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Yanger, Asenla, and Krishan Barua. “The Unheard Female Voice: A Study of the Common Intimidations in the Japanese and Naga Literary Genres.” *Satraachee*, vol. 40, no. 2, July–Sept. 2023, pp. 96–105.

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The Unheard Female Voice: A Study of the Common Intimidations in the Japanese and Naga Literary Genres

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Abstract:

Since time immemorial and in almost all the cultures of the world woman has faced nothing but the ill fate of being counted as one of the “Others” without a voice of her own. Sometimes gripped by the patriarchal dominance, sometimes the biased customary laws while at other times the taboos, female voice has always been neglected. What grips the attention is whether this loss of female identity is seen only in one country or culture or is it the same as the territorial boundaries are traversed? Literature serves a lot when it comes to understanding cultures because it reflects the life lived by the inhabitants both at temporal and spatial contexts. The present study tries to analyze the state of women across two different cultures i.e., the Japanese culture and the Naga culture and to find out the similarities through the reading of the literary texts of some authors and poets of both the regions. The paper will also bring out the traditional customary laws that caused the subjugation and highlight the changes noticed with the passage of time.

Keywords: Others, Taboos, Customary Laws, Japanese literature, Naga Literature.

Introduction:

Culture has always seen a changing variation not just in a particular region but across regions with time. Many of the habits and practices, be it in terms of our eating habits, our attire, the customs, industriousness and like are not the same. However, there is one cross cultural similarity noticed across borders particularly, the Nagaland counter part of India and the Japanese part of East Asia. The similarity being the treatment meted to the voiceless section of the society, the endangered human, Woman.

The mountainous state of Nagaland is one of the seven sisters and one brother states of the North eastern part of India. With an area of sixteen thousand five hundred and seventy-

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SHIELDING THE EARTH THROUGH THE FOLKLORES AND TRADITIONAL PRACTICES OF THE NAGAS IN THE SELECT NOVELS OF EASTERINE KIRE: A DEEP ECOLOGICAL STUDY

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Abstract:

The phrase 'control of nature' considers nature to be existing for the convenience of man and this has, since time immemorial, anguished the peaceful coexistence of nature and man. We tend to forget that man is just a constituent in the web of life. A non-anthropocentric theory of value is needed that will let one perceive that the non-human forms of life have inherent values. Ecocriticism as a literary theory studies the relation that exists between literature and environment in accordance to human and non-human interactions. An essential part of ecocriticism, Deep Ecology investigates the egalitarian and holistic environment where all biota has intrinsic value, and each share an interconnectedness and respect for one another. The diverse life forms, with the inclusion of culture, can only flourish when the excessive selfish human impact is reduced because this adversely brings unprecedented damage to the earth which in the growing years has been seen in the hill-land of Nagaland. A biocentric connectedness can only witness man/ human as coequal partners of the external nature thereby shielding the earth. This human non-human connectedness has been an integral part of the Naga culture which has no doubt faced challenges. The paper will try to focus on the reverence that is inherent in the inhabitants owing to the tales of appreciation since centuries to mark in Easterine Kire's *A Respectable Woman*, *The Rain-Maiden and the Bear-Man*, *Songry* and *Spirit Nights*. A study of the Naga-lore and the cultural practices, as furnished in her works, will be dealt upon based on Deep Ecology of Arne Naess bringing forth the biocentric egalitarianism practiced in Naga Culture.

Index Terms - Ecocriticism, Deep Ecology, Biocentric Egalitarianism, Taboos, Rituals.