

A Thematic Study of James Dokhuma's War Fiction

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Abstract:

This article examines James Dokhuma's war based short stories, focusing on how war shaped Mizo literature and social consciousness. It groups his stories according to their historical settings World War II, the India-Pakistan war, and periods of political unrest and analyzes their major themes. The study finds that romantic relationships across ethnic boundaries are repeatedly portrayed as incomplete or unsuccessful, reflecting Dokhuma's strong concern for Mizo identity and his resistance to intermarriage between Mizos and other communities. His stories also expose colonial attitudes toward Mizos while affirming Mizo dignity, courage, and cultural pride. Christianity emerges as another central theme: even amid war, displacement, and violence, his characters find moral guidance, comfort, and hope through faith and church life. The article concludes that Dokhuma uses war not merely as a historical background but as a literary means to express Mizo nationalism, Christian values, and the enduring importance of preserving Mizo identity.

Thuhmahruai

Mizote nunah hian indo hi a mikhuah lo a, hman aṭang tawhin khua leh khua, hnam leh hnam te chu indoin an lo inrun fo ṭhin. Tin, Mizote hian an chhehvela hnam dang awmte pawh run fovin British nen hial pawh lo indo tawh an ni. Kum 1890 bawr vel khan British chuan Mizoram chu a thuhnuaia dahin a ṭhut ngeth ta a. Tichuan, British-in Mizoram a awp chinah chuan heng indo leh inrun hi Mizote chuan zawi zawiin an bansan ve ta baw. Amaherawhchu, British hnuaia Mizote an awm lai hian British tana ral doin an lo feh chhuak fo a, khawvel pum huapa indo hmingthang tak takteah pawh Mizote chuan tawn hriat ṭha tak an lo nei tawh a ni. Mizote chuan heng indo chi hrang hrang avang hian hla ṭha tak tak an neih phah a; hla mai bakah, indo behchhana ziaik thawnthu pawh tam tak an neih phah baw.

James Dokhuma leh Indo

Indona hian a chhe lamin emaw a ṭha lamin emaw mihring leh khawtlangah nghawng nasa tak a nei ṭhin a, British hnuaia Mizote'n ral an do pawh hian nunna chante chu awm mah se, kawng tam takah Mizote tan chuan indonain rah ṭha a chhuahzia V.L. Siana chuan heti hian a sawi, "... indona hi Mizo fate tan chuan sum leh pai leh hmingthanna lamah malsawmna a ni. Tlangval tam takte chuan Officer hna an thawk a, mi tam takin indona hnaah tangka tam tak tak an hlawn chhuak baw si," (105). Tin, indonaa kal Mizo sipaite'n thu leh hla lamah Mizote hmasawn tura an duhzia an ziah ṭhin thu chu heti hian F. Vanlalrochana chuan a sawi, "Kum 1930 chhoa *Kristian Tlangau* bute ka chhiar kual chuan, Mizo tlangval sipaia ṭangho khan thu ziaik an thawh nasa hle tih ka hmu. Hnam anga kan hmasawmna tur te, hnam dang tih dan ṭha kan entawn tur te, mi mal miziaa kan hmasawn theih dan tur te an hmuh leh hriat aṭangin an ziaik ṭhin," (73).

Mizo sipai hmasate duhthusam ang ngeiin Mizote chuan thu leh hla lamah nasa takin hma an

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sawn a. Indona avanga Mizote'n hla tam tak an neih chu thu hran ni se, indo behchhana ziaik thawnthu phuah thar pawh tam tak an neih phah bawk. Chu'ng zinga ziaiktu langsar tak pakhat chu James Dokhuma hi a ni ngei ang. James Dokhuma hian indo thawnthu hi pariat vel zet a ziaik a, chu'ng a thawnthute chu hlawm lian deuh deuh pathumah heti'ang hian a then theih awm e. Pakhatnaah chuan indopui pahniha behchhana ziaik thawnthu *Goodbye Lushai Brigade*, *Kimoto Syonora*, *Irrawady Lui Kamah*, leh *Thla Hleinga Zan* thawnthute an ni. Pahnihaah chuan India leh Pakistan indo behchhana a ziaik *Hmangaihna Thuchah* a ni a, pathumnaah chuan Rambuai behchhana ziaik *Silaimu Ngaihawm* tih leh *Rinawmin* tih thawnthute an ni.

Heng thawnthu hrang hrang aṭang hian James Dokhuma ngaih pawimawh leh a thawnthua thil thleng langsar deuhthe chu zir chian an ni ang.

