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Vinod Kumar Vaishya
Preface

For centuries, philosophy has continuously provided human beings a vision to understand the meaning of life. In fact, it is a pursuit of basic truth about human nature and the universe. The modern existential philosophy that emerged in mid nineteenth century, reached its culmination after the Second World War, which focused on human existence. As in his lecture “Existentialism is a Humanism” Sartre speaks that ‘existence precedes essence’ not ‘essence precedes existence’. Thus existential philosophy moves around individual existence instead of the idea. This thesis has been written on individual’s pursuit of life. This thesis also focuses on the journey of the protagonists of Joshi’s novels from the Western to the Eastern World.

This thesis is divided into eight chapters. The first chapter is “Introduction” which is also divided into two parts. The first part deals with the historical development of existentialism and second is a brief survey of Indian English writings. The second chapter is entitled “Existential Philosophers” that talks about the existential views of atheist and theist existential philosophers. The third chapter is The Foreigner (1968) which deals with Sindi Oberoi’s dilemma of life that leads to lord Krishna’s message of action (Karma). The forth chapter is The Strange Case of Billy Biswas that delivers the message of primitive look for human beings. The fifth chapter is The Apprentice that deals with Ratan’s sin and expiation. The Sixth chapter is The Last Labyrinth that unfolds the mystery of life to follow religious path. The seventh chapter is The City and the River that projects a satire on man’s inhuman state. The eighth chapter is “Conclusion”. I have used certain methods to explore this thesis. I hope this thesis will be helpful for the forthcoming research scholars. It will also enhance knowledge as well as will help in the betterment of society.
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