CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

6.1 Seth’s Brilliance

Vast knowledge and copious diction have enabled Vikram Seth to create a novel with a style of superior air.

When he narrates the story his fluency flows like a Torrential river. His syntactical use of language is exemplary, when he describe nature he is an artist with glorious ornamentation. His characterization is architectonic. As he had lived considerable duration in England and America his command of language is original and transnational. In short, Seth is a commendable novelist with glorious and varied styles. Above all his knowledge, in western music has enabled him to create a novel of musical genius.

Seth is an extraordinary genius in human psychology. He can make the readers weep or jump with joy by his tactful writing. Seth describes poverty of musicians in such a way that the readers cannot resist tears.
Seth develops the situation that a young man unconsciously falls in love, with an innocent girl and that she yields to his sudden irresistible kiss with least rejection. The readers of the novel cannot but wonder at the authority and magical way of creating a situations. Seth’s style and narration are indeed magnanimous while describing the whimsical character of virgine, the novelist, Seth is a master mind.

### 6.1.1 Theme of Love

It soothes, it rejoices, it gently caresses and its soft gentle touch has the power to make it stone melt.

One who has found love in his / her life would be the happiest person, but it is said so that also has the power to drive and sane men to the limits of distress. Didn’t someone say everything is fair in love and war if love can charm it can scar as well, it is such a feeling that those in love wouldn’t want to come out of and those out of it would never understand why the brouhaha. Love is a feeling so sweet, so warm that it can light a hundred candles of radiance on the darkest of nights, so musical that Mozart would sound out of sync, so tender that the choicest pashmina feels like a torn rug. Love is a feeling beyond comprehension, beyond imagination and the sheer idea of expressing it in words is a farcical notion. They say if love be the music of life let it play on, so play on it is.
It is love and essence of its vibrancy and its spell over the heart, which is captured so strikingly in the piece of one’s attention, the subject of one’s review. The symphony of love and the joyous sounds of the heartbeats is the theme of a romantic mind, and Vikram Seth comes through at once as a daydreamer and a charming sorcerer, ready to cast his spell on each of his readers who possess a romantic soul. The title of this book is taken from one of John Donne’s sermons and is a description of life after death.

6.1.2 Impassioned Writing

‘An Equal Music’ is a tour de force of poetic, impassioned writing. It is an unforgettable table of love lost and nearly regained. It is a story of the force of love, its magical spell over the heart and its forceful impact over the mind. It is a poignant saga of love and lovelorn lovers torn apart by circumstances and how a strange quick of fate sees them come together again. The common strand that connects the lover is their passionate love for music. It is a love story blended with the strokes of a Mozart piano, synced with a Bach Harmonica and a Schubert violin. It is a treat for the connoisseur and the laity, the lover and the ignorant, the classes and the masses.

6.1.3 Spell of Love over the Heart

‘An Equal Music’ is a tale of the romantic in each one of the readers, about the lover who is passionate about the love of his life and
about the possessed mind who is not willing to let go of it at any costs. It is the saga of the spell of love over the heart and how it makes one sway to its tune. It is a story to savor and one to feel for with compassion, and one that transforms the reader to the realm of charming things. If it is charming, it's also painful and cathartic at the same time. It is a fable of their times together and yet a powerful narration of the heartbreak of them and how they go through their lives torn apart, leading their own lives, yet keeping the fire of their love alive in their hearts. The longing of the central characters for each other and the void feeling of listless life that they are leading without each other, strikes the reader as a bolt. It leaves the reader spellbound with the sparkling radiance of their joyous love, while at the same time it leaves one with a piercing pain in the heart with their parting.

6.1.4 Time and Distance

‘An Equal Music’ is the musical journey of Michael Holme through contemporary London to Vienna to Venice in quest of euphony and in his search for the love of his life. It is the poignant tale of Julia Mc Nicholl, who loves Michael as passionately as her music, only to be separated from him through a twist of events. The two disembark on their own ways of life, only to meet again after many years. Time and distance might have stood between them, but nothing could diminish the power of their love. Michael felt a void, a not missing in his music without Julia in his life. Julia on the other hand married to someone else could never sever Michael from her mind.
6.1.5 Love for Music

‘An Equal Music’ is the tale of their love for music, their passion for each other, and the strange quirk of fate which draws them closer only to sever them forever.

