Amitav Ghosh shows a keen interest in the reconstruction of the past. Many of his narratives turn towards historical subjects, bringing out the past in the proper perspective, a kind of global perspective. In Ghosh’s writings history and anthropology blend together perfectly. He does not shy away from commenting on politics, wars, economy, and other worldly affairs.

The thesis is organized into seven chapters. The first chapter is introductory, dealing with Indian English novel from its origin to the present, taking into consideration various factors – historical, geographical, social, cultural, etc. A brief discussion on *Sea of Poppies*, the first book of Ibis trilogy is also included in this chapter.

The second chapter is about the first novel of Amitav Ghosh – *The Circle of Reason*. In India, for many cases, irrationality, superstitions, blind beliefs, and prejudices supersede logic and practical thinking. *The Circle of Reason* can be said to be a kind of revolt against this trend.

The third chapter discusses *The Shadow Lines*. This novel paints a picture of both symbolism and realism that covers both time and space. The “shadow lines” of the title are the borders that divide people and one of the main emphases is on arbitrariness of cartographical demarcations. The novelist seems to conclude that no story – or history for that matter – can be acceptable as the ultimate truth, since truths vary according to perspectives and locations.

The fourth chapter is on the novel *The Calcutta Chromosome*. This novel grapples with colonialist notions of science (discovery) and the “native” east (counter-
scientific, “fevers,” and “delirium”). The three important narrative strands in the novel elaborate the symbiotic connections between the human and the scientific/technological.

The fifth chapter discusses *The Glass Palace*, which portrays the anti-colonial struggle waged by Indians and Burmese against the backdrop of the long history of imperialism in South and Southeast Asia. The novel is primarily concerned with nationalism, colonial rule, and self-consciousness on the part of Burmese and Indians.

The sixth chapter is on *The Hungry Tide*, a novel about survival and comradeship amidst terrors of nature. Amitav Ghosh opens a debate for an amicable solution to the problem of refugee settlement vs. conservation of nature through this novel.

The seventh chapter is conclusion and it makes a study of Ghosh’s novels from the perspective of the self, the family, and society. The novels of Amitav Ghosh present the interaction between an inner world and an outer world in the sense that the inside of an individual is always in contact with other people’s outside, as the individual is always inside himself/herself but outside of others.

For the present study of Amitav Ghosh’s novels and for references to the page Nos. the following editions are consulted:


