PREFACE

A desire to study of social novel on Boro and Assamese has led me to write this thesis. An attempt has been made in this work to present a comparative view on both the novels from 1960 to 1980.

The novel is one of the most important and popular literary types that grew in Boro and Assamese literature. It is a very effective medium for the portrayal of human thoughts and action. It is very free from all limitations which allows it to give a fuller representation of real life and character than anything else can provide. For which Meredith called it a summery of actual life, including both the within and the without of us. Assamese novel has grown during the romantic period of Assamese literature. The real development of Assamese novel however, took place only after the Second World War and more particularly after the attainment of independence. In comparison to Assamese, Boro novels have grown very lately, it starts just in the year of 1962. Boro novel appeared for the first time in the hand of Chittaranjan Muchahary. Till today a large number of novels have been written and various trends absorbed in both the novels, but no comparative critical investigation of these novels has been done yet, though we are a neighbouring community. I have not taken into account those novels which have literary values. I have mainly tried to discuss here only the representative novels of selected novelists of the period and particularly those which may help in showing different literary trends of the period.

The Assamese novel has registered a remarkable progress in the post-war period, while in Boro; there was no creation at that period. Anyway, in Assamese, the growth of the town, the development of trade and commerce and the rise of the educated middle class have contributed to its popularity. With the attainment of independence new thoughts and ideas come-up. It has led to a wider range of subject-matters. In this study all these aspects of the modern Boro and Assamese novel have been looked
into with special attention to development of the thematic and technical features. For the convenience of study the work has been divided into seven chapters. The chapter-1 deals the background and development of the Boro novel. Here, mainly an attempt has been made to analyze the background and development of the Boro novels. The chapter-2 deals with the social novels of Assamese from 1960-1980. Here, I have mainly tried to throw some light into social, economic and political conditions of that period of Assamese novels. Then in chapter-3 also I have tried to show the socio-economic and cultural conditions of the Boros, presented by the Boro novelists. From selected pieces I have discussed here on Boro and Assamese society as depicted in Boro and Assamese Novel (1960-1980) in chapter-4. The various techniques of the modern novelists both western and Indian have influenced the Assamese and Boro novelists to a great extent. Therefore, an attempt has been made in chapter-5 to examine how far the novelists have succeeded in establishing relationship between the subject matters and technique, as well as characterization. Chapter-6 deals with the comparative study of Boro and Assamese social novel from 1960-1980. Here, an attempt has been made to compare both the novels from some aspects based on above chapters. Then in chapter-7 or concluding chapter, I have given a brief analysis of the thesis.

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Indira Boro.