ABSTRACT

Chapter one, "Introduction: Society and Literature", traces the historical as well as sociological forces that shaped the twentieth century world in general and the societies of America and India in particular. It further explores the relationship between social situation, writer and literature in respect of Wright and Jayakāntaṇ.

Chapter two, "Life and Literary Background", attempts to focus on the similarities of Wright's and Jayakāntaṇ's life: childhood, education and literary apprenticeship and backgrounds of their respective literary traditions.

Chapter three, "Race and Caste Conflicts", tries to identify the factors of social disjunctions in the societies of America and India. Race plays a vital role in America and in his writings Wright presents it as the chief factor of social disjunction; caste acts as a divisive role in Indian society and Jayakāntaṇ highlights this in his writings. Select short stories and novels that deal with race and caste conflicts have been discussed in this Chapter.
Chapter four, "Sexual Politics/Conflicts", deals with the treatment of woman in both America and India as presented by Wright and Jayakanā. In Wright the white woman - black male and black woman - white male relationship and their consequences are analysed. In Jayakanā, the high caste (brahmin) woman and low caste, untouchable male relationship is highlighted. A different set of stories and novels of both writers are analysed from this particular angle.

Chapter five, "Tyranny and Agony: Class Conflicts", focuses on the social relationship between the haves and have-nots of both American and Indian societies as revealed in the writings of Wright and Jayakanā. It also scrutinizes the background of such relationship as revealed in the works of these two writers'.

Chapter six, "Art and Commitment", examines the artistic merits of the works of Wright and Jayakanā. It critically looks into the relationship between their commitment and their writings.

Chapter seven, "Two Humanists", gives a brief summary of the previous chapters and compares the salient features of the writings of Wright and Jayakanā by giving a detailed account of similarities and dissimilarities.