



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GUWAHATI
SHORT ABSTRACT OF THESIS

Name of the Student : Ng Mawonthing
Roll Number : 186141009
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Name of Thesis Supervisor(s) : Dr Debapriya Basu
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SHORT ABSTRACT

This thesis employs a literary critical approach along with insights from ethnography and linguistics to examine Tangkhul proverbs as both cultural expressions and literary objects, aiming to uncover their significance in reflecting the community's worldview. The study focuses on stylistic devices such as symbols, metaphors, similes, and various figures of speech, exploring their contributions to rhetorical effects, aesthetic values, and meaning formation. Rather than deriving principles from a limited set, the research provides glimpses into Tangkhul philosophy as articulated through their proverbs, emphasising their role as cultural texts embodying the community's beliefs and values. To illustrate their meanings and conversational usage, the study includes examples of actual or hypothetical situations.

The thesis also offers a cultural background of the Tangkhul community and discusses various scholarly theories to understand the Tangkhul concept of proverbs. The proverbs are systematically analysed under five thematic divisions. The study seeks to offer valuable historical and cultural insights into the Tangkhul community, enhancing the understanding of how proverbs serve as powerful communication tools. This analysis provides insights into Tangkhul philosophy, social norms, and ethical values, highlighting the role of proverbs in character development, ethical awareness, and the conveyance of moral principles within a little-studied and predominantly oral culture