CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

After the analysis of the select novels of John Brunner and J. G. Ballard, a critical and comprehensive statement in the context of the select novels in particular and the dystopian projection in general can be made. On the juncture of the opinions and discourses of the theorists and critics, a theoretical frame is prepared and it is contextualized in the light of the textual analysis. The literary enterprises analyzed in the present thesis bring to notice that the dystopian projection utilizes certain common features. These common features are concerned with the thematic as well as an archetypal patterning. In order to prepare the world which is either ahead of the present or is the perpetual reality by mixing the real and imagined, the authors use a kind of narrative machinery that produces a specific frame of symbolism that leads the text towards the literary motif of dystopia.

Though the review of the dystopian literature and the theories reveal that the methods of realizing the dystopian world are innumerable, that can be patronized in the light of the common literary motif. In the present chapter, a review of the present thesis is undertaken in order to develop a logical coherence with the intention to support the central research argument.

The introduction of the thesis comprises the research design that clearly states the hypothesis, significance, objectives, scope, limitations, rationale behind the selection, and methodology of the thesis. Review of the relevant literature is also undertaken to focus the research lacuna that is required to be bridged urgently. The review
also provides the references that are further used directly and indirectly in the constitution of a theoretical frame and the textual analysis. The section also contains a brief survey of the life and work of the select authors that helps the researcher to investigate the influences and have the most probable connotations of his creations. The review also contains the entire literary worlds of the select authors that explore the literary tendencies and attitudes which shape their literary creations. In the first chapter of the thesis, the theoretical frame contextualizes the understanding of the conceptions used in the dystopian projection. It takes into account the origin and development of the term dystopia which not only allows the researcher to know the history but to capture the term more accurately. It also considers the term ‘Utopia’ which helps the researcher to formulate the opposite ground which demonstrates the contrast and highlights the features of the terminology. In order to understand the literary projection of dystopia, it is found necessary to understand its philosophical background. The present chapter is an attempt in that direction.

In the second chapter, the researcher deals with the analysis of the select novels of John Brunner in order to investigate his literary projection of dystopian world. His select novels *viz.* *Stand on Zanzibar*, *The Jagged Orbit* and *The Long Result* depict the dystopian world which is suffering because of the violence, social stresses, future shock, and extremism. The chapter focuses on the future of disintegrating society and the response of the characters to social collapse who behave as if they are living in a trance. The chapter also examines the role of technology and scientific evolution in the degradation of human values.
The chapter three of the thesis deals with the *The Wind from Nowhere*, *The Drowned World* and *The Burning World* of J. G. Ballard and analyses the projection of the dystopian world. Ballard utilizes the contemporary problem of environmental decay and extends it to the extreme point, where the structured life of the modern civilization is endangered. Industrial waste, global warming and green house pollution are some of the significant topics of the contemporary academic debates. These novels propose an imagined future and the end of the humanity.

The chapter four of the thesis is a comparative perspective which compares and contrasts Brunner and Ballard’s projection of dystopia. Both the authors build an imaginary world, but while doing so, use the most recurrent problem of the contemporary period as a reason of the destruction. The comparison of these novels in the light of dystopia prepares a perceptive ground that solidifies the argument made in the context of dystopian projection. In the present chapter of conclusion, certain research findings are drawn that can be generalized in the studies of the dystopian literary projection.

John Brunner and J. G. Ballard are the significant writers writing in the genre of science fiction, and especially in the area of dystopian writing. In fact, they both have gone a step further to show undesirable and frightening dystopian world, where human being is experiencing constant pressure and is ambivalent about all his conceptions of the world. They succeed in depicting how the modern world has become slave to the modern technology.

John Brunner is perhaps the most significant writer who has depicted the socio-ecological problems faced by the society, which
are the results of the overpopulation, human exploitation, racial struggle, inducement, addiction to technology, murder, slavery etc. He exploits the real world issues and the social follies to show the future degradation in the respective areas of nature, politics, spirituality, psychology, environment etc. He uses those power structures that divide the society in different segments, limit and control the individual developments as well as change the cultural perceptions. He fuses together the socio-cultural upheavals with science and politics and projects the proliferation of technology and its aftermaths in the form of environmental apocalypse. However, his dystopian vision is not totally pessimistic, but there is a room or hidden opportunities at the end of the novel.

