



Love and Nature in the two selected poems of Sunil Phukan Basumatary

Banjar Brahma

Centre for Bodo Studies, Bodoland University

&

Mihir Kumar Brahma

Janata College, Serfanguri

Date of Submission: 13-07-2026

Date of Acceptance: 27-07-2026

Abstract: Sunil Phukan Basumatary is one of the influential poets in Bodo literature. He has published over nine poetry collections and has made significant contributions to the development of modern Bodo poetry. His poetic style is distinctive and highly admired for its creativity and expressive use of language. In addition to publishing books, he actively contributes poems to journals, literary magazines, and other publications, exploring a variety of modern poetic forms. Through his remarkable literary contributions, he has introduced emerging trends inspired by Western literature into Bodo poetry. Love and nature are the major themes that frequently appear in his poems.

Key-Words: Bodo Poetry, Themes, Love, Nature.

I. Introduction:

Poetry is a part of literature. The journey of Bodo poetry began in 1920 when Prasanna Kumar Boro Khakhlyar published his first poetry book titled "*Bathunam Bwikhaguni Gidu*." This book was written during the early period of Bodo literature and contained poems filled with devotional or mystic songs. Devotional poetry expresses worship or prayer to God. The writing style in this book was traditional, focusing on themes and ideas related to mysticism, which is the belief in a supreme God. It's important to note that *Bathou Bwrai* is considered the deity of the Bodos, serving as an essential part of Bodo culture and rituals. As a mystical work, this book was inspired by *Bathou Bwrai* (Supreme Deity of the Bodos). Bathou is based on five principles: Ha (Earth), Bar (Air), Dwi (Water), Orr (Fire), and Okhrang (Sky). The book features six mystic poems, all centered around God Bathou Bwrai. In 1924, the first Bodo magazine called "*Bibar*" (*Flower*) was published by *Boro Chatra Sanmilani*, with Satish Chandra

Basumatary as its first chief editor. The themes and ideas in *Bibar* also revolved around mysticism and classicism. Satish Chandra Basumatary, Rupnath Brahma, Kitish Bhusan Brahma, and Jaladhar Brahma were the poets associated with the *Bibar* magazine. *Bibar* magazine played a significant role in the early development of Bodo literature. During the *Bibar* era of Bodo literature, Rupnath Brahma and Kitish Bhusan Brahma introduced a romantic style to Bodo literature. Rupnath Brahma composed a romantic poem titled "*Angni Khwina*" (*My Bride*) for the *Bibar* magazine. Satish Chandra Basumatary, Rupnath Brahma, and Jaladhar Brahma were passionate about advancing Bodo literature and constantly sought ways to improve it. The poems in *Bibar* magazine reflected themes of mysticism, guidance, and classicism. The book "*Khonthai-Methai*" (Poems-Lyrics), which includes poems and lyrics, was written by Rupnath Brahma and Modaram Brahma in 1923. It is a well-known work in Bodo literature. The "*Khonthai Methai*" book contains eight poems and twenty-six lyrics. Lyrical poetry is often brief and conveys emotions and thoughts, and people can sing these lyrical pieces.

In 1925, Madaram Brahma published another Bodo poetry collection named "*Boroni Gudi Shivsa Arw Aroz*" (*Song of Celestial*), which similarly focused on mystical themes. In 1937, Pramod Ch. Brahma published a magazine known as "*Mushri Arw Sansri*," (Ideas and Philosophy) which featured many poems and prose. Brahma was also called "*Hayenni Suphin*." (*Flute of Valley*). In 1938, he published another magazine titled "*Alongbar*." In this magazine, Ishan Chandra Mushahary wrote several romantic poems. Ishan Chandra Mushahary is often referred to as the John Keats of the Bodo community because both he and Keats passed away at the young age of twenty-five.



