

Chapter-III

Writings of S.K.Bhuyan

(A) List of the writings and an observation on it:

S.K.Bhuyan wrote a huge number of books, which are mainly literary and Historical. Apart from his original writings, he edited some chronicles and compiled some Bulletins and Reports also. Some of his original writings were firstly published in different magazines in series and with a view to preserve; some of them were later compiled and published in different volumes. He wrote both in English and Assamese. Some of his writings are purely literature, some are admixture of literature and history and some are purely historical. So, it is a hazardous task to categorize the writings of S.K.Bhuyan on particular criterion. Many scholars, who wrote on him, enlisted the writings of S.K.Bhuyan. S.K.Bhuyan compiled a bibliography of his own work, which was published in 1951. An abridged and consolidated version of this bibliography was worked out in February 1964 and it was published in July of the same year. The author, Nanda Talukdar also has given a list of the writings of S.K.Bhuyan in the, biography 'SURYYA KUMAR BHUYAN' (1984). There are some problems in taking these lists of the writings of S.K.Bhuyan for use in this study. For example, his translated works are also shown under the heading of 'original writings' in the list prepared by S.K.Bhuyan. Likewise, the collected folk-song 'BARPHUKANAR GIT' is also shown under the same category. Moreover, some books were published after the death of S.K.Bhuyan and even after the publication of his Biography written by Nanda Talukdar. A list is prepared here observing different angle of his writings. In preparing the list, the above-mentioned three sources are utilized.

Published Books:**A. Edited Books:**

- (1) Assam Buranji-DHAS-1930 (Mar)
(Enlarged by Harakanta Sadaramin)
- (2) Kamrupar Buranji-DHAS-1930 (Oct.)
- (3) Deodhai Asam Buranji-DHAS-1931 (Oct)
- (4) Tungkhungia Buranji-DHAS-1932 (Sept.)
- (5) Asamar Padya Buranji-DHAS-1935
By Duti Ram Hazarika and Bisweswar Vidyadhip
- (6) Padshah Buranji-KAS-1935
- (7) Kachari Buranji-DHAS-1936 (May)
- (8) Jayantia Buranji-DHAS-1937 (Sept.)
- (9) Tripura Buranji-DHAS-1938 (Feb)
(by Ratna Kandali Sarma Kataki and
Arjun Das Bairagi Kataki)
- (10) An Account of Assam-DHAS-1940
- (11) Assam Buranji-DHAS-1945 (June)
(Recovered from the family of Sukumar Mahanta)
- (12) Satsari Asam Buranji-G.U.-1960

B. Reports And Bulletins:

- (1) Report and Conspectus of the
Kamrup Anusandhan Samiti.... 1927
- (2) DHAS-Bulletin no-1-1932
- (3) DHAS-Bulletin no-2-1934
- (4) DHAS-Bulletin no-3-1936
- (5) DHAS-Bulletin no- 5 1951

Unpublished Works:

[A]

1. Assam in the Eighteen Century
(Dr.J.P.Wade's "Geographical Sketch of
Assam", edited with Introduction and
notes
2. Note on Assamese Language and
Literature compiled by H.C.Goswami and
P.N.Gohain Barua.

[B]

3. Report on the manuscripts in the American
Baptist Mission, compiled in 1925.

*(Bulletin-no-4 by B.K.Baruah)

(6) Preliminary Report on the
old records at the Assam secretariate-1931

C. Collected +compiled:

(1) Barphukanar Git...1924

(Folk-song)

(2) Saraighatar Subachani...1963

(Patriotic utterances)

*Enlarged edition (1963).... 1968

C.

D. Translations:

(1) Tungkhungia Buranji...1933

(2) Annals of Delhi Badshahate...1947

(3) Lachit Barphukan-NBTI-1962

D.

4. Mirjumla's invasion of Assam

5. Bilatat Baich Mah

E. Bibliographical:

(1) Bibliography of the works of

Dr. S.K.Bhuyan –September 1951

(2) Literary and Historical writings of

S.K.Bhuyan-July, 1964

(3) Buranjimulak Prabandhabalir Talika...1955

[E]

6. Copperplate and Stone Inscription of
Assam- compiled in 1929

7. Historical Research in Assam

F. Biographical

Biography

(1) Gopal Krishna Gokhale...1916

F.