Inngaihzawna

James Dokhuma indo thawnthu hrang hrangteah hian indo thu nge lian zawk anga nula leh tlangval inngaihzawna thu tih zawhna lian tak a awm thei awm e. A thawnthu hrang hrang indo behchhanah hian a changtute chu an innei ngai lo a, hei hi a thawnthua thil langsar lian tak pakhat a ni.

A bikin indopui II-na leh India leh Pakistan indo thawnthuah te hian a changtute hi tlangpuiin a mipate hi chu Mizo an ni a, a hmeichhiate erawh hi chu hnam dang an ni deuh vek a, *Goodbye Lushai Brigade* tih thawnthuah erawh a changtupa ber tia sawi theih hi sap tlangval a ni thung. Tin, *Thla Hleinga Zan* tih thawnthuah hian a changtute chu Mizo an ni bawk a, a tua te mah hi an innei thei hlawm lo a ni. *Thla Hleinga Zan II*-ah erawh chhiartu mipuite duh angin Kapṭhuama leh Rozami te chu an innei thung.

Goodbye Lushai Brigade thawnthuah hian Mark Martin-a chuan Lallawmi chu duh em em mah se, hnam inang lo an nih avangin an innei thei lo a. *Kimoto Syonora* thawnthuah pawh hian Lalthawma leh Japan nula Kimoto Matshuda te chu induh dun em em mah se, an innei thei lo ve bawk. *Irrawady Lui Kamah* tih thawnthuah pawh hian Sialsuk tlangval Thanzinga leh Kawl nula Ma Ṭhuii te chu inhmangaih dun viau mah se, Japan ral avangin Ma Ṭhuii chu a thi a, an inneih theih loh phah ve leh bawk.

India leh Pakistan indo thawnthu *Hmangaihna Thuchah* tihah pawh hian Thanpuia chuan Agnes Sarah Bibi-i chu hmangaih viau mah se, a tawpah mizo nula Lalramliani chu nupui atan a nei zawk a ni tih kan hmu. Sarah Bibi leh Lalramliani te hi Kristian nula fel tak ve ve an ni a, Thanpuia pawhin duhthlan a harsat viau a ni tih a thawnthuah hmuh tur a awm. Mahse, Jamse Dokhuma chuan Thanpuia kaltlangin Sarah-i lehkhah zir sang leh thiam tak aia Lalramliani a thlan chhan chu heti hian a sawi, "Mahse chung nula pahnihte chu ka han khaikhin ṭhin pawhin Lalramliani *Qualification* chu MIZO a ni miau a," (*Hmangaihna* 86).

Hetia James Dokhuma thawnthu hrang hrangtea Mizo leh hnam dang inneih pawlh an awm meuh loh chhan hi amah James Dokhuma ngeiin kum 1987 daih tawh khan heti hian a lo sawi, "Mizo leh hnam dang hi kan inngaizawng ang, Mizo nula hi sap ngaihzawng tlak kan ni ve; Mizo tlangvalte pawhin Vai nula te, Kawl nula leh Japan nula te pawh kan ngaizawng ve phak ngang mai. . . 'Mizo leh Mizo lo chu a inneih em hi chu kan innei tur a ni dawn em ni?' ka ti deuh a ni," (qtd.in Khiangte 113). A sawi ang ngei hian James Dokhuma chuan Mizo leh hnam dang inneih pawlh hi a duh lo niin a lang a, chu a duh lohna chu a thawnthu hrang hrangah Chiang takin a lo tar lang bawk.

Mizona

Hnam inawp behna lak aṭanga tal chhuah duhna lam chungchang te, awp beh an ni tih pawh inhre hauh lo hrilh hriat lam te hi James Dokhuma thawnthua thil hmuh theih langsar tak pakhat a ni tiin a sawi theih awm e. A chung a sawi lan tak ang khian a thawnthua Mizo leh hnam dang inngaizawngte chu an innei thei lo vek mai a. Amah James Dokhuma ngei pawhin zep nei hauh lovin Mizo leh hnam dang inneih em chu a ngaih a ngam thei thlawt lo a ni tih Chiang takin a sawi lang tawh bawk.

