PREFACE

William Golding has been considered as one of the greatest literary figures to emerge out of Britain during the mid-twentieth century. He was born of September 19, 1911 is St. Columb Minor, Cornwall. His father was descendent of a long line of school masters. Golding was educated as Marlborough Grammar School, where his father is a science teacher, Alcee Albert Golding, the father of William Golding enjoyed his life in his individual way. He was well acquainted with encyclopedia and believed in hard work. He was a great lover of music.

Golding learned a lot from his father at Marlborough Grammar School. He studied in his school and later in Brasenose College, Oxford But finally Golding made up his mind to rebel against the courses which his father had set him and turned to literature. He published a volume of Poems in 1934 with Macmillan in London. After graduation Golding tried his luck at various occupations.

The purpose of the present study is to make an evaluation of Golding Fiction in the light of theme and technique. The project will be divided into eight chapters. The first Chapter will be Introduction. The second Chapter will be titled as Contemporary Scenario and Golding’s views. Today we apply the
term 'Novel' to a wide variety of writings that have in common the only attribute of being extended works of fiction written in prose. As an extended narrative, the novel is distinguished from the short story and from the work of middle length called Novelist. As a narrative written in prose, the novel is distinguished from the long narrative in verse of Chaucer, Spencer and Milton. The term form the novel in most European language in Roman, which is derived from the medieval term the romance. The English name for the form has its origin in the Italian world 'Novella' which means a tale or a piece of news in prose. Currently the terms "Novelist" is often used as an equivalent for Novelette; a prose fiction of middle length such as Joseph Conrad's The Heart of Darkness.

The third Chapter will be titled Thematic Concern. In the 20th century a number of novelists tried their hands to explore and expose the problem of evil in the world. The novelist like P.H. Newly in the spoken of the conflict between innocence and experienced. In his novel A Step in the Silence (1952), Newly presents the hero Oliver Knight who is shocked by the suicide attempt of a friend and Oliver feel the helplessness of innocence in violent, dangerous world. Another novelist D.M. Thomas reveals the problem of evil in his novel A White Hotel. William Golding has achieved a distinction by blending of seemingly irreconcilable polarities like spirit and flesh, good and evil, pleasure and pain,
joy and grief in his novels. Sometimes his tone is orthodox like Melville and orthodox like E.M. Forster. He is religious like at times like Eliot, Green and Conrad and a bitter critic like Swift, Orwell and Dickens. In his novels Golding's preoccupation is with the evil that challenges the soul of man. He wants to reveal the beats in many through the problems like moral degradation, sexual perversion, class and racial conflicts and the religious problems created by fanaticism nihilism and evils found in the contemporary society. Golding has conveyed certain unfailing truths of his generation in very superb manner. According to Golding it is evil that rules over the world in many ways. In _Lord of the Flies_ Golding deals with a group of British School Children who are used by him to convey his theme of evil and chaos. The novel presents the study of a boyish adventure and opens in the horrifying atmosphere of a nuclear war in Europe. In his second novel _The Inheritors_ Golding presents an allegory to underline the theme of evil in human nature. Golding goes back to the time when man was emerging from the condition of the prehistoric man. This novel deals with the theme of violence, destruction, death and the price of progress. Golding seems to mock of Drama and Wells in _The Inheritors_ deals Golding's third novels _Pincher Martin_ deals with the theme of evil and selfishness of human being.

The Fourth Chapter will deal with Golding's art of _Characterization_. This Chapter will show that the intention of the
writer is reflected through. He uses the characters as the vehicles to carry his experience of life. The characters become the real human beings without having the flesh and bones of the concrete body. A novel is a panorama of several types of characters. They can be categorized on the basis of their qualities and their role to maintain the aspirations they have, either good or bad. In a novel we have hero, antihero, round characters, flat characters, stock characters, static and dynamic characters. Pincher Martin in the novel Pincher Martin is a flat character. Elizabeth is also a flat character in The Paper Men. She is the wife of Wilfred Barclay, a novelist. He betrays his wife in matrimony. She leaves him because her husband is interested in another lady called Lucinda. In Lord of the Flies Jack is considered as round characters. He changes his behaviour towards Ralph. Soph in Darkness Visible logic uses her reason and logic quite often although on the negative side.

The Fifth Chapter deals with Golding Art of Narrative. The style of a writer evokes the curiosity of the readers towards a work of art. Style is the expression of the writer’s attitude and personality. The arrangements of ideas, word choice, sentence structure, rhythm, repetition, emphasis, unity and tone are the different aspects of the art known as style. The writer also uses many devices of narration such as vision, dream, suspense, intellectual interpretation, dialogues. In a work of art a writer tries to present a visual account of things like a running commentary of a
cricket match. He conveys the speed of events and reality of objects by using words economically. A novelist tries to convey his theme by simplest available way of full embodiment, but this embodiment is not an explanation. The other important feature in narrative is the use of dialogue.

The Sixth Chapter will be titled as Skills of Plot Construction. The novel has its origin in the story, but where the story originated is impossible to say. Wherever primitive men found, we see them gathering eagerly about the story teller. Plot in a novel is like a bed – rock that imparts a unity to the structure of the novel. In this way plot becomes a Skelton. According to Aristotle’s Poetics plot is an arrangements of incident and situation and if we remove one incident, the whole structure may fall to the ground. The order of a unified plot according to Aristotle is a continuous sequence of beginning, middle and end. A plot is also a narrative of events of that emphasis on causality. As far as the skills of plot construction in Golding’s novels are concerned we come to know that like many of his contemporaries he was interested in the stream of consciousness techniques and has used forward and backward movement in his novels. But he did not ignore the idea of plot, story and characterization like them. Golding uses the stream of consciousness technique in some of his novel like Lord of the flies, Pincher Martin and The Pyramid.
Imagery, Symbolism and Pictorial Quality will be treated in the Seventh Chapter of the present project. Imagery is an effective literary device. A writer by using imagery makes an effect to make picture in words. Golding has employed the devices of imagery, symbolism and pictorial quality in a superb way. The novels of Golding are replete with imagery. Golding is unique in his description of nature. He uses the abstract, sensual as well as concrete imagery. In Golding symbolism has been used as a revolt against the photographic methods of naturalism. We find symbolism reflects Darkness Visible. In this novel Golding reflects the darkness in man’s inner world. It is war novel.

The last Chapter will be Conclusion. Golding is famous for his pictorial quality, which he uses in his novels to beauty them. Through this technique we are able to see what he sees through his mental eye. Golding uses beautiful scenes with vivid details, which can be seen only through the mental eye. He gives picturesque incidents and events in such a way that his readers think that they are watching the things with their naked eyes.

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