- (2) Rabindranath Tagore...1920
- (3) Anundoram Barooah.... 1920
- (4) Harihar Ata...1960

Collection of Biographical Essays

- (5) Jonaki...1928
- (14 eminent men)
- (6) Chaneki...1928
- (07 eminent women)

--Biographical Literature--

- (7) Jaimati Upakhyan...1920

G. Biographical History

On political Characters of Assam History:

- (1) An Assamese Nurjahan...1926
- (2) Assam Jiyari.... 1935
- (Two Parts)
- (3) Lachit Barphukan And His Times.... 1947
- (4) Ramani Gabharu...1951
- (5) Atan Buragohain And His Times...1957
- (6) Swargadev Rajeswar Singha...1975

G.

H. Historical- General:

- (1) Ahomar Din.1918
- (2) Early British Relation with Assam...1928
- (3) Kowanr Bidroh...1948
- (4) Anglo-Assamese Relation-1771-1826...1949
- (Thesis for Ph.D. Completed in 1938)

H.

(5) Mirjumlar Assam Akraman, 1956

[I]

I. Collection of Writings:

--Prose and Poetry--

(1) Panchami.1927

(Five short stories written during 1909-1913)

(2) Surya Kumar Bhuyar Kavita Sangrah.1994

(Edited by Bireswar Barua-

inserted Earlier collection-Nirmali-1918,

unpublished Nava-Nirmali, Anadari ,

Pancha-Kali and Academic verses)

8. An Educational Miscellany- (21 articles written during 1927-1963

9. An Assamese Miscellany (120 articles written during 1918-1961)

10. The Military System of the Assamese People: Pratibha Devi Memorial lectures, 4th.series, 1941.

11. Assam Khasi Relations

-- Articles--

(3) Buranjir Vani...1951

(16 articles written during 1925-1950)

(4) Tripadi...1955

[5] Studies In The Literature of Assam...1956

(*Assamese Historical literature...1928

*Assamese Literature: Ancient and Modern-1936

*And other articles-Total 11, written during 1928-1955)

[6] Studies In The History of Assam...1965

(23 Articles written during 1926-1961)

(7) Asom Buranjir Katha...1989

20 articles written during 1931-1947

(8) Bibidh Prabandha...2005

(37 articles written during 1908-1963)-

Edited by J.N.Bhuyan

J. Auto-Biographical+ Memoirs	[J]
+ Appreciation:	
[1] Some Literary Reminiscences (Seven Hindrances-1953 inserted)	12. The Story of my life (auto biographical upto 1918)
[2] Men I Have Met...1962 (152 contemporaries)	13. A book of Appreciations (appreciated during 1911-1964)
[3] London Memories...1979	14. Recollection and Reflections written in between 1953-1964
[4] Quintessence of Experience...1986	15. Two years in parliament (speeches delivered in Parliament during 1952-54)
	16. Occasionals and Abstracts-A Collection of speeches, abstracts, and notes on literary, historical and general topics, compiled since 1925.

In the list given above, it is seen that the total number of the published works of S.K.Bhuyan is $12+6+2+3+3+7+6+5+8+4=56$ and of the unpublished books is 16. Of course, the number of the books would have been different one, if the books, which were inserted later in bigger volumes, were shown separately. In this list the contemplated books of S.K.Bhuyan are not mentioned. An observation in the list reveals that, the period from 1892/94 to 1909 was seedtime for literary and historical writings and studies of S.K.Bhuyan. During the period 1909 to 1916 he wrote most of his literary writings. Since 1916 S.K.Bhuyan gradually departed from the literary activities and entered into the activities of historical studies. From 1916 to 1930 he wrote mostly the purely biographical writings. Of course, that he did not write biography in later period, it is not so. He wrote on Harihar Ata, the Vaisnava saint of Assam, which was published in 1960. Some historical articles were also published during this period. A study of the list also reveals that, by this time S.K.Bhuyan, searched for manuscripts, led historical organization and wrote report on its activity. The period from 1930 to 1950 was the high time of historical writings of

