



ISHAN MUCHAHARY AS A ROMANTIC POET

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ABSTRACT:

This study explores an account of the Ishan Muchahary's poetic works. Ishan Muchahary (1915–1940) is a prominent greatest Bodo romantic poet, pioneer short story writer and also a pioneer of Bodo romanticism. He has significant role in the development of romanticism in Bodo poetry. His literary works are found during his college year at the year 1936-1940. The major characteristics of his poems are love for nature, imaginative, aesthetic appeal, pictorial quality, lyricism and evocative style and etc. He includes some literary tropes in his poems such as nature imagery, symbolism, metaphor, and simile personification and consonance etc. Mushahary has two poetry books namely Sonani Mala (The Garland of Gold) and Phami (The Lotus). The theme of poems is romantic. Ishan Muchahary is considered as John Keats (1795-1821) of Bodo literature. This discussion will examine how romantic characters unfold in his poetry.

Keywords: Romantic, Love, Nature, Imagery, Emotion, Subjectivity, Symbolism, Allegory, the Sublime, Spirituality, Mysticism, Graveyard.

INTRODUCTION

Ishan Muchahary (1915–1940) was a poet, short story writer and the precursor of romanticism in Bodo poetry. Known as the John Keats (1795-1821) of Bodo literature by comparing some ways such as, both the poets created poems at youth and died early. Keats expired at the age of twenty-six and Ishan Muchahary expired at the age of twenty-five. Both are the nature lovers and romantic poet. But in terms of deep thinking and the use of complex language, the Ishan Muchahary has not fully reached the level of Keats. Muchahary has a deep passion for natural beauty, the languages are soft and the poetry is pictorial. Significantly contributed to the development of romantic themes in Bodo poetry.

Ishan Muchahary was born on 29 December 1915 in Patakata Thuribari village of Gosaigaon subdivision of Kokrajhar district at middle class family. Out of seven siblings he was a second son of father Raiteen Brahma and mother Gandari Brahma. He started his study from Kamalsing L. P. School and completed primary education in the year 1924. He passed his matriculation examination from Dhubri Government High school at 1st division. He faced a lot of financial problems to pursue higher education, although with some organization and individual's financial supports, he could manage to study I.A. at Cotton College, Guwahati. He studies the I. Sc. at Alipurduar college in West Bengal in the year 1935-1936. Then with scholarship from assam govt. and financial helps from some other individuals, he pursued B. Sc. degree at Agriculture in Allahabad Agriculture University in 1937-1940. While studying B.Sc. in Agriculture Muchahary had to marry Sarajani Brahma, the daughter of Gaidang Mahajwn, one who gave him money for his higher study. But he could neither complete his higher studies. He died of an illness within two months of marriage, while he was preparing for the B.Sc. final examination.

His collectives work of poems was found in the "Hathorki Hala" magazine 1940, then literature publication The Book "Sonaki Bijap" compiled by Pramad Chandra Brahma. The first ever Bodo short story in Bodo literature titled "Abari" (means a bodo name of female) was written by Ishan Muchahary published in "Hathorkhi Hala" magazine. Later, all his work on poetry was compiled by the publication board Bodo Sahitya Sabha in 1993, the "Sonani mala" (golden chain), and in 2022, "Phami" (the lotus) by Bodo Department, Kokrajhar Govt College. His all-literature work on poetry was done in the years 1935–40 during the I. Sc. college life at Alipurduar and in 1937 at the Agriculture University of Allahabad, where poet Ishan wrote poetry and highlighted romanticism, love for nature, and aesthetic appeal. His poetry collections, such as Badari, Goso Moblip, Mona Bili, published in "Hathorki Hala" 1940. As well as again the Badari, Goso Moblip, Mona Bili and other ten numbers of poems Berekha, Hajo, Dum thenai Bibarbari, Alakala Harsin Oi, Badari, Goso Moblip, Mona Bili, Gotoibari, Modoi are appeared in the Book "Sonaki Bijap" (non-printing year) all the poetry well displayed, including his deep appreciation for nature and romantic ideals. His contributions were celebrated during his centenary at Kokrajhar Government College. (The indigenous, Bodoland info, <https://www.sentinelassam.com/news/rich-tribute-paid-bodo-poet-ishwan-mushahary-in-kokrajhar>, Preface: मुरुनाय बिबार बारसे इसान, दाहा खन्थाइ)

Ishan Mushahary was a Bodo Romantic poet from the Alongbar Era. Numerous Bodo critics divided the early Bodo literature period into numerous additional eras. Prior to the Bodo Sahitya Sabha's founding in 1952. Based on literary works and publications, the early period is classified into the Endle era (1864-1911)¹, Bihar era (1920-1937)², and Alongbar era (1930- 1952)³. One of the best Bodo Romantic poets of the Alongbar era was the aforementioned Ishan Mushahary. According to Brajendra kr. Brahma. Ishan Muchahary, was exposed to Bengali

