

**E-mail:**

[rojiousham@gmail.com](mailto:rojiousham@gmail.com)

**Mobile:** +91-8800179220

**Residence Phone:**

+91-1126742156

**Address for****Correspondence:**

Department of English,  
Central University of  
Karnataka, Kalaburagi,  
585367

**Permanent Address:**

Thangmeiband  
Lairenhanjaba Leikai, Imphal  
West,  
Manipur- 795001.

**Date of Birth:** 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 1984

**Sex:** Male

**Nationality:** Indian

**Father Name:** U. Irabot

**Mother's Name:** K. Memcha

**Languages Known:**

**Read:** English, Hindi,  
Manipuri

**Write:** English, Hindi,  
Manipuri

**Speak:** English, Hindi,  
Manipuri

**Interests and Hobbies:**

Music, Theatre, Football.

**DR. USHAM ROJIO**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
VISVA-BHARATI, SANTINIKETAN

## Work Experiences

- Worked as **Assistant Professor (Contractual)**, Department of English, Central University of Karnataka, Kalaburagi, Karnataka (Since January 8, 2021).
- **ICSSR Post-Doc Fellow** affiliated at the Special Centre for the Study of North East India, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi 2018-2020.
- Taught two courses – **Indigenous Aesthetics of Northeast India** (MA Optional course) and **Comparative Aesthetics with Special Reference to Northeast India** (MPhil course) at the Special Centre for the Study of Northeast India, JNU, Delhi during the Post-Doc Tenure.
- Worked as Academic Counsellor at IGNOU Study Centre – 0709 for **Diploma in Creative Writing & Certificate Course in Teaching English as a Second Language** Jan 2018- December 2020.
- Working as an **Associate Editor** (since 2008) of the *Eastern Quarterly*, published by Manipur Research Forum, a quarterly journal which deals with the key issues of North East India.
- Worked as a **Visiting Faculty** at **Ashoka University**, January – May 2019.
- Worked as a **Guest Faculty** (English Literature) at Dyal Singh Evening College, Delhi University, 2010-2012.
- Worked as a **Course Writer** for IGNOU's (Indira Gandhi National Open University) Certificate Course on *Folk Theatre and Performance of North East India*.
- Worked as an **Assistant Editor** for Sterling Publishers, New Delhi, January 2010 - July 2010.
- Worked as an **Assistant Editor** for S Chand Publication, Darya Ganj, New Delhi, June 2008-January 2010.

## Academic Profile

- 2018-20, ICSSR Post-Doctoral Fellow, affiliated to Special Centre for the Study of North East India, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- 2018, PhD, Theatre & Performance Studies, School of Arts & Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

- 2010-12, M.Phil, Theatre & Performance Studies, School of Arts & Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.
- 2006-08, M.A. English, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.
- 2003-06, B.A. English, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.
- 2002, HSSLC (10+2), COHSEM, Manipur.
- 1999, HSLC (10), BOSEM, Manipur.

## Awards

- Junior Fellowship to Outstanding Persons in the Fields of Culture on **Manipuri Literature** 2018-19, awarded by Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

## Research Projects

- Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Junior Fellowship on Manipuri Literature (2018-19) on *Meetei Model of the Cosmos: A Study of Meetei Literature in Relation to Lai Haraoba*.
- 2015-2017, **Individual Research Project** under the grant of Arts Research Programme, India Foundation for the Arts, Bangalore on *Anoirol (The Arts of Movements): Performance Aesthetics of the Meetei in Manipur*.
- 2011-2013, **Research Assistant** on the research project *Women in Traditional Worldviews and Institutional Practices: Exploring the Aesthetics and Ethical Discourses in India's Northeast* under the supervision of Prof. Bhagat Oinam, Centre for Philosophy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi supported by Janapada Sampada, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.
- **Assistant Director** of a Documentary Film series on *Women and Aesthetics in Northeast India*, sponsored by Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi under a research project of Prof. Bhagat Oinam, Principal Investigator.

## Books Authored/Edited

- 2022, *The Way of Thamo: Life and Art of Heisnam Sabitri*, a book on the life and theatre works of the Indian actress Heisnam Sabitri, co-author with Prof. H.S. Shivaprakash, retired professor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Niyogi Books: New Delhi. ISBN-13: 978-93-91125-19-6.
- 2018, Edited a book, a collection of plays written by Heisnam Kanhailal titled *Heisnam Kanhailalgi Anganba Lilasing (Early Plays of Heisnam Kanhailal)* with a Critical Introduction written by him.

