

Women Psychology In Lakhidhar Sarma's Short Story "Bairthatar Dan": An Analysis

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Abstract:

Various forms of literature gathered momentum among the educated Assamese. A new style like short story writing took birth. "Jonaki" the Assamese language magazine published short stories for the first time. Soon newer styles following the ones published in the west came to the fore. Lakshminath Bezbaroa first created the short story style in Assamese literature. Gradually new writers of the form started creating short stories in the line of Bezbaroa. This new style also started conveying new message to the readers. It can be noticed that the subject matters in the short stories maintained a new level. Writers created themes and plots studying various subject matters. Among the various subject matters writers have dwelled upon, the matter like psychology of women has found its space in the world of literature. For instance, writers with the usage of suited words, plot and by analyzing the psychology of the characters have been able to let know the readers about the mindset of women. The writers creating works on psychology of women, Lakhidhar Sarma is one of them. Therefore this study is an attempt to discuss subject matters of Assamese short stories as well as reflection of women psychology in stories of Avahan Era story writer Lakhidhar Sarma.

Key words: Short Story, Story writer, Women Psychology, Subject matter, reflection, composition

Introduction:

The short story writing style that was first published in Jonaki magazine in 1889 influenced the Avahan newspaper as well. Lakhidhar Sarma is regarded as one of the distinguished story writers among the Avahan Era writers in Assamese literature. The stories that he wrote are unique style forms in the Avahan era. So he is regarded as able short story writer in the Avahan era. The magnificence of Lakhidhar Sarma's stories is reflection of his adoption of subject matters and his thought process. Moreover his stories are distinguished from other stories in Avahan era by his sole adoption of subject matter and devices he used to create the stories.

It can be noticed that the subject matters from the beginning of Assamese short story writing till the time of Lakhidhar Sarma varied from portraying hypocrisies of society to man-woman relationship. However his approach was a departure from the style relevant at the time. His stories boasted powerful depiction of communism. Mindset of women as subject matters in his stories carried significance. If examined thoroughly it can be noticed that his stories are women centric. The women characters in his stories breaking shackles of traditional barriers introduced themselves as factors in modern and relevant times.

The story “Bairthatar Dan” bore significance among all his creations. He laid importance on the characters that carried reflections of women psychology in the story. Women psychology has been rightly depicted by two important women characters in the story- Lily and Toru in the story.

Significance of study:

The short story writing style has found a special place in Assamese literature. With changing time and era writers have started writing short stories on various subject matters. If noticed carefully among the various subject matters new forms found prominence. Woman’s psychology as subject matter played a special role in the stories published during the Avahan era.

Therefore the way woman’s psychology as subject matter in the stories got published during Avahan era and the subject matter getting reflected in the story “Bairthatar Dan” carries the need to study upon.

Methodology:

In this study analytical and descriptive methodology is applied fro preparing the research paper.

Source of Data Collection:

A few reference book is used as secondary source while preparing the paper.

Discussion on subject matter:

“Bairhatar Dan” ornamented with oneness of subject matter, thought process and other useful devices, has been regarded as significant among his other creations. The feelings of mind of women are central matter in the story. The writer instrumental in creating the main characters and portraying the storyline has been able to express feelings of mind of woman and psychology of women through them. To express a single thought process the writer introduced duel women characters. Two important characters mentioned in the story are Lily and Toru. Feelings of mind of woman and woman psychology are portrayed by these two characters in the story.

The story writer by analyzing the characters has tried to portray feelings of mind of woman. In general the character Lily has got importance in the story. Through the Lily character the writer has expressed feelings of woman’s mind. Significantly the story writer to create an important

character like Lily has expressed the mindset of Lily and true self of women's mindset. The writer has brought Lily and Toru's husbands as opposite characters to expose Lily's mindset. The basic state of love relationship with woman and state of woman's heart has played an important role in the story. Lily's mindset has got prominence than story building process in the story. Lily is characterized by beholder of attractive appearance and a bearer of a beautiful character and mind. Feelings of woman's mind have been depicted in the story from all angles. The writer has laid importance on creating situations depicting Lily's mindset rather than creating a story line.

Success of creating characters has made the story significant. The very first line of the story has added value to the story. It says- "one is oneself surprised to notice the shift in pace of life". The state of people's mind doesn't remain same always. With change of time people's mindset is also subject to changes. Time to time the mind discarding monotony wants to embrace freedom. The writer through the character Lily has dwelled upon another true aspect of life. The human mind never remains stable it desires newer state phase by phase. Upon analyzing Lily it can be seen that Lily is an attractive woman. She got married to an affluent tea garden owner. Despite being rich Lily's husband seems to be involved in his busy work schedule. It seems Lily's Husband had no time for Lily. Like a machine he worked day and night to earn money. Lily's relationship with her busy husband was unique in nature.

