

1.3.4 Student's Field/Research Projects and internship

CONTENT LIST

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Field Trip 2

Location: Siliguri, Kurseong, Darjeeling

Date: 24th – 29th May 2019

REPORT

Ishani Dutta

I undertook a field trip to Siliguri, Kurseong, and Darjeeling from 24th to 29th May 2019 as part of my PhD. The primary agenda behind this was to find answers to certain critical questions that had come up in the course of formulating the chapter divisions of my PhD dissertation.

One of the primary research questions that my work seeks to answer relates to the definitions of the words ‘trend’ and ‘genre’ within Indian Nepali Literature. Pertaining to this, it was necessary to interview at least one poet (at this point) who seems to have given way to a new genre within Indian Nepali Poetry. I contacted Pavitra Lama, the founder of *Avisangi* Poetry, to get a few directions in this regard. A questionnaire containing thirteen questions was sent to her, which was followed by an interview with her and Kabir Basnett (Assistant Professor, Department of Nepali, Darjeeling Government College) in Darjeeling on 25th May 2019.

This field trip also allowed me to discuss my PhD proposal with my proposed co-guide, Dr. Kabita Lama (Associate Professor, Department of Nepali and Dean, School of Languages and Literature, Sikkim University). This was done in Kurseong on 26th May 2019.

Since my study also seeks to re-examine the dominant idea of literary historiography in India and look into whether there are any lapses in it vis-à-vis the representation of Indian Nepali Literature (with primary focus on Indian Nepali Poetry), it was necessary to locate a few more texts that would help me in understanding the dominant idea of Indian Nepali literary historiography. Thus, 28th May 2019 was spent at Ekta Book House and Gyan Kala Prakashan at Pradhan Nagar in Siliguri to scout for the books.

Finally, a short discussion with Binayak Sundas (Assistant Professor, Centre for Himalayan Studies, University of North Bengal) was undertaken on 29th May 2019 to discuss about the tools that might be useful in carrying my study ahead. A short visit to the

Himalayan Studies Library was also undertaken on the same day to look at the kind of archives available.



Fig 1. Pavitra Lama performing *Fusion Kavita* at the book launch event of her book *Ma Deh Rāto Rañinchi* and Kabir Basnet's book of critical essays *Paṭhan Ra Driṣṭi* at Darjeeling Government College, October 2, 2019



Fig 2. Pavitra Lama performing *Samvād Kavitā* with Rajiv Biswakarma at the book launch event of her book *Ma Deh Rāto Rañinchu* and Kabir Basnet's book of critical essays *Paṭhan Ra Driṣṭi* at Darjeeling Government College, October 2, 2019



Fig 3. Nepali poet Kamala Rai reciting her poems at the book launch event of Pavitra Lama's book *Ma Deh Rāto Rañichu* and Kabir Basnet's book of critical essays *Paṭhan Ra Dṛṣṭi* at Darjeeling Government College, October 2, 2019



Fig 4. Nepali poet Raja Puniani performing his poems at the book launch event of Pavitra Lama's book *Ma Deh Rāto Rañinchi* and Kabir Basnet's book of critical essays *Paṭhan Ra Driṣṭi* at Darjeeling Government College, October 2, 2019



Fig 5. Interview with Nepali poet Pavitra Lama in Darjeeling, May 26, 2019



Fig 6. Pavitra Lama performing *Avisangī* at the *Kavitā Utsav 2020* held at Nandan, Kolkata, March 8, 2020