CHAPTER-I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Literature: Replica of Human Life

Present chapter aims at highlighting the importance of literature in human life and presenting co-relation between the two is a major focus. Literature is nothing but is an artistic imaginative reconstruction of social and human realities. All great fiction proves this fact. Literature is most clear record of the human spirit with a creative yet artistic expression. Human life is a multidimensional mystery that can be scrutinized through the medium of literature which provides faithful and realistic picture. It is a link between human past and present. One cannot imagine Indian culture or literature without The Mahabharata or The Ramayana. It is a link which connects Indians with our ancestors. At the same time, these ancient works reflect complexity of human life. A creative writer has the perception and the analytic mind of a sociologist who provides an exact record of human life, society and social systems.

Literature is a global surveillance on the dilemmas of human existence. Literature is neither an establishment for certain power nor a socially fashionable item. It has its own value: its aesthetic eminence. Aesthetics based on human emotions does not turn out to be archaic even with the persistent changing of fashions in literature and in art. Literature transcends ideology, national boundaries and racial consciousness. Literature is a mirror which provides a place where in the principal matters of apprehension are particulars of the human race, individual human time, human feeling and human response. Taine rightly points out that a literary work is: “a transcript of contemporary manners and from such monuments of literature we might recover a knowledge of the manner in which men thought and felt”. (Taine 309)

In a way literature becomes a tool to study the thought process of a human. Literature not only reveals the external milieu of the age in which it is written but it also retrospect the culture, psychology and other internal discourses like didactic values, cognition of that particular era. According to Milton Albrecht:
Literature reflects accepted patterns of thought, feeling and action, in chiding patterns of expressions and society's unconscious assumptions. It innovates giving expression to emerging themes that may not yet be definable in literal terms. (Albrecht 425)

Thus, literature is a record of human life, society and social system. The relation between literature and society is usually discussed with the phrase derived from De Bonald that "literature is an expression of society." The relation among a writer, society and social trend or tribulations is indisputable. A writer cannot turn away his face from contemporary social issues and as a result literature becomes a significant instrument to analyse a range of issues that are portrayed creatively and realistically in that work. Moreover literature is the vital crystallization of human society. It is complicated, insightful and tricky and yet it is all-encompassing, penetrates human perceptions and links men with its aesthetics. The written words are also miraculous for it allows unvoiced communication between separate individuals, even if their races and milieu varied. It is also in this manner that the shared current moments in the writing and reading of literature is coupled to its undying divine value.

Literature is an outcome of human minds thus literature and human world are deeply co-related with each other. Literature reflects the age in which it is written. Literature is nourished by the cultural soil of the place where it is born and bred. Literature is a picturesque depiction of reality in all its trivialities. Literature presents truth of a much elevated sort. The writer deals with reality, but with a reality which is reflected of the particular and the non-essential. In this way, literature is permanent and global. The writer deals with the eternal and global facts of nature, he idealizes reality. Through the search of reality and quest for utopia, literature has always become instrumental in accelerating social change. Histories of various nations are full of such records that revolutions were carried away successfully with the help of literature.

Feminism is one of the best paradigms to support this argument. Even before the existence of this - ism, women initiated to express their feelings and search for marginalized identity through the medium of literature. And thus through various creative writings this silent fight for the self gained momentum. Joan Rockwell observes:
Fiction is not only a representation of social reality, but also necessary functional part of social control, and also, paradoxically, an important element in social change. It plays a large part in the conduct of politics and in general, give symbols and modes of life. (Rockwell 4)

Literature is an important element to bring upon social transition which lies in the future. Vice versa upheavals going on in the society also transplants change in the literature. For an instance, contemporary political scenario plays an instrumental role in evolution of new literary themes. In the post independence literature there is a conscious effort to reflect the current trends going on in India. Novels like *Rich like Us* by Nayan Tara Sehgal and *Mammaries of a Welfare State* by Upmanyu Chatterjee portray the mutilated idealism, poverty, unemployment, unhealthy corporate world and corruption prevailing in the country. Similarly novels like *Azadi* by Chaman Nahal, *Train to Pakistan* by Khushwant Singh provide histoographic narration of the partition tragedy. Thus, literature mingles up past, present and future and gives opportunity to study various socio-cultural aspects. Creative writer implicitly depicts the socio-political conditions simultaneously reveal the inner unconsciousness of mind and feelings of a common mass. Therefore Philip Stevick correctly comments: “The novel also more than any other genre, can give form to a set of attitudes regarding society, history, and the general culture of which the novel is a part.” (Philip 03)

Thus, literature is most influential unifier of humanity. Literature is a true manifestation of fusion of people, religions, cultural and societal issues, nations, gender and classes. At the end it is necessary to observe statement of Harvey Pearce which rightly indicates that how literature, language, culture and history are inter-related and co-exists. He observes; “Studying History, we study culture, studying a culture, we study its poetry studying its poetry, we study its language. The system is one and whole.” (quoted in Smith 12)

Next sub title includes related illustrations regarding portrayal of issues in the literature. Sub chapter 1:2 will discuss about the genre novel with reference to Indian English novels.
1.2 Novel as a Genre: With Reference to Indian English Novels.

