Preface

This work is an attempt to read the novels of Hanif Kureishi and explore his major thematic concerns. Hanif Kureishi is a contemporary British writer of Pakistani descent. He is a novelist, screenplay writer and filmmaker. He has played the role of a chronicler of social change in Britain through his writings. His first novel *The Buddha of Suburbia* published in 1990 won him the Whitbread First Novel Award. Before this he had already established himself as a screenplay writer and won many awards. In 2008 Hanif Kureishi was awarded the prestigious title of Commander of the British Empire by the Queen of England.

As a writer Kureishi has attained the attention of the literary critics and quite a few volumes of literary criticism have appeared on his works (some included in the bibliography). These volumes are of general kind discussing novels, screenplays, short stories as well as non-fiction writings of Kureishi. However, his novels alone deserved a comprehensive study. Novel as a literary genre is very different from screenplays and non-fictions as it has a larger canvas and it allows the writer to engage with the society in a comprehensive way and helps to explore his vision. The present study is an attempt to explore Kureishi’s engagement with the contemporary British society. This is an interdisciplinary research wherein the theories of sociology and political science have been used as tools to study literary texts, that is, novels. The growth and development of artists, changing notions of sexuality and the efficacy of the policy of multiculturalism to deal with the problems of racism are the major thematic concerns in the novels of Hanif Kureishi. These issues have been studied in four different chapters in five of his novels. The chapters begin with an analysis of the theoretical concepts and move on to the analysis of the novels.