Contribution Of Banhi Magazine To The Development Of Modern

Gita Hazarika

Abstract:— This study has been undertaken to investigate the contribution of BANHI magazine to the development of modern Assamese literature. In modern Assamese language, magazines role in literary development and prosperity is paramount. In 1846, the first magazine of Assamese language Arunudoi was published. In this magazine, the path of modern Assamese literature begins. After the Arunudoi, the magazine Jonaki, Bijuli, Usha, Banhi etc., played an important role to the development of modern Assamese literature by emphasizing new literary streams in Assamese literature. In the early twentieth century, among the magazines that contributed to the development of Assamese literature, the BANHI magazine edited by Lakshminath Bezborua has the highest role. In this article, it is being researched that how does this magazine helped to the formation of modern Assamese language. Along with the language, it is also being studied that how this magazine played a role to the advancement of modern Assamese literature.

Keywords:— Magazine, Contribution, Development, Assamese Literature, Assamese Language, Modern Assamese literature.

1 INTRODUCTION

The nineteenth century is a very important time for the development of Assamese society and civilization. At that time, influenced by many small and big events gave a new scope to the social life of Assam, in that background, the Assamese language, literature and cultural ideology also changed. From the beginning of the century, the political-social instability, economic weakness shown from Assam stood as a hindrance in building intellectual background. At the same time, the arrival of American missionaries and the discussion of religious things in the Assamese language is an important event. This incident reported a new outlook enlightened intellectual environment in Assam. The missionary, who came to Assam to spread Christianity, established a printing machine at Sivasagar and published Arunudoi magazine in 1846. This magazine was published to contain a religious purpose. But still the first attempt to modernize Assamese language and literature started from this magazine itself. Writing of various genres of modern Assamese literature, such as Dramas, biographies, novels, translations, travelogues etc. begins from this magazine. The various genres of literature that began with Arunudoi grew in their subsequent journals such as Assam Bandhu, Assam Bilashini, Mou, Junaki, Bijuli, Usha, Banhi etc. And these journals added various new forms to Assamese literature. Of the literature journals that promoted Assamese literature at the beginning of the twentieth century, Banhi magazine has the highest contribution. In modernization of Assamese language and literature, the Banhi magazine, published in 1909 has special contribution. From 1909 to 1936 the magazine was published under the editing of Lakshminath Bezborua. After the death of Bezborua, the magazine was published until 1965 in the edits of his nephews Madhab Chandra Bezborua and Amiya Kumar Das. The Banhi was mainly controlled by Bezborua's literary personality. Bezborua has created a well-defined path to modern Assamese literature through both journals Junaki and Banhi.

The Banhi magazine played an important role in the steady spelling of the Assamese language. And in this, the editor of Banhi, Bezborua took a special role. Banhi magazine rich in religion, philosophy, society, culture, language, history, analysis of old literature, book criticism and kripabari works, in reality gave perfection to the modern era of Assamese literature.

1.0 Objectives

1. To investigate the role of Banhi to modernized Assamese language and literature.
2. To investigate the role of Banhi for the formation of modern Assamese language.
3. To analyze the role of Banhi in developing Assamese literature by adding new forms, content, ideas to modern Assamese literature.

2.0 Methodology

The study uses secondary qualitative data which are collected from various sources like book, journals etc. The study uses historical, analytical and descriptive method in explaining the facts.

3.0 Scope of the study

In the scope of this study, we just include the Banhi magazine on behalf of the magazines which were contributed to the modern Assamese language and literature. In this study we investigate the contribution of Banhi to modern Assamese language and literature. This study introduced the literary works published in this magazine and tried to analyze how this magazine contributed to modern Assamese literature and from which direction it contributed to Assamese literature.