Since the novel as a literary genre is of later origin than drama or poetry it is still budding and does not have any predetermined laws of its own. For the reason that of its liberal aspects, it can give a picture of the social reality very well as reality itself is amorphous, transitive, and sometimes even difficult to perceive it. Selections of the genre novel provide a good opportunity to analyse various socio-cultural and psychological issues which is the core of present research. The novel highlights the various aspects of human life better than any other literary forms. With this allusion D.H.Lawrence truly observes:

The novel is the one bright book of life. Books are not life. They are only tribulations on the other. But the novel as stimuli can make the whole man alive and to tremble.
Which is more than poetry, philosophy, science or any other book tribulation can do? (535)

The novelist does not stick to the limited aspects or to some methods. He can do all kind of experiments with this genre. It is a highly flexible literary genre. A writer can include various stages of human life in his work, like comedy, tragedy, poetry, drama, narration, information, reality, fantasy, inner-conflict, socio-cultural reality and the psychology of the characters. This freedom allows an author to present his ideas with incredible efficiency. In the essay The Narrow Bridge of Art, Virginia Woolf says:

The cannibal, the novel, which has devoured so many forms of art will by them have devoured more... It will give the relations of man to nature, to fate; his imagination; his dreams. But it will also give the sneer, the contrast, the question, the closeness and complexity of life. It will take the mould of that queer conglomeration of incongruous things - the modern mind. Therefore it will clasp to its breast the precious prerogatives of the democratic art of prose; its freedom, its fearlessness, its flexibility. (Woolf 19)

As per the view of Virginia Woolf, the novel allows a place, to present every aspect of the complex life and that too with an artistic expression.
Further, she says that in future times also it will engross various things more and more related to the complexity of a modern life, without losing its independent entity; "Its scope will grow wider and still wider." (Woolf, 20) Literature should not expose only the peripheral factors of life but the spirit, the true essence of inner life should be reflected. Virginia Woolf also opines that the novel should give greater stress on human soul, and the nature of consciousness which is more real than the external life. Human life is not as organized, straightforward and methodical as it seems to be. Life is not mere romantic, or comic or tragic. It is far beyond all these elements. And this complexity achieves voice in novel. Real life has a countless multiplicity; it may obtain as many forms as there are individuals and same is the case with the novel. It provides ceaseless portrayal of reality.

The novel projects the real human life, the current issues, and occasionally such issues which already exist but are unknown to world. With a single story, the novel can reveal various aspects of life like socio-cultural, psychological, economical factors and so on. For an instance, in *Crime and punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky, a story is about a young man who murders an old woman for six pence. On the surface it seems to be a simple thing but underneath issues discussed in it are the major. Issues like prostitution, tuberculosis, unemployment, appalling poverty which exists in the society. Not only has this but Dostoevsky also successfully dealt with psychological aspects such as the protagonist’s inner conflict and rage before murdering the old woman. Through the character of the protagonist Raskolnikov he manifests complexity of criminal psychology. Thus, the novel has infinite possibilities to reveal the aspects of human life. In this context Walter Allen correctly points out:

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\text{Contemporary novels are the mirror of an age, but a very special kind of mirror, a mirror that reflects not merely the external features of the age, but also its inner face, its nervous system, coursing of its blood and the unconscious promptings and conflicts which sway it. (Walter 18-19)}
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The novel in India has been transplanted from Europe. But the inclination to replicate the western models vanished gradually with the achievement of independence.
The beginning of novel writing, in English and non-English languages dated back in the late of nineteenth century. The first novel in India was written in Bengali in the year 1858 under the title *Alaler Gharer Dulal* which means *The Spoilt Child*. In 1864 Bankim Chandra Chatterjee produced the first Indian English novel *Raj Mohan's Wife*. In India the form novel grow with the emergence of middle class which ultimately resulted into individualism. In Europe also birth of novel took place due to individualism. Due to Indian renaissance and reformation, old social and religious dogmas were broken and thus favorable atmosphere gave boost to the spirit of individuality and basic rights of the marginal's and downtrodden. Humayun Kabir Comments:

> The new middle classes stress individuality and human dignity. It is natural that their major literary form, the novel should deal with ordinary men as opposed to the princes and Prince Lings who were heroes of earlier tales. Because the novel deals with ordinary men, a novelist must possess the power of acute observation which enables him to distinguish one individual from another. (Kabir 4)

This individuality propagated the portrayal of socio-cultural and psychological issues in the Indian English Novels. Indian Novelists in English explored innovative techniques, new forms and new outlook on life to enrich their creation with reality. Indian English Novels which were romantic and imitative in the beginning turned its face towards the social realism. K. Venkata Reddy in his article writes:

> Small wonder, therefore, if the Indian novelists in English, right from the end of the 1920s, started turning away from the romantic phase focusing their attention on contemporary problems and social questions arising from the changed historical situation they began to conceive of the relationship of man and his surroundings in a new and realistic manner. (Reddy 02)

Fiction, being the most characteristic and powerful form of literary expression, has acquired a prestigious position in Indian English Literature. With reference to Indian English literature, it is commonly agreed that the
novel is the readiest and most acceptable way to embodying experiences and ideas in the context of time. The vitality of the genre is shown by the wide variety of novels-social novels such as those by Mulk Raj Anand, Bhabani Bhattacharya, and Raja Rao's Philosophical-metaphysical novels, Anita Desai's Psychological studies, or entertainment, pure and simple, as provided by Manohar Malgonkar. Novels dealing with partition amply illustrate the psychological crisis of the nation. Indian English Novelists have dealt with various socio-cultural and psychological issues with innovations. Where marital relationships are concerned, it is examined from different angles by novelists like Nayantara Sahgal, Anita Desai and Manju Kapur. On the other hand *Bye-Bye, Blackbird* deals with the psychological trauma of exiles. Arundhati Roy's *The God of small Things* reflect colonial consciousness and reveals a feminine question for identity. In *A handful of Rice*, Kamala Markandya addresses herself to the harrowing issues faced by free India: poverty, breakdown of joint family system and the failure of rural, agrarian economy. In her *The Nowhere Man* she deals with the problems of alienation and rootlessness among the NRIs settled in the western countries. *So many Hungers* by Bhabani Bhattacharya, depicts the social and political situation of India in the 40s and unfolds the pattern of social change in the contemporary India.

