# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Preface**  
1 – iii  

**Introduction**  
4 – 11  

**Chapter One:**  
12 – 84  

**Reader in Western Poetics**  
1.1. Ancient period  
1.2. The medieval period  
1.3. Renaissance period  
1.4. Neo-classical period and the age of enlightenment  
1.5. Age of romanticism  
1.6. The twentieth century  
1.7. Birth of reader-oriented criticism  
1.8. Reader-oriented theories  
1.9. Conclusion  

**Chapter Two:**  
85 – 123  

**Reader in Sanskrit Poetics**  
2.1. Reader in Sanskrit literature  
2.2. Reader in Sanskrit poetic texts  
2.3. Qualities of a sahṛdaya  
2.4. Types of readers  
2.5. The reader and the poet  
2.6. Readership in ancient India  
2.7. The reading process  
2.8. The reading process: Approaches in Sanskrit poetics
Chapter Three: 124 – 197
Ānandavardhana’s Views on the Reading Process

3.1. Ānandavardhana’s reconstruction of Sanskrit poetics
3.2. Ānandavardhana’s views on the literary language
3.3. The concept of sahṛdaya in Dhvanyāloka
3.4. Ānandavardhana’s views on the reading process
3.5. Reading an entire work
3.6. Analysis
3.7. A critique on Ānandavardhana’s views on the reader

Chapter Four: 198 – 280
Abhinavagupta and the Reading Process

4.1. Bhaṭṭa Nāyaka’s influence on Abhinavagupta
4.2. Abhinavagupta
4.3. The concept of sahṛdaya
4.4. The function of vyañjanā and the sahṛdaya
4.5. Abhinavagupta’s theory of aesthetic delight: A phenomenological perspective
4.6. Rasavighna-s or impediments in the realization of rasa
4.7. Group experience
4.8. The reading process
4.9. Analysis

Chapter Five: 281 – 336
Mahimabhaṭṭa’s Observations on the Reading Process

5.1. Nature of language
5.2. Modern theories on inference during the reading process
5.3. Mahimabhaṭṭa’s concept of inference
5.4. Role of the reader in the process of inference
5.5. Types of inferences made by the reader
5.6. Factors that influence the reader in the process of reading
5.7. Analysis

Chapter Six: 337 – 362
Reading a Text: Case Study of Meghadūta

6.1. Common features
6.2. Analysis

Conclusion 363 – 386

Bibliography 387 – 411