CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

This Chapter is the summing up of the argument and the conclusion. A comparative study of the works of Tagore and M.T. Vasudevan Nair impresses certain general conclusions on the reader’s mind. The study proves implicitly, explicitly and exhaustively that the art of story telling comes to both the writers spontaneously. Tagore and M.T. Vasudevan Nair believe strongly that human nature, whether rich or poor, high or low traditional or modern, is the same universally. Both are realistic, prolific and humanitarian writers. They are born romantics. The estrangement of man from society has been an object of concern for these romantic writers. Both have shown deep concern for this problem, which is depicted in their writings. Their short stories and novels are really enchanting for their sincere humanism and psychological depth. They are conscious of their responsibilities as writers. Both lay great emphasis on the individuality of their characters.

India is a land of stories and story tellers. Indians are never tired of listening to stories. In this thesis, it has been proved beyond doubt that Tagore and M.T. Vasudavan Nair are admirable story tellers.
The themes chosen by these two writers come nearer to the themes which are specially close and dear for every human being. These are the themes of the joys and woes of common people, love and affection between members of a family, pressures of common living in Hindu joint family, problems of widows, psychological realism, mental conflicts, and loneliness of the human heart. That is why the intimate lives of their heroes and heroines transgress the narrow sphere of personal lives and assume general human dimensions.

Both are gifted story tellers, making use of common people and common experiences in a masterly way. For both these writers, the source of incidents depicted in their fiction is taken from everyday lives of the common people living in rural areas. They share in common, compassion for the down trodden and admiration for the straight forwardness of villagers.

There are a number of similarities in their characterization and narrative techniques. Both the writers highlight the plight of the common people. They attempt a psychological analysis of the minds of their characters. They also follow the straight forward technique of presenting their story and the characters through the words and deeds of men and women they portray. Their characters penetrate deep into the minds of the readers. Their main aim is to reveal the inner world of the main characters, without separating them from
reality. Thus it can be stated that in their stories, they remain true to the principle of truthful and realistic exposition of reality.

Women characters have their own distinctive personalities. The experiences encountered by these women go a long way in driving home to the reader the sad plight of their community. Needless to emphasise, social commitment is the hallmark of both these writers. Again and again, they lavish their art especially on children and women and present them not only realistically but also poetically. The poets in them wake up when they describe the child's innocence, wisdom, fragility, mischief and helplessness when faced with poverty. The woman's capacity for love and suffering, her unpredictability, her beauty and sadness provoke them to write poetry in prose. The efficient short story writers in them records, the laughs, the sighs, the groans, the prattle, the murmurs and the moans. Most of their stories convey the message that the one hunger that none can suppress is the hunger for love, sympathy and understanding. Even stones can be hungry, like the stones of the ancient palace, in which the young temperament official is stationed as described in the extraordinary story, "Hungry stones". The ruined city, the deserted palace, the faded legend, the forgotten hero all hunger for love and understanding. "Hungry stones" is worthy to be placed by the side of the works of Edgar Allan Poe and Coleridge. It is one of the finest tales of mystery and imagination.
The short stories of Tagore and M.T. Vasudevan Nair have an intrinsic merit of their own. They are eminently interesting, readable and delightful. Some of the stories are amusing and thought provoking and reveal a sympathetic understanding of human nature.

Tagore and M.T. Vasudevan Nair depict, through their stories, the life of a particular country and of a particular period, but at the same time they are capable of creating such works which will eternally be read by the readers of different countries of the world. Well known Bengali Critic, Budhodev Bose, analysing Tagore's stories, in his *Rabindranath's prose*, wrote:

A writer collecting material from a particular surrounding and period, may overcome these barriers. He may become the most well-known representative of his time, of his country and at the same time he may win over the heart of humanity as a whole. Even many famous writers do not have these qualities. Tagore as a short story writer, has these rare qualities. (42-43)

The same may be said about M.T. Vasudevan Nair's short stories also. In their stories, they concern themselves with the events around them. Their views on love, family life, loneliness, and social relations among the young and the old, find expression in their stories imaginatively. There is a
meeting of the old and the new world. They care for both the worlds. Tradition means for them not merely extension of the line of the past into the present, but preserving the best in the culture. Great stories appeal to all readers, old and young of any class or country.