Indian English Novels have initially emerged as an offshoot of English Literature. It throws light on the dilemmas, faced by the average modern man. Indian English Novels provides an opportunity to study socio-cultural and psychological problems in a better way than any other forms of literature. They have given the voice to them, who are voiceless, a name to them who are yet nameless. Indian English Novel imposes patterns of language, vision, reflection and imagination and creates values that are ethical and aesthetic at the same time. It is not a confirmation of values and acceptance of authority but a criticism of the world and the way of looking at the world.

Literature does not become important only when it reproduce established values, given truths or readymade slogans. It can identify the reality beyond the understanding of common sense, knowledge, sociology, culture or politics. Literature deals with social issues which is a kind of reproduction of existing problems. The impact of western culture on India completely revolutionized the entire outlook of the Indian intellectuals.
Education brought new scientific and social ideas. The absurdity and horrid nature of the caste system, untouchability, superstitions were also brought into black and white. The writers of Indian English Literature started an era of social criticism and reform. They presented various social issues like rigid caste system, untouchability, exploitation of women, corruption etc. The pioneer leaders pleaded for the social reformation. These social reforms formed the basis of novels and stories. Social, cultural and psychological issues became the major themes of Indian English Novels. The writers started using individualistic expression, suggestive imagery, and personal symbols in the novels. Large variety of subject matter and a deeper understanding of socio-cultural and psychological problems and characterization got place in Indian English Novels. The importance of inner conflict seems to be well realized by the Indian Novelists. Social issues like man-woman relationship, education failure, unemployment, problems of urbanization, oppression done to women, caste system are very well described by writers like R. K. Narayan, Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao, Anita Desai and Geeta Mehta, According to K. Satchidanandan:

The unconscious, Lacan said, is structured like a language. Intact it is the ocean of the unsayable, of everything expelled from the land of language. The power of modern literature lies in its willingness to give a voice to what has remained unexpressed in the social and individual unconscious. (201)

Indian English Novelists have successfully tried their hands over psychological turmoil of a common man. They have given voice to the complex working of unconscious mind. As a result they provide a wonderful opportunity to study the portrayal of socio-cultural and psychological issues.

The study focuses on the portrayal of social, cultural and psychological issues. The way in which Sahitya Akademi Awarded Writers have interwoven various issues in their narrative frame work are being analyzed. Other objective of the study is to identify traits of modernism, if any, in the selected novels from 1951 to 1981 and to comprehend either Indian English Novels written after 80's can be categorized as postmodern novels or not. At the end of the study a brief comparative study has been done among the issues depicted in the novels. This helps to have an overview of changing socio-
cultural scenario and issues. This research is library research and based on a thematic study. The thesis follows observational and descriptive research pattern. Its main concern is to study the socio-cultural and psychological issues as portrayed in the selected Indian English Novels. It is also concerned with specific technique of narrative facts and how individuals or group or locality are suffering through certain issues. The research is mainly based on secondary method of data collection. The researcher has used primary sources, reference books, internet sources to analyze and construe the selected novels. Since the researcher has used secondary method of data collection, the tools are supposed to be the primary sources, various reference books, several websites, dictionaries, portable- software, academic research papers, journals and historical records.

Selected Sahitya Akademi Awarded Novels and Writers: An Introduction

Sahitya Akademi, India's national academy of letters is an organization committed to promote and propagate Indian literature in all its richness and diversity to the English speaking world. Sahitya Akademi Award is given to the meritorious works only as it is a highly prestigious. Following are the novels which have been selected for the present research. These novels elaborate all the aspects of the complex modern life, socio-cultural and psychological issues with full artistic expression. Present research includes fifteen novels in total. They are:

2. Raja Rao - The Serpent and the Rope (1960)
3. Mulk Raj Anand - Morning Face (1968)
5. Anita Desai - Fire on the Mountain (1977)
6. Rama Mehta - Inside the Haveli (1977)
7. Arun Joshi - The Last Labyrinth (1981)

R. K. Narayan is one of the most important figures in the field of Indian - English fiction. *The Guide* first published in 1958 by the Viking press, New York, has been translated in to the leading languages of Europe and India. It has been made into an immensely popular film in Hindi and English. It won for him the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1961.

This celebrated novel tells the story of Raju, and "the rise and fall of his fortune as guide, lover and impresario and than his end as a saint who is neither born nor made but simply happens almost like the weather." The narration kept moving at two levels - the flash back and the flash on - the past recounted by Raju to Velan and the present as narrated by the omniscient author. The story opens at a point in Raju's career when his multiple roles as guide, lover and prisoner have already ended. His life began in a normal middle class traditional way. His father a small shopkeeper had built himself a small house opposite the Malgudi Station with a hut shop attached. The mother, a tradition bound, bound old woman, ran the household in her own efficient manner. It was a fairly peaceful and happy tenor of life which had its first ripples when Malgudi acquired a railway station. The father's business grew and he acquired a jutka and a house for making his shopping-trips to the town. Then, the railway gave him the privilege of running a shop at the railway station which ultimately came to be managed by Raju. A dramatic turn in his life occurs when he sets his eyes the first time on Rosie with husband on the platform. *The Guide* is one of the best Indian English novels to study and enjoy.

