List of Abbreviations

*Imaginary Homelands* – IM

*Shame* – S

*The Moor’s Last Sigh* – MLS

*The Midnight’s Children* – MC

*The Enchantress of Florence* – EF

*East, West* – EW
Preface

Migration has become an inevitable reality of the present time. The researcher in the thesis entitled, “Assimilation and Assertion of Migrant Identity in Salman Rushdie’s Fiction: A Psycho-Social Perspective” focus on the novels of Rushdie from a different perspective against the background of post-colonialism, post-modernism, hybridity, and the transformation of identity of a multicultural, multilingual, multi-religious country known for its pluralistic elements. Salman Rushdie is a prominent diasporic writer who has a unique place in the world of post-colonial literature for his remarkable narrative style in bringing out the psychological subjugation of the migrants, thereby portraying the impact of Indian history in the treatment of the subaltern.

The first chapter, “Introduction” presents a broad overview of Rushdie’s literary background based on his fictions, essays and short stories in the perspective of colonial impact in the transformation of migrant psyche. It introduces the use of hybrid language and unique narrative style to exhibit his post-colonial and post-modern concept of storytelling. A vast review of related literature and theories which are used to analyse his fictions are introduced in this chapter.

The second chapter, “Pluralism: Translating History” dwells on the historical and mythical treatment of migrants and their hybrid state both physically and linguistically are discussed with reference to colonial theories. The writer neatly presents the transformation of his characters due to migration process and the need
for finding one’s root to fix their cultural and traditional values which are to be passed on to the future generation.

The third chapter, “Dislocation and Relocation” evaluates the psycho-social turmoil of the migrants to fix themselves to an alienated place. The feeling of homelessness, rootlessness and non-belongingness state of the migrants dislocated them from their personal identity which they have lost in fixing themselves in a new geographical platform. This chapter analyses how the influence of one’s roots or one’s place of origin is paramount and extremely difficult to erase.

The fourth chapter, “Migrant Identity” dwells on the identity crises and the feeling of alienation of the migrants. Migration is one of the important themes of Rushdie. Migrants’ sense of displacement, experience of cultural imperialism, discrimination and power politics are explored in the hegemonic discourse. Shifting of geographical and cultural boundaries and he impact that creates on the social and cultural dislocation is the chief quality of migration.

The fifth chapter, “East West Encounter” explores the historical background of the conflicts between the eastern and the western cultures throwing light on dislocation of migrants in-between east and west. The connections and the inability to connect, the weakness and insecurities are brought out in this chapter.

The final chapter, “Summation” sums up the discussions in the previous chapters by spelling out the findings and leaves wider scopes to the future researcher. In a world of migration and hybrid culture, transformation continues to influence
people across the boundaries. The chapter ends with findings and suggestion for future researchers.

The thesis statement of the research is that, in the postcolonial Indian society, the Indian migrants who settle in foreign countries come in conflict with the culture of the settled land and try to adjust as well as assimilate with the culture and lose their original identity and asserts their hybrid or plural or multi-cultural migrant identities. The researcher has used theories about post-colonialism, post-modernism and imperialism to examine the historical background of the dislocated and diasporic, pluralistic theories along with the theories of hybridity of Homi K. Bhabha to understand the transformation of non-belonging migrants.