John Brunner’s *Stand on Zanzibar* depicts the society which is not functioning at all in a societal manner; yet it mirrors the realities of the contemporary society that provoke the rational mind to find out the solutions to the problems depicted in the novel. He creates the real life situations where the characters of the novel experience social stresses, eugenic legislation, widening social divisions, enslavement to the science and technology. He touches every aspect of the environment and society such as the issues of overpopulation, the problem of natural resources, poverty, slavery, non-development of the society, murder, governmental failure to cope up with the situation, political repression, genetic experimentation etc. The characters struggle to rise above the situation, but every time they remain helpless in front of the forces created by the human being. The novel offers thorough understanding of the eco-social issues and how these problems are created and manipulated for the personal profits. It brings to focus the environmental dilapidation resulted out of the
luxury consumption, resource exhaustion, and multinational capitalism.

*The Jagged Orbit* similarly offers the dystopian vision where the real issues are exploited to show the forthcoming danger which may wipe out the society. The novel is centered on the theme of racial discrimination that generates the conflict in the society, which further results in violence, drug addiction, corruption, bribery and physical assault. The society is divided in blacks and whites, where each of them struggles to equip themselves with the ultra-modern weapons to establish their authority. The racial struggle threatens the social stability that further provokes the investigation in the realm of science and technology. The external forces such as the gun dealing cartel try to exploit the racial conflict for their personal profit; and therefore they also try to furnish themselves with the ultra-modern computer technology. The insanity of human being is utilized at its extreme point where human being is shown merely as a puppet at the hands of computer technology, as they are programmed to behave in a particular manner.

Brunner’s *The Long Result* depicts the society which is constantly under pressure as there is always a threat to the existence of human beings, who have established and are establishing the contacts with the aliens. The novel depicts the human characters who try to establish their superiority over the aliens, but in the course of the action, they realize that some of the alien species are more superior to human beings, and they can destroy the Earth any time. However, the novel shows the contradictory nature of the aliens and human beings as though aliens are superior to human beings, they may never seize the Earth because the man is very crooked and can
deceive anyone within a moment. The novel depicts the struggle between cranks and scientific organizations, where the scientific organizations are trying to save newly invented and established contacts with aliens from the attacks of cranks, so that the aliens may not turn their eye to the Earth.

Thus, all the select novels of John Brunner put forth the real human beings who live in the period of extreme social unrest and socio-economic and political upheavals. They try to cope up with the governments and its policies which are totally against the natural growth of human being. Sometimes the readers are shocked when the characters of the novel accept the eugenic legislation, which is opposite of human being in the period of repression or the violence spread by the cartel for their personal profit.

The select novels of John Brunner raise real issues to show dystopian vision which will be necessarily the result of those issues pointed out earlier. In *Stand on Zanzibar*, the crisis of overpopulation are underlined which may result in the loss of natural resources, environmental exploitation, lack of skilled and proficient human labour, poverty, murder, violence, social unrest etc. *The Jagged Orbit* brings fourth the issue of racial discrimination that fulfills the dystopian vision of Brunner by dividing the society in the armed forces which may wipe out the society form the earth. It puts forth the issues of drug addiction, violence, physical assault, social stress, murder etc. to demonstrate the dystopian society. *The Long Result* sticks to the threat of alien invasion at its core, and other major issue such as the technology encroachment, conflict between human beings to gain power, politics and tensions developed between different species are put forth. Thus, all the select novels of Brunner pick up
the real issues faced by the contemporary society to show the dystopian vision.

