

# Stylistic Analysis of the Short Story ‘Boxing’ By Nandeswar Daimari

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**Abstract:** Stylistic is the study of style of different genres of literature. It is a branch of applied linguistics. Stylistics is a new concept in the field of Bodo literature or Bodo literary criticism. Nandeswar Daimari is a story writer. He has written number of stories up to this point. As each of the writers acquire its own writing skill. This research study is aimed at analyzing one of the popular short story written by him titled as “Boxing”. Stylistic tools such as Phonological and morphological features are emphasized in the analysis. The story is selected for research study because of stylistic features that the writer has used in the story. The objective of the study is to analyze, highlight and criticize the writing style of Nandeswar Daimari with special reference to the short story “Boxing”.

**Keyword:** Stylistics, Phonological, Morphological, Nandeswar Daimari, Boxing short story.

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## I. Introduction:

Stylistics is a branch of applied linguistics. Stylistics is a well-criticized scientific study of style or it is simply defined as the linguistics study of style. Though stylistics is associated with literature it certain studies elements of linguistics feature simultaneously. It has a close connection between literary criticism and linguistics studies. It is the study and interpretation of the technique how the languages used by the author and how such texts attract different genres systematically. It may be a spoken or written text and discourse of all the levels of aspect of the linguistics form, structure and meaning. Moreover, it is the investigation of linguistic features of a literary text- phonological, morphological, lexical, syntactical, semantics, and figures of speech. Stylistics attempts to make literary criticism more scientific, methodical, objective, and precise.

According to Geoffrey Leech and Mick Short, “STYLISTICS, simply defined as the (linguistics) study of style, is rarely undertaken for its own sake, simply as an exercise in describing what use is made of language (1981:11)”<sup>1</sup>

According to Katie Wales, “Simply, stylistics is the study of STYLE above; yet just as style can be viewed in several ways, so there are several different stylistics approaches. This variety in stylistics is due to the main influence of different branches of linguistics and LITERARY CRITICISM (1990:399)”<sup>2</sup>

**1.2 Brief introduction of Nandeswar Daimari:** Nandeswar Daimari is a renowned Bodo writer since nineteenth century. He has contributed many fiction and non-fiction literary works in Bodo literature. He is known for his creative and distinctive writing techniques. He started his career in literature from student life and wrote different genres of literature in various magazines and newspapers. He wrote the famous Bodo novel Manju Bala Devi which was published in 1984. Then he wrote numbers of Bodo short stories. The short story books written by him can be mentioned are- Thangnaini Daoha published in 1984, and another famous short story book ‘Boxing’ was published in 1993, Obe Nenay Dalanga Baygrebnaisw in 2002, Hadanni Phanzari in 2010, Ang Khudridwng in 2016 and Jiu Sapharni Dakhwn in 2021. Moreover, he also composed Assamese short story ‘Borbad’. Including all these creativities he also composed non-fictional literature namely- a Biography book ‘Nareswaror Pora Dr. Bhupen Hazarikaloi’ and ‘Prasongik Prosongo’ in Assamese language. Besides these, his poems, prose and short stories have been published in different magazines in the present context. Simultaneously he has been contributed generous stories, novels, poems and prose in the field of Bodo

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<sup>1</sup>Leech, Geoffrey and Short, Mick. Style in Fiction. Great Britain: Pearson Education Limited, second edition, 2007, P.-11.

<sup>2</sup>Katie Wales, A Dictionary of Stylistics. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, first edition, 1990. P.-399

literature. He was recently awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2023 for his collection of short Story book named *Jeu Sapharni Dakhwn*.

### 1.3 Objectives of the study:

- To study the stylistic aspects of Nandeswar Daimari's short story *Boxing*.
- To criticize the style of the selected text.
- To find out the Phonological and Morphological features of stylistics.
- To develop a literary and linguistic understanding of the language.
- To study the aims of identifying the stylistic feature from the selected short story.