Their poems share many similarities in themes and ideas, especially their focus on romance. During that time, Ishan Chandra Mushahary also wrote two books of Bodo poetry titled "*Sonani Mala*" (Golden Garland) and "*Phami*" (Lotus) between 1938 and 1940. Kali Kumar Lahary was another notable poet known for his satirical work and earned the title King of Satirical Poetry in Bodo literature. He published two poetry collections- "*Khonthai Bizab*" (Poetry Book) in 1951 and "*Khonthai Bihung*" (Poetry Hive) in 1952. Lahary enriched Bodo literature with his unique writing style. After that, Nileswar Brahma published the poem and song collection called "*Balab Ganwi*." Later, on November 16, 1952, the Bodo Sahitya Sabha was established.

II. Objectives of the study:

The objectives of this study are as follows:

- (i.) To know about the historical background of early Bodo poetry.
- (ii.) To study the themes of love and nature in the Poems of Sunil Phukan Basumatary.

III. Data and Methodology:

This study uses both primary and secondary data. The primary data is taken from the poetry books written by Sunil Phukan Basumatary, while the secondary data is taken from criticism books and magazines. The analysis in this paper has been conducted using analytical methods.

IV. Discussion:

Sunil Phukan Basumatary is a well-known Bodo poet who has made a big impact. He has written over nine poetry books for Bodo literature. Besides being a poet, he is also a novelist, critic, and short story writer. In total, he has published nine poetry books in the Bodo language. These poetry books are:

1. Khonthaini Bikhayao (1998)
2. Envelope Singni Khonthai (2002)
3. Bulbuli (2002)
4. Somni Agan Arw Somni Phakhon (2005)
5. Gaurang Hawarao (2006)
6. Gaurang Hawar (2009)
7. Hawar Hawar (2009)
8. Sakhondra (2014)
9. Swdwbn Swdwbn (2016)

Love and Nature are important themes in modern poetry. Sunil Phukan Basumatary is a contemporary romantic poet from the Bodo

community. He is recognized as a postmodern Bodo poet as well. He writes poems in both Bodo and English and shares his writing skills in journals, magazines, souvenirs, and anthologies. His romantic poems and lyrics are filled with beautiful words and vivid images. In his work, he expresses the ideas of nature and romance in a meaningful way. This paper analyzes two selected poems by Sunil Phukan Basumatary namely- "*Deglaini Dwilanggao Khebsebao Mwdwm Bohra Mwnse Fagunni Saogari Bwni*" (*Let Us Once Again Capture the Beauty Of Spring This Summer*) and "*Zeth Danni Jwmwiyao*" (*In The Cloud Of The Month Of Zeth*). The poet stated:

Bodo:

Jub Jub Asharni
Okha dambra hagwn
Nwng sijagwn udang fwtharao
Ang nwnghou bwjobna lagwn khophri singgao.

(Deglaini Dwilanggao Khebsebao Mwdwm Bohra Mwnse Fagunni Saogari Bwni, P-98)

English:

It will rain heavily
During the month of Ashar
You will get drenched
While working in the fields
And I will keep you safe
Under my umbrella.

In this stanza, the poet crafts a picture of summer. The poet describes the lovely summer scene in his poem, where the villagers diligently work in the rice fields. When the monsoon comes, the fields fill with rainwater. The rainwater and the sounds of flowing water make the rice fields even more beautiful during summer. His beloved is planting rice in the field while getting soaked in the heavy rain. During Ashar month (June-July), the rice fields fill up with rainwater. Farmers work hard to plant and grow their crops. The poet shows that his beloved is busy planting and getting wet in the rain, and he wishes to protect her under his umbrella with love and care. The poet shares this stunning view of the summer fields in his poem.

Bodo:

Bulbuli !
Benw som gainai phunai
Ang haleogwn haluwa manwijwng
Nwng mai gaigwn angni ser ser gwmwn dubliao
Obla arwbao besebangba



Okha khwrwmgwn saronthai gaogwn
Nwng bagdaona angni bikhayao uphlephwigwn.

