Mulk Raj Anand is the most prolific as well as committed writer. He is varied and versatile genius. He was born on December 12th, 1905 in Peshawar in the North West Frontier Province of prepartition India. As a boy Anand was extremely sensitive and physically rather frail. This resulted in his aloofness which, in turn, turned him into a dreamer and an adorer of hills and vales, trees and books. No wonder Anand grew up into an uncompromising denouncer of imperialism.

In philosophy, Anand was lured, no doubt, towards rationalism and the scientific method of inquiry. But he also realized that even philosophy could be purposeful only if it was geared up to serve human needs. After his arrival in 1932, he went and stayed with Gandhiji for sometime in Sabarmati Ashram in order to 'deeper' his magnum opus, 'Untouchable'. In 1935 Anand wrote his second important novel, Coolie, which made his name reverberate in Russia as well as other countries of Europe. His abiding faith in humanism made him a lovable man with infinite charm and myriad interests. Therefore, an attempt has been made
here in this thesis to analyse and evaluate Anand’s fiction in the light of
his humanist philosophy.

Anand’s insistence on the dignity of man – irrespective of caste,
creed, and wealth, his plea for the practice of compassion as a living
value, his conception of whole man, the profound importance he attaches
to art and poetry as instruments for developing whole men, his crusade
against superstition, feudalism and imperialism- these are some of the
chief characteristics of his humanism. Anand believes that man can solve
his many problems with the help of imagination, reason, and the scientific
method.

The purpose and plan of the present thesis is to gather all the
threads together and to find out how Anand, the artist, fares as a
humanist. Anand firmly believes that the main object of art is to help man
realize himself in the framework of earthly existence. What is to be found
in his fiction, therefore, is not merely a realistic portrayal of life; it is an
expressionistic vision. Certainly he ‘wrote of the people, for the people,
and as a mart of the people.’ In fact, there is no denying the fact that
Anand’s fiction derives much meaning and depth by his commitment to humanist philosophy, though it is possible that at places he has failed to maintain a perfect balance between his art and philosophy. Anand invites comparison with Charles Dickens. Like him, he was a humanist who championed the cause of the poor, the down-trodden, and the underprivileged. It is, by and large, the destiny of man that forms Anand’s central concern in all his fiction. This explains the universal appeal of his novels and stories.

The artist as humanist is an artist who stands at the centre of the human experience, and derives his strength from it. Though he occasionally strays away from it, Anand, at his best, stands firmly at this ‘still centre’.

Mulk Raj Anand is a ‘poetic realist’ par-excellence in so far as he is concerned with the festivities of human existence. He has laborious psychological pre-occupations which allowed him to emphasize the universal against the particular, and he prefers familiar to be fancied. He avoids the highways of romance and sophistication.
The present work has been divided into seven chapters. The opening chapter of thesis is 'Introduction'. Chapter II is entitled as "The Making of the Novelist" deals with various influences in the making of the vision of the novelist. Chapter III, IV and V analyse the novels of the different phases of his career as a writer. Chapter VI entitled as "Social Realism" deals with the technique employed by the novelist. The last chapter entitled as 'Conclusion' narrates the findings of the present work.