4.0 Analysis

4.1 Contribution of BANHI to the development of modern Assamese language

Banhi took a special role in the spread and advancement of Assamese language. Banhi and editor Bezborua took a special role to give the Assamese language a pure form. In the volume 1 issue 1 of Banhi, an article of Lakshminath Bezborua’s ‘Asamiya Bhashar Samporke Akharserek Kotha’ was published. In this article he said that, ‘The elevation of our nation and our society and the basic things of mars is mother tongue. Therefore, it as servants of the mother tongue, we
have to dedicate ourselves and work with concentration and by doing so will definitely develop the Assamese language.” Various worrying articles on the topics of Assamese spelling, pronunciation etc were published in the Banhi, which provided awareness to the Assamese people about the Assamese language and also contributed to achieving the pure form of the language. Kumudeswar Borthakur’s article titled ‘Aakhar jutonit ussaranar provab’ published in the magazine has given the importance of pronunciation. Regarding the effect of pronunciation in spelling, this article states that a community’s elevation or decadence is associated with spelling. In this article criticized about taking the correct form of Assamese syllable and how our nation will suffer without correct syllable. In the volume 1 issue 3, the article titled ‘Bortoman bhashar obotha’ had very valuable things about Assamese syllable, pronunciation, grammar. This article talks about taking a correct form of Assamese syllable. It has been said in this article that there should be a correct form of our syllable and the syllable of words similar to the Hemkosh dictionary as written by Hemchandra Barua. And thinking about the words which are not included in Hemkosh, everyone should choose the same syllable. This article pays special attention to grammatical correctness. By exposing grammatical mistakes in the school textbooks of the time, Banhi helped in taking the pure form of the language of the future. This article states that foreign words entering the Assamese language should be pronounced according to their pronunciation. There was also some article published in Banhi about the freedom of Assamese language. ‘Asomiya Bhashar samporke aru duakharman kotha’, ‘Bortoman bhashar obotha’, ‘Asomiya Bhasha aru Bongalir sakut tuponi’ etc article has written about the independence of Assamese language. These articles are trying to establish that Assamese language is different from Bengali language and has its own form.

4.2 Contribution of BANHI for the development of modern Assamese literature

Banhi magazine played a special role in publishing and spreading Assamese creative literature. By publishing short story, novel, poetry, Banhi gave a new impetus to Assamese creative literature. Satire poetry, article, person-oriented essays, psycho-analytic fiction, patriotic masterpieces, feminist creation, publication and preservation of Assamese culture and literature, glorious past history, translation literature, nature’s illustration, awakens of nationalism, discussion about language etc concerned works in external in all departments of language-literature was published in this magazine.

4.2.1 Poetry

Banhi has a rich contribution to poetry. Banhi magazine enriched the stream of romantic poetry arising in the erstwhile Jonaki magazine. The second phase of Assamese romantic poetry began in this Banhi magazine. Poetry of Jatindranath Dowrah, Chandrakumar Agarwal, Dandinath Kalita, Padmawati Devi Phukanani, Ambikanath Borah, Tarunram Phukan, Ghanashyam Sharma, Gyannath Borah, Lakshmidhar Sharma etc was published in Banhi. In the same way, the Banhi played a special role in making Jyotiprasad Agarwal, Kamalakanta Bhattacharjya, Lakshminath Bezborua, Durgeswar Sharma, Suryakumar Bhuyan, Binanda Chandra Barua, Raghnunath Choudhuri, Naliniwala Devi etc as a poet.

4.2.2 Short story

Even in the Assamese Short story, Banhi has given abundant contributions. Umakant Sharma’s short story, published in volume 26 issue 1 of Banhi, had informed a new psychological approach in the field of Assamese literature. The answer to the question of why a man loves is said in the story that “a man dies of mental death due to not being in love. Man’s soul always wants to expand. In the desire to take this expansion, he finds the universe, the god.” Apart from this, Krishna Bhuyan’s ‘Pragati aru Prakriti’, Hargovind Sharma’s ‘Kar babe dila ene aatmo bolidan’, Rudranath DevSharma’s ‘Kaviraj’, Golok Chandra Sharma’s ‘Chandrika’, Lakshminath Bezborua’s ‘Patmugi’, Jyotiprasad Agarwala’s ‘Rupohi’ etc fiction of many famous fictionists have fattened the Banhi magazine. The combination of these short stories in the spread and propagation of Assamese fiction literature is definitely a gravitational one.

