

Memories of Violence and Trauma in Selected Short Stories in the North-East in India

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After India's independence several states demanded separation from India. In the name of religion, language or ethnicity people from several parts of India protested against the 'forceful inclusion' of their regions in the country. The North-East in India suffered greatly in 1980s and 90s due to insurgencies and separatist movements in India. The war-like situation in the region threatened the sovereignty of the country. The Indian government first tried to pacify the protesters, listened to their demands sympathetically, tried to negotiate with them and also agreed to give them some freedom but denied separation. Later all the separatist protests were forcefully curbed down by the central government. Writers from the North-East such as Temsula Ao, Jahnavi Barua and Nitoo Das etc. recreated the past traumatic incidents through their memories and wrote short stories about the military force implemented by the government to subdue the protests, especially in Assam. The present paper deals with the selected short stories of the North-East writers such as Temsula Ao, Anuradha Sharma Pujari and Jahnavi Barua which depict the lives of the common people amongst the protests for freedom in Assam. These stories are either written in English or translated into English. The writers narrate how civilians were harassed by the militants and also by the government forces. The paper deals with the short stories which bring out the period of insurgency in Assam which was full of violence and terror.

Key words: Memory, trauma, protest, violence, insurgency

Last year India entered the 75th year of its independence. Since independence India's journey is rather difficult; in the early years there were challenges of separatism, insurgency and a sense of neglect in many parts of the country, especially in the North-East. Among the seven