The select novels of John Brunner depict the vital role of science and technology in the evolution as well as demolition of human beings. In *Stand on Zanzibar*, Brunner has used supercomputers and genetic engineering as a tool that has the ability to develop human being, but in reality it controls the progress of humanity and limits his cultural perceptions. In *The Jagged Orbit*, he has used ultra-modern technology as a means of destroying human society. He shows the modern computers which have an ability to control the human beings and develop new unique communication system. In *The Long Result*, he creates the cyberspace that controls and establishes the contacts with the aliens, but it seems that it is more to menace than boon of the humanity. Thus, all the three novels show the modern technology at the hand of human being, but at the same time they point out that human being has become the slave of new technology.

The dystopian vision of John Brunner is further elaborated with the demonstration of social collapse where the government of the respective state is unable to handle the crucial issues and its consequences. Sometimes the government appoints the management councils to handle the socio-political and economic issues raised out of the consequences; sometimes there is no interference of government in the management of the state; and sometimes there is no control of government authorities over the society.

J. G. Ballard has experimented with the forms, technique and content of Science fiction. Instead of setting his dystopian world in
other space and among the marsh like other writers of the contemporary period, he chooses the earth for the manifestation of his dystopian imagination. The novels selected for the present research work explores the catastrophe resulted from the environmental imbalance and select the earth as its prominent setting with radical different status due to upheavals in the cycle of environment. Ballard has imaginatively used the different threatening agents in each novel to convincingly picturize the dystopian world of fictional art. The first novel selected for the present research work *The Wind from Nowhere* incorporates wind as destructive agent and in the second novel *The Drowned World*, water is a scare whereas in the last novel of this tri-series drought is used as a prominent agent of destruction of whole globe as its tile suggests *The Drought*.

J. G. Ballard’s *The Wind from Nowhere* depicts environmental catastrophic dystopia as it demonstrates the helpless man in front of the mighty natural forces. It projects nuisance to shipping and air travel increases and at soil layer found at the Earth’s top stripped away, it is depicted as everywhere one can find rotten things and dead bodies of animals as well as human beings, buildings are collapsed and seaboard cities went under water due to vibrant wind. It also points out the scientific correlation of cosmic radiation, electromagnetic waves, solar eclipse, gravitational drag and huge cyclone that gives hint of manmade dystopian society. Nature, once challenged, will not spare anyone from its catastrophe, and any break in the natural world will lead to human destruction even though the immense resources of technology, power, energy and wealth are ready to survive him from the wind.
Ballard’s second dystopian novel *The Drowned World* which is similar to his other novels based on the theme of environmental imbalance explores the chaos and threat of destruction of humanity at large. In the very beginning the novel proposes the scientific explanation behind the natural catastrophe which helps to create and sustain the trauma of fear and destruction throughout the novel. It explores how the solar radiation has caused the polar ice-caps to melt down with increase in worldwide temperature and consequentially the fear of submerging under water become a universal symbol of dystopia by imagining the situation of northern Europe and America. It seems that by depicting real world transformed in to a dream landscape where major and minor character regress mentally, novelist indents to give message of caution to the humanity at large. The dystopian description in novel points out the carelessness of humanity may cause the environmental imbalance with its horrible outcomes and later may cause humanity to regress mentally. Along with the depiction of dystopian elements, Ballard in this novel seems very much keen and interested to explore thrilling apocalyptic experience resulted by the changes in the physical world and human psyche. The present novel has a power of persuasion because the fictional description appeals to the reader as if experiencing it in their real inhabitant world.

*The Burning World* renamed as *The Drought* is another ecological dystopian fiction which enumerates the possibility of total human decoy due to the shortage of drinkable water. Ballard has used skillfully the logical coherence and scientific realities to prepare a background in the novel which plays the role of futuristic truth in the form of fictional imagination. The projected dystopian situation in the
novel reveals how the human beings are responsible for the water pollution and low rainfall. The dystopian panorama depicted in the novel is so convincing and fantastic as it is seen the extreme drought leads rivers to trickle and earth to dust and consequently human beings moves towards ocean in search of water. The man becomes cruel creature who fights for water and becomes a prime element to dehumanize the humanity itself. The attempt is made in the novel to show how the nature is almighty and human beings are helpless and how over misuse of natural resources would destroy the humanity at large.

