

Educative role of Folktale in the Life of the Biata of Dima Hasao District of Assam

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Abstract: Folktales are considered to have been created from individual experiences of social life, which, in turn, exercise great influence over the social lives of the people in the community. These folktales in practice among the tribal society deeply revolve around the myth and belief systems of the community. They also bear unmistakable signs of their ancient origin and display deep psychic roots that are usually handed down through words of mouth. In the Biata society, these folktales called *Thonthu* form an integral part of their daily lives. The paper highlights in particular the importance of Fapite, known as the goddess of paddy, in Biata socio-religious life. Simultaneously, it attempts to explore the role of the Biata oral tradition as an instrument for imparting moral education and socialisation of the members of the society. Moreover, it also discusses the main functions of the Biata folktales which imply multi-layered meanings of great moral values and social importance.

Key words : Oral tradition, socialisation, moral, goddess of paddy.