ABSTRACT

This doctoral thesis attempts to analyse some of the themes and techniques in the poetry of Nissim Ezekiel, A.K. Ramanujan and R. Parthasarathy. The reliance is mainly on the tools of the New Critics.

Chapter I reviews the context in which the poets have written, their reputation and personal background as related to the larger tradition in which they are placed. The last part gives the framework of the analysis where it is shown that theirs is the poetry of the existential self and among the significant postures of the self are alienation, love and community. The poems are seen as a cyclic movement from alienation to community through love.

Chapter II considers the poems on the theme of alienation and the self's need to belong. Through a close study of the poems of each poet, the implications of the theme and the related problems of isolation and identity-crisis are discussed. Where relevant, a study of technique as highlighting theme has been made.

In Chapter III, love is seen as a phase in the journey of the self. The various postures in love including non-relationship are illustrated through in-depth analysis of the poems. The individuality of each poet's technique is also shown.
Chapter IV views the self in relation to community, both as a feeling of fellowship and awareness of other selves which borders on commitment. As in the previous chapters, the poems are analysed to reveal the individuality of each poet. The use of irony is seen as a common characteristic.

Chapter V concludes the study by pointing out the universal dimensions in their poetry and the sincerity of purpose. It is shown that the happy mastery over theme and technique in reconciling tradition and individual expression has made them significant poets in contemporary times.