

TRADITIONAL PRACTICE, MYTH AND LEGENDS OF SONOWAL KACHARI OF ASSAM: A STUDY ON HAIDANG-HUSORI GEET

Kamaleswar Hazarika

Associate Professor, Department of English, Lakhimpur Kendriya Mahavidyalaya, North Lakhimpur, Assam, India

Received: 27 Oct 2020

Accepted: 31 Oct 2020

Published: 19 Nov 2020

ABSTRACT

Assam, one of the states located in north-eastern part of India, is the hub of different indigenous and aboriginal tribes. The Sonowal Kacharis, one of the Scheduled Tribes (Plain), constitute one of the largest tribal groups of Assam. With the population of 2, 35,881 (as per Census-2011), the Sonowal Kacharis are the fifth largest tribal group of Assam. They are a part of great Bodo group and concentrated primarily in the districts of Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golagha. Like other tribal groups, the Sonowal Kacharis, too, have a rich tradition of oral literature. They have a great nos. of folksongs, especially, in Haidang Geet, Husori Geet and ballads, which are integral ingredient of their culture and tradition. These folksongs recount unusual happenings which are either taken to be true in their beliefs or incidents vaguely believed to have taken place. The stories are of purely fictitious formulations which are told and retold. Through singing those songs accompanied by dance and music, the Sonowal Kacharis recall their history, the struggles they had in the settlement in different places, the deeds of their heroes and legends, traditional deities, their beliefs, customs and traditions. The aim of the this research paper is to analyse the myths and legends in Haidang Geet and Husori Geet of the Sonowal Kacharis which play a major role in showcasing their culture and tradition. Data from primary and sources have been applied. Field visits and unstructured interviews are conducted and analysed before coming to the findings.

KEYWORDS: *Sonowal Kachari, Haidang-Husori Geet, Traditional Practice*