## Publications (Articles/Book Chapters)

- 2024, 'Revolutionizing Indian Theatre: The Collaborative Legacy of Heisnam Kanhailal and Sukrachariya Rabha' in the special edition Book titled *Under the Sal Tree*, Kolkata: Vabha Theatre, 2024. ISSN 23215909.
- 2024, Rojio, Usham. & Ningombam Rojibala. "Shakespeare Visits Manipur: Reinterpretation and Reinvention" in Shormishtha Panja and Babli Moitra Saraf (Eds.), *Performing Shakespeare in India: Exploring Indianness, Literatures and Cultures* (203-218). New Delhi: Bloomsbury India. ISBN 9789356405370. [**Scopus Indexed**]
- 2023, "Theatre of the Earth: Kanhailal's Life and Work: A Conversation," *Azaad Awaaz*, Centre for New Economic Studies, Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities. Volume VII Issue III, 21-25.
- 2022, "Performing the Landscape: Orature around Loktak Lake and the Love Story of Khamba Thoibi," *Rupkatha Journal*, Vol. 14, Issue 2, April-June, 2022. Pages 1-12. <https://doi.org/10.21659/rupkatha.v14n2.ne38> [**Scopus Indexed**]
- 2022, "Making Sense of my Habitus through Theatre" in an anthology of contemporary Indian theatre titled *Ins and Outs of Indian Theatre*, edited by Prof. H.S. Shivaprakash, and published by Sahitya Academi, New Delhi. ISBN: 978-93-90866-07-6.
- 2021 (July Sept), "The Transformative Power of Adaptation in Kanhailal's Theatre", *Research Journal of English Language and Literature (RJELAL)*, A Peer Reviewed (Refereed) International Journal, Vol. 9, Issue 3. Impact Factor 6.8992, ISSN No. 2395-2636. [**Peer-reviewed**]
- 2020, "*Leithak Leikharol* (The Lore of Heaven and Netherworld): A Study of the Meetei Cosmogony of Manipur". *Eastern Quarterly* Vol. 13, Special Issue, 2020. Manipur Research Forum: New Delhi. [**Peer-reviewed**]
- 2019, "Towards the Theatre of Essence" in *Nurturing Theatre: Actor Training of Ex-Asia Theatre Conference Report*, published by Ex-Asia Theatre: Taiwan.
- 2018, "Poetic Discourse in the Songs of Tapta" in a collection of essays *North East India: A Reader* edited by Prof. Bhagat Oinam and Dhiren Sadokpam, published by Routledge: London and New York. [**Scopus Indexed**], reprint of an earlier essay published at *Eastern Quarterly* journal.
- 2018, "Subdued Eloquence: Poetics of Body Movement, Time and Space" in collected essays of *Modern Practice in North East India: History, Culture, Representation* edited by Lipokmar Dzuvichu and Manjeet Baruah, published by Routledge: London and New York. [**Scopus Indexed**]

- 2017, “Anoirol: Orature and Performance Aesthetics of Meetei in Manipur” in *Perspectives on Manipuri Culture*, edited by Prof. S. Shyamkishore Singh and Prof. Bhagat Oinam, published by Centre for Studies in Civilization, New Delhi. **[Peer-reviewed]**
- 2016, “Kanhailal’s *Dakhgar*: Cultural Myths as Images” in *Theatre of the Earth*, compiled by Heisnam Kanhailal, published by Seagull Books, Kolkata.
- 2016, “Theatre in the Land of Disguised War” at *Eastern Quarterly*, Vol. 12 (Issues I & II), pp. 52-61. **[Peer-reviewed]**
- 2015, “Reconstructing Tagore’s *Dakhgar* (*The Post Office*): A Cross Cultural Myth,” in *The Politics and Reception of Rabindranath Tagore’s Drama: The Bard on the Stage*, edited by Prof. Arnad Bhattacharya and Prof. Mala Renganathan, published by Routledge: New York & London. **[Scopus Indexed]**
- 2009, “Poetic Discourse in the Songs of Tapta” at *Eastern Quarterly*, Vol. 5 Issue IV, pp. 154-63. **[Peer-reviewed]**

### Seminars, Conferences & Workshops

- Attended numerous international seminars, conferences and workshops, including invited talks as well.
- Conducted theatre workshops and lectures on making theatre for several theatre groups.

### Experiences on Theatre

- Having keen interest on a new developing research methodology namely Performance as Research (PaR) and Embodied Research, he has been exploring the dynamics of psycho-physical acting following the Manipuri theatre practitioners Late Heisnam Kanhailal and Heisnam Sabitri taking participation in their theatre workshops since 2008. Since 2008, he has worked with Kanhailal and Sabitri on their major productions. He has also worked with Heisnam Tomba, son of Kanhailal-Sabitri on his major productions *Keibu-Keioiba*, *Pi Thadoi*, *Samnadraba Mami* (Disjointed Images), *The Hungry Stones* based on the story of Rabindranath Tagore of the same name (as translators and backstage musicians) and *Meeyamgi Yeknaba*, a Manipuri adaptation of Henrik Ibsen’s *An Enemy of the People* (as Dramaturge and Translator).
- He has been part of the theatre community-building project with Kalakshetra Manipur. They have worked on developing the Rampur village in Goalpara district of Assam through theatre.
- Worked on Jerzy Grotowski Acting Methodology in 2012 with a French actor and director Marie Gutierrez, a student of Jerzy Grotowski, an innovative Polish theatre director who introduced the convention of Poor Theatre. Played the role of Eklavya in this workshop-production of the play *Eklavya* (in Grotowski

*Acting Methodology*), directed by Marie Gutierrez.

- At the age of 12, he was a child drama artiste at All India Radio, Imphal.
- He also writes poetry and short plays, performs and directs plays. Some of his scripted and directed plays are *Paan Thaba* (2018), *Chak Kare* (The Rice is Burned, 2005), *Lairik Taklurase Laisu Tambirurase* (Let's Educate and Etiquette, 2006), *Hanuba Hanubi Paan Thaba* (An Old Man and an Old Woman Planting Taro, 2007), *Wakhalgi Mami* (Picturing Thoughts, 2009), *Voice of the Voiceless* (2010) and *Shadows in the Darkness* (performed with the contemporary dancer Surjit Nongmeikapam, 2011) and *Courageous Cicada* (2014-16).
- He also acted, choreographed, played music and took major role in Jawaharlal Nehru University's participation of the University Ibsen Theatre Festival in New Delhi, 2012 (organized by Norwegian Embassy) doing the major production of Henrik Ibsen's *Lady from the Sea*.
- His directorial play during his post-graduation days *Tota Kahini* (based on the same story by Rabindranath Tagore) was well-received at the 2nd Pak-Indo Drama Festival at Government College University, Lahore, Pakistan in 2008.

\*\*\*

---