Chapter – 6: Conclusion

This chapter attempts to sum up the observations, interpretations and conclusions, which are based on the investigation of the selected twenty first century Indian novels. The thesis aims at reconnoitring and evaluating the selected novels written by Indian novelists in English from the perspectives of Cultural Studies. As the title of the study is ‘Selected Twenty First Century Indian English Novels: A Cultural Studies Approach’ it is obviously clear that the concept of ‘culture’ is very important part of the study. The researcher has evaluated, observed and established the relevance of culture in selected novels written by contemporary novelists: Kiran Desai’s The Inheritance of Loss, Bharti Mukherjee’s Miss New India, Amitav Ghosh’s The Hungry Tide, and Aravind Adiga’s The White Tiger.

The first chapter is distributed into two parts. The first part of the chapter tries to define the terms culture and cultural studies. It also includes objective and hypothesis of the study. This will lead to the conclusion that this term is very useful to understand the development of novels and the minds of the novelists. Entire human population is divided in various groups holding their own tradition and culture. Thus, this term embraces entire humanity. The second part defines the development and definition of ‘Cultural Studies’ along with the explanation of its extent from Marxist to Popular culture. These are very important factors in
cultural studies as they appear in the literature under garb of subjects and themes. Cultural studies is an interdisciplinary field where certain concerns and methods have converged; this convergence has enabled us to understand phenomena and relationships that were not accessible through the existing disciplines. It is an interdisciplinary approach to evaluate culture and society which retorts, and builds upon, critical analyses of traditional disciplines and epistemologies as well as upon developments specific to gender, ethnic and sexuality studies which have emerged over the last twenty-five years. Key to the cultural studies approach is the perception that identities, complex social relations and cultural objects are organized by language, gender, race, sexuality, nationality and class. Another aspect is the assumption that the study of culture in all its complexity requires cross-disciplinary work.

Second chapter is divided into two parts. The first part discusses the theory of Multiculturalism and Multiculturalism in India. In the second part of this chapter, Multiculturalism in The Inheritance of Loss is discussed. Kiran Desai delineate The Inheritance of Loss, by covering a varied selection of different countries, the past and the present, and the social, economic, religious, linguistic, and ethnic diversity. Biju’s experiences at diverse restaurants reflect the multiculturalism of the location enrooted in the harmonious existence of various national cultures. Sai is the perfect for presenting unity in diversity. She upholds
East-West life carefully. She possesses her relation very well with all the other character of the novel. The novel specifies that people have faith in various religions and have a tendency to exhibit their food habits. Language variances also display the range in the novel. Kiran Desai does not forget to present and represent each facet of life; it also focuses on global problems of human being.

The novel fills up with different character from diverse communities and they cooperate, unite, and mingle with each other. Though, their cultural, economic, and political variances make them distinct from each other. *The Inheritance of Loss* goes under dark clouds in the lives of the characters and the truth is that the world is full of discrimination, isolation, and cultural variances, but it does not mean that aspirations do not exist. The novelist reveals, not just personal experiences, but the dealings of acknowledgment among migrants, exile, and aliens who all fight with the burden of history. The novel discovers the convincing image of Indian society, which has been stuck in poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, cultural clashes, traditional morals, customs, practices and multiplicity of languages. Kiran Desai very competently stressed the East and West socio-cultural condition in the novel.

Chapter three intends to give brief details about theory of Diaspora, Diaspora Literature, and Indian Diaspora. This chapter also discusses Diaspora in
Bharati Mukherjee's *Miss New India*. *Miss New India* takes a U-turn in dealing with the central character, Anjali Bose bringing the western cultural hostile of highly sophisticated lifestyle in rural and urban India. Mukherjee emphatically portrays the India of the twenty-first-century in a digital age where a young Indian girl introduces and modifies the American traditions and ethics and eventually decides to stay in the country. With this new gained maturity, Anjali has understood that there is no need to renounce the past while moving on towards the optimism of a redemptive prospect. Therefore, through the protagonist Anjali, Mukherjee shows that she is full of dynamism and vigour and is in frequent quest for new prospects in the modern twenty-first-century India. Roots and routes are negotiated in the novel in unique ways, leading to the augment of new kinds of cultural identities. *Miss New India* is an example of being American by converting Indian in modern India through the validation of hybridity.

