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Mridusmita Devi
PREFACE

The sattwa, raja and tama gunas (attributes) are the three basic components of creation. The Panch Mahaa Bhoot, namely, Space, Air, Fire, Water and Earth are also enriched with these three basic gunas. It is also normal for all living beings to possess these three gunas. The sattwa gunas are considered to be the best, raja gunas to be mediocre and tama gunas to be the lower of all the three gunas. These three gunas are variable in every human being depending on their desire, habit or practice. An individual can choose to adapt or develop the high attributes or eradicate the lower ones. For the formation of a healthy society with good living environment, it is important for every individual to let go off their negative attributes.

The modern literature, especially novels are realistic. From the point of realism, among the women novelists, Mridula Garg (Hindi) and Mamoni Raisom Goswami (Assamese) of the 70s, are very important. In their novels, the hero-heroines are inspired from the actual activities of modern life. In the development of the sattwa, raja and tama gunas in the characters of these hero-heroines, the influence of their environment, situations and contemporary life is worth-mentioning. Hence, in the present thesis, under the title “A Comparative Study of the Heroes and Heroines in the novels of Mridula Garg (Hindi) and Mamoni Raisom Goswami (Assamese) on the basis of the three attributes- Sattwa, Raja and Tama”, an attempt has been made to analyse the hero-heroines of both the novelists on the basis of their sattwa, raja and tama gunas. The research work has been divided into eight chapters. A narrow work outline of these chapters are mentioned as follows-
The first chapter is an introduction of the thesis. In this chapter the title of the thesis, its limitations, methods, purpose and prior researches related to the subject have been mentioned and analysed.

Second chapter has been named as *Life and literary works of Mridula Garg and Mamoni Raisom Goswami*. In this chapter life of both the novelists, their field of work and their creative writings have been described and analysed.

In the third chapter *The concept of hero*, the changing concepts of heroes in ancient and modern Indian and western life rather have been analysed.

In the fourth chapter named *Heroes with sattwa* attribute, a comparative study of heroes of Garg and Goswami has been made on the basis of *sattwa gunas*. Similarities and dissimilarities of *sattwa gunas* in the heroes of both the novelists have been analysed.

The fifth chapter is *Heroes with raja* attribute. In this chapter, a comparative study of heroes of both the novelists has been done on the basis of *raja gunas* found in them. Similarities and dissimilarities in *raja gunas* of heroes of both the novelists have been evaluated.

The sixth chapter is *Heroes with tama* attribute. In this chapter heroes of both the writers have been studied on the basis of their *tama gunas*. Similarities and dissimilarities of heroes of both the novelists have been analysed.

The seventh chapter is *The concept of heroine and sattwa, raja and tama heroines of Garg and Goswami*. In present chapter, ancient and modern Indian and western concepts of heroines have been analysed. Characters and personality of heroines of Garg and Goswami has been analysed and compared on the basis of
sattwa, raja and tama gunas. Similarities and dissimilarities in three gunas of heroines of both the novelists have been analysed.

The chapter eight is the conclusion of the thesis. A gist of fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh chapters have been presented.

I have collected the print materials related to the topic of study from the prestigious K.K. Handique Library (Gauhati University), Library of Hindi Department (Gauhati University), Shree Marwari Pustakalay (Guwahati) and the District Library (Guwahati). Internet helped a lot to find online journals and reference books, also purchasing the necessary print materials having relevance with the study.

Mridusmita Devi

Mridusmita Devi
Key to Transliteration

The National Library at Calcutta standardized the diacritic marks to be used for romanization of Indian scripts in 1988 (The National Library Newsletter — June, 1988) However, all the marks adopted in that standardization are not available in common fonts like Times New Roman using which this thesis has been composed. As such, ease of application has been dominant in devising the following “Key to Transliteration” from Hindi to English and the same has been used uniformly in this thesis:

स्वर्ण Vowels

आ ए इ ई उ ऊ ए ऒ रे ऐ औ ए
a aa/a i i/e ee u/oo oo ri ey/e ei ai o au/ou

खण्ड Consonants

त ता ठ ठा द दा ध धा न ना
t ta th tha d da dh dha n na

त ढ ढा भ भा ँ न
t/ta th tha d da dh dha n na

त ध धा फ फा
t dh dha na

त झ झा
t jh jha yna

त च चा छ छा
t cha chh chha j jha yna
Combined Consonants

क्ष क्षः क्र क्रा क्ष ज्ञ ज्ञः जः खः

Nukta-Consonants

क ख ग झ फ

ka kha ga dz/za fa

Other Signs

अन्य चिह्न

न (नामधुः) (विनय) (अनुप्यार)
an/n : an/n/m
Content

S. No.                  Page No
Certificate               i
Declaration               ii
Acknowledgement           iii
Preface                   iv-vi
Key to Transliteration    vii-viii
Content                   ix-xv

