PREFACE

Short story is one of the most popular literary type among all the sections of people. Tradition of stories, tales, fables etc. are very old in India. But the modern Hindi and Assamese short stories emerged in 19th century. That means today the type of literature that we call short story is about 100 years old. We used to classify 100 years old history of Hindi and Assamese short stories into two parts-(1) Pre-Independence Hindi and Assamese short stories and (2) Post Independence Hindi and Assamese short stories. Comparative research work has already been done on post-indepence Hindi and Assamese short stories but no remarkable work has been seen on the pre-independence Hindi and Assamese short stories. Therefore, I have taken up the comparative research work on Pre-Independence Hindi and Assamese short stories with special reference to Premchand and Sarat Chandra Goswami.

Both Premchand in Hindi and Sarat Chandra Goswami in Assamese were successful writers. Both of them depicted the contemporary society in their stories. They were against the superstitions, evil traditional customs etc. that prevailed in their societies and wanted to reform them. Therefore, although they were born with different historical backgrounds yet there are some similarities in their stories. Through this comparative study we are able to familiarise ourselves with both North Indian and Assamese societies.

I have divided my thesis into six chapters. A brief synopsis of the chapters is as follows:

1. The chapter one includes the general outline of the history of short stories of Hindi and Assamese with special reference to Premchand and Sarat Chandra Goswami. It also includes the subject matter of the thesis, research materials, methodology and utility of the study.
2. The chapter two deals with growth and development of Hindi and Assamese short stories with special reference to Premchand and Sarat Chandra Goswami.

3. The chapter three is the study of the life of Premchand and Sarat Chandra Goswami. It covers the life, personality and literary works done by both the writers.

4. The chapter four is the comparative study of the contents of Pre-Independence Hindi and Assamese short stories with special reference to Premchand and Sarat Chandra Goswami.

5. The chapter five is the study of the style and language of the Pre-Independence Hindi and Assamese short stories with special reference to Premchand and Sarat Chandra Goswami.

6. The chapter six is the concluding one. It includes achievements and future prospects of the study.

During my research work, I have visited several libraries. I have collected the materials for my research work mainly from K. K. Handique Library, Gauhati University, Departmental Library, Hindi Department, Gauhati University, District Library, Guwahati, Railway Hindi Library, Maligaon, Marwari Library, Fancy Bazar, Guwahati, Hindi Teachers Training College Library, North Guwahati and Hindi Library, I.O.C., Noonmati, Guwahati. I would like to express my gratefulness to all these institutions and their authorities.

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