Preface

The sudden widening of intellectual perspectives, the increasing challenges confronting the individual, the rapid dissolution of accepted values and beliefs have all accentuated radical and extensive changes in our concept of life, and in our attitudes towards man-woman relationship. Though this relationship forms the foundation of civilization, and plays a key role in the evolution of the human race, the note of anxiety and despair which engrosses the human consciousness regarding this bond, necessitates the recognition of its significance. The trials and tribulations, the perplexities and ambiguities concerning this relationship confronting the human being in the present social scenario, are to be addressed and solved through a regeneration, and readjustment of our perceptions and attitudes towards this union, if fulfilment in life is to be achieved.

It is in this context that D. H. Lawrence, and T. Jayakanthan, artists of diverse cultures and periods, who recognize the importance of this bond and who are aware of the need for achieving perfect harmony in this union is taken up for a comparative analysis. As artists who are greatly sensitive and conscious of the complexities of this relationship, they consider it their primary aim to present the bond in its varied dimensions. They attempt to analyse and highlight some of the problems confronting man- woman relationship in the present conflict ridden world, and try to offer radical and revolutionary solutions. The thesis aims at bringing into focus some of the affinities they share in their thematic conception, and also intends to point out the
contrast in their attitude towards this universal bond. Though most of their novels deal with this theme, the present study limits itself to the analysis of only a few select novels.

Chapter 1, attempts to discuss the significance of man-woman relationship, and relevance of love, sex and marriage in this union. A brief sketch of the importance of this bond in the Indian context, particularly the attitude of the early Tamils during the Sangam age is also attempted. In the second chapter the two artists, D. H. Lawrence and T. Jayakanthan are introduced and their views on man-woman relationship are discussed. Before placing Jayakanthan as an eminent novelist of the twentieth century, a brief introduction of the growth of Tamil fiction during the pre-independent and post-independent period is also sketched.

The third chapter analyses the effect of over possessive, maternal love directly and indirectly affecting the children, and preventing them from establishing a normal man-woman relationship, with reference to D. H. Lawrence’s Sons and lovers and Jayakanthan’s Ṭittu Naṟkaligal Ādukindran. The impact of Freudian psychology and the effects of Oedipus complex affecting the life of the heroes and depriving them of their natural self are also discussed with reference to Lawrence’s Sons and lovers and Jayakanthan’s Rishimōolam.

The influence of the Russian writer Leo Tolstoy on the creativity of Lawrence and Jayakanthan, and their response to Tolstoy’s presentation of man-woman relationship is discussed in Chapter 4. An attempt is made to analyse some of Lawrence’s novels and Jayakanthan’s Parisku Po, as rejoinders to Tolstoy’s presentation of man-woman relationship in Anna Karenina.
Chapter 5 deals with the frictions and conflicts affecting the relationship between man and woman as a result of misconceptions and lack of clear perceptions regarding the importance of love in this relationship. The novels *Women in Love* and *Oru Nadikai Nādagam Parkirāḷ* are taken up for discussion in this chapter. In Chapter 6 the analysis aims at pointing out the problems confronting women in man-woman relationship based on gender differences. An analysis of some of the women protagonists of both these artists who rebel against conventional norms in man-woman relationship and who try to establish their individuality is taken up for this purpose.

Chapter 7 attempts to discuss the various socio-economic and psychological factors affecting man-woman relationship in some of the novels of these two artists has been taken up for a comparative analysis. Chapter 8 sums up the inferences of the present analysis and attempts to establish that Jayakanthan has been consciously or unconsciously influenced by D. H. Lawrence. Since there are no English translations of Jayakanthan’s works the transliterations done in this thesis are my own.