**1.3 Methodology:** The present study will apply descriptive and analytical methods from the linguistics and literary perspectives. In this study, both the data, primary and secondary will be used as a source of data collection.

### 1.4 Area of the study:

The main source of data for the research is taken from the original writing text of Nandeswar Daimari's Bodo short story book '*Boxing*'(1993). In this study mainly discussed the stylistic features of the Phonological and Morphological level of the selected context.

## II. Stylistic Analysis of the story:

The short story book "*Boxing*" written by Nandeswar Daimari was published in 1993. There are eight short stories in the book. He received the best literary award named "*Sameswari Brahma Literary Award*" from Bodo Sahitya Sabha in 1995 for "*Boxing*". The writer has a sense of realism that he typically depicts in his stories. Generally, the plot of "*Boxing*" portrays the life of a beggar. The writer has attempted to represent the transition from a small place to a bigger city. The protagonist described in the story used to be rich with plenty of land and granaries in the bygone era. But in due course, he lost it all. Meanwhile, sincere people from elsewhere arrived and took possession of the land. The inhabitants of that area sold their land and relocated to another place. However, the old beggar stayed behind, refusing to leave his spot. He relied on begging in shops, at homes, on buses and along the footpaths to sustain himself. He witnessed many changes in the area as people from other regions arrived and transformed the village into a town. Other beggars like him also made their way here. It is to be noted that the writer conveys the story through the metaphor of "*Boxing*" as a dream. Although the writer presents the story through his dreams but the plot and point of view are connected to the real world.

The uses of stylistic device has been certainly depicted through narrative techniques. This study will be focused on the level of Phonological and morphological level taking into consideration grammatical and phonological schemes. The phonological features discuss rhyme such as alliteration, consonance, assonance and rhyming words. Morphological schemes will be searched in form of reduplication, dialect, loan words.

**2.1 Phonological level:** Phonological level is the sound system of a text concerned with how sound device action in obtaining stylistic significance in syllabi.

**2.1.1 Alliteration:** Alliteration is the repetition of the same first or initial consonant sound or letter in two or more words. Nandeswar Daimari used alliteration word in his story which is an element of a Stylistics analysis.

**Guduw gubanj ha-hu muisu-musuw, mai Bandar gwanj zomidarbadimun.** (*Boxing* p.19)

English Rendering: In the bygone era, he used to have an abundance of land, a herd of the cattle and granary.

**uwā baganzuw ruum-ruum rajzū zanaj surba dɔŋbla zuŋbumun.** (*Ibid.* 20)

English Rendering: We are among them who resided and flourished in a land of bamboo plantation.

In the initial position of above sentence "**Guduw gubanj ha-hu muisu-musuw, mai Bandar gwanj zomidarbadimun**" the consonant sound or letter **g, h, m** are repeated and in the second example **r** sound repeated three times in a sentence.

**2.1.2 Consonance:** Consonance is a stylistic literary device where consonants sounds are identical or similarly repeated in neighbouring words. It is repetition of the consonant sounds at the beginning, middle or end and in stressed or unstressed syllables.

**Busp<sup>h</sup>ura bara sombu t<sup>h</sup>aja.** (*Ibid.* 17)

English Rendering: The Buses do not wait for much time.

In the above sentence consonant letter **b** is repeated in the neighbouring words. Consonance is applied in the formation of each and every word. The application of consonance is being discussed in phonological stylistic. In stylistics if word is often being used then it is considered as consonance.

**2.1.3 Assonance:** Assonance is a literary device that is the repetition of similar vowel sounds that are taking place in two or more words.

**Ragaja Anha Diu-diu jabunuwomun.**(*Ibid.* 18)

English Rendering: I was getting furious.

Mablaba, Surlba-Surlba aṅha gət<sup>h</sup>o-gət<sup>h</sup>ai dṅna Guija Sunṅnu Nagiruu. (Ibid.20)

English Rendering: Sometimes some people try to ask me if I have had kids.

