

Re-Reading James Dokhuma's *Lamsuaka*: A Post Colonial Perspective

C.Lalnunhlui*

Abstract

Widely known as the 'father of Mizo lexicography', James Dokhuma is one of the most notable writers to emerge from Mizoram with a literary vision that has impacted the dispositions of the postcolonial identity of the modern day Mizos. A common keynote of Dokhuma's writings is the cultural and psychological impact of colonialism on the distinctive Mizo consciousness in the twentieth century. Being a narrative biography, *Lamsuaka* comprises a compelling portrayal of the life of the *pasaltha* (warrior) from his birth to grave. As a rendering of a culture on the margin of change at the time of the warrior, *Lamsuaka*(2001) discusses a rewriting of past contestations in understanding forms of colonial power, resistance and moving away from an 'othering' discourse, of reclamation of identity. The biography reflects the impact made by colonial government on the tribes of the Mizos and it is being discussed in this paper as having a cultural verisimilitude value.

Keywords: Post-Colonial, Identity, Othering, Resistance, Biography