Raja Rao published his first novel Kanthapura in 1939. *The serpent and the Rope* is his second novel. The narrator here is a cosmopolitan Hindu of south Indian ancestry, much like Rao himself. Indeed, this great novel takes as its subject - matter part of Rao's own life. It is about the gradual break-up of the marriage between an Indian and a Frenchwoman after the death of their son; it is situated, principally, in Benares, Where, at the beginning of the story, the last rites of the protagonist's father are performed. The serpent and the Rope is, in many ways, a modernist text rewritten by a cosmopolitan Brahmin.
Mulk Raj Anand, a multi-splendored personality, has been an art critic, an educationist, a social worker and pacifist without giving up his chosen vocation of writing. In 1972, his novel, Morning Face won for him the coveted Sahitya Akademi Award. In his autobiographical novel, *Morning Face*, the protagonist is stated to have been born with wide open eyes. He is the man who feels great tenderness even for the least little moth over the flame of the hurricane lamp. Incidents like the death of an innocent girl, Kaushalya, at the age of nine, the ostracism of his aunt Devaki for being friendly with a Muslim woman, his getting stoned for staring at a Britisher, the murder of his beloved Yasmin, the coal miners' strike, have sharpened his sensitivity to human misery.

"Rama Mehta's novel *Inside the Haveli* can be said to have like any successful work of art, many layers of themes, each of which can be amplified into an independent study" says R. K. Dhawan(05). The book opens with rains, thunder and midnight darkness appropriately foreshadowing Geeta's ignorant struggle and ends with the rising sun symbolic of life and Geeta's enlightenment. It is a world where the woman is considered as a secondary status a world in which the birth of female child is announced apologetically. *Inside the Haveli* is a search, an exploration for identity which is lost in the tradition and customs of society.

Anita Desai's *Fire on the Mountain* is concerned with the woman's inner world, her sensibility and frustrations. It presents existential predicament of woman as an individual. It is divided in three different facets of the inner consciousness as reflected through Nanda Kaul, Ila Das and Raka. Nanda Kaul, the major protagonist of the novel is linking tie with Ila Das as well as with Raka. The seclusion and alienation from society leave different impressions on all the three souls who are highly sensitive and emotional.

Nayantara Sahgal is a conscientious novelist whose artistic make up is much influenced by Bankimchandra, Tagore and Premchand. Her *Rich Like us* present a clash between western materialism and Eastern Spirituality Rose is an English woman who marries Ram, Knowing that he is already married. And both women suffer the same.

The Shadow Lines is a highly innovative, complex and celebrated novel of Amitav Ghosh. Published in 1988 and in the following year it received the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award. The novel is mainly about
1964 and 1984. The opening of the novel draws attention to the presence of the narrative voice establishes the close correspondence between the realms of memory and lived experience.

Vikram Seth was trained as an economist written in verse, The Golden Gate was Vikram Seth's first novel, before the epic A suitable Boy. Set in the eighties in the affluence and sunshine of California's Silicon Valley, it is an exuberant and witty story of twenty - something's looking for love, pleasure and the meaning of life.

Allan Seally's The Trotter- Nama faithfully chronicles the changing fortune. Eugene, the seventh Trotter and a Painter, a forger of miniatures is the uninhibited narrator of this extraordinary family chronicle that spans 200 years, Seven generation and two cultures. A man with no qualms about bending history to suit himself, Eugene relates the story of an Anglo- Indian family from its glorious founding in the eighteenth century by the Great Trotter. By turns satirical, poignant, and magical - the central narrative embellished by everything from advertisements and recipes to verse, table-talk and learned digressions- The Trotter- Nama is a triumphant literary work.

Amit Chaudhuri has successfully established himself as one of the eminent writer of Indian English writer through his outstanding works like A New World and Afternoon Raaga. First one is about Calcutta which is bereft of childhood magic and the poetry of ordinary. The novel ends with Jayojit's departure with his son for Claremont in the states where his son will stay with him till the end of July and go to his mother living with his boyfriend without marrying far away from the place.

Kiran Nagarkar's writing has a lightness of pace coupled with a clarity which enables him to illuminate the most subtle and complex philosophical concepts with a directness and intimacy which linger in the mind long after the reading of Cuckold. The Strength of Cuckold lies in Nagarkar's powerful prose and imagery. It depicts the colors of Mewar, the futility of war and the wonder of being in love.

Chaman Nahal's Azadi is a sweeping, shattering saga of the tragedy and disruption that accompanied the partition and independence in the Indian Subcontinent. He brilliantly draws a portrait of a war-form land and of one family trying to bring order and safety to their lives. It can help to know and
understand other peoples, to find some meaningful sense of our common humanity.

Thus, discussed writers have dealt with the basic emotions, such as love, hate, rage, tenderness, etc. with utmost balance without showing any inclination towards any one of them, which is very important thing. These novels show a new impulse for new things in human life and present a fresh interpretation of life without indulging in Philosophical abstractions. D. H. Lawrence says; “The novel is a perfect medium for revealing to us the changing rainbow of our living relationship.” (185)

Real life centers upon living relationships and all the Sahitya Akademi Awarded Indian English novels deals with true and vivid human relationships and also provides a chance to study socio-cultural and psychological issues.