The vowel letters **a**, **u** and **u** are being used similarly in two or more words in the first example. Again, in the second example the vowel letters **a**, **o** and **u** are used. Assonance- The word formation is impossible without a vowel. When vowels are frequently used in a sentence, this phenomenon is referred to as assonance in stylistics.

## 2.2 Morphological Level:

Morphological features such as reduplication, dialect and code-mixing, and hybrid words can also be found in "Boxing".

**2.1 Reduplication:** Reduplication is a word formation process which is repeating a part of word or syllable. In "Boxing" there are uses of reduplication words.

**2.1.1 Full Reduplication:** Full reduplication is the repetition of an entire word, root or stem of a word. The writer made the story more attractive by using full reduplication. The following are full reduplication that has been observed in "Boxing".

At<sup>h</sup>iṅ Ap<sup>h</sup>aja **k<sup>h</sup>ura-k<sup>h</sup>ura** Gaṅzwbnaṅ (Ibid.18)

English Rendering: The corners of the feet are cracked.

Surbaja Dək<sup>h</sup>an **muḱ<sup>h</sup>aṅ-muḱ<sup>h</sup>aṅ** bijuu (Ibid. 19)

English Rendering: Some peoples beg at the entrance of shop.

Nuḡur zanai **luḡu-luḡu** bai bahagiḡura k<sup>h</sup>arnanui bṅhaba bṅhaba.... (Ibid.20)

English Rendering: As soon as the city has built, relatives ran around....

In the above sentences the words **k<sup>h</sup>ura-k<sup>h</sup>ura**, **muḱaṅ-muḱaṅ**, **luḡu-luḡu** are repeated twice and hence these are full duplications reflected in "Boxing".

**2.1.2 Partial Reduplication:** Partial reduplication, by contrast, occurs when the reduplicant is equal only to part of the base.

**Hazeṅ-huzeṅ** zanai garaip<sup>h</sup>uraṅ t<sup>h</sup>amp<sup>h</sup>ui bagraṅbap<sup>h</sup>ṅbduṅ (Ibid.18)

English Rendering: Mosquitoes are infesting the serrated wounds.

Muḱ<sup>h</sup>aṅaṅ **zṅzṅ-zṅzṅ** dari. (Ibid.18)

English Rendering: A deep-set beard on the face.

Only the part of words **zeṅ-zeṅ** in the first sentence and **zṅ-zṅ** in the second sentence are partial reduplication.

In the Bodo language morphology is widely utilized and reduplication is one of the key features. It is one of the important parts of word formation. While making sentences or in word formation full reduplication or partial reduplication (For example- **Hazeṅ-huzeṅ** as mentioned in the story) is typically used.

**2.3 Uses of dialect:** Dialect is a regional variety of language form. It is spoken in a particular part of region or particular group of people. Some scholars divided the bodo dialect in several forms. Dr. Pramod Chandra Bhattacharjya, in his book, mention that there are at least four dialect areas of Bodo language.<sup>3</sup> The bodo dialect areas mainly divided into three groups of dialect. (i) The Western Bodo dialect (Swnabari), (ii) The Eastern Bodo dialect(Sanzari) and (iii) The Southern Bodo dialect(Duik<sup>h</sup>ṅ k<sup>h</sup>ulari).

The uses of dialectal words are also a technique or style of a writer. Stylistics analysis also highlight on dialect word in story. In boxing the writer uses some Eastern (Sanzari) Bodo dialect in his text.

<b>Dialect</b>	<b>standard</b>
Khangsi	thwrsi (dish)
Gṅdse	gṅrse (a/one)
Mat <sup>h</sup> u	raṅ (voice)
Hi	Ji (clothe)
Bandar	bak <sup>h</sup> ri (granary)
Mṅblaba	mablaba (sometimes)

In fact, the eastern Bodo dialect seems to have been used to some extent in his writing of stories. As the writer is also among the speakers of the eastern(Sanzari) Bodo dialect language.