S.K.Bhuyan. During the 30's most of his edited chronicles were published by the DHAS, He completed his research work in 1938, the voluminous SWARGADEV RAJESWAR SINGHA also was almost completed by 1936. The period from 1950 onward is the ebb-tide period of historical studies and writings of S.K.Bhuyan. In 1950 he was of 58 years of age. He started to collect the scattered articles and other writings published in different Magazines, Journals and Newspapers and they were published in volumes with a view to preserve them and to make them easily accessible to the posterity. By this time he also wrote up and published his memoirs, autobiographical writings, appreciation and Philosophical writings. It may be mentioned here that Although Dr. Bhuyan wrote numerically a huge number of articles and books in different needs and situations, the themes on which he wrote can be reduced to a smaller volume, if his writings are carefully observed and rearranged.

(B) Repetition, Enlargement, Collection and Translation:

Dr Bhuyan was attracted to the history of Assam, studied it and started to write on historical subject matter since his school days. Of course, in the early part of his life (till 1916) poetical literature dominated his intellectual activities. Later on, he engaged himself with sole and prime attention in collection and preservation of source materials, studies, research work and writing in history. This attachment of S.K.Bhuyan to history remained active and alive till his demise. The writings were written in different time of his life in different need, which were kept recorded very systematically by him. If the places, time and the needs of publication of these writings (articles, books, collections) are examined it is revealed that he wrote these articles for different categories of readers, viz-

(i) Children (ii) Students (iii) Educated common people who read News papers and Magazines etc (iv) Educated and uneducated audience of the public gatherings. These gatherings again can be divided into- commemorative, seminars organized by clubs and other organization, Sahitya Sabha etc., (v) contemporary Intellectuals and (vi) the Scholars-researchers. Some of these groups can be subdivided into another group as (vii) Non-Assamese readers.

Aiming at these varied classes of his readers he utilized many mass-medias prevalent in his time like-

(i) News Paper (ii) Magazines (iii) Publishing books (iv) Public meetings (v) Seminars (vi) Reports and Bulletins as government and non-governmental portfolio-holder and (vii) Radio.

Likewise, he not only taken the study of history as a subject of serious observation and enquiry but also shouldered the burden of popularizing it. In fact, it is observed that he emphasized more upon the responsibility of popularizing history than preserving it for the scholars and researchers. He endeavoured to utilize history as an agent and envoy of national consciousness and inspiration. In doing so he had to write up on same subject matter several times in different places and sometimes to publish the same topic in different places. Observing the importance and significance of some of his initial writings were later on enlarged with additional data, facts and figures from fresh source-materials. For the sake of preservation and convenience (easily availability and accessibility) of the readers his articles published in different Newspaper, Magazines etc in different times, he compiled them later in different single volumes.

The published collections of historical articles are—

1. Buranjir Vani (Aug., 1951)-contains 16 articles

2. Jonaki- (1928) contains biographical sketch of fourteen famous personalities
3. Chaneki (1928/lawyers publication-1999) contains seven articles on great women
4. Bibidh Prabandha (2005)-thirty-seven notes and articles on miscellaneous topics
5. Studies in the history of Assam (1965) contains twenty-three articles
6. Studies in the Literature of Assam (1956, 1962). Contains eleven articles
7. Asom Buranjir Katha (1989)-Contains 20 articles

After studying the historical articles inserted in these collections it can be known that except a few articles, the contents of the other remaining articles are discussed elaborately in the books written on wider area. Again observing the subject matter and periods covered by these books these can further be divided into some wider groups as follows—

- (a) The books on Assam invasion by Mirjumla and Ram Singha.
- (b) The books on the period of Tungkhungia rule
- (c) The books on Assam history in general.