6.1.6 Writing about Music

Beauty of the book lies, in its simple yet poetic writing style. Vikram comes across as a writer at home with the sonnets of Bach to the symphonies of Mozart to the tunes of Schubert. His knowledge and wonderful usage of musical pieces and its blend with the theme of the story is a joyous experience. The book shines where other attempts have failed, the deeper implications dialogues and confrontations between Michael, the lover and his beloved Julia is a treat. Consider this at their second meeting. Julia tells Michael she is married. When he asks why she doesn’t wear a wedding ring, she answers. ‘I don’t know. It distracts me. It distracts me when I play the piano. I look at it and I can’t concentrate on the music’. Wow now do I need to say more on this, if Michael is longing for her, so is she, and what better way to express this then the subtle ways just narrated. Both are the sources of inspiration for each other, music to them are incomplete without the other, this is love at its best.
6.1.7 Blissful moments of Love

Genre of this book is the same as Michael Ondaatje’s The English Patient or Graham Greene’s ‘The End of the Affair’. It talks about the longing and the final acceptance of the dramatis personae to the reality that no matter how hard they try, they can never be together. To love is one thing and to achieve your love in life is another. That then to me is the essence of the book. It says that no matter what happens in life, the blissful moments of love would be always warm and fresh in your heart, so savor them till they last.

6.1.8 Music is Gift

The final scene ends with Julia’s solo performance of Bach’s “Art of Fugue;” in the audience, Michael thinks, ‘It is a beauty beyond imagining clear, lovely inexorable, phrase across phrase. It is ‘An Equal Music.’

After the concert, he reflects, “Music, such music is a sufficient gift. Why ask for happiness; why hope not to grieve? It is enough, it is to be blessed enough, to live from day to day and to hear such music - not too much, or the soul could not sustain it – from time to time? That then, my dear friend is the beauty of life, its rewards and its curse.
6.2 Boundaries of Music

What is equal music? It is the sonnets of life after death, a life which is equal in forms, shapes and content. Life after death is an ethereal concept, and so is the theme touched upon in the concluding lines of the book. Music knows no boundaries, no constraints, its just equal to each of the readers. That’s what the protagonist reflects on at the end of the novel. Love speaks the language of music and music is expressed in the feelings of love, ethereal, sublime yet so true, so powerful and so enchanting.

6.3 Research Title

The research is titled as A Stylistic Study of Vikram Seth’s Novel ‘An Equal Music’. This research title has attained its find from after deep considerations in technical terminologies, subject expertising, multiple referencing, text analyzing, structural planning, chapter classifications, scoping, material acquiring and preparations, designing up of the research work, and several discussions and consultations with the supervisor.

6.4 Why more about Style and Stylistic?

Hence the broad field of the study is ‘stylistics’ the techniques adopted by the researcher are based on the corner stone of style, stylistics and its features, theories and concepts on the same.
The researcher felt the utmost essentiality to provide detailed descriptions, explanations on theoretical conceptual and featuristic elements on style and stylistics. Many Linguistic findings and writings on style and stylistics were used, handled, analysed and adopted practically in the research. And thus the first chapter introduction deals abundantly about these stylistic theories.

After the careful study about style and stylistic theories and concepts, the practical adaptation is made in the other chapters. This study helps one to understand about what is to be analysed and studied about the selected work, ‘An Equal Music’ of the masterly, transnational, multiple genius, Vikram Seth and the Linguistic strategies adopted by him in the novel and how and to what extent a stylistic study on the novel is truly made possible.

Seth being a diasporic, transnational writer who was brought up in the English public school system and having lived many years in England and America, who had already authored many works in English including two masterpieces, ‘The Golden Gate’ and ‘The Suitable Boy’ have had the Language command upto the extent of imbuing stylistics and linguistic features to the sourcefulness which is abundantly enough for many researches on his novel ‘An Equal Music’.
6.5 Multiple Referencing

References are made with many stylistic theories and it is found that the text ‘An Equal Music’ needs to be analysed well and an elaborate perusal to be made to learn all about the novel’s preciousness and the linguistic expertise.

