



History Of Written Kokborok Literature Rhyme: 1948-2022

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Abstract:

Language shapes human identity and gives rise to literature, which acts as a bridge between cultures and generations. In Kokborok society, literary expression has largely evolved through oral traditions, with rhymes playing a significant role in cultural transmission. These rhymes, passed down across generations, reflect traditional lifestyles, rituals, and agrarian practices commonly referred to as the *Hoda* way of life. Although the exact origins of written Kokborok rhymes remain uncertain due to limited early documentation, existing collections offer valuable insight into the community's social and cultural framework. Beyond cultural preservation, Kokborok rhymes function as an engaging educational medium for children, promoting linguistic development and reinforcing cultural awareness.

Keywords: Folk tradition, Culture, Oral literature, Lyrical expression, Sound, Identity

I. Introduction

Rhyme is a form of oral literature closely associated with rhythm and song. It often emerges naturally through everyday conversation, shaped by repeated sounds and flowing speech. In Kokborok society, rhymes have traditionally been passed down from generation to generation, especially during activities such as *jhum* cultivation, play, schooling, and social gatherings.

These rhymes reflect the cultural identity of the *Hoda* (society) and preserve collective experiences and values. Like all ethnic communities, Kokborok-speaking people possess a distinct tradition of rhymes, such as “*Chingchong chingchong machingchong, Chokeleng keleng, Deng deng bachagwra.*” Initially transmitted orally, many of these rhymes are now recorded in written form, contributing to the development of Kokborok literature.

I. What is a Rhyme?

A rhyme is an important form of oral literature used mainly to teach and entertain children. It is different from a poem because a rhyme focuses more on sound patterns than on deep meaning. In a rhyme, the ending words of lines have similar sounds, which creates rhythm and musical flow. The speed and repetition of sounds are maintained so that the rhyme can be easily spoken or sung. Rhymes usually use simple and familiar words, making them easy for children to understand, remember, and enjoy. They help in developing listening skills, pronunciation, and memory while also providing fun and entertainment.

List of written Kokborok Literature Rhyme Books: 1948 - 2022

I. Bongshi Thakur: In the history of Kokborok literature, written rhyme is first found in the Kokborok literature of Bongshi Thakur. He wrote his 1st rhyme titled “**Koktang Kului**”. It was published in **1948**.

II. Shantimai Chakrabarty: He wrote 2 rhyme books have been written by “**Shantimani Chakrabarty**”. The first rhyme book is titled “**Bharotni panchali**”(1960). The second rhyme book is titled “**koktang koglob bwtang**,” published in **1983**.

III. Shyamlal Debbarma - His first rhyme book is **Koktang Bwtang (1983)**. “**Chingchong chingchong machingchong**” consists of 48 rhymes. And it was published by “**Hachukni khorang**” in 2003.

IV. Sabita Debbarma: In 2003, **Sabita Debbarma** wrote her first rhyme book, “**Kadeng kadong kadan**”. Her second rhyme book, which is titled **Chokeleng keleng (2008)**. This book is composed of 56 rhymes. It is published by the **Language Wing, Education Department, TTAADC, Khumulwng, Tripura**.

In 2010, she wrote her third book, “**Toksa Tokmili**,” published by **Language Wing, Education Department, TTAADC, Khumulwng, Tripura**. And her fourth book, “**Malmata Mwsa Mayung**”, published in **2011**, consists of **100 rhymes**.

V. Chandrakanta Murasing: In **2005**, Chandrakanta Murasing wrote his rhyme book titled “**Deng Deng Bachagwra**” . This rhyme book is composed of **39 rhymes** and is published by “**Akshar Publication**”.

VI. Bijoy Debbarma: Kokborok literature writer **Bijoy Debbarma** wrote a rhyme book, “**Longraini Jambuban**,” in 2006. His book is composed of 52 rhymes. The name of the publisher of this book is “**Kokborok Tei Hukumu Mission**”.

VII. Utpal Debbarma: He wrote **Moniya Toksa (2007)** and **Koktang Bwtang Bwtang (2014)**, which is composed of **76 rhymes**. “**Utpal Debbarma**” published his rhyme books under the publication of “**Kokborok Sahitya Samsad**” & “**Language Wing, Education Department, Khumulwng, Tripura**”.

VIII. Rabindra Kishore Debbarma: **Hachukni Khum (2008)** is a compiled book of poems and rhymes.

IX. Narendra Debbarma: In **2010**, “**Narendra Debbarmani**” wrote his rhyme book titled “**Mundodore mun**”. His book consists of **58 rhymes**. The name of the publisher of this book is “**Benton Debbarma, Banamalipur, Agartala**”.

X. Sudhanya Tripura: He wrote a total of 3 rhyme books. The first book is **Mwnak jorani koktang**, the second rhyme book is **Jora Hamyani Koktang (2002)**. And this book was published by “**Kokborok Sahitya Samsad**”. Sundhanya wrote his third book, “**Hachuk Biyalni Koktang**,” under the publication **Lampra Prakashni**.

XI. Nityananda Debbarma: In **2012**, he wrote his first rhyme book, **Toksa Rangchakni Bothob (11 rhymes)**. It was published by **Jora Publication**. Later, “**Nanaya Nago Songbai**” was written by him and published in 2019.

XII. Kamaliya Debbarma: “**Gong Burasa Gong**” is a rhyme book written by “**Kamaliya Debbarma**”. His rhyme book, composed of 39 rhymes, was published by **Kokborok Sahitya Samsad** in **2013**.

XIII. Dharinjoy Tripura: Cherairokni Koktang (2012) is the title of the book written by him.

XIV. Uttam Debbarma: "Chengkharu Pohor Saru" was written in 2014. This rhyme book is composed of **90 rhymes**. It is published by the Language **Wing, Education Department, Khumulwng, Tripura**.

XV. Biplab Debbarma: He wrote his first book, which is composed of **53 rhymes, Chok Chok Achukdi(2016)**. The next book, **"Mai Koke,"** was published in **2018**. Biplab published two books in **2024**, titled **"Yapiri Baksa Himnai"** and **"Phang Kaidi Langma Mwthangdi"**. All of these books were published by the Language **Wing, Education Department, Khumulwng, Tripura**.

XVI. Amita Debbarma: In the year 2016, Amita wrote a single rhyme book titled **"Ani Kulu Bwsa"**.

XVII. Amulya Ratan Jamatia: He wrote a rhyme book in **2017** titled **"Koktang"**.

XVIII. Kunja Muhan Debbarma: Kunja Muhan Debbarma, under the publication **"Kalika Press Pvt. Ltd"**, published his rhyme book in the year **2019** titled **"Hachuk Rangchakni"**. His book is composed of a total of 48 rhymes.

XIX. Subal Chandra Debbarma: In **2020**, **"Sal Padorop"** was published by **"Kalika Press Pvt. Ltd"**.

XX. Shibabrata Tripura: He wrote his rhyme book titled **"Khani Kok"** in the year 2022.

III. Conclusion:

Rhymes play an important role in a child's learning process, especially in schools. They easily attract children's attention because of their rhythm, repetition, and musical quality. Children enjoy learning and singing rhymes together in groups, which makes the learning environment joyful and interactive. Listening to and reciting rhymes helps children improve their pronunciation, memory, and listening skills. Because rhymes are simple and engaging, children are able to remember them quickly and with less effort. Thus, rhymes are not only a source of entertainment but also an effective tool for early education and language development.

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