¹ Swrbang Subung Bihuram Boro. Bodo Publication Board, Bodo Sahitya Sabha. 2009. P. 52

² Lahary, Monoranjan. History Boro Literature. Onsumoi Library. Ed. 2008. P. 51

³ Ibid. P. 65

poets and Bengali literature during his I. Sc. college years in Alipurduar between 1935 and 1936, and he was motivated to work in romanticism by them as well as the people of Kokrajhar had a close relationship with Bengali culture, mentality, and allegiance during that time.⁴

1.1 THEORETICAL BASIS OF STUDY

This study focuses on how to represent romanticism in Bodo poetry involves a multifaceted approach that considers literary, cultural, historical, and philosophical dimensions. By integrating following theoretical bases, can gain a comprehensive understanding that how romanticism manifests in Bodo poetic traditions. Here are some theoretical foundations that could be involved.

1.1.1 OBJECTIVES OF STUDY

The study examines Ishan Muchahary's Bodo poetry, focusing on romanticism, nature, individualism, emotion, and sublime. It compares romanticism, assesses its impact, and explores interdisciplinary connections. It also delves into Muchahary's personal life.

1.1.2 SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

The study of romanticism in Bodo poetry by Ishan Muchahary's offers significant implications for literary studies and the understanding of Bodo culture and literature. It highlights the underrepresentation of Bodo literature in mainstream discourse, recognizes literary talent, and positions Muchahary's within the broader Indian and world literature spectrum. The study also provides cultural insight into the values, traditions, and way of life of the Bodo people, offering a lens into how Bodo identity and experiences are articulated through literature. The research expands the scope of romanticism beyond its traditional western boundaries, enriching comparative literature studies by adding diverse perspectives. It also offers valuable insights into the evolution of Bodo poetry, tracing its evolution and offering inspiration for future research. The study also promotes indigenous voices in literature, fostering a more inclusive and comprehensive scholarship.

1.1.3 METHODOLOGY

This presentation employs analytical methods while utilizing primary and secondary data collection methods for qualitative and quantitative data sources.

1.1.4 SOURCES OF STUDY

To analyzes the Ishan Muchahary's poems, using various study materials, including books on Romanticism, biographies of the poet, critical essays, literary criticism, online databases, poetry collections, literary theories, comparative studies, these materials provide insights into Romanticism as a literary movement and Muchahary's work, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of his style, themes, and recurring motifs.

1.2 DISCUSSION

The presentation on "Ishan Muchahary as A Romantic Poet" will involve various components as following.

To examines the poems of Ishan Muchahary, we shall explore Romantic themes, style, and expression with literary tropes including nature imagery, symbolism, metaphor, and simile. which adds to the movement's overall aesthetic of Ishan Muchahary's poems as given bellow:

Nature Imagery: Romantic poets utilized vivid imagery of nature to evoke emotions and express the sublime. As seen in Ishan Mushahary's poetry, nature is vividly portrayed such as poem "Hajw" meaning the Hill. Poet Ishan Mushahary also discovers the spirit of love and harmony in nature. This is expressed in the poem *Hazw-*

“दै निम्नाबादि बोहैबोयो सुदेम फुवा फुवा,
मालायनि दुखु नायनानै नोडो थानो हाया
बिखा बोखननानै मोदै बोहैयो थिया थिया।
बम्फां लाइफां दाउसिन-दाउला
नौनि आफाडाव थानानै देरदौं बोलो नाडा।
हाबाब दिनै आं मिथिबाय नोडो गोरान नडा
अनसुला नौनि गोसोया मालाइया जेखि बुडा”। (हाजो, The Hill)

English rendering:

(Flows like a spring water,

You can't stay by looking other's sorrow

Tears welled up in the chest.

Plants and Birds

⁴ Boro, Anil. Boro Thunlaini Mohor arw Mushri. Mrs. Anjali Boro. Ghy- 28, 1996. P.29

Grows up on your feet, without any strength,

Ah, today I knew you are not dry

Mercifully, your heart does not matter whatever other says.) (The Hill)

The poem "Hazw" (Hill) highlights the interconnectedness of nature, air, and water, highlighting the unique environment where all living beings can thrive.

Emotion and Subjectivity: Romanticism explores individual emotions, imagination, and personal experiences, often focusing on themes of love, longing, nostalgia, and the inner self.