6.6 The Design

Seth has designed this novel in such a way that one can comprehend the story value one and only if he goes along with him in an intellectual journey cornered on language style. He has adopted all patterns of descriptive and narrative styles, even innovative styles uniquely special of its kind.

6.7 Musical Romances

First hand knowledge of Seth in western classical music is passed on afresh to the reader and a ‘musical romance’ is created by him in a psycho analytical, descriptive, narrative style with a high strategically presentation of characterization and language use. In structural planning the author excels most of the contemporary writers modernists and post modernists. This is evident with his mystical, meta-physical and mysterious way of revealing the story line and plot.
6.8 The Six Chapter

Chapter classifications are made with a genuine idea of bringing the bubbles of linguistic values to the brim of the readers mind with the aid of Seth’s cup of intoxicating genius.

6.9 Descriptive Style

In his descriptive style, Seth is able to be creative enough to show almost all varieties of it. Therefore more about descriptive theories and techniques are provided than they are quoted. Yet fifteen varieties of descriptive styles used by Seth are quoted and described. This fills the second chapter. It is a proof that there is scope for further researches with the descriptive view.

6.10 Narrative Style

Seth has adopted a melancholic narrative style to maintain sober in order to establish reverence towards his innovative narration of a ‘musical romance’. This narration about the maggoir quartet, the musical concerts musicians, and instruments plays a vital role in bringing realism to the readers mind to give a thorough involvement. He also adopts attitudinal narration, interpersonal narration and psychological narration which in turn brings forth melancholic narrative effect.
6.11 Characterization Strategies

Many ways of character classification strategies are handled by Seth in his novel ‘An Equal Music’ He had dealt characters as symbols, representatives, historical references, romantic moods, places and even musical instrument like tonani (violin). He creates Michael as a tragic romantic hero.

6.12 Language Use

Seth seems to use simple conversational language style which is enough for any reader of the novel to grasp something. But to enjoy the style of Seth one needs to understand or to go along with him an intellectual journey based on the corner stone of language expertise. He uses phonological, syntactical and semantical techniques. He uses the ornamental usage of alliteration, assonances, consonances, internal rhymes, repetitions and varied figures of speech.

6.13 Rare Genius

An Equal Music of Vikram Seth is a diamond adorning the Golden crown of Indian writing in English for the grand nature of the language style, descriptive and narrative style of a rare genius. Seth is a living author. And this research work is a pioneering attempt author, Vikram Seth’s ‘An Equal Music’.
6.14 Structural Planning and Reason

In this research a stylistic study on Vikram Seth's novel 'An Equal Music' importance is given to provide more about stylistics, descriptive style, narrative style, art of characterization strategies, and language style than merely quoting from the novel. Inspite of this the researcher has taken efforts to bring in the multi-varied styles of Vikram Seth through many quotations from the novel. This will bring forth the area points for further research.

6.15 Scope for Further Studies

There is wide scope to do further research in this novel 'An Equal Music' and also on Seth's other works. In this novel there are scopes for critical study, study on descriptive style, narrative style, characteristic study, psycho analysis, study on symbolism, study on thematic, structural, aesthetical, ethical, social, moral and philosophical values. And a detailed linguistic study also is possible.

6.16 The Final Words

It is no wonder critics, magazines, dailies and the public are applauding the grandeur of 'An Equal Music' and the greatness of Vikram Seth. As evidence from the back cover of the novel 'An Equal Music' (Seth 1999) some views are given hereunder.
Vikram Seth has created new territory for Indian authors writing in English ‘An Equal Music’ is quite fascinating. It is technically brilliant – Vikram Chandra (Seth 1999)

‘Seth has written a vibrant, passion filled tale’ – Time Ibid.

‘.. well written, carefully crafted, concisely researched, highly allusive…’ – The Hindu (Ibid)

The hero Michael Holmes and the heroin Julia fall apart to fall together to again fall apart. In their love, towards each other in their distance towards each other in their moods towards each other in their opinions about each other, in their musical talents ambition. There was ‘An Equal Music’. The author wonderfully quoted John Donne in the first page.

“And into that gate they shall enter, and in that house they shall dwell, where there shall be no cloud nor sun, no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light, no noise nor silence, but one equal music, no fears nor hopes, but one equal possession, no foes nor friends, but one equal communion and identity, no ends are beginnings, but one equal eternity” (Seth 1999).