Buddhadeva Bose's contribution to Bengali literary criticism is great. In Bengali literary criticism, his contribution has been occasionally remembered by some critics in the form of short and stray mentioning. But no systematic research work worth its name has ever been done on the critical works of Buddhadeva Bose. It cannot be denied that the topic requires rightful investigation. This inspired me a great deal to undertake a research project leading to the preparation of a Ph.D. thesis entitled 'Buddhadeva Bose as Literary Critic'. In course of the investigation and preparing the thesis, I have been guided by the following principles particularly.

Buddhadeva has written literary criticism of Bengali, Sanskrit and Western literatures.

Moreover, he has written these criticism both in Bengali and English languages.

For ascertaining properly Buddhadeva's originality of criticism and its contribution to Bengali literary criticism, I have taken only his criticism of Bengali and Sanskrit literature for analysis and study.

His criticism of Western literature requires separate treatment for which there is no scope in this thesis. In my opinion, these criticisms are mostly of informative
and derivative nature. So, I have left out Buddhadeva's criticism of Western literature from my discussion. However references from some of them have been made at appropriate places utilising them as secondary source material. I feel that no material difference has been effected in the main contention of the thesis due to this step.

Similarly, I have chosen only the Bengali critical writings of Buddhadeva as primary sources for analysis and study.

Buddhadeva's English critical writings on Bengali and Sanskrit literatures are almost rendering and reproduction of his Bengali critical writings on the same subjects. So, I have not taken these for analysis and study. However the English writings have been utilised as secondary source materials for places wherever necessary. I think that no difference in the contention of the thesis has been effected due to this procedure.

Buddhadeva's literary criticism of Sanskrit literature is unrelated with the Sanskrit traditional method of criticism and it is altogether a new and modern criticism. Bengali literary criticism has been greatly enriched by it. So I have taken it for analysis and study. My prime object of study is the nature and contribution of Buddhadeva's literary criticism.

For analysis and study, I have taken only those criticism pieces and works which deal with a particular
work of literature. Hence general remarks on literature and literary artists by the critic have been kept outside of my discussion.

The whole investigation has been divided into five chapters.

Chapter I forms the Introduction of the thesis. Here general traits of the literary critic and criticism along with Buddhadeva's own conception of literary criticism have been discussed briefly.

Chapter II embodies the discussion on Buddhadeva's criticism of Rabindra Literature. The topic has been discussed here in two sub-heads (i) Buddhadeva's criticism of Rabindranath's short-stories and novels. Almost half of Buddhadeva's whole critical writings concern with Rabindra literature. So, the discussion took some length.

In Chapter III, I have discussed Buddhadeva's criticism of modern Bengali literature; the word 'modern' is used here in general sense. Criticisms of the individual writer's work have been discussed here.

In Chapter IV, I have analysed Buddhadeva's literary criticism of Sanskrit literature.

Chapter V constitutes the conclusion of the thesis. Here the whole study has been recapitulated.
The whole study has been substantiated by quotations from original texts whenever necessary with their English renderings. These quotations have been given in Roman alphabets.

The study is supported by references in the footnotes at the bottom of each page.

A Bibliography has also been incorporated at the end.

In the study, the name of critic, Buddhadeva Bose has been always written as 'Buddhadeva Bose' which was his own style of writing in English.

For data collection, I have depended on various libraries of this State and outside the State like Gauhati University Library, Gauhati, National Library, Calcutta and Bangiya Sahitya Parishad Library, Calcutta. I am grateful to the librarians of these libraries.

In the dissertation, I have drawn freely from various books and I have acknowledged my indebtedness by mentioning the titles of the books with their authors in the footnotes.

I am grateful to my guide, Dr. D. Sen, M.A., Ph.D., Reader in Bengali, Department of Bengali, Gauhati University, who has been kind enough to assist me through various suggestions and guidance.

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Dated
The 30th September, 1968