Present research includes Indian English Novelists belonging to both generation of writers, 80's and 90's. Their novels are profoundly marked by historical and contemporary crisis and various issues which have prevailed in their respective social panorama. All the selected writers for the present study have lived in an age of bewildering complexity when life has become dense and feverish. India, in a recent history, has passed through traumatic period including partition, riots, mass killing, and war with China, establishment of industrialization, rapid development of urban cities, privatization, and abolishment of age old traditions that governed a common mind for ages. Theses rapidly transitive circumstances have affected psyche of common men creating multiple socio-cultural and psychological issues. Novels written during colonization portrays the socio-cultural issues arising due to colonization while post-independence novels portray poignantly the anxiety of modern times, uncertainty of future, questions that haunt the survival of a common man. The modernist novels depict the dilemma of diasporic community inhabiting in other countries. Another factor that the researcher has highlighted is changing paradigms of patriarchy. In pre-modern age also women were victims of patriarchy and oppression, in the same way during modern or post-modern age also women are victimized, and only form of patriarchy is altered. The research thus, becomes significant as it is a study of socio-cultural and psychological issues of pre-modern and modern times.
Review of related literature: For the quality research work and genuine study of the topic following scholarly are carefully studied.

1. K.R. Srinivasa Iyenger, *Indian writing in English*, sterling pub. 2003(Ed) -

   The text is a landmark work in the history of Indian English Literature that obtained fame to the writer. The text locates and analyses history, growth and achievements of Indian English Novels. It helps literary toddlers to know ABC of Indian Writing in English. The researcher has utilized this text to comprehend evolution of Indian English Novels and vices or virtues of novelists selected in study.

2. Bande Usha, *Mother and Mother- Figures in Indo-English Literature*, ABS Publication (Ed) -

   Mother and Mother figures as portrayed in Indian English Novels have been studied with psychological and socio-cultural point of view. This book portrays patriarchal socio-cultural condition that clasped women and eclipses her identity as an individual.

3. Meenakshi Bharat, *Desert In Bloom “Contemporary Indian Women’s Fiction in English”* (Ed) peneip Int. 2004

   The book contains various ranges of essays that investigates diverse and inter related aspects of Indian English women Novelists. It also includes a subsection under the title " Speaking For Themselves : Writers on Writing " where female writers struggle of balancing dual identity, of a writer and of other womanly roles, an intellectual self and a biological self that is an important part of society


   The text is an interesting study of Indian English Novels from modernist point of view that enables the researcher to have a better understanding of modernism that prevails in oriental novel.

Present anthology includes major literary theory in form an extract from the original work which gives an account of the theory.


The book is a collection of various essays that analyses eastern and western novels from post-modern point of view. It concentrates on narrative technique, form and texture of a post modern novels selected here.


This text provides a deep study tracing the genealogy of modernism in novel, mainly raising two questions "when and why "with reference to modern Novels. It is an Introduction to the forms, function, techniques and development of modern Novel.


Divided into five parts, the text concentrates on various aspects of postmodernism taking original essays of postmodern theorists. The text helps to comprehend the basic concepts of postmodernism with reference to literature.


The text includes the history of modernism in context to Indian culture and literature. It shows how social reform in Indian society influenced and chiseled artistic sense of a writer. With a bloom in industrialization, Indian Literature find a new path to explore.


Focusing on human relationships writer has analyzed R.K. Narayan's presentation of common man and his vices and virtues, triumphs and defeats and hopes and aspirations. The text includes almost all major novels by
Narayan giving a chance to compare portrayal of various characters and their problems.


The text contains literary theory from new criticism to gay, lesbian and queer theories that helps to read novels from new perspectives. The researcher has analyzed certain issues in a light of applicable literary theory.

Objectives of the Research Project:

1) The main objective of the study is to bring out the socio-cultural and psychological issues in selected Sahitya Akademi Awarded Indian English Novels
2) To identify traits of modernism, if any, in the selected novels from 1951 to 1981.
3) To comprehend either Indian English Novels written after 80's can be categorized as postmodern novels or not!
4) To make a brief comparative study among the issues depicted in the novels.
5) To make a brief study of various narrative techniques applied in the selected novels.

Research Questions:

1) What kind of socio-cultural and psychological issues have been portrayed in the novels that won Sahitya Awards?
2) Are there any difference among the portrayed issues with changing socio-cultural reality of nation that is from colonialism to partition to modern era?
3) Why modernism was adapted by Indian English Novelists? Was it a gesture of an imitation or an urge of the time?
4) How far is it possible to apply the term post-modernism to the chosen novels (1985-2000) in the study?
5) With a change in a decade, do the various social, cultural and psychological issues changed? What kind of contrast and affinity can be found in mentioned issues?
6) What kind of narrative techniques are utilized by selected writers that make their works meritorious?
Research Design and Methodology:

The research is based on a thematic study, it is a library research includes print and digital sources. The thesis follows observational and descriptive research pattern. Its main concern is to study the socio-cultural and psychological issues as portrayed in the selected novels. It is also concerned with specific technique of narrative facts and how individuals or group or locality are suffering through certain issues. The research is mainly based on secondary method of data collection. The researcher has used primary sources, reference books, internet sources to analyze and construe the selected novels.

Tools used in the Research Project:

Since the researcher has used secondary method of data collection, the tools are supposed to be the primary sources, various reference books, several websites, dictionaries, portable- software, academic research papers, journals and historical records.