Mizo *history*-ah hian hnam dang leh Mizo inneih pawlh kan hriat hmasak theih ber chu Thanagliana (TH Lewin) leh Dari, Zosapthara (Edwin Rowlands) leh Thangkungi te kha an ni mai awm e. Anni

hian Mizote chu Mizo an nih vang ngawtin an hnualsuat lo a, an hna ai pawhin hmangaihna an thlang zawk tiin a sawi theih hial awm e. Zosaphara phei chu Mizo nula a neih avangin *Welsh Mission Board* te pawhin a hna aṭangin an ban phah hial a ni. H. Lalawmpuia chuan *Missionary*-te ngei pawhin Mizote chu nupui emaw pasal emawa neih an hreh thu heti hian a lo sawi, “Mingo *missionary*-te hian Mizote hi an thlarau nun hmangaihin, Kristiana siam pawh duh viau mah se, anmahni zawlpuia an rawn awm a, nupui pasala inneih pawlh hial mai chu an duh lo hle,” (202). Zosaphara te chungchang zulzui deuh hian sapho inngaih ropuina leh saphoin Mizote an hmuh hnuaihnunzia hi James Dokhuma chuan a thawnthu pakhat *Goodbye Lushai Brigade* tihah chiang takin a lo tar lang a ni.

A thawnthu pakhat *Goodbye Lushai Brigade* tihah chuan Mark Martin-a chu sap tlangval a ni a; mahse, ani M Martin-a chuan Mizote chu a ngaina-in, an tlawmngaihna leh an huaisenna avangte chuan a ngai sang hle a ni tih chiang takin hmuh theih a. Tin, Mizo nula Lallawmi chu a hmangaihin nupui atan neih pawh a tum hle tih a hmuh theih baw. Amaherawhchu, Mizote zia leh chhiar zirtir a, thiamtirtu ber zosap *missionary*-te chuan M Martin-a’n Mizo nula Lallawmi chu a nei ang tih an hlau em em a. He thawnthuah ngei hian M Martin-a chuan, sapho lo inngaih chungnunzia chu heti hian a sawi, “Anni Zosap-ho lah chuan kohhran dan anga Lallawmi ka neih leh neih loh lam chu ngaihtuah lovin, *English* hnam dik takin Lushai hnam, anni Zosapte ngaih dana hnam hnuaihnung zawk tak nula neih ka tum chu an ngaih dan a ni i-khaw si lo chu niin,” (*Goodbye* 63). Sawi tawh angin sapho chu an indah chungnung em em a, anni ngaih dan chuan Mizote chu hnam hnuaihnung lutuk an ni a, hetia M Martin-a’n Mizo nula Lallawmi neih a han tum zet chu an thin a rim tlang hlawm hle a, an inneih theih loh dan tur ngawt an ngaihtuah nghe nghe a ni.

Tin, Mizote nuna sapho ngaih sanna te pawh heti hian a lo sawi baw, “Sapho chuan ‘sakhua’ an pe a, ‘sawrkar’ an siamsak baw a, Tisa leh thlaraua a ropui ber ber petu chu ‘Sap’ an tihte chu kan nih miau avang chuan mi an ngaisang pawh chu a mawh lo ve,” (*Goodbye* 45). Hei hi a ni reng baw a, Mizote nunah chuan sapte chu ngaih san leh ngaih ropui niin, Mizote thinlungah sapho chuan hmun pawimawh tak an luah a ni tih hi James Dokhuma chuan chiang taka hmuin a thawnthuah thiam takin a lo tar lang a tih theih awm e.

Kristianna

Mizote vanneihna tak pakhat chu eng anga dinhmun harsa leh hrehawmah pawh inhnemna tur Pathian an nei hi a ropuiin, a thlamuanthlak hliah hliah a ni. B. Lalthangliana chuan indopui hun laia Mizo sipaite chu hmun ralṭiah leh hnam dang karah pawh Pathian an fak ṭhin thu heti hian a sawi, “. . . Pathianniah chuan Mizoho awmnaah an leng a, hla an saho a, ‘Ka Lalpa duhtaw min awmpui ang che,’ tih leh ‘I lamah min hip rawh’ tih hlate an sa a,” (631). Heti’ang deuh chiah hian James Dokhuma indo thawnthu hrang hrangteah pawh hian indo buai viau e ti lo chuan a changtute nunah Kristianna sakhua hi a langsar em em zel tih theih a ni.

Indopui II-na behchhana ziah *Irrawady Lui Kamah* tih thawnthuah pawh hi khaw chhak lama Japan ral len lai a ni a, Burma ram Chin Hills tih loh chu Japan hian an la fai deuh vek tawh a, ral hlauh avangin mi tam tak an tlan chhia a, kawh nula Ma Ṭhuii pawh Irrawady Lui kamah chuan a thih hun chauh nghakin chau em emin kal pawh kal thei tawh lovin a lo tlu der mai a. He tih lai hian Thanzinga pawh a awmna hmun a ralṭit em avangin a tlan chhe ve a, a tlan chhiatna lamah Ma Ṭhuii thi ṭep tawh chu a va hmu a. Tichuan, a ei tur neih chhun te chu pein Ma Ṭhuii chu *temple* lamah chuan a hruai a, Thanzinga chuan a nunna chu a chhan himsak ta a. Ma Ṭhui-i’n a nunna chhan himtu Thanzinga chu a zah hle mai a, chhiahhlawh ang maia awm pawh a hreh lo hial a. Amaherawhchu, Thanzinga chuan chhiahhlawh anga en chu sawi loh Ma Ṭhuii chu a lo ngaizawng em em mai hi a lo ni a.

