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Fictional Writing in A.chik Literature

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Abstract: This paper deals with the emerging trends and new directions in A.chik literature. The paper discusses the representation of contemporary social and cultural issue. It explores the aesthetic sensibility of A.chik literature which is different from the canonical literature. The paper reveals how A.chik literature deals with such themes of day-to-day life as education, wedding, love and other human emotions.

Keywords: A.chik literature, New trends, Aesthetic sensibility, Human emotions

The writing of novels in A.chik language was first started by Simison R. Sangma. His novel entitled *Sonabal Me-chik* was published in the year 1968. In the A.chik society, the daughters can inherit the parent's property and the son's family do not stay together with their parent. In the novel, the two brothers Saljing and Rea inherited their parent's property. The plot of this story is quite different from the A.chiks' custom of inheriting the parent's property.

The next novel *Khalsin Aro Sonatchi* by Redin Momin was published in the year 1972. In the novel, the author has depicted the A.chiks' society and their living standards and views towards the education during those days. Khalsin, the protagonist sees many opportunities and the benefits of being educated. He doesn't appreciate gossiping of womenfolk in the villages about their own family but at the same time, he supports education for the girls. In spite of all odds, Khalsin struggled to get his education and has decided to go to Dacca for higher education.

Chandra the antagonist in the story doesn't have any school education but has a single aim to go to his maternal uncle Jarong's

family as son-in-law by marrying his beautiful daughter Sonatchi. He takes the help from his close friend Malsin who has the knowledge of the uses of traditional A-chik medicines. The novel *Khalsin Aro Sonatchi* has an organic plot. In the novel, the author uses Poetic justice. At the end of the story Chandra and Malsin became blind for their past deeds.

The other novels which came out in succession were Icylian R. Marak's two novels titled *Chigitchakgreni Nokma* (1984) and *Gamseng* (1985). In her first novel *Chigitchakgreni Nokma*, the author describes the beauty of the village Chigitchakgre from where the water of Songdu (Brahmaputra) river can be seen afar during the rainy season. The protagonist Kaling is a nephew of the Nokma from Chigitchakgre. Kaling first met Nabat at his uncle's agricultural field's *jamadal* (resting house).

After marriage to Nabat, Kaling became one of a prominent person in the village. Being a most educated person in the village, Kaling gave his help in the needs of his fellow villagers. In the public meeting and gathering, he was allotted a respectable seat. The villagers from Chigitchakgre called him *nokma* to give respect.

Icylian R. Marak has depicted the A-chik society and their culture and custom in this novel. The presentation of the story is very interesting and the author has used different techniques like a flashback, stream of consciousness, suspense etc., to write her novel. The theme of this Novel is the destruction of a family by an envious friend which leads to the suffering of the children due to the separation of parents.

Icylian R. Marak's next novel is *Gamseng* (1985). In the novel, the author depicts the *Nokmas* over their *A-king* land and it also focuses on the role of the *chras* in the A-chik society. There are elements of novelty, surprise and ingenuity in her creative writings. The themes in her novels have a quality of universality in them.

The other novel was written by Barnath A. Sangma, entitled *Wal-mindik A-gilsak* (2002). In the story of the novel, Ranggan and Dingkinchi is a newly married couple and the husband works in an office. Although the wife is also graduated in her studies her husband doesn't want her to join any service. But after taking the advice of her neighbours the wife requested her husband to allow her to work outside her home. After some months a baby boy was born to them and they gave his name as Salkrit. The mother could not give her time to look after the child. The woman helper in their family named Rangse

lovingly look after the child and also she begin to take care of Ranggan. In that way, Ranggan has fallen in love with Rangse and had an illicit relationship with her.

When Dingkinchi found out that her helper Rangse has a child from her husband, she got very angry and tried to beat her. Rangse got frightened and started to run away from her house. While doing so she accidentally falls into a pit and got killed herself by a sharpened bamboo stick. After this incident took place the villagers took a written agreement that Ranggan and his family will take the responsibility to look after the child of Rangse.

Barnath A. Sangma wrote another novel entitled Sikkime in the year 2002. In the story, there is a family whose first child was named Deskang. After the birth of the second child, the mother has died. The child was named as Sikkime. The children's father has married again to another woman who badly treats her stepson Deskang.

Ethelbirth A. Sangma's novels titled *Stilona* (2006) and *Samsata* (2007) deals with the themes of adventures, ghosts, giants and romantic love. Wilberth D. Marak's novel *Mangsunduk Tarigipa Paningsa* (2008) deals with the theme of contemporary A-chik their struggle to bring prosperity through business partnership. His latest novel *Delhini Me-tra* (2016) deals with the theme of research of A-chik culture, customs and the places of Garo Hills.