CHAPTER I: Introduction
1.1 Introduction of the topic
1.2 Purpose and relevance of the study
1.3 Limitation of the study
14. Methodology adopted for the study
1.5 List of prior study related to topic
1.6 Special features of the study
1.7 Area or scope of further research related to the topic
1.8 Technical difficulties faced during preparation of thesis

CHAPTER II: Life and Literary works of Mridula Garg & Mamoni Raisom Goswami
2.1 Introduction
2.2 Mridula Garg
2.2.1 Birth
2.2.2 Field of education
2.2.3 Family life
CHAPTER III: The classical and modern concept of hero

3.1. Introduction

3.2. Personality of a hero

3.3. The traditional concept of hero
   3.3.1. Indian concept
   3.3.2. Western concept

3.4. The new concept of hero
   3.4.1. Indian concept
3.4.2. Western concept

3.5. The basis of division of heroes

3.5.1. Divisions of heroes

3.6. Conclusion

CHAPTER IV: Heroes with sattwa attribute

4.1. Introduction

4.2. Definition of sattwa guna

4.3. Principles of sattwa guna

4.4. The sattwa guni heroes in the novels of Mridula Garg and Mamoni Raisom Goswami

4.4.1. Knowledge

4.4.2. Sacrifice

4.4.3. Trust

4.4.4. Humanity

4.4.5. Sympathy

4.4.6. Self-confidence

4.4.7. Altruism

4.4.8. Spirituality

4.4.9. Honesty

4.4.10. Firmness

4.5. Similarities

4.6. Dissimilarities

4.7. Conclusion

CHAPTER V: Heroes with raja attribute

5.1. Introduction
5.2. Principles of *raja guna*

5.3. The *raja guni* heroes in the novels of Mridula Garg and Mamoni Raisom Goswami

5.3.1. To be workaholic

5.3.2. Engrossed in worldly affairs

5.3.3. Anger

5.3.4. Revolt/refutation

5.3.5. Selfishness

5.3.6. Sentimentalism/emotionalism

5.3.7. Ambition

5.3.8. Ego

5.4. Similarities

5.5. Dissimilarities

5.6. Conclusion

CHAPTER VI: Heroes with *tama* attribute

6.1. Introduction

6.2. Definition of *tama guna*

6.3. Principles of *tama guna*

6.4. The *tama guni* heroes in the novels of Mridula Garg and Mamoni Raisom Goswami

6.4.1. Lust

6.4.2. Escapism

6.4.3. Fear

6.4.4. Loneliness

6.4.5. Obscenity

166-195
6.5. Similarities
6.6. Dissimilarities
6.7. Conclusion

CHAPTER VII: The concept of heroine and

*sattwa, raja, tama* heroines of Garg and Goswami 196-269

7.1. Introduction
7.2. Personality of a heroine
7.3. The traditional concept of heroine
7.3.1. Indian concept
7.3.2. Western concept
7.4. The new concept of heroines
7.4.1. Indian Concept
7.4.2. Western Concept
7.5. The basis of division of heroines
7.6. The *sattwa guni* heroines in the novels of
   Garg and Goswami
7.6.1. Sacrifice
7.6.2. Faith
7.6.3. Self-confidence
7.6.4. Courage
7.6.5. Other *sattwa gunas*
7.6.5.1. Love for Humanity
7.6.5.2. Sympathy
7.6.5.3. Spirituality
7.6.5.4. Firmness
7.7. The *raja guni* heroines in the novels of Garg and Goswami

7.7.1. WORLDLINESS

7.7.2. ANGER

7.7.3. PROTEST

7.7.4. EMOTION

7.7.5. AMBITION

7.7.6. SELFISHNESS

7.7.7. JEALOUSY

7.8. The *tama guni* heroines in the novels of Garg and Goswami

7.8.1. LUSTFULNESS

7.8.2. DISLOYALTY

7.8.3. LONELINESS

7.8.4. SUICIDAL OR SELF-DESTRUCTIVE TENDENCY

7.8.5. OTHER *tama gunas*

7.8.5.1. USE OF SLANG EXPRESSIONS

7.8.5.2. CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

7.9. SIMILARITIES

7.9.1. SIMILARITIES OF *sattwa gunas*

7.9.2. SIMILARITIES OF *raja gunas*

7.9.3. SIMILARITIES OF *tama gunas*

7.10. DISSIMILARITIES

7.10.1. DISSIMILARITIES OF *sattwa gunas*
7.10.2. Dissimilarities of *raja gunas*

7.10.3. Dissimilarities of *tama gunas*

7.11. Conclusion

CHAPTER VIII: Conclusion 270-285

BIBLIOGRAPHY 286-294