The feeling of women's mind can be understood from a dialogue in the story-

"My relationship with my husband is dearth of quality. I am a goal of his desires and he admires my beauty. Man admiring my beauty is not new. My husband failed to awaken pristine nature of woman that is sleeping in me"

This dialogue of Lily has beautifully carried the psychology of woman. In general it is seen that woman feel secure with an affluent man. However a woman doesn't want to be with a man devoid of art, music or culture in general a lifeless man. Man in general starts his married life regarding woman as source of his desires. Most of the women become partners of their men in deriving fruits of desires. Therefore the writer in the story through two women characters has depicted the way man have been regarding woman as mere objects to derive desires.

In the story woman psychology has been depicted largely by the character of Lily. It has also been said that woman feels complete after getting married. However, the events in Lily's life are in contrast to the observation. This is because when Lily feels stagnant rather than complete in life, her mind begin to search medium to make her so. In course of her visits to her sister Toru's home, she encounters latter's husband Lalit. On her first meeting Lily is impressed by Lalit's personality and talent. Lily feels that she has at last got something that she was searching for. It can be noticed that despite being rich he has not regarded money as central in his life. Along with earning money he has associated himself with the society leading a balanced life. His association with art, music and research along with earning livelihood attracted Lily. Atrocities are synonymous to patriarchal society. Woman rejoices while expressing freedom in patriarchal society. However, Lily in the

story despite being married to a busy man has not been able to express her freedom or be happy. So when Lily finds the qualities in easygoing and man of gravity Lalit, that lacks in her husband, her restless mind gets attracted to him.

So it can be seen that the fact that Lily getting attracted to Lalit's personality depicted feelings of woman's mind. Mainly, it can be said that a woman getting attracted to a man is an influence of woman's psychology.

Woman's psychology can also be viewed from another angle. Woman being proud of their own beauty is a genetically possessed attitude. Woman being proud of their own beauty has been beautifully depicted by the character Lily.

While again viewing from another angle woman's psychology as depicted by the character Lily is that woman has natural desire for material pleasure. This state has influenced Lily's mental condition.

Noticing Lily's mental state and conversation woman's psychology can be understood.

Another excerpt of Lily's dialogue says, "I have learnt by looking at those desiring eyes of the boy that my beauty has been able to attract him and I am rejoiced by the fact". This dialogue reflects Lily's mental state.

Woman psychology can also be understood from Toru, another character in the story. State of woman's condition has also been shown by depiction of the character Toru. Here, preferring woman psychology to other things can be traced from a dialogue of Lily where she expresses her state of mind, "Even I regarded myself as pretty still I accept the fact that Toru is prettier than me. Presence of beautiful skin complexion, the built and elegance altogether makes her different from other girls. She possesses immense beauty. I have become restless and it hurts me due to this fact".

However, Lily getting envious of Toru is woman's inherited quality and time to time, jealousy of woman can turn out to be dangerous. In a scene Lily is jealous of Toru when she sees Toru sleeping and her husband Lalit sitting beside her and getting intimate with her. This envious mindset of Lily shows one woman getting jealous of the other. Lily in the rage of jealousy realizes her failure in her own married life. So, Lily can realize her weakness in her own married life after meeting Toru. Lily post meeting Toru also realizes that despite Lily being pretty, Toru is able to do justice to beauty of her appearance as well as her married life. Although Lily is married to a well to do man her heart cries for the gentle love from her husband. So the writer analyzing the character Lily has expressed beautifully her envious nature towards Toru and her husband as Lily herself been devoid of love from her own husband.

The writer in the story has explored woman psychology by the use of two characters namely Lily and Toru. The envious behavior of woman towards another at times has become intense in nature. The level of expressing feelings of woman's mind and the state of heart affairs has become

attractive in the end. Therefore the character Lily is significant in Lakhidhar Sarma's story as well as in entire Assamese literature.

Lakhidhar Sarma's story "Bairhtar Dan" with the use of story, characters and dialogue reflects influence of woman psychology in a beautiful manner.

Findings:

Post study of the matter some findings has come to light. The short story writing style like other factors has been continuing to play an important role. Woman's psychology has found a special place in the subject matters of the stories published during Avahan era. On the other hand Lakhidhar Sarma's writing style, art, skill and choice of subject matters have played an important role in Avahan era. Therefore the finding that has come to light after studying the matter is also a collective finding of various matters clubbed into one.

Conclusion:

Lakhidhar Sarma was a writer of credit in Avahan era. His style of creation added new height to the era. To summarize the writer's variation in choice of subject matter, story building, characterization, discipline, expression of mental state of the characters, use of rightful thought process and language made the story significant. The writer to express woman psychology has created two woman characters. He has depicted Lily's character like that of some women in the society having proud of their own beauty. Her character is like any general woman in the society who despite being content is envious of other's possessions like beauty, happiness etc. It is in general seen that woman getting envious of other woman in society, gets reflected in "Bairhtar Dan" through the characters Lily and Toru. Lily has been envious of Toru due to latter's beauty and happiness. So Lily's mindset towards Toru is the reflection of woman's mindset in society in general.

Lakhidhar Sarma's "Bairhtar Dan" which has its own artistic style and use of words can be regarded as his significant work. So it can be said that "Bairhtar Dan" reflects a beautiful picture of woman's psychology.

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