of Bhupen Hazarika can be divided into two categories. These two categories are-

Assam centric National Consciousness

India centric National Consciousness

-How these two types of national consciousness are reflected in the songs of Bhupen Hazarika is analysed on the basis of the selected songs below.

ASSAM CENTRIC NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS

The number of songs by Bhupen Hazarika reflecting the Assam-centric national consciousness is quite high. One of the notable songs is -

'Axom Amar Rupohee, GunoruNaiXekh

Bharatare Purba Deshor Surjya Utha Desh

Axomi Aai Rupohee, Gunoru Nai Xekh

Bharatare Purba Deshor Surjya Utha Desh...'

-titled song was written by Bhupen Hazarika in 1969 while he was in Bombay. Through the song, Bhupen Hazarika's immense love for Assam, his motherland is reflected. In the song, Bhupen Hazarika says that though he has travelled to different places outside Assam but he has not found homely anywhere like in Assam. The lyricist says that the soil of Assam, the natural environment, the national festivals that come with the change in seasons, the harmony between different ethnic groups cannot be found anywhere except Assam. His love for the nature and people of Assam like this despite travelling to different places indicates his love for his nation.

Another song by Bhupen Hazarika that reflects the national consciousness is -

'AxomiAaireLalita - Palita

MoiTulaniyaJee

AxomirXonmanXodayeiRakhime

Aruno Kou Moi Ki?'

- The song was written by Bhupen Hazarika in 1982. Although the song says 'TulaniyaJee' (Adopted Daughter), it is not just about 'Jee' (daughters), but the song wants to express the feeling of those who were born in Assam but whose mother tongue is not Assamese, who have left their own places and have been living in Assam for years together with the Assamese. Their respect for the nation is beautifully expressed by the lyricist in the song.

Another song by Bhupen Hazarika that reflects the national consciousness is -

'AkasheeJanere

UraniyaMonere

Dokmokalite

Possimorepora, Bangarpura

MariluUra....ra.'

- The song was written by Bhupen Hazarika in 1963 while he was on his way to Jaipur by aeroplane from abroad. Whenever Bhupen Hazarika returns home from exile, the passion that has arisen in his mind towards his homeland is reflected in his songs and this song is a proper reflection of that. The song beautifully reflects the excitement of a true patriot in exile to see his homeland after a long time. And the national consciousness through the song is seen properly.

Bhupen Hazarika wrote this song in 1968 in Bholaguri Tea Garden as a warning to those arrogant Assamese who were proud to say 'Ami AxomiyaNohouDukhiyaKihorDukhiyaHom' (we are

Assamese, we are not poor, will be poor for what) which Bezbaruah stated.

'Ami AxomiyaNohouDukhiya
BuliXantonaLovileNohobo
AajirAxomiyaiNijokNichinile
AxomRoxatoleJabo.'

In the past, there was no caste discrimination among the Assamese, due to which the colourful culture of Assam has been able to become the centre of attraction for all. But now, due to the disagreements between those castes and tribes, the nation is on the verge of extinction. Therefore Bhupen Hazarika has made everyone aware where there is still time. Without sitting on the glory of the past, but rather being inspired by the glory of the past, he reminds us to work in the interest of the nation. The song beautifully reflects the consciousness of history along with the consciousness of nation.

'Junakore Rati AxomireMati
JilikiJiliki Pore
MoloyarEsatiDuhateXawoti
Dhuniya Maloti Xore'

-this song was written in 1956 for the movie 'Era Bator Xur'. The song gives a glimpse of the unconditional love for motherland. It expresses the optimism that prevalent among the innocent people of the villages of Assam from their idea of new dreams.

Another song that reflects the Assam-centric national consciousness is -

'MukJangliJangliDuniyaiKoy
Janghalei Mur Ghor
MuktaHuwa Mur Bondhu
NakalJiwon Mur Por.'

-Through this song, the lyricist has tried to remove the misconception of the world towards Assam. Bhupen Hazarika represents the people of Assam as 'Moi' (I am) in the song. The world insults Assam by calling it as a land of jungles, barbarians, magicians. Opposing this, Bhupen Hazarika composed this song in 1986. It can be assumed that the immense love of Bhupen Hazarika for the nation lies behind the writing of the song. Because, a true patriot cannot tolerate such superficial attitude towards his nation.

