

ABSTRACT

There is a rising critical interest within studies of colonialism in exploring the collaboration between empire-building and projects of expedition and travel. Critics have examined the links between travel, colonialism and the construction of space. On the other hand, Critical Geography shows a keen interest in examining the ways colonialism influenced the construction of space.

Almost every travel narrative, especially colonial travel narratives in explicit or implicit ways represent visions of formation and transformation of space. Within travel writing, we get important clues to the rhetoric and material transformation of space. Within colonial travel writing, this is explicit in colonial expedition and exploration narratives, often seen as sub-genres of travel writing, even as there are studies that look at them as independent genres.

Given that fact that, what is understood to be the northeastern region of India went through a considerable passage of British colonial occupation, it is necessary to examine how narratives of travel, especially those of expedition and exploration, in the colonial northeast participate in the visual, territorial and material geographies of Empire. The present thesis explores the construction of space in select travel narratives in the colonial northeast. It examines how narratives of travel—especially of exploration and expedition of colonial officers and agents—often set the ground for establishing a geography for the Empire.