(Deglaini Dwilanggao Khebsebao Mwdwm Bohra
Mwnse Fagunni Saogari Bwni, P-98)

English:

Bulbuli !

This is the season for cultivation
I will plough the field with my two bulls
And you will plant the paddy
Beside me in the muddy field
Thunder will roar, and lightning will flash
You will come to me in fear
And hide in my heart.

In this stanza of the poem, the poet expresses that he will plough the field with his two bulls. His beloved will plant rice close to him while it rains heavily. Thunder and lightning will join the rain as they work in the field. He mentions that his beloved is scared of the thunder and lightning, but when she comes to him feeling afraid, he will hold her close in his heart.

Another poem is "Zeth Danni Jwmwiyao" (*In The Cloud Of The Month Of Zeth*). In this poem, the poet beautifully describes the weather and the winds of nature. As soon as the month of Zeth arrives, summer comes to the Earth. Along with summer, rain also fills the atmosphere. The beauty of nature shines with the flashes of storm lightning. The sound of raindrops falling on the roof of the house creates a melody like romantic music. The poet stated:

Bodo:

Zeth dann
Jub jub
Okha dambrani
Thing sayao
Jwbrabnai swdwb
Bijwngni
Lwgw laphanai
Raona raonini
Hswlainai swdwb.

(Zeth Danni Jwmwiyao, P- 8)

English:

The heavy rains
Of the month of Zeth
Pour down
On the roof
While thunder roars

And lightning flashes
Playing hide-and-seek across the sky.

The poet's mind wandered back to the village during this time. Memories of his childhood, surrounded by the beauty of nature, came into his mind. He remembered the children listening to Endle's stories while the rain poured on the roofs of the village houses. His deep love for the village came through these memories. The poet beautifully expresses these feelings in poetic language :

Bodo:

Okha mwphlamgase
Angni nwjwra
Gami pharse birlangdwng
Ukhum gwywi
Noao jirainanwi
Okha sija sija
Gamini gothophwra
Endle ni solo khwnasongdwng.

English:

Once my eyes turned
Toward the village
There, the village children
Sat inside a roofless house
Shivering in the rain
As they listened to the tale of Endle.

(Zeth Danni Jwmwiyao, P- 8)

The themes of love for nature and all living beings are prominently reflected in Sunil Phukan Basumatary's poetry. Through these poetic expressions, the poet expresses the beauty and charm of nature.

V.Conclusion: Sunil Phukan Basumatary is a poet with a deep passion for nature. His poetry mainly explores the themes of love and nature. He believes that people share a close bond with nature, and this connection is reflected throughout his poetical works. The beauty of natural landscapes and scenery inspires human thoughts and encourages people to live in harmony with the environment. In his poems, readers can find vivid images of wind, rain, storms, lightning, fields, and beautiful landscapes. Through his expressive language, he skillfully conveys the beauty of nature and the emotions associated with it.



References:

- [1]. Basumatary, Rakhao : “Thunlai Bijirnai”, Nilima Prakashani, Baganpara, Baksa, 2014.
- [2]. Basumatary, Sunil Phukan : “Hawar Hawar”, Gaurang Publications, Kokrajhar, Assam(2009)
- [3]. Basumatary, Sunil Phukan: “Sakhondra”, Onsumoi Library, Kokrajhar, Assam(2014).
- [4]. Boro, Anil: “Boro Thunlaini Mohor Arw Mushri”, N.L. Publication, Guwahati(1996).
- [5]. Boro, Madhura : “Jariminni Nwajwrao Boro Thunlai”, N.L. Publication, Kokrajhar BTAD(2007)
- [6]. Chris, Baldick: “Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms” ,Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, Fourth Edition(2015).
- [7]. Hudson, W.H. : “An Introduction to the study of English Literature”, Maple Press Private Limited, Thane(2008).
- [8]. Lahary, M.R.: “Boro Thunlaini Jarimin”(reprint), Onsumoi Library, Kokrajhar, BTAD(2006).