4.2.3 Drama and Novel

The drama and novel was published in Banhi less than short stories and poems. A remarkable novel created in the early times of the Assamese novel Panipath was published in Banhi magazine itself. In the field of drama, Banhi contributed to Assamese drama literature through the lyrical play ‘Nilanjana’, a drama called ‘mangalu’ and Ankia drama ‘Bare matara’.

4.2.4 Lyrical literature

Banhi magazine contributed to the Assamese lyrical literature too. Songs of Kripabar, Bishnurabha, Aanada Chandra borua, Lakshminath Bezborua, Ramchandra Das, Apurva Chandra Bordoloi, Raghunath Hazarika etc, published in the Banhi enriched Assamese lyrical literature. The song ‘O More Apunar Desh’ from Bezborua published in the Banhi became as Assamese National Anthem. Apart from creative songs, the collection, publication and broadcast of folk songs like BorHEET, Tokari Geet, Bihu Geet, Sati Jayamati’s Geet etc is also a notable work of Banhi. That is, the Banhi did not only give the gravity to publish the creative work, but the magazine also played a role in the collection and preservation of Assamese folk literature.

4.2.5 Humour and Satire

Editor Bezborua’s another literary entity Kripabar Barua has written several articles on humorous words. Bezborua has enriched Assamese Satirical literature by publishing many article, poems etc. In this magazine for the purpose of social rituals by ending the stipends, ku-sanskaras, abiswas, bhem etc of the Assamese people.

4.2.6 Translation literature

The Banhi magazine also contributed modern Assamese translation literature. Translation of poetry, short story etc had attained gravity in this magazine. The Assamese translation of poems of foreign poets such as Shelly, Byron etc had enriched Banhi. Assamese translation of ‘To the Skylark’ of the Shelly by Deveswar Chalisa was published in the 6th volume first issue of the Banhi. Tarunram Phukan’s poem ‘Tewloi’, published in Banhi’s 2nd volume 1st issue, is a translation of Byron’s poem. In the same way, Jatindranath Dowrah’s story poem “More Shesh Path” written in the shadow of Alphonse Daudet is also a remarkable translation in Banhi Magazine. Priyotamar Puja’, Written with the help of the English translation of the Japanese tales in volume 26 issue 3 of the Banhi was published. In the 26th volume 12th issue, a short
story of Lila Devi called ‘Sapun ne’ was published. This story was based on the writing of Maupassant. The translation works published on the Banhi and the literature written on the basis of foreign literature had given a taste of world literature to the Assamese readers and also it made them familiar with world literature.

4.2.7 Literary criticism
The stream of Assamese literature criticism has also been specially enriched by Banhi magazine. This magazine developed a certain stream of Assamese literary criticism. A critique of various texts in the subjects of language, literature, agriculture, health, music, drama, poetry etc was published in the magazine. It also criticized monthly magazines published in that time. Criticism of various texts published in Banhi gave the peoples information and distinction of texts.

4.2.8 Travel literature
Banhi has also contributed to the development of Assamese tourism literature. The ‘Bilator Sithi’ of Gyandaviram Borua published in the magazine is a valuable asset of Assamese literature. This article has special contribution in the development of Assamese touring literature. Apart from this article, more other touring article was published in Banhi. For example, Gyananand Jagati’s tour writing called “Manipur Yatra” was serially published in Banhi.

4.2.9 Tribal studies
Banhi also played a special role in tribal and ethnographic studies. Many articles written about various castes and tribes of Assam such as Ahom, Khatami, Mising, Singpho etc were published in Banhi. Kashinath Tamuli’s article ‘Assamar Kalita Jati’ was published serially from 1st year 11th issue of Banhi has published about history of Kalita Caste. For the original salvation of Kalita tribe, here also has been discussed about Kayastha tribe. The article titled “Sonowal Jati” published in Banhi contains detailed description about Sonowals. In the same way, Premadhar Chaliha’s ‘Singpho Khamtir Buranji’, Lakshminath Bezborua’s ‘Ahom’ etc articles helps to learn about the tribes of Assam.

