CHAPTER II

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

The present piece of work intends to make a thorough investigation into subject's reaction to those aspects of Rorschach ink blots which are specified as shading or chiaroscuro element, i.e. the darker and lighter variations in colour, and also the achromatic part of the blot areas. Thus the investigation includes in its range of exploration:

1. Studying the shading responses in general and the different subtypes of these responses and also studying distribution of these subtypes in Rorschach protocols,

2. Exploring factors which can be found, in any way, related to such responses, and

3. Verifying interpretations attached to the scores.

The investigation first aims at verification of interpretations attached to the shading responses in general, and of different subtypes. There are a wide range of the interpretations used by different authors, varying from each other a lot, and are at times, contradictory. The present investigator has chosen out of these, a few more commonly used interpretative hypotheses and is aiming at verification of those hypotheses. As the investigation has not been designed as a validation study in the truest sense of the term, it can not claim to ascertain whether the scores are really measuring what they are supposed to measure. But administering it to a large variety of subjects, classified on the basis of the psychological characteristics which are supposed to be effectively
measured by this scoring category, the present study intends to assess whether there is any characteristic pattern of responses, given by different classified groups, so far as this scoring category is concerned. Thus it intends to see whether the scoring category is sensitive enough to reflect the differences in these personality trends. By aiming at verification of some of the interpretative hypotheses, the study simply tries to re-examine and supplement the findings of other studies, experimental as well as explorative, made lately in verifying the interpretations attached to this score. Next step of investigation lies in finding out factors other than the personality trends it is supposed to measure, casually related to such responses in general. Thus the study intends to explore ... the different personality variables, and also intra-test variables, which may be found to be related to the scoring category, in some way or other. Finally, the investigation aims at a comprehensive classification of the scoring category taking into consideration the contributions of different authors.

It may be necessary to state here why the present worker choose these two scoring categories as the field of investigation. There has been innumerable studies on other scoring categories of the test. The clinicians now know, more or less, where they stand when they make use of them in interpreting test results. They generally agree regarding classifications of their subtypes and their interpretations. But so far as the shading category is concerned, this has been all along a less favoured topic of research except a few classical contributions by Binder, Beck, Klopfer, and a few other researches made lately regarding evaluation of some interpretative hypotheses. It is one scoring category of the Borschach test, which arouses considerable controversy. The workers do
not agree on the classification of this category into different subtypes. They assign different interpretations to them. The researches made so far did not aim at bringing any integrity and order in this field. The present study intends to synthesize the prevalent methods in this regard in a more profitable manner. The study does not claim to bring any original orientation to analysis of the scoring category, nor modifications and refinements to them. It tries to adopt a convenient way of classification by analysing and synthesizing the prevalent methods in the light of new sets of data collected from Indian population. Moreover, the study also tries to be helpful to the clinicians in the classifications, and interpretations of these scoring categories by giving details of their occurrences in different sections of the population. So, interest involved in the present study is rather pragmatic than mere academic.

In answer to the question why these two scoring categories, shading and achromatic colour responses, are treated together, it can be said that the two sets of scores are very much alike, so far as their genesis and implications are concerned. Borschach did recognise their differences but did not give different scoring symbols to each. Beck, Piotrowski, Binder and others classified the achromatic colour responses along with a type of shading texture responses (9, 44, 49, 83, 95). Beck later recognised the difference between a pure texture response and an achromatic colour response, and specified them separately, giving two different symbols; but still discussed them together (9, 10, 11). Klopfer and others (63, 64, 65, 92) accepted a separate scoring category for each, and placed the achromatic colour responses along with colour category. Still due to their affinity in many aspects, one is found to be indispensable in the interpretation of the other. In the present piece
of work, scorings were made after Klopfer, i.e., giving separate symbols for firing separate symbols and shading by achromatic colour determined responses. They were, however, taken as a subtype of shading responses in general and hence, treated together. This was done in view of making the data comparable with those of other aforesaid workers, who either do not use separate symbol specific to such reactions or treat them along with shading responses in general.