Books in the Group- (a):

1. Mirjumlar Assam Akraman, (1956)
2. Mirjumla's invasion of Assam (Translated to English /not yet published)
3. Lachit Barphukan and his times (Feb 6, 1947)
4. Lachit Barphukan (Translated to Assamese/1979)
5. Atan Buragohain and his times (1957)
6. Ramani Gabharu (1951)

Books in Group- (b):

1. Tunkhungia Buranji (In fact, translated and revised in 1933 from the edited chronicle Tungkhungia Buranji to English)
2. An Assamese Nurjahan (1926)

3. Swargadev Rajeshwar Singha (1975)
4. Kowar Bidroh (1948)
5. Barphukanar Git (Collected ballad-1924, 50, 51, 54, 94)
6. Early British Relation with Assam (1928)
7. Anglo-Assamese Relation: 1771-1826(completed in 1938/published in 1949)

Books in Group-(c):

1. Ahomar Din (1918)
2. Annals of Delhi Badshahate (Translated in 1948 from edited chronicle Padshah Buranji)

There are some articles on general topics and these may be put into as **group- (d)** for the convenience of our discussion. And they are—

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|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Got Paikar Nibandhan (ii) Bar Asomat Ebhumuki (iii) Bar Asom aru Buranjir Bani (iv) Karengat Panji Kata Shiksa (v) Prachin Kamrup Buranjir Abhas (vi) Assam through Ages | | <p>BuranjirVani</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (vii) Assam: Its historical Position (viii) Hill and Plain people (ix) Relation between the Hills and Plain people (x) Weaving in Assam (xi) Military System of the Ahoms (xii) Administrative system of the Ahoms | | <p>Studies in the History of Assam</p> |

Another group of articles can be arranged under **group- (e)** for the writings on noteworthy Assamese women –

(i) Asom Jiyari(1935)

Part-1: Purani Asomiya Tirotar Prati Dristi

Part-2: Tathya Sambalita Jaimati

(ii) Four articles in Buranjir Vani

--Asom Jiyari Amrit Prabha

--Garama kuanri

--Mula Gabharu

--Shantikanya Radhika aru Telia Patni

(iii) Two articles in 'Studies in the History of Assam'.

--Princess Amritprabha

--Noble Women of Assam

(iv) One article in Bibidh Prabandha

--Atitar Kamrupar Mahila

(v) Three articles in Chaneki

--Asomiya Tirota

--Jaimati Kuanri

--Agar Dinat Asomia Tirota

(vi) Four Articles in Asom Buranjir Katha

-Sati Jaimati Kuwanrir Git

-Sati Jaimati Sambad

-Buranjit Sati Jaimati

-Maranar Ranachandi Radha-Rukmini

Almost all the books of Dr, S.K. Bhuyan has their stories of gradual development, which were initially started in the form of an article and after a long process of polishing, and processing for a long period, they got their final shape. More over, even if the translated works are kept aside; it is seen as mentioned above. Dr Bhuyan wrote different volumes of books on the same areas, episodes and periods of Assam History with difference in emphasis on different points and for this reason he had to write down the same backgrounds, facts and figures repeatedly in different books. A reader while reading a particular book of Dr. Bhuyan will be enriched with ample information and new viewpoints but whenever he goes through several books he will be in monotony of repeated information and descriptions of same events. For example, the background of LACHIT BARPHUDAN AND HIS TIMES and ATAN BURAGOHAIN AND HIS TIMES in fact, is same. Here in these two volumes activities and biographical sketch of two contemporary powerful ministers, Lachit Barphukan and Atan Buragohain are merely emphasized separately. Atan Buragohain's role as the premier, become prominent from the days of Mirjumla's invasion, and that of Lachit as Barphukan from Ram Singha's invasion. During the invasion of Ram Singha, both of them played important role in a common platform. Atan Buragohain survived few more years till the year 1679 facing the crucial period of conspiracies and assassinations of monarchs (1672-1681). But in LACHIT BARPHUDAN AND HIS TIMES the episode of Mirjumla's invasion is narrated briefly as introduction to the background of Ram Singha's invasion. In the end of the book the political affairs of Assam till 1826 are mentioned briefly. On the other hand the background of ATAN BURAGOHAIN AND HIS TIMES is given from the invasion of Assam by Gaura invaders during the reign of Suhungmong and it ends with the battle of Itakhuli in 1682. LACHIT

