ABSTRACT

Amitav Ghosh has become one of the central figures to emerge after the success of Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children*, yet published criticism on Ghosh is not very substantial. Ghosh is one writer who combines history with a very contemporary vision of a world free of discrete divisions. A critical study of the prime thematic concerns of Amitav Ghosh’s novels is thus an opportunity not just to peruse a substantial body of work that meditates on a core set of issues concerning post colonialism in the contemporary fictional writing with special focus on the marginalised subaltern; but also to view history with a novel perspective. The proposed research work follows the chapter scheme as under.

Chapter I: Introduction: The introductory chapter is an endeavour at placing Amitav Ghosh in Modern Indian literary context. It traces the various routes through which the Indian English Fiction has travelled, to reach the present scenario.

Chapter II: Entitled ‘The Migrant Subaltern: The Traveller in *The Circle of Reason*’, this chapter attempts an analytical study of *The Circle of Reason*, with focus on the migrating subaltern and his predicament. Ghosh’s penchant for obliterating borders both in terms of themes as well as generic experimentation is introduced in this very first fictional work.

Chapter III: Entitled ‘The Blurring Borders: Post-Colonial Travel in *The Shadow Lines*’, this chapter discusses how *The Shadow Lines*, a non-sequential journey moving back and forth from past to present and back again is an apt revelation of the fragility of the cartographical lines which claim to separate people and communities.

Chapter IV: Entitled ‘Giving Voice to History: Subaltern Revived in *In an Antique Land*’, the fourth chapter is an attempt at
discussing how Ghosh gives a prominent voice to the obscure subaltern, who is lost in the oblivion of historical annals, in an amalgam of a travelogue, an anthropological research thesis, ethnography and a novel.

**Chapter V:** The fifth chapter entitled: ‘The Subaltern Researcher in Ghosh’s Medical History: The Calcutta Chromosome’, tries to unravel the theme of post-coloniality, dealt with in an unconventional manner, wherein, it is the subaltern colonized native who has the upper hand, in place of the privileged colonizer.

**Chapter VI:** The sixth chapter entitled, ‘Post-Colonial Migrations: The Displaced Generations in The Glass Palace’ is devoted to unravel the theme of alienation and colonial displacement of the characters, who cross boundaries and make several transitions during their lifetime, in the novel The Glass Palace.

**Chapter VII:** The seventh chapter entitled: ‘Borders – Dissolved: An Ecological Perspective of The Hungry Tide’ takes an eco-critical view of Ghosh’s The Hungry Tide where it is predominantly nature that takes the onus of destroying and re-defining boundaries.

**Chapter VIII:** To conclude the proposed research work, it is discussed how Ghosh’s fiction reveals recurrent patterns of the major themes of boundary crossing and travel which chiefly involve the subaltern class with each fiction involving mass movements of individuals. A vision of a borderless space where all divisions blur and disappear pre-dominates all the themes. Ghosh diligently researches each situation and location, emphasizing the history behind it, in all his fictional works which are difficult to classify and limit within the characteristics of particular generic expectations.