Indo buai hun, ralmuanna hmun reng reng awm lohna ni mah se, Thanzinga te tlan chhiatna hmun *temple* hi Rev John Hla Tin te chhungkua sahimna zawnga awm hmun an lo khuarna a ni ve baw nen, chu hmunah chuan inngeih tlang takin an khawsaho a. Tichuan, Ma Ṭhuii pawh chuan baptisma hial chan a duh thu a sawi chhuak ta a. Hetia ralṭitna hmuna Rev John-a’n a rawngbawlina a chhunzawm thei tur chu a ṭap hial a, a thawnthuah pawh heti hian sawi a ni, “Indona hun rapthlak tak leh ral hlauva tlan chhiatna lamah leh zela a Pastor hna a thawk dawn ta chu Pathian malsawmna ropui tak nia a hriat vanga ṭap nge a nih a, a hun tawng chuan a lung a tichhe ve hrim hrim tih pawh a hre lo,” (*Irrawady* 49).

Tin, ram buai lai behchhana ziaik *Silaimu Ngaihawm* tih thawnthuah chuan ral̄itna hmunah pawh Kristianna nun heti'ang hian hmuh theih a ni, "... nuvalai intisakhaw mi zual deuh leh Kohhran lama a puipa deuh deuhthe chu inkhawm turin an kal mek baw a. Khawvel chuan ngai awh tawh lo mah se, ni dang leh zan danga an kumkhaw *programme* angin Kohhran pawh a la kal ve zel rih a," (*Silaimu* 38).

Hmangaihna Thuchah thawnthuah pawh Agnes Sarah Bibi-i leh Thanpuia te induh theihna chhan ber pawh Kristian ve ve an nih vang tih theih a ni. He thawnthuah hian Thanpuia hi Pastor fa ni mah se, khawvel nawmna thlahlel mi a ni a, a pa Rev. Chhunga leh a bialnu Sarah-i te hian Kristian nun dan anga nung turin an zirtir nasa hle a, Sarah-i phei chuan khawvel nawmna tur aiin Pathian a ngaih pawimawh zawk thu heti hian a lo sawi, "... Mahse, ka tum loh lam takah Pathian chuan chu ka hmangaihna che chu her kualin tunah chuan Krista hmangaihna lamah ka unau leh ka nuṭa angin ka en ta che a, ... Chu lama atana Pathianin a ruat che a nih chuan, ihe lovin kan inkawp hun tur a la inher chhuak mai ang," (*Hmangaihna* 61).

Tin, *Thla Hleinga Zan* thawnthuah phei hi chuan a khat tawkin *Bible* bung leh chang te hi a changtute dinhmun azirin an sawi chhuak chat chat zel thei a, Peter Lianhleia'n *Thla Hleinga Zan* a zir chian chuan heti hian a lo sel hial tawh, "... Kum 1940 chho velah thingtlang khuaa mi lehngalten Theological College chhuak hlim ang hrima Bible thu leh a chang an chham mai hi awih a harsa deuh," (qtd.in *Thu Leh Hla Thlitfimna* 93). Hei hi a ṭhat leh ṭhat loh lam sawi tumna ni loin James Dokhuma thawnthua Kristianna sakhua leh a kaihhnawih hmuh tur a tamzia nem nghettu atan chauh a ni zawk tih hriat a ṭul hle awm e.

Tlipna

Mizote hian indo rah ṭha zar zoin, kawng hrang hrangah hma an sawn a, chu'ng zinga langsar ber chu thu leh hla lama hmasawna hi a ni awm e. Khawvela indona hrang hrang lo thleng tawh, Mizote tel vena ngei chu James Dokhuma hian thawnthu ziaikna atan hmanraw ṭangkai takah hmangin Mizote chu a lo awm tlei ṭhin a ni. James Dokhuma indo behchhana ziaik thawnthu hrang hrangte aṭanga zir chhuah theihthe chu, a nuam emaw a hrehawm emaw, eng ang dinhmunah pawh Mizote chu ding se, mahni hnam hmangaihna leh Pathian ngaihsak tlatna nun neih hi a thawnthua a changtute kaltlangin James Dokhuma hian a tar lang ṭha viau tiin a sawi theih awm e.

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