

POETICS OF COUNTER-RESISTANCE: THE POLITICS OF LANGUAGE AND TRANSLATION IN MIYA POETRY

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ABSTRACT

This paper examines the complex interplay between language, identity, and translation politics through the lens of Miya poetry from Assam's Brahmaputra chars. The Miya community, descendants of Bengali Muslim migrants who settled in the riverine sandbars during British colonial rule, occupies a liminal space that challenges conventional categories of belonging and citizenship. Their poetry, written in a hybrid dialect that blends Bengali, Assamese, Urdu, and Arabic elements, serves as both cultural resistance and identity assertion against decades of marginalization and categorization as "foreigners." Through analysis of original Miya poems and their translations—particularly the Bengali anthology "Traster Shikarbakar"—this study explores how translation practices navigate the political tensions inherent in rendering texts that deliberately transgress linguistic boundaries. The paper argues that the translation of Miya poetry reveals the inadequacy of binary distinctions between "domestic" and "foreign," "original" and "translated," demonstrating instead how marginalized communities use linguistic hybridity to claim space within dominant national narratives while simultaneously asserting their distinct cultural identity.

Keywords: *Miya Poetry, Translation Politics, Linguistic Hybridity, Identity Formation, Assam Chars, Citizenship Contestation.*

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