**2.4 Code Mixing:** Code mixing is the word used from another two or more languages in the use of a sentence or speech. It may be two or more words, phrases and clauses from one language to another. It can also be said to be a word borrowed from another language and the author can easily express his/her ideas by assimilating words. The writer uses specific codes by mixing words from different languages to make the story more productive. These are discussed below.

<sup>3</sup>Bhattacharjya, Dr. Pramod Chandra: The descriptive Analysis of the Bodo Language. Guwahati: Guahati University. Second edition 2007

**2.4.1 Uses of Assamese word:** The writer adopted a few Assamese words in his short story 'Boxing'. Assamese language is an official language of Assam or an Indo-Aryan language spoken mainly in Assam. The writer is closely related to Assamese language therefore, the Assamese words are used by the writer in his story.

Mani p<sup>h</sup>utani belai! (Ibid.23)

English Rendering: what rubbish is this!

mai Bandar gunaṅ z<sup>o</sup>midarbadimum (Ibid.19)

English Rendering: Used to have granary like zaminders.

ha t<sup>h</sup>ukrase p<sup>h</sup>annanui d<sup>o</sup>kan hunaidunṅmun. (Ibid.21)

English Rendering: Setting up a store by leveraging a piece of land.

Geder geder building n<sup>o</sup> aru p<sup>o</sup>kkani lama zazuubai (Ibid.22)

English Rendering: Massive buildings and roads are built with concrete.

These are code-mixing words taken by the writer from Assamese language. Assamese language is closely tied to the writer's way of life. His studies and endeavors are associated with the Assamese language. Therefore, it can be said that the Assamese language has influenced his writings.

**2.4.3 Uses of English word:** The writer has also used many English words in Boxing. English words are usually used by the author in conversation texts of the story.

Bini bat<sup>h</sup>raja<sup>o</sup> respond huudunṅ. (Ibid.17)

English Rendering: I respond to him with his phrasing.

G<sup>o</sup>soṅbait<sup>h</sup>anai passengerp<sup>h</sup>urat<sup>h</sup>o huudunṅanur; (Ibid.17)

English Rendering: The passengers standing had given.

Unni seata<sup>o</sup> zirainaip<sup>h</sup>rabuu..... (Ibid.17)

English Rendering: The passengers also who are sitting in the last seat....

In the above-mentioned sentence **respond**, **passenger**, **seat** are English words. Generally, English is spoken and utilized across the globe. It seems that the writers has also used English terms in his writings. This enhances the impact of the story where the narrative gained more strength.

**2.5 Use of Hybrid word:** A hybrid word is a word derived from a combination part of different languages. It may be formed by suffixes and prefixes from more than one language.

Ba-minute (Ibid.17)

English Rendering: Five minute

Dozen-t<sup>h</sup>am (Ibid.19)

English Rendering: Three dozen

Building-n<sup>o</sup> (Ibid.22)

English Rendering: Building house

Khoro-gorom (Ibid.24)

English Rendering: high temper

A hybrid word is a term that merges prefixes, suffixes, or roots from one language or linguistic to another to create a new word. Such words make the term more appropriate as well as enhance the suitability of the term. People in the society typically use such words.

### III. Conclusion:

The protagonist of "Boxing" story is a Boro beggar who has been living in the city since the few yaers. The writer narrates and uses stylistic elements in his story. In this paper the researcher has attempted to analyze the stylistics of 'Boxing' short story written by Nandeswar Daimari. The study of the story focuses on two language levels: Phonological level and Morphological level. Phonological level covered Alliteration, Assonance, and Consonance. Secondly, morphological level comprised of reduplication, uses of dialect, code maxing words. Although the writer conveys the story through his dreams and beggar, it remains linked to reality. The story begins abruptly and concludes by illustrating a realistic portrayal of life. The aspects and characteristics depicted in the story provide scope for discussion in the Bodo language.

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