Bhupen Hazarika's reverence for the nation is reflected through various songs like these.

INDIA CENTRIC NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS

The songs that reflect the national consciousness of Bhupen Hazarika are divided into two categories. One of them is the

Indian-centric national consciousness. Like the Assam centric songs, Bhupen Hazarika's songs reveal various events and phenomena in the Indian context. For which Bhupen Hazarika is considered to not only be the pride of Assam but also the pride of India. 'RanaklantaNohouXeIMuhurtoloi....' the song was written during the war of China and India. In the song, the lyricist has expressed a hoax for the nation that thinks India is weak. Bhupen Hazarika has challenged China through the song that India will respond like a lion to China who has proudly brought about the horrors of war by defying the Panchsheel policy. National consciousness of Bhupen Hazarika is beautifully expressed in the song.

Another song that reflects the India-centric national consciousness is 'SwaheedPranamoTumak...' – through this song, the lyricist pays homage to every martyr who has been martyred for the country. The song 'OoBharatarePajaGharatNoiPaarot' was written in 1984. The national consciousness is also expressed through this song. National consciousness is also reflected in the Indian context through songs like 'OoBharatireOoPrithibire', 'Kata JowanorMrityuHol', etc. written in 1948.

RELEVANCE OF BHUPEN HAZARIKA IN PRESENT CONTEXT

Bhupen Hazarika is the artist who, despite thinking of his own nation, crossed the narrow boundary of nationalism and roams in the vast field of international humanity. The Assamese claims to have loved this person every moment from their soul. When one neglects to build his mausoleum, when one compares his name to a person of a new generation, the Assamese lament that they have insulted their beloved artist, but the Assamese do not budge, when those people, neglecting the ideals and thinking of Bhupen Hazarika take the charge to govern the society.

Songs can lead a society. And Bhupen Hazarika's name has to be taken especially in this regard. But today, the number of people who give importance to artists like him is very less. This is because of the lack of people who can fill the space of Bhupen Hazarika and lack of people who understand their aspirations. And the few people who have the ability to understand their ideals, lack a proper audience to listen to them. It was not difficult for someone like Bhupen Hazarika to do so. His absence has increased the disharmony, dishonesty, and indiscipline environment in the society. Because, Bhupen Hazarika is no longer there to show these things through his songs. Those who are there are busy matching the tunes of the songs 'Washing Powder Nirma', 'Pedel Mari Mari', 'XaajorBaatiLoi'. So at such a time in society, there is a great need for a person like Bhupen Hazarika. At a time when people are

forgetting people in the grip of mechanisation, when at the verge of losing the nation they are unable to raise their voice against the selfish minds of a few people, intellectuals are always looking for a Bhupen Hazarika to sing 'ManuheManuhor Babe', 'AamiAxomiyaNohouDukhiya' like Bhupen Hazarika. At this time of crisis of the nation, a person like Bhupen Hazarika could have instilled national consciousness in the minds of the Assamese. Because, songs can guide people and society. So the relevance of Bhupen Hazarika in today's time was immense.

CONCLUSION

At the end of the preparation of the research paper a few conclusions can be reached. The conclusions are -

- 1) Bhupen Hazarika's songs reflect social consciousness, revolutionary spirit in parallel with national consciousness.
- 2) Bhupen Hazarika's songs have been inspiring and alerting the Assamese about the glorious stories of the past during various calamities that have come towards the Assamese nation.
- 3) Bhupen Hazarika, in each of his songs, tried to remove the discrimination in today's society by reminding them of how the harmony between castes and tribes in Assam in the past had strengthened Assam.
- 4) Bhupen Hazarika's songs not only reflect the national consciousness of Assam, but his songs also reflect the national consciousness in Indian context.
- 5) The picture of Assamese folk life, picture of culture is beautifully expressed in the songs of Bhupen Hazarika. Which have played a great role in preserving the culture of Assam.

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