

# An Analytical Study on the Genesis of Mizo Fiction

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## **ABSTRACT:**

This study seeks to examine the origins and evolution of Mizo fiction. Fiction in every society serves a dual purpose: it drives social reform while also entertaining readers. Studying fiction promotes moral values and offers insight into a society's culture and way of life. It helps shape people's social behavior and, at the same time, brings hope and joy to those who feel disheartened. As the world changes, the fiction genre also develops to meet the reading interests of new generations.

## **MEANING OF FICTION:**

Fiction plays a crucial role in reflecting real human experiences. It is also the most popular literary genre globally and a key part of literature. Abrams and Geoffrey say, "Fiction in an inclusive sense is any literary narrative, whether in prose or verse, which is invented instead of being an account of events that actually happened. In a narrower sense, however, fiction denotes only narratives that are written in prose (the novel and short story) and sometimes is used simply as a synonym for the novel" (130-31). Fiction may draw on historical events and stems from the imagination, yet not every imaginative or creative work counts as fiction. Cuddon writes, "Fiction is now used in general of the novel, the short story, the novella and related genres" (279). As a result, fiction stands as a distinct genre separate from poetry and drama. It falls under prose and employs elements like character, plot, diction and setting.

## **THE PEOPLE OF MIZO:**

The Mizo people are an indigenous Tibeto-Burman ethnic group primarily residing in the North-Eastern Indian state of Mizoram called the "Land of the Mizos", as well as neighbouring areas in Manipur, Assam, Tripura, and parts of Myanmar and Bangladesh. Historians believe that the Mizos are a part of the great wave of the Mongolian race spilling over into the eastern and southern India centuries ago. Historically often referred to as Lushais by the British, "Mizo" is a collective term meaning "highlanders" or "people of the land". They are known for their high literacy, making Mizoram one of India's most literate states.

## **GENESIS OF MIZO FICTION:**

The origin of Mizo fiction comes from traditional Mizo folk narratives such as myths, legends, folktales, animal stories, warrior tales, romantic stories, humorous tales, and supernatural stories. Among these, folktales became the main foundation for the growth of modern Mizo fiction.

Before the arrival of Christian missionaries, the Mizos had no written literature. In 1894, missionaries J.H. Lorrain and F.W. Savidge developed the Mizo alphabet using Roman script and began translating

religious and literary works. Earlier, in 1874, Thomas Herbert Lewin recorded the first written Mizo folktales in his book.

Later, several scholars and missionaries collected and translated Mizo folktales into English and Mizo, helping preserve and spread Mizo culture. Important contributors included J. Shakespeare, F.J. Sandy, Laltluangliana Khiangte and others. Many books of Mizo folktales were published over time, showing their importance in the development of Mizo fiction.

Mizo fiction is considered as old as Mizo society itself because folktales and myths were passed down orally through generations. Written Mizo fiction officially began with the first Mizo novel, *Hawilopari* (1936), and the first Mizo short story, *Lali* (1937) written by L. Biakliana.

### CONCLUSION:

Mizo fiction originated from traditional oral narratives, especially folktales, that were later preserved through written records by missionaries and scholars. The introduction of the Mizo alphabet in 1894 made written literature possible, leading to the first novel *Hawilopari* (1936) and short story *Lali* (1937). Thus, modern Mizo fiction grew directly from its rich oral heritage, showing continuity between ancient storytelling and contemporary writing.

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