



A Comparative Study on the Influence of Western Literature on Meghalaya's Literary Discourse

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Abstract

The chapter discusses the influence of Western culture on the literature of Meghalaya. In addition to this, the chapter explains the education of the legislators of Meghalaya in the field of literature. The chapter also presents the literature review conducted to discover the impact of Western culture on the literature of Meghalaya. Moreover, the chapter elaborates on the dominance of the English language in Indian literature and how it affected the understanding of Indian researchers regarding Indian literature. The various research methodologies used have also been covered in this chapter along with the secondary research.

Keywords: *Meghalaya, Western culture, Literature,*

I. Introduction

Westernization is basically defined as the change that has been brought to Indian society during British rule. The concept of Westernization created by the British had a huge impact on the culture and literature of Meghalaya. Moreover, the western thoughts have been considered as the ongoing process of globalization. The western culture has also influenced the belief system of the people especially in India. One of the central features of westernization include Rational thinking and Democracy. The given research involves the impact of Western culture on the literature of Meghalaya. The literature review will also discuss the impact of Western culture on the society in India as well as Meghalaya. Moreover, the research methodologies that are used in this research will be discussed. The approach of qualitative research will be used where important information will be generated based on the visual data. Literature review Overview of the Literary Discourse of Meghalaya Literary Discourse is defined as the communication that is made in writing or verbally in the field of literature. In literature, discourse is made through poems, diary entries, novels, narrative descriptions, and many more. The definition of discourse in the field of social sciences and humanity is the formal way of thinking that is expressed with the help of a particular language. A literary conference was held in Meghalaya during the first session of the Meghalaya assembly after the completion of the first general elections. The temples present in Meghalaya were occupied by men having high caliber and intellect .. Furthermore, many contributions were made by the only women legislator of Meghalaya that is Percylina Marak. The first legislative assembly of Meghalaya was presided over by orators and legislators who were knowledgeable in the field of literature.. The debates that took place in the Meghalaya assembly were exemplary and encouraged academic inquiry. The legislators spent hours connotating words and sentences from the first day itself. The atmosphere of the debate in the assembly was vibrant and profound as the legislators expressed their knowledge to each other for the purpose of developing a new state. Impact of Westernization on the Indian society

The concept of Westernization is interpreted as the adoption of Western culture by a society in areas such as technology, industry, law, politics, and many other domains.

Westernization has been influencing the world in the last few centuries and it is considered to be equivalent to modernization. Westernization in India is defined as the change that has been seen in Indian society under the rule of the British government. The Westernization in India has been traced right from the British Raj itself. The colonial rule has brought change in the suppression and exploitation of the masses present in urban and rural areas. A new bureaucracy emerged in the country with the formation of police, courts, and army. The British rule in India also brought radical changes in the Indian culture and society. The Christian missionaries were also launched in India during British rule (Mosse, 2020, p.4). These missionaries were launched in various parts of the country, especially in the backward areas. Therefore, the formation of Christian missionaries in India has brought the weaker sections of the society closer to Westernization. Furthermore, Westernization in modern India has introduced a massive change in the rural areas of the country.

Influence of Western culture on the literary discourse of Meghalaya

The British influence has created a huge impact on the literature in India. The literature discourse of Meghalaya has undergone a tremendous change under the administration of the British. The literature of Meghalaya was badged with the notion of imperialism. The literature of Meghalaya was more under the influence of the British which involved the amalgamation of the English language and the literature of Meghalaya .

The main aim of the British administration was to create a group of people in India who spoke the same language that is English. Furthermore, the goal of the Britishers was to educate the Indians about Western fashion. The colonized concept was established by the Britishers in Indian literature. India was the most fragmented and multilingual nation prior to British colonization.

The English language was considered as the most common language during the British colonial rule. Moreover, the issuance of journals and magazines in English had a huge influence on the literary discourse of Meghalaya . The spread of the English language in the country was the most redefining factor and this language had a tremendous impact on modern Indian literature, especially the literature of Meghalaya. Methodology The methodology is defined as the techniques used by the researcher for carrying out the research. There are three types of approaches that have been used in the present research regarding the literature of Meghalaya. The first approach is the research design which is defined as the strategies that are used by the researcher in answering the research question. The overall research objective in this scenario is to discover the influence of Western culture on the literature of Meghalaya. Secondary research has been conducted based on the research questions.

