The purpose of the present thesis, is to attempt an indepth study of the novels of Mohd. Hejazi, one of the most popular and enlightened novelists of the 20th century Iran, in the light of the social conditions that prevailed in his country during the first half of the 20th century.

The study is focussed on how these social conditions have been understood, interpreted, elaborated and commented upon by Mohd. Hejazi through his stories, plots, characters and different events occurring in the lives of his protagonists. This study is also aimed at understanding and assessing this most renowned Iranian novelist of the 20th century, in the background of the socio-political scenario and the cultural ambience that prevailed in Iran during his times. It can be safely said that literature and poetry while being products of their times, also leave their impact on these conditions. It is a mutual give and take between the society and the writer, and in order to understand his writings, one must also try to understand the society in which these have been produced. This is the reason that the present work not only deals with the novels but also focuses and makes an attempt to understand and describe the social pattern of his times and how it affected Modern Persian Prose. To serve as a back drop to Hejazi’s novels, a brief study of the genres of Modern Persian Prose have also been attempted.
All available important prose works of his period are taken into account and critically evaluated.

The thesis consists of four chapters, the fifth chapter being the Conclusion.

First chapter deals with the social and political conditions of Iran in the early part of the 20th century. It describes how, during that time, winds of change have taken Iran into their grip and how the Iranian people have responded to them. This chapter attempts to provide an outline of these conditions and how they were responsible for the changes that took place in the prose and poetry of Iran.

Second chapter describes how Modern Persian Prose came into existence in Iran. It defines and analyses the changes that took place in the style, language and thoughts, preparing the field for the introduction of new prose and poetry. It also gives a brief account of the new literary genres in prose, highlighting their chief characteristics. It also lays stress on a new kind of social awareness obtainable in the novels and short stories of this period.

The third chapter deals at length with the development of novel writing in Iran with special reference to those novelists and their works that were Hejazi's contemporaries.

Fourth chapter is focussed on Mohd. Hejazi, his life and works, and is an attempt to critically evaluate Hejazi's novels as a reflection of the social conditions of Iran during the first half
of the 20th century. Following novels, their plots, characters and their social contents have been discussed in detail:

1. Zeba
2. Huma
3. Sarashk
4. Parichehr
5. Parwane

The fifth and the last chapter is the Conclusion. It tries to sum up Hejazi’s role as a social writer in the light of his novels.

A detailed bibliography, in alphabetical order, is appended at the end.