Hello students,

welcome to the module END103 paper-

Modern Indian writing in English Translation.

Today I'll be dealing with the

poem The Land of the Half Humans

by Thangjam Ibopishak Singh.

The outline of today's module-

First I'll be dealing.

with the brief biographic details of

the poet and then I will be analyzing

the poem.

Learning outcomes by the end

of the module- you will be able to:

Read and understand the poem.

You will have a brief idea about

the life and works of the poet and

also will be able to appreciate the

poem.

Thangjam Ibopihak Singh in is one

of the leading and the most popular

poets of the northeast of India.

He was born in 1948 in Manipur.

His notable works include Dali,

Hussain or Odour of Dream, colour of wind.

I want to be killed by an Indian bullet.

The land of the Half Humans, etc.

He is the recipient of various

prestigious awards including the Sahitya

Academy Award for Poetry in 1997.

Manipur State Kala Academy Award in 1986.

Jamini Sunder Guha gold medal

in 1989 and many more.

Thangjam Ibopihak is based in

Imphal, and he writes in Manipuri,

the language of the indigenous

Meitei community.

According to Ibopihak Singh,

his homeland is a land of half humans.

The image of half humans creates

a picture of the degradation that

has crept into the society.

He describes his land as a land

of perpetual internal strife,

and he says that this disturbed land is

hitting the headlines almost every day.

He further says that Manipur is a

sort of land of half humans as it

is populated by people who are just

head without body for six months.

And body without head

for another six months.

He says that there is absolutely no

connection between the two halves,

that is the head and the lower

part of the body.

He says the head keeps on drinking,

eating, talking, whereas the body keeps on

working labouring, struggling.

He further says that his land has a

democratic form of government and

election is held every five years.

But for the people of this land,

there are no names.

Because of this weird situation,

it is very difficult to decide

whether to give human names to

the head or to the body.

Hence,

these nameless citizens elect nameless

representatives to govern them.

Ultimately,

the point which comes out is that

democracy is there in Manipur,

but according to the poet, democracy exists

in name only.

Thangjam Ibopishak Singh once said in an interview

that the socio-political problems

of Manipur is the major source of

inspiration for him to write poetry.

He says that the violence the ethnic crisis,

the repercussions of insurgency,

all these are the major themes of his poems.

This poem also captures the misery,

the hardships, and the struggles

of the common Manipuri people,

which is the result of a

corrupt and rotten system,

and the evil nature of men,

which is resulting in moral

bankruptcy.

In this poem, through the use of.

Surrealistic images he has

tried to create the picture.

Of Manipur or Manipuri society

which is too obsessed with materialism.

And a society which is

devoid of any human values.

And just at the same time,

one may observe that his way of writing

is much different from his predecessors.

His predecessors used

Beautiful, ornamental language.

Whereas, Ibopishak Singh is too content

with the ugly, the anti-romantic,

the anti-ideal and the real

aspects of life in his poetry.

We see there is no hope.

His poetry is without the promise

of redemption.

For Ibopishak Singh past gives no solution, no shelter,

the future promises nothing,

And the present is hopeless and uncertain.

In this poem also

we can say that

it is both the reflection of and comment

on the contemporary Manipuri psyche.

This poem talks about the terror, the fear

and the insecurities of the

Manipuri people.

The only positive side that we as

readers can see in his poem is that

may be singh is deliberately showing

this ugly worldview to us,

so that we as readers can understand the

great need of the good, of the beautiful,

and truth, for the people of Manipur,

for the disturbed land of Manipur.

These are my references.

Thank you.