4.2.10 Religion
The most notable donation of Banhi in modern Assamese literature is the creation of the Shankar dev Study. The articles published in Banhi such as ‘Mahapurushya Dharmer Baishistya’, ‘Mahapurush Shankar devar Harinam Kirtan tattva’, ‘Srimanta Shankar Prasarit Boisnav dharma’, ‘Kuri satikat Srimanta Shankar’, ‘Shankari Sahityar boishistya’ etc made a pure environmental enforcement of Shrimanta Shankar. It has to be said that through the Banhi, there will always be the gratitude of the editor Bezborua for revealing Mahapurusha Shankar dev as a national guru. Bezborua’s serious article “Krishnakotha”, “tattvakotha” etc published in Banhi brought out many things about Vaishnav religion.

4.2.11 Politics
Political article was also published in Banhi. By publishing politics related articles like ‘Adiniya Sashan’, ‘Orastrabad’, ‘Oranthaitik Orastrabad’ etc, Banhi gave contribution in this subject.

4.2.12 Idioms and Ideology
It was published in the Banhi about the personality of various glorious persons. The personality of the persons who contributed Assamese society, culture, literature, such as Ananda Ram Borua, Haribishar Agarwala, Damodar dev, Kanaklal Borua, Hemchandra Borua etc was published in the magazine. Through this, Banhi provided inspiration and ideals in the mind of the public. Apart from all this, other valuable articles were also published in Banhi. ‘Asamiya Sahityat Aajan Phakirak protiva’, ‘Bezbaruar Sahitya prativa’, ‘Jyotiprapaksha’, ‘Adhunik Sahityar Buddhishaktir Agniprayug’, ‘Asomiya Gita’, ‘Shankar devar Rasanawalit Saudrya prakash’, ‘Rabindranath kavya aru kavyatattv’, “Mur matrimukh darshan’ etc did not diminish even today as per the literary articles published in the Banhi. In the same way, Banhi contributed to all the directions of culture, history, religion, philosophy etc.

4.2.13 BANHI’S contribution to create new writers
The magazine Banhi also played a special role in creating some new writers. For the development of Assamese language and literature, it not only depended on some old writers, but also took the responsibility of creating new writers. The door of Banhi magazine was always open to all old and new writers. In particular, it gave importance to new writers to create some mature and confident writers by giving them a chance to self-illuminate. Banhi magazine had also advertised seeking composition from new writers. With which it tried to form a new writer’s society. Sometimes, when the new writer’s composition was not published, then the editor of Banhi Lakshminath Bezboruah had to face questions and warnings.

4.2.4 Contribution for rise women writer’s
Banhi magazine brought the women in the field of literature-culture for the advancement of women. It helped illuminate the talent of women writers like Pragyasundari Devi, Ratna Devi, Annada Devi Borkataki, Ajalitara Neog, Lakshmisriya Das, Ratnakali Devi, Basantlata Hazarika, Snehlata Bhattacharya, Chandraprabha Saikiani etc. So, it can be said that Banhi magazine played an important role for women writers.

5.0 CONCLUSION
The magazines and newspapers of all countries are adding to the rise of language and literature. Also in the Assamese language Magazines and newspapers are takes a new role in the development and prosperity of Modern Assamese literature. New Assamese pillar were found as the contribution in the magazine. In the discussion, we saw that the Banhi magazine has been a lot of contribution to Assamese language and literature. This magazine contributed to our literature from every form of literature. Here the creativity of the writer’s were found importantly arise. It also took an important role to growth of the new writer’s.

5.1 Findings of the study
1. The magazine Banhi took an important role to initiate a pure form of modern Assamese language.
2. Banhi Magazine lifted Modern Assamese literature in a powerful position by publishing the creative forms of literature like Poem, Short story, Novel etc. The literature published here was not only entertaining the reader, but also illuminating the ideology of sociological ethics.
3. It not only gave importance to publishing creative forms, but also contributed to the collection and preservation of folk literature.

4. This gives saint Shankar deva reputation outside the Namghar and also creates a way to analyze his literary works in the national stage.

5. By translating the foreign story, foreign poems into Assamese language, Banhi magazine played a special role in tasting the literature of the world and introducing the literature around the world to the readers.

References:


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