One more significant feature of Ballard’s novels is based on the scientific assumption regarding future of the earth. He skillfully uses these scientific facts in order to amalgam it with the plot of the novel. The spectrum of his dystopian projection is magnificent one as it does not just depict the natural calamity occurred in the particular locality. Instead the dystopian aroma depicted in the novel has universal significance as the natural calamity is seen spreading from particular locality in order to occupy the whole globe. The proposition of subject and establishment of whole aroma of dystopia found in the novel is such that it gives the evidence of his skill to fuse fiction and reality. Therefore, the dystopian situations depicted in the novels are persuasive and appealing. The common practice which can be stressed in all the select novels of J. G. Ballard is to establish the chaotic and disastrous world in the early pages of the novel. Ballard also explores the scientific causes behind the natural catastrophe in the early pages of the novel.

The most common practice of thematic pattern found in all classical literary work is also followed in his works. All his select
work establishes the theme of poetic justice. Ballard shows how the irresponsible behaviour of human beings has generated the natural calamities like drought, flood and solar storm. In order to lead luxurious life man has misused the natural resources and as result of it facing the dystopian situation. He has tried to show how the pleasure seeking and techno-savvy nature of man has destroyed the balance of nature and as a result of it nature reacts in such a way that harms the existence of humanity and all other animate things.

The dystopian vision of Ballard is superb as it can be observed that through the projection of dystopia, Ballard attempts to emphasize in the wake of natural calamity the system like civilization collapses. In his novels like *The Drought* and *The Drowning World*, he shows how the man becomes self-centered and serious about his own survival. Even religious preaching and morality proves useless. If one closely observes, then one more dimension of social behaviour can be found at the time of natural catastrophe. It is true that at the time of chaos and confusion the civilization of society collapses, but it is also true that in the wake of catastrophe, people are homogenized in order to fight against the natural calamity with unity. These two dimensions of social behaviour are well reflected in the novels of J. G. Ballard. However, through the dystopian projection, novelist has tried to show that man cannot challenge nature. Man becomes helpless in his fight with nature and the power of nature is uncontrollable.

In Ballard’s dystopian work, the feature of recurring elements can be found as a common thing. It can be observed that the elements like themes, images, detailing style and even types of characters are recurrent in all his novels. In short one can point it out as Ballardian landscapes and properties. For example environmental imbalance and
the judgment of nature resulting in catastrophe is a recurrent subject matter occurred in his dystopian novels. The character types representing greed and death-wish are also recurrent. The style of detailing the landscape and other dystopian elements like weapons-ranges, drained swimming pools, predatory helicopter, multi-storey car parks, dry lake-beds, crashed space-capsules, abandoned airfields is also repetitive. The hero of his novels also contains the same personality trait. His hero is often presented as an archetypal figure, white and middle aged usually a doctor or a scientist.

Though, John Brunner and J. G. Ballard explore dystopian world, their thematic concerns, writing styles and perceptions of the contemporary world are different from one another. Though both belong to the same decade of twentieth century, their approaches to the existing world are different from one another. Brunner fuses technology with the environmental crisis, whereas Ballard directly projects the natural crises as a result of environmental imbalance generated by overused technology and misuse of natural resources. Brunner uses eco-social problems and fuses them with the spiritual, psychological and political world of the individual and attempts to show man as the responsible for his catastrophic world, whereas Ballard explores the environmental decay and its aftermaths on the inner landscape of the characters and system of civilization. However, both seem to exploit the real world issues and also create the real life like characters to sketch the dystopian vision of their artistic rendering.

Thus, the topic further can be elaborated by adding the other significant novels of dystopian literature which are not covered under the purview of the present thesis. In order to make the topic pointed
and reduce the digressions the scope of the thesis is intentionally kept limited. But the topic is open-ended as the different authors utilizes different socio-economic and scientific, technological and the political entities as the reason behind the destruction. The discussion further in this direction will definitely add the new research findings and even will sophisticate the research findings drawn in the thesis. But up to this point the thesis is significant in the understanding of the genesis of the concept of dystopia and its realization in the literature.