It has been proved beyond doubt, through illustrations, that both are ardent lovers of nature. Tagore, as a writer, has been universally acknowledged, but he is essentially the writer of Bengal. His love of nature arises from the very soil of Bengal. The rivers, woods, flowers, the seasons, the sky, the epics, myths, political backwardness, social weakness, spiritual heritage, the ordinary man, woman and child and above all, his own note worthy background. He writes of the transformation of a single tree and it is spring on the earth. In his love for man, he embraces the universal man. He loves all earthly things with the love of a passionate devotee. A great humanitarian, inspired by deep religious feeling and love of nature, Tagore has been called "The Bengal Shelley".

M.T.Vasudevan Nair is very much fascinated by the lovely countryside of Kerala, with its green paddy fields, rivers, streams and small villages sheltered by bamboo and mango groves. There is a kind of enchantment in his descriptions of the rivers, Nila and Bharatha.
Through illustrations taken from his short stories and novels, the writer of the thesis has drawn the attention of the reader to the peculiarity of Tagore's prose. It is lyrical prose. He compares his lyrical prose to the steps of a young woman, controlled by the natural desire for balance. His prose abounds in poetic expressions, which have a music of their own. Tagore's sincerity of feeling and vividness of imagery combine with the rhythmic flow of words. "The parched earth in summer", "the first monsoon shower" and "the flowers and rivers" are images which gain a mystical depth.

The measured step in the rhythms and the unbounded freedom in the lyrical and musical quality of his prose and his use of words - these are characteristically his own. He has given a new colour and a new structure to fiction making it deeper and richer in range of emotion and conception. He evolved a language that broke all barriers of fixed forms and conservatism.

Tagore is a lyrical poet in the true sense of the word. His power of evoking imagery is immense - imagery drawn from the country's tradition and background and above all from nature. The darkening rain clouds, the autumn season with its harvest, the tempestuous storm, the devastating flood and the ever-recurring lotus, are not merely descriptive, but they are the symbols of man's inner moods and conflicts. Tagore has immense passion
for life. The world is a never-ceasing source of joy for him. The true spirit and beauty of his expressions have made Tagore one of the best-loved writers of all time.

As a writer, Tagore looks at life from a humanist's point of view. He is a true apostle of universal brotherhood and understanding. It was to embody these lofty ideals that he established at Santiniketan (The Abode of Peace) a university that transmits a message of love and selfless knowledge to all mankind. The lyrical tradition in prose, kept alive by M.T. Vasudevan Nair, flows like an enchanting stream. In his fiction, poetic language merge and mingle with prose and make beautiful patterns in language and literature.

Both the writers are spiritually close to the ideals of social justice and humanism. Humanism means love of man with all his weaknesses, instincts and impulses. It may be defined as a system of thought in which human interests, values and dignity are held dominant. The humanism implied by these two writers have a profound mass-appeal because of their devotion to the cause of the lowly and the down trodden. Both are humanists and are firm believers in the worth and dignity of the individual.
The idea of love plays a dominant part in their fiction. They regard love as the magic wand which dissolves all contrasts and opens the gateway to truth. Their message is the message of human service and human love. In their writings, they carry a crusade against the evils existing in the societies of their times. Their outlook is conditioned by their humanism. They are deeply moved by the sufferings of the poor and the needy. Both have given voice to the lamentation of the destitutes and the depressed. They are socially committed writers.

Between Tagore and M.T. Vasudevan Nair, two writers unlike each other in many respects, a common denomination would be romanticism. Both the writers are born romantics. The estrangement of man from society has been an object of concern for these romantic writers.

A close look at the artistic features of the stories of Tagore and M.T.Vasudevan Nair show that they are great masters in the field of fiction. Rare artistic ingenuity, real human approach and truthfulness have made their storeis near and dear to many generations of readers and their works have occupied the rightful place among the treasures of Indian Literature.
Tagore has done great service to Indian writing in English. Through his writings, he has demonstrated that English language can be a suitable vehicle of Indian sentiment, thought and imagery.

The writings of Tagore and M.T. Vasudevan Nair have an eternal freshness about them. Customs cannot stale their charm. Their works are widely read and will continue to be read by generation after generation.