

A Critical Reading of Rosaline Jamir's *Romance of Socialism And Feminism*

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Abstract: This paper aims to critically appreciate R. Jamir's book *Romance Of Socialism And Feminism* (2011) as a literary endeavour to bring before the mainstream India the poetic works of the North-Eastern India so that the people of the mainstream India come to know and learn about the North-Eastern Region which is a beautiful place, rich in culture, traditions, ethnicity and scenic beauty. And the manner in which R. Jamir has traced the elements of romance and feminism in the poetic works of Temsula Ao, Monalisa Changkija and Robin S Ngangom is beautiful and lucid.

Keywords: Romance, Socialism, North-East India and Feminism.

Romance of Socialism and Feminism is a wonderful book. In this book, R. Jamir has extensively dwelt on the three outstanding poets of the North-East India mentioned above. She talks very clearly about some great elements of romance in truth and beauty as observed and discussed by these three poets. The author in her humble attempt tries to bring to the forefront the poetic literature of the North-East India before the curious gaze of the mainstream India with one purpose in mind and that is perhaps to generate an awareness about the region (North East Region) which is known for its diverse cultures and multi-ethnicity. Like any other new literature, the literature of the North-East is also emerging. And literature is a strong medium to express the panorama of society. The three poets feel that the present society is beset with problems of different kinds and so the need of the hour is that they need to work hard and build a peaceful society for man to live in joy and peace.

The book *Romance of Socialism and Feminism* should go a long way in changing the fixed perception or the stereotyped image about the people of North-East India which the people residing in the mainstream India have. This book also becomes all the more important and authentic in its portrayal and analysis of the beauty of the region because it is written by an insider who is none other than an indigenous tribe from Nagaland. Whatever she has talked about in her book is based on her lived and felt experiences. She has very aptly pointed out a unique feature of the North-East poets and that is how some of them have attempted to romance with socialism and feminism in their poetry.

We come across a good number of the 19th century Indian English poets

belonging to West Bengal, but the poets from the North-Eastern part of India cannot be traced. The reason is that perhaps there were no poets from this region writing in Indian English. It was only in the twentieth century and that also in 1980s that we see a few poets writing in English from North-East India. In addition to many minor poets from North-East India, Temsula Ao, Monalisa Changkija, Robin S. Ngangom and Kynghpham sing Nongkynrih are the major voices of the region representing human values and postcolonial realities depicting romance of socialism and feminism in their poetical works.

Socialism aims at social welfare, because its concentration is on society and not on individuals. The three poets namely Temsula Ao, Monalisa Changkija and Robin S. Ngangom are the three poets fully devoted to the social cause, peace and prosperity in all fields for the inhabitants of the region. Prof. Jamir very appropriately observes, "Temsula Ao, Monalisa Changkija and Robin S. Ngangom have through their poetry given elements, textures and colours to promote socialism and also advocate the essence of feminism. They have set a trend to follow, in the land, in the street, in the homes, besides a trend with ideas, as how to live considering, what is happening around us.

The poets have stood for the acceptance of women's attitude and participation in various social problems because these poets believe that the second sex is empowered multidimensionally." These poets explore the environment, their lives and others' lives including relations with others. They know very well how to handle the romance question of socialism and feminism. The three poets agree with Susan B. Anthony, who has rightly commented, "There will never be complete equality until women themselves help to make laws and elect lawmakers" (Davies 2006:66). Their poetry has a healing effect on the hearts of the masses, by virtue of their artistic credo besides its comforting effects on the readers.

References :

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