A research design that is well-planned is used by the researcher to match the research objectives (Lorensius et al., 2022, p.99). The right approach can be used to analyze the data with the help of a research design. A qualitative research approach is used in this particular research related to the influence of Western culture on the Meghalayan literature. The qualitative approach is the strongest way for the purpose of testing the cause-and-effect relationship. The research philosophy is defined as the basic beliefs that have been used for guiding the execution and design of the research study. The philosophy of positivism has been used in the research that views the world from a factual point of view. The observations used have been isolated from the phenomena used in the research. The research philosophy is suitable for research that involves huge data arranged in a structural manner (Pathiranage et al., 2020, p.361). The philosophy of interpretivism is another research philosophy that views social realities from a subjective aspect. Interpretivism can be used positively for a qualitative research approach that involves analysis through small samples. Furthermore, realism is another research philosophy used which is developed based on positivism and interpretivism. Realism philosophy is used to gain knowledge about the subjectivity of the phenomenon with the help of predetermined assumptions. The research approach is defined as the approach that has been used by the researcher for the purpose of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting the given data. There are various approaches to research such as qualitative, quantitative, and mixed approaches. Moreover, the qualitative analysis that is used in this research is defined as the collection and analysis of the visual data to gain insight into the topic of research.

A comparative study on the influence of western literature on Meghalaya's literary discourse Data findings and discussion Theme 1- The outline of the discourse present in Meghalaya According to Baker (2019, p.9), the concept of literary discourse is defined as the correspondence made in the field of literature. The communication that is made in the literary discourse can be written or oral communication. The discourse in the field of literature is made with the help of novels, poems, and many other types of narration. The field of humanity and social sciences defines discourse as thinking in a formal manner with the help of a certain language. A conference related to literary discourse was held in the first parliamentary session of Meghalaya after the first general elections were completed. The Meghalaya temples were occupied by monks who

possessed higher intellectual capabilities. The people of Meghalaya highly believed in the teachings made by the monks due to their in-depth knowledge of literature. Moreover, there were many contributions made by one of the women politicians of Meghalaya in the field of literature. The first in-house session that was held in Meghalaya was led by various orators who had great knowledge in the literary field. The debates that took place in the in-house sessions of Meghalaya encouraged the spread of literary knowledge in the state. The politicians of Meghalaya have taken hours to understand the sentences used in the field of literature during the debate session.

Theme 2- The aftermath of Westernization on the communities presents in India As per the theory of Chaney & Sahoo (2020, p.191), India is a secular country that enjoys the freedom to practice various religions in the country. The individual culture in India is respected and embraced by the citizens of India. Nevertheless, the influence of Indian culture started to begin in India during the rise of the British colony in the 19th century. Furthermore, there were many countries apart from India that were under the influence of Western culture.

The Indian culture is one of the oldest and richest cultures having diverse beliefs and languages. The Britishers, during the 19th century, were interested in making English the only prevailing language in India. The Indian culture that showed continuity was highly influenced by the culture developed by the British in India. There were many patterns of Westernization that greatly influenced the minority section present in India. The minority section is the first category that came in contact with the concept of Westernization. There were many Indian intellectuals who not only followed the cognitive patterns of the Western culture but also supported the expansion of the culture in India. The influence of the West was mostly seen in the urban areas, nevertheless, there were many village areas influenced by the Western culture. Theme 3- The impact of the Western culture on the literary discourse of the Meghalayan literature According to the report presented by Lalhlanpuii (2023, p. 14), the literary discourse of Meghalaya was heavily influenced by the British colonies established in India. The Literary consultation in India has undergone a drastic change due to the presence of the British administration in India. The literary culture of Meghalaya was associated with the concept of imperialism. The Meghalayan literature was more under the influence of the British colony. The British were interested in adding the English language to the literature of Meghalaya. The British administration had the goal of using English as the medium of communication. Moreover, the Britishers in India wanted to create an education system in India to educate the Indians about Western culture. The British were successful in creating the concept of colonization in the Indian literature as well. India was a multilingual country before the Britishers established their administration in India. The Indian literature was written in diverse languages, nevertheless, the most common language of Britishers that is English created a huge impact on the understanding of the people regarding Indian literature. Furthermore, the journals during the British era were published only in English which had a negative impact on the growth of Indian researchers present in Meghalaya. Conclusion The concept of literature discourse has been explained which has been defined as the communication in written as well as the verbal form. The Christian missionaries that were established in India have initiated a change in the mindsets of the people present in the rural areas. Moreover, the Britishers were interested in making the English language a medium of communication. The politicians of Meghalaya were interested in developing literary interest among the citizens of Meghalaya.

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