It’s Relevance to Present Day Problem and its Significance:

Present research includes Indian English novelists belonging to both generation of writers, 80's and 90's. Their novels are profoundly marked by historical and contemporary crisis and various issues which have prevailed in their respective social panorama. All the selected writers for the present study have lived in an age of bewildering complexity when life has become dense and feverish. India, in a recent history, has passed through traumatic period including partition, riots, mass killing, and war with China, establishment of industrialization, rapid development of urban cities, privatization, and abolishment of age old traditions that governed a common mind for ages. Theses rapidly transitive circumstances have affected psyche of common men creating multiple socio-cultural and psychological issues.

Novels written during the socio-cultural issues arising due to colonization while post- freedom novels portrays poignantly the anxiety of modern times, uncertainty of future, questions that haunt the survival of a common man. The modernist novels depict the dilemma of diasporic community habituating in other countries. Another factor that the researcher has highlighted is changing paradigms of patriarchy. In pre-modern age also
women were victims of patriarchy and oppression, in the same way during modern or post-modern age also women are victimized, only form of patriarchy is altered. The research thus, the study will remain highly useful to understand India and Indians. her culture, socio-political reality in contemporary context, becomes significant as it is a study of socio-cultural and psychological issues of pre-modern and modern times.

**Limitations and scope of the study:**

**Limitations:**
1) The research is confined to the selected novels.
2) Its prime objective is a thematic study of socio-cultural and psychological issues as portrayed in the novels.

**Scope:**
1) The research can be extended to make a comparative study of various issues of Indian and other colonized countries like Africa.
2) A comparative study can be done between the female Indian English Novelists and male Indian English Novelist and their way of presenting the various socio-cultural issues.

**The Chapter Scheme:**
1. Introduction
2. Portrayal of issues in the modern Indian English Novels
3. Portrayal of issues in the (assumed) post-modern Indian English Novels.
4. Technical aspects of the selected Indian English Novels.
5. Comparative study among the issues portrayed in selected novels.
6. Conclusion.
Chapter: I

Introduction

In this chapter the researcher has observed the relation between literature and human life and how literature always mirrors the reality of social milieu. Literature is most clear record of the human spirit with an artistic expression. It is a universal observation on the dilemmas of human existence. An aesthetic based on human emotions does not become outdated even with perennial changing of fashions in literature and art. Literature transcends ideology, national boundaries and racial consciousness. In a way, it becomes a tool to study the thought process of a human. Not only external milieu of the age is revealed by literature but also the psychology and internal dilemmas that one faces in the world. Often, literature serves as a document to study culture, history and ethics of community, region or nation. Literature is an exact record of human life. A writer, as producer of literature that reflects society, cannot turn away his face from contemporary socio-cultural issues. Literature is always nourished by the cultural soil where it is created and hence reflects the age in which it is written. Literature, in any form, is a documentation of humanity, its culture, ethics, and beliefs and is a representation of issues faced by individual as well as society.

Novel, as a genre, is still growing and has a later origin than that of drama or poetry. Due to its liberal aspects, it can depict the social reality with mixture of truth and embellishment. It provides freedom to the writer excluding the limitation of other literary genre. A writer can include all kind of experiments in his novel like comedy, tragedy, poetry, drama, information, reality, fantasy, conflicts, socio-cultural reality and psychological frictions of the characters. Thus, novel can be presented as the most effective unifier of humanity. Human life is not as systematic, easy and methodical as it seems to be, these complexities of life achieve voice in novel. Real life has an infinite variety: it may take as many forms as there are individuals. The novel projects the real life, the current issues, issues which already exist but are unknown to the world. The beginning of novel writing, in English and non-English languages, dates back in the late of nineteenth century, with reference to India. It is believed that the novel in India have been transplanted from Europe. The first novel in India was written in Bengali in the Year 1858 under the title
Alater Gharer Dulal meaning The Spoilt child. In 1864 Bankim Chandra Chatterjee produced the first Indian English Novel, Raj Mohan's wife. In India the form novel grow with the emergence of middle class that ultimately resulted into individualism. Here the researcher has deeply analyzed the beginning of Indian English Novels and has observed that from the very beginning, it portrayed social reality and various issues.

The impact of Western Culture on India completely revolutionized the entire outlook of the Indian intellectuals. Education brought new scientific social ideas hence the writers of Indian English Novels started an era of social criticism and reform. They presented various social issues like rigid caste system, untouchability, patriarchy and superstitious - religious beliefs. Even importance of inner conflict seems to be well realized by Indian novelists. The novelists have portrayed psychological conflicts poignantly through various characters. The researcher has traced that Indian English Novels have from the very beginning, focused on the issue of the socio-cultural milieu.

Chapter: II

Portrayal of Issues in the Modern Indian English Novels

In this chapter, the researcher aims at studying socio-cultural and psychological issues portrayed in the selected novels. Second objective of the present chapter is to analyze at what extent, selected novels can be call the Modern novels! Present chapter includes following seven novels: The Guide (1958), The Serpent and the Rope (1960), Morning Face (1968), Azadi (1975), Fire on the Mountain (1977), Inside the Haveli (1977), The Last Labyrinth.

