ABSTRACT

Abstract of the research dissertation – “Theme of Quest as depicted in The Novels of Patrick White”.

This dissertation is a study of The Theme of Quest as delineated by Patrick White, through his protagonists in their struggle against Nature in attaining their identity.

CHAPTER-I Main focus is on the historical, social, political and economic background that resulted in the flowering of Australian Literature in comparison to American Literature, narrowing down to the recognition of Patrick White as a writer and his contribution to Australian Literature.

CHAPTER-II is a study of White’s THE TREE OF MAN, depicting man’s development from innocence to experience, in his journey towards God; through the lives of Stan and Amy Parker.

CHAPTER-III is an analysis of VOSS-an explorer, depicting his trauma to triumph in exploring the Australian desert in his quest for identity.

CHAPTER-IV is a study of RIDERS IN THE CHARIOT, where the spiritual quest for redemption is depicted in terms of four archetypal stages - Edenic stage of innocence, the adult recognition of guilt, the assumption of suffering and attaining the path to perception.

CHAPTER-V synthesizes the innocence, trauma and perception of Patrick White’s protagonists against Australia and Nature, marking an individual to be an epoch.