ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made in the following pages at comparing Rabindranath Tagore and M.T. Vasudevan Nair as writers of fiction. The study is confined to their attitudes towards life, humanism, love of nature and rural life, psychological realism and plot construction as revealed in their works. Both these humanitarian writers may differ in age, cultural background, language and religion, but they share common approaches and characteristics.

The main objective of this dissertation is to highlight the important aspects of similarities and contrasts within the limited canvas available for expounding this thesis. The study confines itself to the short stories and novels of Rabindranath Tagore and M.T. Vasudevan Nair. The thesis is divided into five chapters.

CHAPTER I

The first chapter traces the growth of Indian literature beginning from Vedas, Upanishads, Panchatantra and Puranas to the origin of Indian novels and short stories. A brief survey of Bengali literature and a short history of
Malayalam literature and also covered. The origin, growth and spread of Indian writing in English, where Tagore occupies a dominant position, is also included in this dissertation.

CHAPTER II

The second chapter, entitled "Similarities", analyses the various similar aspects in the writings of Tagore and M.T.Vasudevan Nair. Both the writers are ardent lovers of nature and rural life. Love, affection, intimacy and relationship between members of a family occupy great importance in their writings. Their stories show an extreme sensitivity to the pressures of common living in Hindu joint family. Psychological realism is a common link between the two writers. Both the successful writers employ lively and poetic language. Both are poets at heart even when they write prose. Like Tagore, M.T.Vasudevan Nair is at his best as a short story writer. Their stories and novels are packed with episodes taken from every day lives.

CHAPTER III

The Third Chapter scrutinizes the glaring dissimilarities in the works of Tagore and M.T.Vasudevan Nair. The striking contrasts are found in their
treatment of Child psychology, Concepts of love, Patriotism, National integration and child marriage. Autobiographical elements are strewn over M.T. Vasudevan Nair's writings, but this is not so in the case of Tagore.

CHAPTER IV

The fourth chapter elucidates in detail the genius of Tagore and M.T. Vasudevan Nair. Tagore, one of the noblest sons of India, is a versatile genius. He is a gifted poet, novelist, short story writer, religious teacher and a social reformer. Tagore extolls the ancient culture of India to the skies. He is not only the poet laureate of Asia but also the spokesman of India and the living symbol of her culture.

M.T. Vasudevan Nair, the most versatile writer in Malayalam today, has published short stories, novels, screenplays, travelogues as well as articles on literature and cinema in India. He is now considered as one of India's leading fiction writers. He has won four National awards for his screenplays. The film version of "Creature of Darkness" won president's silver medal. He was awarded Jnanpith Award in 1996. Now, even at the age of seventy, he promises his readers many more creations from his gifted pen.
Chapter five is the summing up of the argument and the conclusion. The study proves implicitly that the art of story telling comes to both the writers spontaneously. They are prolific and humanitarian writers. Both lay great emphasis on the individuality of their characters. Their works are widely read and will continue to be read generation after generation.