BARPHUKAN AND HIS TIMES contains a separate chapter on Ram Singha while ATAN BURAGOHAIN AND HIS TIMES contains two chapters on different subjects viz.-(i) the period of conspiracy and assassination of monarchs and (ii) evaluation of Atan Buragohain as a historian. Thus, the background of these two books is almost same. MIRJUMLAR ASOM AKRAMAN is different in its emphasis on the biographical sketch of Mirjumla from the part on Mirjumla's invasion in ATAN BURAGOHAIN AND HIS TIMES. The period covered in 'RAMANI GABHARU is same as that of ATAN BURAGOHAIN AND HIS TIMES with difference in author's emotional emphasis on the patriotism of Ramani Gabharu. Had the English version of Mirjumla's invasion of Assam been published there would have another volume on the same subject matter.

In 1927 S.K.Bhuyan composed an article –EARLY BRITISH RELATION WITH ASSAM to be read at the tenth session of Historical Records Commission at Rangoon (*Dr.SuryaKumar Bhuyan-Janma Shata Barsiki Smriti Grantha-1994-page-150*) This subject took the Shape of a book and was published in 1928 from Shillong and later 1949 by the DHAS. With this book S.K.Bhuyan started an original enquiry with his reflection on an important area of Assam History in his 36-year's age. Although concise in volume this book comprises huge sources derived from different repositories. This very book in fact, got a gigantic shape with elaborate details of its contents after Ten years with the Title ANGLO-ASSAMESE RELATION 1771-1826 (original title was different), which was the thesis for his Doctoral Degree from London University. Many things discussed in this thesis are found In SWARGADEV RAJESHWARSINGHA also though in two different language. The chapters ASOMAT PHIRINGIR RAJYA BISTAR, AHOMAR HINHU DHARMA GRAHAN, ASOMAT SHAKTA-MAT PRACHALAN.

MOAMORIA BIDROH in SWARGADEV RAJESHWARSINGHA are found in the chapter Disturbance in Assam 1769-92 of ANGLO-ASSAMESE RELATION. Though SWARGADEV RAJESHWARSINGHA was published in 1975 it was completed in 1936 and S.K.Bhuyan took it with him to London (while going for Doctoral degree). The descriptions of the conspiracies of the Ahom princes and nobles that took place during the reign of Lakshmi Singha to dethrone him are of course not found in other writings of S.K.Bhuyan.

A thorough narrative on the History of Assam, even on the Ahom period in general, is almost nil among the writings of S.K. Bhuyan. The matters inserted in AHOMAR DIN are in fact, matters of Tungkhungia period. There are only two short chapters –AHOM RAJATTA and SOUMARAT AHOM, which deals with the Ahom rulers prior to the Tungkhungia period and that too within Page-1 to page-5 only. The subjects like ‘Muslim’ Invasion in Assam, Jaimati, Moamaria uprising, Burmese in Assam, Peace, Administrative system, system of succession, judicial system (SWARGADEV RAJESHWARSINGHA -page-249-251), Paik system (SWARGADEV RAJESHWARSINGHA -page-247-249) are elaborately found in the books already mentioned (which were written later by him). Of course, there is valuable information in abundance in the topics like the royal chamber (Barchara. page-45-48)), introduction to the duties and responsibilities of the Ahom officers (page-24-39), the capital (page-40-44), different kind of taxes (page-50), Status of the consorts of the officers (page-71-72) Maidam, the royal graveyards (page-75-77).

The contents of the articles mentioned in the group- (d) also found less or more in the books under group -(a) and group- (b). For example the contents of GOI PAIKAR NIBANDHAN are found in AHOMAR DIN (page-49-53) and in

SWARGADEV RAJESHWAR SINGHA (page-247-249): Likewise, the contents of the articles Hill and Plain people, Relation between the Hills and Plain people. Weaving in Assam, Military System of the Ahoms, Administrative system of the Ahoms are found in AHOMAR DIN, SWARGADEV RAJESHWARSINGHA and LACHIT BARPHUDAN AND HIS TIMES.