Chapter four examines Amitav Ghosh's *The Hungry Tide* trough Eco-Criticism. It represents eco-criticism, relation between nature and literature and reflection of eco-criticism in Indian literature. *The Hungry Tide* is distinctive in its ability to create an enthralling, full, and detailed story whilst also accounting for the various social, ecological, and political factors relating to environmental issues. The novel is very significant in context of Eco criticism. Currently Eco-criticism engages with the logic of ecology and expressions of the theory. Eco-criticism is
still establishing its theoretical territories while reviewing the interdependence of man and nature. The study of Eco-criticism is a warning to mankind that the misuse of nature over a period of time will lead to an explosion of nature. The novel represents the environmental values, concern and preservation of nature through various characters, places and incidents.

The narration imitates the unique tidal landscape of the Sundarban. Amitav Ghosh being postmodern novelist, contemplates about the threats of urbanization, pollution, and the increasing greed of humans that lead to destroy the nature and other creatures. Local people are trying to live harmoniously with nature although the people are killed due to natural phenomenon such as tidal waves and animal attacks. However, at the same time the author hope for the harmony between human and nature by the character like Fokir.

Fifth chapter talks of Power, cultural politics and carnivalesque. It also discusses power and politics of Cultural Studies in The White Tiger. Adiga talks about the rich and the poor. He sees the development of a predictable and somewhat static system of power relations between these two competing classes. For the poor the only way to break this cycle is to rise up and overthrow the system through a revolution. The White Tiger uncovers aspects of power which are resisted by individuals, rather than being taken for granted. It is a sincere attempt to study
the hierarchies of power in the nation/state. Adiga is fully aware of the changing
equations of power in the nation/state. Despite the claims of critics that *The White*
*Tiger* is a Marxist novel, the *sub text* exhibits the power of the ‘subjugated’ to the
full. On closer reading, it is found that this novel showcases the operation of power
on the Foucauldian paradigms of power.

Adiga’s portrayal of Balram discloses his interest in a bottom—upwards
rather than a top—downward view of the function of power. Balram Halwai, the
semi-literate migrant villager protagonist is a subaltern from every angle. Owing
to his sheer capacity for acquiring knowledge by always keeping his ears open, he
becomes the most successful businessman in Bangalore. The events of his life that
make up the fabric of the novel are presented in such a way as to guide those who
want to be entrepreneurs in life. He subverts the hierarchies of power at all
levels—personal, familial and social. He has no respect for the traditional values
in terms of family, religion, social institutions, and political structure and so on. In
addition to the political and moral corruption, the writer also focuses on the
integrity of the marginalised Indians in contrast to the hypocrisy of those who
represent wealth and glamour. Adiga presents India as a vast and dark jungle
where hierarchy, sycophancy, corruption and ruthlessness are the rule of the day.

Thus, after evaluating and reconnoitring the selected novels written by
Indian novelists in English, it could be concluded that all the objectives stated
before successfully meet the hypotheses. Cultural elements and aspects were
imitated at large extent in these novels. Selected novelists were inspired by
contemporary culture and this influence is significantly presented in their novels.
The rise of Indian novel in English is influenced by contemporary culture. It has
its unique Indian-ness in which Indian literature and Indian culture are linked.
Research methodology employed in this work is exploratory, interpretative and
analytical in nature. The research work is confined to the close analysis of these
four novels, to reveal cultural aspects and elements reflected in the novels.
Through the detailed study of selected authors, the broad continuum of Indian
culture has been traced in their writings. The title of the research work
concentrates on ‘cultural studies’ and its implementation in the selected novels
written by the Indian novelists in English. The study of this concept is the most
recent and new challenging area of research for the upcoming researchers, because
the modern world is threatened by the industrial revolution and mechanization.
The contemporary writers have turned to culture and its study to save the
contemporary society from its degeneration. The research work, therefore will be
proved as a major source material and providing a scope for further research in
the field of cultural studies.

Cultural studies have generated new interest today. Other Indian English
novelists can be studied through cultural studies approach. Instead of cultural
studies approach one can apply another approach like psychoanalytic and cyber philosophy. Another interesting study can be the selection of Indian English poets and short story writers. In short, cultural studies is having ample dimensions for endless research perspectives.