In order to commemorate the bicentenary of the historical French Revolution, the booklet "French Revolution in Patua Song" was published. In Bengal, French Revolution was also depicted through Pata-painting (Patachitra) and the corresponding Patua-song (Pater-Gan). Pata is a powerful genre of folk tradition where the confluence of oral tradition and folk painting has become significant. The Patuas paint series of colourful pictures in conformity to any myth, historical event, any popular story taken from Ramayana or Mahabharata or from the local tradition.

The oral literature or the text is composed in the form of song which is known as Patua Song. The Patua show the colourful pictures of the Pata and sing the song that corresponds with the series of pictures. Pata is prepared with traditional technology. Pata is very much popular in Bengal and gradually has become a strong media of communication.

Folklore, in many ways into its corpora, records history or historical events taken form either primary or secondary sources. Oral literature containing the historical clues of Santal Rebellion, World War - are found in Bengal. The British influence on the life and culture of Bengal, is reflected through Kantha Stitch. Likewise, the historical event - "French Revolution" was also put into the process of Pata-painting and Patua song to make it accessible to the common people.

The Patua song records the history of the French Revolution and at the same time reflects the struggle for achieving democracy and the dignity of humanity. This booklet is bilingual one where the original text of the Patua song (in Bengali language) and its English translation is available. The English version will make the text accessible to the academics of the world and also tell of how folk performers have paid their respect to the untiring struggle that had made French Revolution success.

Shyamol Bera deserves to be congratulated for bringing out this short but significant work.

Name of Book : French Revolution in Patua Song
Published by : Shyamol Bera
Publisher : Sahajiya, Kolaghat, East Midnapur, West Bengal India
Year : 2008
Price : Rs. 10/-