The contents of most of the articles of Group- (e) are also found in ATAN BURAGOHAIN AND HIS TIMES, SWARGADEV RAJESHWAR SINGHA. RAMANI GABHARU. More over the contents of one article are found in some other articles also. For example, brief introduction to the life of Rukmini, Usha. Beula, Kamala Kuanri, Chau ching Gabharu, Nangblok Gabharu, Jaimati Kuanri. Consorts of Shiva Singha, Amritprabha, Mula Gabharu, Radha-Rukmini. Kuranganayani and about Kabach Kapor And Assamesewome weavers is given in the article-ASOMIYA TIROTA in CHANEKI. But the same book contains a separate article solely on Jaimati (page-39). There are separate articles on Amritprabha, Garama Kuanri, Mula Gabharu, in BURANJIR VANI. The article on Amritprabha in STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF ASSAM is translation of the article on the same subject in BURANJIR VANI. The article in BIBIDH PRABANDHA, ATITAR KAMRUPAR MAHILA is similar to that of ASOMIYA TIROTA in CHANEKI.

Apart from the inter-unitary repetition there is much intra-unitary repetition also, i.e. apart from the repetition in article-to-article, article to book and book to book, there are repetition in some books within themselves. In this respect LACHIT BARPHUDAN AND HIS TIMES is noteworthy in the first. The things mentioned in the chapter-CONCLUSION are already mentioned in the various earlier chapters .In the conclusion the bravery and sense of self-esteem of Lachit Barphukan and its

examination by the monarch, Chakradhwaj Singha prior the appointment of Lachit as Barphukan are narrated in the Pages from 124 to 125, which are already narrated in the pages from 22 to 24. The prudence of Lachit Barphukan in his stern announcement of death penalty against the war-fugitive soldiers and disobeyer of war-discipline is narrated within pages 125-126 which is already mentioned in the page 46. Like wise the narrated in the conclusion (pages 121-174) are said less or more in the earlier chapters. Some of the 'utterances' with which, some conclusions are drawn in the chapter-'CONCLUSION' are also found in the earlier pages.

Again some of these are instead in the appendix-1. Like wise in the ATAN BURAGOHAIN AND HIS TIMES, things said under the headings-Reflections of Atan Buragohain, Utterances on crucial occasions and in the conclusions are already mentioned in different context in the earlier chapters.

Likewise, there are repetitions in the DHAS Bulletins and in his edited works also. The origin and objectives of the DHAS stated in Bulletin –1 is restated in bulletin-2. Some speeches inserted in the earlier bulletins are reinserted in later bulletins. Similarly, some legends on the origin of the dynasty given in 'KACHARI BURANJI' and 'JAYANTIA BURANJI' were already given in 'DEODHAI ASAM BURANJI'.

One explanation for these repetitions can be drawn from the words of S.K.Bhuyan himself. In the article, 'MANAR KATHA', inserted in 'ASOM BURANJIR KATHA', S.K.Bhuyan has said, "*Specially, to inject and put a thing permanently in the mind-set of the people, that should be repeatedly discussed and analyzed in the contemporary papers and also move should be made in the public*

meetings...."¹. Thus S.K.Bhuyan worked for public awareness also and he had to write down the same important things repeatedly in different places in different times. Although there were some positive requirements of the repetition, enlargement, collection, translation etc as mentioned above, some negative results were caused due to these, both for the writer himself and his readers. The voluminous number of his writings in the bibliography of his writings could have been compressed to a much smaller size if these were averted some how. These repetitions, arrangements and rearrangements of the information and data utilized and of his writings, wasted time, space and energy, which could have been utilized for original enquiry in some more virgin area of Assam history. Like wise the readers are compelled to read the same things repeatedly for the sake of fresh, novel information and views scattered in midst of them everywhere. Had he been self restrained to the all types of contemporary instant intellectual demands, and had waited for sufficient collection of materials to write up on a wider area some of these repetitions could have been averted. Some of his repetition could have been averted had he been careful in organizing the body of some books like LACHIT BAPHUKAN AND HIS TIMES and ATAN BURAGOHAIN AND HIS TIMES. In some cases S.K.Bhuyan himself admitted his improper planning in writing these books.

¹ Bhuyan, S.K.- Asom Buranjir Katha-p.1