In the poem "Mwnabili" meaning the night fall, the poet Ishan Muchahary, depicts a beautiful evening moment as a lovely maiden with a wonderful imagination. Such as:

“आय' सिखोला मोनाबिलि
रावबो मिथिया जौल' मिथिलायगौ
जौदि सानैजों सिरि सिरि जादों जुलि ।
सोनाब जिनि नखराडाव
फैयो नोंझे सोदोब मोनथाव
बिरहोनानै रैसुमै बाराव
रेसम जोमैनि दखना फाइलि। (मोनाबिलि, The Evening)

*English rendering:
(Oh, maiden the evening
Only one knows but we both only knows
we had quietly married together.
Just in the border on the western sky
you come deserves a word
by Unfurling a horizon of dokhona
Made of silken clouds.) (The Evening)*

Poet Ishan Mushahary, skillfully captures the beauty of evening and nature in his excellent portrait. Here, using lyrical and expressive style of language with vivid imagery, figurative language, and musical rhythms to create a poetic effect. Like other poets after Wordsworth and Ragnath Choudury, Ishan Mushahary wondered and mesmerizing on the beauty of nature. Where poet married in imagination with beauty of evening moment by look like colorful vermilion's forehead of evening but they are bound to be apart in the eyes of others.

No one knows them; only they know that their couple had a quiet marriage. in the western sky maiden imagery beloved come with beautiful attires and deserve a word of love and beliefs.

Symbolism and Allegory: Romantic poets frequently employed symbols and allegorical elements to convey deeper meanings beyond the literal interpretation of their verses. These symbols often represent larger philosophical or spiritual concepts.

“दोमैलु खोमसि खोमसि
साना दोबैबाय,
हाबाब मा मोजां गामि
थागौ सानबाय”। (बादारि, The Camper/The Hearer)

*English rendering:
(The sun is declining amidst the clouds
With darkling gloom
And what's a charming this village is grown
My mind is willing to settle down)⁵(The Camper)*

The poet uses images of a Camper and Evening the nightfall (sinking) to symbolize the eternal desire for life. Poet Ishan Mushahary, often used vivid imagery and rich symbolism to evoke emotions and convey the themes of his poetry. The poet employed nature imagery extensively, using symbols like the moment of evening amidst clouds and dark, gloomy landscapes to represent deeper emotions and ideas to represent the final moment of life, like in the poetry of Robert Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." Every person in this world comes for a few days as a refuge and goes back to a place they have never seen or known.

The Sublime: Romantic poets were fascinated by the concept of the sublime—the feeling of awe and wonder inspired by the vastness and beauty of the natural world. They often sought to capture this sense of the sublime in their poetry, exploring themes of awe, terror, and transcendence.

⁵ सानवीलाओबी, Seminar on the predecessors of late Iswan Mwshahary, 1986. P. 48

“सुख दुखुया समान जायनियाव,
गाहाय गोजीया समान जायनियाव,
धोनि मोनथिया गोरिब मोनथिया,
जायखि जाया माया माया;
गासिबो समान जायो जायनियाव
गोथैबारि आय! गोथैबारि। (गोथैबारि, graveyard)

English rendering:
(Where the Joy and sorrow are at same place,
No lower and higher elevation,
Where there no variation of the rich and poor,
Everything is wonderful;
Where the everyone is equal
The grave! Graveyard) (The Graveyard)

Here, in the poem the “गोथैबारि” the Graveyard, expressing the feelings of fear and respect to the universal truth of human life the end of life and dead. Everyone has to die in a day and take place in grave and equally for funeral cremation of final life.

Spirituality and Mysticism: Many Romantic poets were often incorporated elements and themes of spirituality, mysticism and Supernatural into their works. In the poetry of Ishan Muchahary, we can see the snippets of mysticism as:

“माबे जिराद नों
माबे आखाय नों
सोमो नांथाव दानाय सोरनि ?
अबंलाउरि
सोरजिगिरि
नोडो नोडो बियो सयथि नोडो
दानाय लुनाय
जेखि नुनाय
नोंनिनो बिफा सिमान लायो”। (सिमान, confess)

English Rendering:
(Which objects are you
What hand are you
Amazing Creation: Whose?
God
Creator
You are you are; you are the one who is right
Weaving
Anything visible
Your own father confesses.) (Confess)

Here poet Ishan, introduced the spiritual elements and mysticism in his romantic poetry. People ever confess in front of God or the creator of this universe. This universal thought of infinity towards the creator one is places in the poem.

Themes of Ishan Muchahary’s poetry: Here we would like to identify the central themes of Muchahary’s poetry and examine how it relates to Romanticism. Common Romantic themes include nature, individualism, imagination, emotion, and the supernatural.

In poetry, the theme of nature often takes center stage. It frequently explores the beauty, power, and transformative qualities of the natural world. In the first paragraph of the poem “Hazw” poet Ishan Muchahary feels that the mountain is without mercy, it is dangerous, it is bad to see and full of stones.

