When I was a student of M.A. final year of Hindi Department in Agra University, I attended a Seminar in the year 2002. The main topic of the Seminar was 'Comparative Study'. The Seminar was conducted by Jay Singh 'Nirad', Head of the Department of Hindi. The valuable lectures about Comparative study delivered by him had inspired me later to pursue research work of the Phd degree in the field of Comparative study.

Since the initial stage Dr. Achyut Sarma who is the Reader and Head of the Department, Hindi of Gauhati University has been conferred on me various informations on this comparative study as a guide and inspired me to do the research on the same.

Having impressed by this consideration I have decided to make a comparative study of Hindi writer Shivprasad Singh with Assamese writer Mahim Bora.

In my study I have been successful to witness the fact that the two literary figures in Hindi as well as Assamese language have been strived the same messages through their stories. The two literary figures have been influenced by the Marxist ideology. And their Marxist ideology in their literary output is also same. But it will be wrong to think that the two literary figures in their literary creation have been interested in highlighting on the Marxist ideology only. The greatest Indian tradition also contributes a lot to strengthening the creative genius of the two writers. The observation towards the live either in the North or in the East is without any differences. But it is very natural to arise certain kind of differences because of the regional ground. But all those difference need not to be accommodating as an obstacle regarding the national unity.

Shivprasad Singh and Mahim Bora are not only the story writers. Both of them have even written novels also. But to go through deeply my study I have decided to
highlight on the story literature as composed by the two writers. So the titled of this
research has been selected by me “A Comparative study of the middle and lower class
people as depicted in the stories of Shivprasad Singh and Mahim Bora.”

The study has been prepared on ten distinctive divisions as stated below-

First Chapter is the Introduction and it contains the discussion on the Scope and
other relevant Aspects of the study. Some important points, like- Comparative Indian
Literature, Brief History of Hindi and Assamese Story Literature, Literature and
Importance of Stories, Relation between Stories and different classes of the society,
Scope of the Study, Methodology to be adopted in the study, Works done in the proposed
field, etc. deals here briefly.

Second Chapter incorporates Brief Life-sketches of Shivprasad Singh and
Mahim Bora with their perception regarding literature and society. The literary
contributions of both the writer, especially in the field of story literature are discussed
here in detail.

Third Chapter contains an exhaustive comparative study of the Social Aspects
of the middle and lower class lives as depicted in the stories of the two writers under
consideration. Here efforts will be made to clearly identify the social problems, social
systems, social customs, etc. as presented by the two writers in their stories.

Fourth Chapter a detailed comparison is made on the Domestic Aspect of the
lives of the two classes under mention as taken up by the two story-tellers. Different
types of human relationship that exist in a domestic life, generation gap, emotionalties
along with feelings of love hatred, jealousy, enmity, fear, anger, bravery, happiness, pain,
etc. at the individual level takes up in this chapter with a comparative outlook.
Fifth Chapter includes a comparative analysis of the Economic Aspect of the lives of the middle and lower class people as narrated in the stories of the two renowned writers of Hindi and Assamese. Points, like- continuous struggle for livelihood, economic hardships, poverty and allied things take up here on a comparative basis.

Sixth Chapter contains a comparative discussion on the Academic Aspect of the lives of the middle and lower class people as focused by the two writers in their stories.

Seventh Chapter encompasses a comparative analysis of Linguistic and Cultural Aspects of the lives of the middle and lower class people as portrait by the two storytellers. Special features of linguistic usages, inclination towards music, literature, etc. and other relevant things takes up here with a comparative outlook.

Eight Chapter contains a comparative study of the Religious and Spiritual Aspects of the lives of the middle and lower class people as indicated by the two writers through their stories. Points, like- religious consciousness, belief on God and fortune, worships, prayers, etc. takes up here.

Ninth Chapter includes a comparative discussion on the Political Aspect of the lives of the middle and lower class people as unfolded by the two writers through their stories. Points, like- political awareness, participation in the democratic process and administrative system of the society, etc. deals here.

Tenth Chapter includes the Achievements and Future Prospect of the study.

I acquired lots of information about these two writers. The central attraction of the stories of both of them is rural Indian society. In this social system it can be witnessed in the writing of these writers what was the economic condition of the people living in the society. For example Mahim Bora sir in his stories highlight on the crucial issues of
economic condition and the problem of the poor. His stories Ekhan Nadir Mrityu, Hadmaal, Chakrabrat are the brilliant portrayal of economic condition.

Likewise Dr. Shivprasad Singh in his stories like Murge Ne Bung Di, Manjil Aur Maut, Sapera, Papjibi depicts the poignant picture of the people as afflicted by poor economic condition.

One of the special characteristics of the stories of both of the writers is the depiction of female characters in their stories. Both these writers have conferred on the women a prominent status. They sometime represent women as a symbol of virtue with the patience to afflict and forbear and sometimes as a symbol of arrogance. In the story of Kathanibari Ghat by Mahim Bora the newly married wife is a simple lady living in the midst of hopes expectation and sweet speculation of her husband who is unaware about her husband’s horrible death. In Aparajit wife of ‘Bhudhar Saikia’ living her life with self-esteem. In Rati Phoola Phool, story of unmarried ‘Namita’, in Harmaal the poignant picture of ‘Suneswari’ has been depicted with a beautiful design. After all Mahim Bora has always been given a prominent position to the female characters in his stories.

I am grateful to some Hindi and Assamese renowned scholars who make my study more clear and scientific. They are Prof. Ravi Prakash Gupta, in-charge of Central Hindi Institute, Jatia Kahilipara, Guwahati, Dr. Guluk Ch. Goswami, retired professor Deptt. of Assamese, Gauhati University and Dr. Pramod Ch. Bhattacharya, Ex-Principal of B. Baruah College, Guwahati. All the three scholars help me a lot with their valuable advice which can not be forgotten.
During the research work, I have visited several libraries like K. K. Handique Library, Gauhati University Library, Departmental Library, Hindi Department, Gauhati University, District Library, Guwahati, Hindi Teachers Training College Library, North Guwahati, Nowgong College Library, A.D.P. College Library, Nagaon, Nagaon District Library, Nagaon Girls’ College Library and collected a good amount of books. I have also taken some Reference books as advised by my Research Guide. These are all mentioned in Bibliography in my thesis. The names of the books are also mentioned in appropriate place of my thesis with quotations etc. A list containing the transliteration has also found just after this Preface.

Bedabrat Sarma