The next novel *Sing-kam* (2009) was written by Crystal Cornelious D. Marak. The story starts with the introduction of the protagonist named Arim. He has a little knowledge about Garo Hills although he was born in a village name Matchi A-sim in Garo Hills. Amongst the rivers in Garo Hills he knows only Simsang river and amongst the hills, he knows only Nokrek and Balpakram.

At Chima A-we, Arim after getting a Government job went to stay with his friend Chiga's family. At that time Chiga's parents were very busy by making arrangement for the wedding of their daughter Do-me. Although Do-me has passed SSLC examination she was still without any job. Her fiancée Jending could not pass SSLC examinations as he was more interested in playing football. The cost of holding the wedding was very high and this made Do-me's father to think deeply about the ways and culture of the wedding system of his own people. He has observed that many families in order to arrange big marriage parties have taken loans and in that way, the families have become very poor.

The novel written by Krosnil D. Sangma entitled *Toti (Matchaduni Katta)* deals with the A-chik people's encounter with tiger-men in the deep forest of Garo Hills. Another A-chik novel *Ka-san' Chimik* was written by Icy Dora Koksi Sangma, in the year 2009. The next novel is written by Basan R. Marak, entitled *Donnugimin Dosi* (2013).

Prabodh M. Sangma's *Dikreni Gitcham Poto* (2002) deals with the theme of love. The protagonists Dikre and Basan were two lovers but their love affair was strongly opposed by Dikre's family members. The reason for disagreement of their love affair was – Gongrin (father of Basan) and Binjeng (father of Dikre) were once very good friends and they of going together for hunting into the jungle. One night, they went together to hunt the animals in the Chokpot area, of South Garo Hills. But Gongrin unfortunately by mistake killed his friend Binjeng in the dark jungle.

Prabodh M. Sangma's another novel, *Ka-sara Salme*, shows the love affair between Dikring and Salme. Their love affair was not accepted by the parents of Salme. The reason was that the parents of Dikring have dreadful leprosy.

During his days at Mumbai, Dikring has written love letters to his lover Salme and also by answering the question, "What is love?" Here in the story, the two lovers have to face many obstacles on their way but they have finally overcome it through perseverance and by a sincere commitment to each other.

In the novel *Parakgija Ka-saa* (2002), Prabodh M. Sangma the theme of incest. The protagonist Rupali has studied the history of the A-chiks Tibet to Garo Hills for her PhD thesis. Her cousin brother Timjeng, helped her to collect the data. He also guided her to visit different places of Garo Hills to meet the people. of their work, they have committed incest which was in society.

In the novel *Ku-cholsan* (2004), Prabodh M. made an attempt to write on the theme of patriotism. In the story, the Zamindar of Karaibari Bhabesh Choudowry illegally occupied making *patta* through the help of friend and lawyer Gulsan Aziz. He imposed heavy taxes on their agricultural products.

The novel *Ku-cholsan* is also a novel of the poor. Changsan Sangma, bring justice for and exploited people. He called upon all people like A-chik, Rabha, Hajong, Koch, Dalu, Banai, Kachari etc. from Garo of the Zamindars.

In the novel *Jarabongni Walo* (2003) Prabodh M. Sangma wrote about the theme of Death. In this novel, he depicts the death which can snatch away the life of a young girl named Balsame from her lover, parents and friends. The author has used the full moon as a symbol in his novel.

In the novel *Sing-teka*, the novelist Prabodh M. Sangma attempted to portray the life experiences of a village girl named Barlina. Prabodh M. Sangma has depicted the oppression of the women very strongly in this novel. He has portrayed the evils and the degradation of morality in the society which was usually not discussed openly but were kept under carpets and rarely such incidents were brought to daylight.

In his novel, *Nanggorere Goserong* Prabodh M. Sangma wrote on the theme of love for the mother tongue. The title of the novel *Nanggorere Goserong* is a popular folksong of the A·chik. The protagonist Chimchi's love for her own mother-tongue was very strong and throughout her life, the tune of A·chik folksongs was heard in her heart. Prabodh M. Sangma's latest novels are *Manggisiko Bano Donnugnok* (2015) and *A·brini Mikchi* (2016).

In conclusion, it may be mentioned that the growth of fictional writing can be seen in the A·chik literature since it first started in the year 1968. Some of the well-known short story writers are namely, Prabodh M. Sangma, Tengsrang Gabil Momin, Wilbirth D. Marak, Bluwin Ch. Sangma, Mukthi R. Marak and others. Most of the A·chik fictional writing portrays the A·chik culture and customs and have the theme of universality in them.

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