ABSTRACT

The present study aims to focus on the comparative aspects and characterization in the selected novels as well as to compare and contrast the characters from various perspectives such as social, racial, caste and milieu. All these aspects play vital roles at the time of building these characters in the novels. The present research is also an attempt to compare and evaluate the characters and analyze the selected novels of Philip Roth and Mulk Raj Anand. The study of these novels, with the help of the characters, is an extraordinary stride while interpreting them. Another important reason for studying the novels with the help of a comparative study of the characters is that they are from particular races, castes, classes, societies as well as political movements.

The study of Mulk Raj Anand and Philip Roth’s novels along with comparative literature is the revelation of different characters in relation to their societies, religions, living styles, cultures and ethnicities. It is not a single thought emerging from a single discipline. It has acquired wide range and scope in the field of politics, sociology, others disciplines and in literature. The selected novels are examined against the backdrop of the Indian and American socio-cultural milieu. The types of characters, their roles in social, cultural, religious and moral context are explored to arrive at an authentic interpretation. Both Philip Roth and Mulk Raj Anand deal with very vital issues of human life in their respective countries. They are socially committed writers dealing with caste, creed, class, gender and ethnicity. The comparative study of the characters in the novels generates interest in the readers and enriches their interpretative ability. The present thesis is divided into five chapters as follows:
Chapter One: It deals with the aims and objectives of the study and establishes their relevance in the context of the analysis of characters in the novels under consideration. It also contains the scope and limitation of the study. The middle part of this chapter deals with the making of Mulk Raj Anand, the making of Philip Roth and selection of their novels. Rationale and significance of the comparative study of characters have been duly justified. The last part of this chapter states the methodology and techniques to be used for the comparative study of the characters.

Chapter Two: It contains the study of comparative literature, concept, theory and development of the comparative literature. It also discusses the role of the comparative study in relation to race, caste and class in the society. The middle part of the chapter is devoted to the survey of Jewish literature in America as well as Dalit literature in India.

Chapter Three: It deals with the concept of characterization and types of characters. It offers the critical analysis of the male and female characters in Roth’s *The Plot Against America* and *Everyman*; and Anand’s *Untouchable* and *Coolie*. In the beginning of the chapter, an attempt has been made to study characterization and types of characters. Then, the chapter examines the characters critically from the social and political points of view. In the chapter, the researcher extensively and intensively studies the roles of male and female characters in selected novels. The characters in the selected novels are deeply examined in the course of literary terms. The prominent features of Anand and Roth’s writings are to reflect the social problems with the help of characters in the novels. Both these writers try to present the social, political, racial and casteism in the society. They emphasize the bitter reality with the
help of their imagination as well as the ground reality of the characters in their novels. Being a Jew, Roth studies the social reality and racism in his country. He expresses his grief and sorrow about the evils of Hitler; he even bitterly criticizes the followers of Nazism with the help of characters in the novels. His method of characterization is unique in nature. Broadly speaking, the heroes of the novels suffer a lot as they are Jews. Most of the Jewish characters express the social reality of their community. He criticizes all kinds of people in the novels. The villains in the novels are cunning, clever and merciless without ethics. They always create social and individual problems for others characters. Mulk Raj Anand also presents a variety of characters in the novels. The main characters belong to the lower caste and suffer because they are Dalits. He exposes hypocrisy and inhumanity inflicted on the downtrodden. He creates characters from the social point of view. Both writers attempt to depict the struggles of the characters while reaching their destinations in life. Their male and female characters are dynamic and unique in nature. They are representatives of social, political and national interest. The study of the characters makes the readers aware of the social, political, caste and racial issues in particular countries.

**Chapter Four:** The present chapter is an endeavor to study, compare and contrast the various characters, their socio-cultural backgrounds, which might have gone a long way in creating, supporting and sustaining the caste, class and race-based hierarchical social stratification as reflected in the novels of Mulk Raj Anand and Philip Roth.

It marks the comparison of the characters in the selected novels. Comparison is the main tool for the study of more than one work of
literature as well as it helps to focus on different aspects of the writers. The male and female characters of the novels The Plot Against America and Untouchable are critically compared and contrasted against the backdrop of the contemporary American and Indian society. The chapter makes an attempt to critically compare the major and minor characters, male and female characters and their roles in the novels. In the present novels, the male characters play a pivotal role in the development of the plot. The protagonists in the novels attempt to rebel against the existing structure of the society, social evils and weak aspects of the human beings, but they fail to bring the positive change in the society. Other characters like Lakha, Rakha, Sohini, Gulabo, Sandy, Philip, Bess, and Aunt Evelyn are compared with each other against the backdrop of social, political and individual viewpoints. It is an attempt to compare and contrast the characters of Coolie and Everyman, their sufferings, class struggle and social aspects. The middle part of this chapter deals with the comparative study of the Jewish and Dalit characters, their qualifications, disqualifications and the religious and political issues. The characters are examined in the social, racial and cast milieu.

**Chapter Five:** It is the concluding chapter. It summarizes the points discussed in the earlier chapters as well as highlights the major findings of the present study and states the pedagogical implications. Some important suggestions have been made for further research in this or related area towards the end of this chapter.