PREFACE

This thesis is a modest attempt towards a close study of Sarojini Naidu’s poems and to bring out their thematic values. The study attempts to investigate the patterns of value and response to human experiences throughout Sarojini Naidu’s works as she handled different themes such as Nature, Love, Life, Death, Patriotism and the Folk-Spirit. Although I have tried to avoid repetitions but, however, repetitions are unavoidable and such reappearances are essential in the context of many discussions and comments to make each chapter complete and self-sufficient.

Sarojini Naidu, the poet, needs no introduction as her name is familiar to every reader of Indo-Anglian poetry popularly known as the “Bharat Kokila” or “the Nightingale of India.” She is the best lyrical poetess of India. She is one of the most illustrious Indians who immensely contributed to the Cultural, Political and Social advancement of the nation in numerous ways. Before plunging into the freedom struggle with utmost dedication and sacrifice and becoming the Governor of the largest state of the Country, Uttar Pradesh, she could bewitch the west by her remarkable poetic genius and typical Indian culture. Despite her small corpus of literary output, belonging to years before she could attain true maturity as an author, she is
undoubtedly one of the foremost Indian English creative writers. She created new dimensions in Indian English poetry, both thematically and technically. Her uniqueness as a poet is obvious, especially her poetic work is strikingly different from that of her compatriots older or younger like Toru Dutt, Rabindranath Tagore or Sri Aurobindo on one hand, and Harindranath Chattopadhyaya, Nissim Ezekiel, Kamala Das or A.K.Ramanujan on the other hand. She is simply wonderful in the areas of folk element, lyricism, nature, imagery and some of the basic themes such as love, life, fate, death etc., are concerned. Invariably, her poetry can never be outdated and faded, and shall continue to delight the readers by its sheer simplicity and style. This is evident from the fact that though written about eight decades back, it is still read with fondness by common readers as well as intellectuals.