The researcher has studied the characteristics of the modern novel. Modernism has created the concepts of a new consciousness, a new sensibility, and a new man, which leaves a deep imprint on all disciplines. It is a general conception that Modernism refers to sensibility and style, form and critical judgment more than the subject matter, motif and content. The modernist literature is very much receptive to the changes taking place around the world and corroding problems. In the eighteenth century, the thinkers laid emphasis on logic, reason, progress, and the universal values of science. It was felt that the entire humanity would eventually free itself from misery, religion,
superstition, all irrational behavior and unfounded belief and would thus lead towards a state of freedom, happiness, and progress. These beliefs and values in Christian religion were the centre and anchor for the Europeans. But they all were shattered by the new theories, numerous -isms and changes in consciousness. There was a sense of crisis in human existence. Change itself has grown more rapid. Consequently, the people were developing new ways of understanding man and society. Literature, during this era, sought for the new forms, new languages to express, and new structures, all radical, innovatory and experimental. The radical theories in the natural science, psychology, philosophy, anthropology, and physics occasioned the erosion of belief in the power of humanity to determine its destiny. Among the most influencing of these theorists were Charles Darwin, Marx, Sigmund Freud and Nietzsche. These elements proved to be the base and roots of modernism. Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection undermined religious certainty of the general public, and the sense of human uniqueness of the intelligentsia.

Modernism embraced rejecting, or moving beyond surface realism, disruption in literature and art. Modernism particularly in English literature is usually between 1980 and 1945, with its most productive and innovative period between 1920s and 1930s. Most of the literary historians identify 1922 as the marker of "high modernism". Under the impact of modernism, artists switched on to various -isms, they make bold technical experiments for receptivity and perceptiveness and express what is happening to modern man and his world. The form of art itself became complex which was the result of a complex sensibility of modern man. Modern sensibility was a break through a wave of iconoclastic nihilism and the outburst of accumulated anger against the outdated. In case of modern literature, with reference, to Indian English Literature questioning the sanctity and sacredness of tradition started Raja Ram Mohan Roy. English education, social reformation and exposure to Western liberal ideologies open the gates for the development of Modern sensibility. Rise of journalism and printing helped the growth of novel writing in India. At the end of the 19th century, psyche of a common man was obsessed with uncertainty, cut off from the traditional roots. Most of the Indian English novelists reflected various issues like, nationalist struggle for independence, partition and riots, urban and political life in the post
independence era, the breakdown of the feudalism and joint families, conflict between traditional and modern values, and quest for identity.

Selected works are the representative of their respective age and reflecting various socio-cultural and psychological issues. *Fire on the Mountain* and *Inside the Haveli* gives a Kaleidoscopic vision of age old patriarchy and its various manifestations like child marriage, unwanted birth of a girl child, violence against women, molestation and infidelity towards women. Friction between colonized and colonizers are poignantly depicted in the novels *Azadi* and *The Morning Face*. Socio-cultural issues of choosing a correct religion, religious conflicts, superstitions, the catastrophe of Hindu Muslim discord and tragedy of partition are addressed in the mentioned novels. Peripheral and dynamic effects of progress in the village are evident in the novels like *The Guide* and *Inside the Haveli*. Conflict between Indian traditional values and Western materialism is given voice by the characters of Raju (*The Guide*), Som Bhaskar (*The Last Labyrinth*) and Ramaswamy (*The Serpent and The Rope*). The ambiguities of identity, alienation, inner conflicts are the psychological issues evident in the novels. These novelists cleverly catch the bewilderment of the individual psyche, confronted with the overbearing of Socio-cultural environment and the ever beckoning modern promise of self gratification. Present study becomes significant as selected novels are written during the time span that witnessed huge socio-cultural upheavals in the nation consequently affecting mental construction of its habitants hence selected novels provides a glance at multiple socio-cultural issues created during transitional period.

**Chapter-III**

**Portrayal of Issues in Post Modern Indian English Novels**

Main concern of the third chapter is to analyze socio-cultural and psychological issues portrayed in the novels (1985-2000). The researcher has focused on the concept of post-modernism and has studied that can the selected novels be labeled as a post-modern novels or not? It is evident that socio-cultural milieu and reality of western countries are varied than that of Indian. Even though some Indian critics and writers explore the anxiety of
being post-modern with reference to Indian English Novels, they can't be
called post-modern as in a Western sense. Indeed some of the characteristics
of post-modern narration are evident in the novels. The researcher has
explored the traits and possible reasons for such characteristics as seen in the
selected novels. In later section the biographical and literary information of
selected novelists are included along with the introduction to their respective
selected novels. In the present chapter eight Sahitya Akademi Awarded novels
are chosen. They are: Rich Like us (1985), The Golden Gate (1986), The
Cuckold (1998), A New World (2000), and The Mammarys of a Welfare State
(2000). In the third chapter of the study, socio-cultural and psychological
issues are explored as portrayed in the novels. The Novels, Rich Like Us, That
Long Silence, Cuckold and Memories of Rain represents the secondary
condition of women in the society. Jaya, Sonali, Moni, Rose are the female
protagonists of these novels who are English educated women of modern era
yet their condition is not diverse than the women of pre-modern times. Even in
a altered social milieu, they are subjugated to silence. They are the
representatives of the faith of modern woman who is educated and exposed to
liberal ideologies of the world still powerless to sever the shackles of age old
patriarchy. This issue has been utilized with concepts of feminists like Simone
de Beauve and K. millet. Other social issues evident in selected novels are
urbanization and intensifying rift between rich and poor. Corruption, decaying
values are other issues that have been addressed poignantly in the novels like
The Mammarys of a welfare state and Rich Like us. Disillusioned state of
modern youth is also portrayed in the novels like The Golden Gate. In present
time materialism, demoralization, sense of alienation, high professionalism are
the major issues that haunt the urban youth. Issue of cultural alienation and
conflict has been studied from Diaspora perspectives with reference to the
novel Memories of Rain. Polygamy and infidelity issues are considered from
the point of view of patriarchal culture. Issue of infidelity or polygamy is
addressed in the novels like Rich Like us, Memories of Rain, The shadow
Lines and Cuckold. The Researcher has tried to observe that male characters
enjoy licentiousness while the burden of chastity and virtues are laid upon
females that are a result of worldwide patriarchal culture. Man-woman
relationships, filial and sibling relationships have been studied as a social issue
as in modern world often families are observed to be nuclear one and individuals suffer with strained relationships. Alienation, emotional crisis and conflicts are the psychological issues that hang around in an average mind in recent exigent and competitive society. Reasons behind character's alienation and estrangement are be it from self or other or society has been analyzed by the researcher. Jack from The Golden Gate, Moni from Memories of Rain, Agastya from The memories of a welfare State and Jaya from That Long Silence, are suffering with a syndrome of alienation and estrangement yet the reasons behind it are multiple, varied and often contradictory.

