

# Cultural Diffusion of Nagas: An analysis of Easterine Kire's *Bitter Wormwood*

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## Abstract

*Under the British rule, Indian hill stations like Nagaland faced changes that interplayed with society and culture. In North-East Indian studies, Naga literature in English shows the incessant development of Naga creativity and Naga voice. Cultural changes are documented by Naga writers in contemporary literature. The paper employs eminent Naga writer Easterine Kire's work to study the changes that occurred in Naga culture. For the purpose, Easterine Kire's novel *Bitter Wormwood* is selected. The novel inculcates historical events in the fictional plot and consistent narration of events that are liable for culture change. To find out the possible reasons for culture changes in Nagas, Clark Wissler's Organized diffusion theory is employed.*

**Keywords:** Culture Change, Diffusion, Easterine Kire, Nagaland, North-East Indian studies

## Introduction

The novel *Bitter Wormwood* (2011) was written by Easterine Kire, the first Naga writer to write novels in English. Easterine Kire's contribution to Naga literature is quite impressive as she has contributed five poetry collections, nine novels, three short story collections, one essay collection, two novellas, eight children's books, and many translations and anthology books. For her works, she has received various awards. Kire's works can be considered as the embodiment of the Naga literature in English. Kire in her work highlights Naga lifestyle, primitive culture, traditional values, Naga history, Nagaland's environmental beauty, folklores and mythology.

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