

Revisiting the Past through Cinema: A Study of Dohutia's Film : *Haanduk*

Shilpa Doley

M.Phil Scholar, English, Dibrugarh University(Assam)

(shilpadoley@gmail.com)

Abstract

Cinema holds a special position in understanding the past of any region or community. The notion that cinema plays an important role in shaping memory narratives have been widely discussed in the academic field. Cinema is not merely a reflection, but, a vital key to understanding human experiences as they serve as live documents of history; of the past that shapes the present. This paper intends to focus on a film based in the state of Assam, India. The filmmakers of Assam have dealt with a range of topics right from social, political to unconventional themes in their works. One such area of exploration in cinema is the independent films that depict the rural, indigenous people of Assam. This paper thus, intends to look into one such film to understand how Assamese cinema works as a medium to revisit the days of insurgency while establishing an identity that will surpass time and generations to come. The paper also aims to discuss how cinema can work critically in defining memory as a means of remembering the turmoil faced as a community amidst chaos, violence and loneliness.

Keywords: *cinema, identity, memories of the past, insurgency*