Chapter-IV

Technical Aspects of the selected novels

In this chapter, the researcher has focused on the various narrative strategies applied in the selected fifteen novels. This study becomes important as the presentation of characters, milieu, and plot enhances the effect of woven issues in the stories. Various symbols implied in the work projects the hidden concepts, views and issues of that work. The haveli in the novel Inside the Haveli is a symbol of age old patriarchy which incessantly remains present in the course of the novel. The Image of barren mountain in the novel Fire on the Mountain indicates the issue of alienation and barrenness of life. Constant image of mammaries in the novel The Mammaries of a welfare state explores the issues of corruption and exploitation of the state by the protector themselves. The flash back technique has been applied by writers like Amitav Ghosh, Sunetra Gupta, and Shashi Deshpande. The researcher has analyzed this technique in detail. Amitav Ghosh represents armature view of Indian reality and handles the themes in his novel The shadow Lines with greater clarity by experimenting new methods to express novel ideas. Non-linear, fragmented narration is presented by the modernist Indian English novelists because thought process itself is non linear. The postmodern tendency of abandoning omniscient authorship becomes visible in the selected novels of 90's. Kiran Nagarkar's wonderful novel cuckold represents the narrative filtered through the personality of prince and his personal experiences. It is a mixture of first and third person narration that helps to penetrate into psychological plane of the characters.
Chapter-V

A Comparative Study of the Issues Presented in the Modern and Post Modern Selected Indian English Novels

In the present chapter the researcher has made a comparative study among the issues analyzed in preceding chapter no. two and three. This becomes a fascinating study as novels chosen for the study covers the time span of 1958 to 2000. Various shifts in issues can be recorded with the help of present study. In the novels after eighties the locale itself has become an issue. One can observe a shift from a small town to a huge city to metropolis and even cities of abroad. For instance novels like *The Guide, Inside the Haveli, Morning face, and Fire on the Mountain* portrays the small towns where physical survival is not a big issue. While novels like *Mammaries of a Welfare State, That Long Silence, Rich Like Us, A New World* are set at backdrop of metropolitans where survival is a burning issue with rapid life style that is ready to crush anyone ruthlessly. Women’s issues are distorted but their way of protest is also changed. For an instance the character of Nanda Kaul presented in Fire on the Mountain spends her whole life as a victim of her husband’s infidelity. While Moni from Memoires of Rain leaves her husband Anthony who is involved with other woman. The novels written after nineties explicitly represents a woman enjoying the equal status to man. They are no more victims of domestic drudgery rather successful professionals. At this point it is noteworthy that at professional level also they are subjugated to molestation as presented in the novel *The Mammaries of a Welfare State*. Relationship of man woman has also been compared. In modern novels, these relations are easy going in most of the case. Generally the female spouse shows the virtue of tolerance and adjustment. While in the later novels syndrome of “let it go” are lacking between spouses. In addition complexities of ultra modern life with its unassuming materialism and sexual demoralization have weakened the ties of man –woman relationship. The researcher has also observed modified attitude towards alienation. In modern novels protagonist crave to search their original roots and in this psychological journey, the sense of alienation is ruling them. Protagonist like Ramaswamy, Som are aware of their alienation and spiritual hunger and wants to get rid of it. While in the modernist novels protagonists like John, Agastya are not
considering their alienation consciously. They project the image of anti-hero, unable to control the circumstances. The researcher has compared other issues also in present chapter.

**Chapter-VI**

**Conclusion**

At the end of the thesis, researcher has interpreted and evaluated various data. After the interpretation the researcher has come to the conclusion and findings are given in the conclusion. It is noted that growth of Indian English Novels was a reflection of contemporary social phenomenon. Even though, a second language, English has been finely adapted by selected writers in this research. Through a balanced mixture of alien language and oriental socio-cultural reality, selected novels poignantly portray issues of the time that haunted or still haunts a common man. It is observed by a researcher that certain issues have not vanished from the society only their facets have changed. Indian women was dominated by traditions and still her psyche has not freed her from patriarchal traditions as a result still , in a modern age, suffering from traditions as in a case of Jaya (That Long Silence) or Moni (Memories of Rain). While trauma of partition is becoming an issue of bygone days, in the novel The Shadow Lines through the character of Thamma it is has been conveyed that the psychological effect of such a trauma cannot be forgotten ever.

- (Chapter 2 and 3 are the major parts of the study so they are discussed in detail.)
WORK CITED