“गोजौ गोगोम गोसोम नोंनि मोखां
गोजाननिफ्राय नायब्ला नोंखौ नुयो आज्ञां गाजां,
अन्यायनि दामोल हंगा हंगि हारां-हाथां” (हाजो, hill)

English Rendering:
(High dark black your face
If look from a far, that you are rough,
Stone Pal with crazy mouth)

Ishan Muchahary Depicts nature as a source of inspiration, solace, harmony or even as a reflection of human emotions and experiences. In the words of the poet-

“नडा नडा नोडो बिबायदि नडा, सयथि नडा,
दै निज्राबादि बोहैबोयो सुदेम फुवा फुवा,
मालायनि दुखु नायनानै नोडो थानो हाया
बिखा बोखननानै मोदे बोहैयो थिया थिया” (हाजो, hill)

English rendering:

*(No no you are not like that, truly you aren't
flows like a spring water,
You cannot stay by looking others sorrow
Tears welled up in the chest.)*

Another significant theme in his poetry is individualism and the celebration of the self that emphasize the uniqueness and autonomy of the individual, rejecting the constraints of society and tradition. In the poem मोनाबिलि illustrate as bellow-

“आय सिखोला मोनाबिलि
रावबो मिथिया जौल मिथिलायगौ
जौदि सानैजौ सिरि सिरि जादौ जुलि”। (मोनाबिलि)

English Rendering:

*(Oh, maiden evening
no one knows we both only know
we had quietly married together.) (The evening)*

Here poet explore themes of personal freedom, imagination, and the pursuit of authentic emotions and experiences with evening beautiful moment.

Love and emotion: The idea of love and emotion are also prominent themes in Romantic poetry. Poets often depict intense emotions such as passion, longing, and ecstasy, exploring the complexities of human relationships and the power of love to transcend barriers. In the work of Ishan Muchahary:

“सोर गाहोखो सिन्दुरनि फोथाखौ
आजोलि नौनि बिखा सायाव ?
नौजौ आंजौ देजिडाव
बिदिनो अजाय नुजालायगोरा,
सिखिरि मानसिनि मेगन सेरावल
जौ सानैजौ एरा एरा।
हाबाब स'ना नौखौ आं
जीउनि होन्नाने सानो जुलि;
नौनि खुगायाव खोनाबाय आं
गोसो थोनायनि मुंसे मुलि”। (मोनाबिलि, *The Evening*)

English rendering:

*Who has laid vermilion marks
On your face with no sense?
Here we meet together by the riverside borders
However, we be apart in the eyes of others.
Oh, my Gold
I do love you at the cost of my life
I have heard an elixir of love
From the speech of thine.) (The Evening)*

Additionally, themes of nostalgia, the supernatural and the sublime frequently appear in Romantic poetry. Poets may evoke a sense of longing for the past or explore mysterious and otherworldly phenomena. The sublime, in particular, refers to the experience of awe and wonder in the face of something vast, overwhelming, or transcendent, such as the natural world or the infinite. In the poem *Gwthwibari*, Muchahary depicts the graveyard as a supernatural agent that is cruel and cynical. It gets pleasure at others sorrow and misery. According to him, the very thought of graveyard haunts people with its remote and terrifying silence. It is powerful and it cruelly seizes away people from their near and dear ones without showing any mercy and sympathy to anyone. Here is a quote:

“बिखायाव जायहा अन्नाय गैलिया
जायबादि आरो जेबो जालिया;
बयनिबो गाबनाय हांमा सुरनाय
बिखा सौबायनाय खाफाल खुनाय□” (गौथैबारि, *graveyard*)

English rendering:

*(Those who have no love in the heart
Like and Nothing else happens;
everyone's crying sobbing
heart-wrenching forehead) (Graveyard)*

At the above quotation the poet portrayed that he is the graveyard in whose heart there is no mercy; who likes so see happily the misery and suffering of other people.

Overall, its exploration of these themes, often with an emphasis on emotion, individual experience, and the beauty of nature characterize Ishan's Romantic poetry.

By thorough examination of the components of the study "Ishan Muchahary as a Romantic poet" provide valuable insights into both his individual artistic vision and the broader tradition of Romantic literature. The discussion suggests that Ishaan is a great romantic poet.

1.3 CONCLUSION

Ishan Muchahary's Romantic poems explore the human condition through nature, emotion, and individual experience. They embody Romantic ideals, showcasing reverence for nature, celebration of the subjective self, and intense emotional expression. Muchahary's uses of imagery, symbolism, and metaphor to evoke awe and wonder, challenging conventional norms and embracing existence's beauty of nature and human life. The "Sonani Mala" (The chain of gold), a compilation of his romantic works in Bodo literature, serves as a prime example of his romantic works.

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<https://www.sentinelassam.com/news/rich-tribute-paid-bodo-poet-ishwan-mushahary-in-kokrajhar>

Romantic Circles (<https://www.rc.umd.edu/>) A scholarly website devoted to the study of Romantic-period literature and culture.

The British Library - Romanticism Collection (<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians>)