Epilogue
Anita Desai has given a new direction to novel writing in modern India by her psychoanalytic method, use of symbols and the artistic way of projecting life. She believes that "A woman novelist has something new to bring", and she has brought it.

Anita Desai is predominantly interested in the probings of inner truths lying under the surface level. In order to present this submerged psychic truth she employs various linguistic devices and symbols are one of the most prominent amongst the devices deployed by her. It renders uniqueness to her writings.

Mrs. Desai's technique differs from that of the other Indo-Anglian novelists. She lays emphasis on character and furnishes appropriate environment and shows characters in terms of the environment in society. She presents her characters as unsolved mysteries. As individuals, they live in their special and separate worlds of stress and strain, problems and conflicts, likes and dislikes, longings and frustrations, love and hatred.

In Mrs. Desai's hands symbol becomes a very powerful mode to represent the perception of a character. She
uses symbols according to circumstances. Her symbols acquire significance because of the appropriate correlation between the object and its symbolical meaning. In her novels at times, very minor objects seem to attain symbolical overtones. Desai projects her experiences in terms of metaphors and symbols and objectifies the nuances of a character's subjective world, at times. Symbols also by only half revealing the truth enable the novelist to delineate the psychological depth of the characters. Through some of the traditional symbols, Desai has rendered highly individualised psyches.

Anita Desai's novels abound in objects and images through which she tries to capture and concretize a wide range of experience. She has a large variety of these images and symbols which she uses with consummate skill. They lend a vividness to the situations she tries to describe, the characters she delineates and the events she narrates. Because of her use of the sharpened symbol, her art comes close to a painter's or a cinematographer's. Again, this mode of expression proves useful to her because her novels lend to focus on the inner world of her characters.

Anita Desai's novels abound in such symbols that evoke a sense of harshness, of sound that irritates on
one's ears, of colours that are loud and bright. Through such symbols, she tries to express the harshness and violence and hostility that her characters experience in their daily lives. She projects very skilfully the adverse effect of noise on her character's mental make-up.

Most of Anita Desai's characters seem to experience the terror of the mysterious, the fear of an evil force lurking around them, the dread of living in a hostile world. This consciousness is expressed through a recurrent different symbols of birds, insects, animals and reptiles, snakes, serpents, vipers, cobras, bats, owls, jackals, nightjars, lizards, apes, langurs and gibbons are mentioned frequently in her novels. Even birds like eagles, hawks and kites are used to express the cruelty and predatory that are a part of both the human and natural worlds. The moon in its various phases, with the light it costs, is used effectively throughout the novels to evoke a sense of the fear of the mysterious and the unknown.

According to Anita Desai, I find I use certain images again and again and that, although real, they acquire the significance of symbols. I imagine each writer ends by
thus revealing his own mythology, a mythology that symbolizes his private morality and philosophy.

The use of symbols, however, lends density to her fictional world and compensates for the absence of action and variety of characters. Her symbols bring her closer to the existential philosophy. Desai has generously used symbol and image, charged with tremendous significance, strictly on a criterion of aesthetic rather than casual relevance. This has added remarkably to the textural density that is not noticeable in the works of other Indian-English novelists. Her use of symbol shows superb of narration. She has employed different sets of symbols and images to highlight the theme, her aberrant mind which reflects her fast disintegrating personality. This adds glory and textual density to the theme of novel.

Anita Desai's approach is different from the conventional fiction. Her approach is manifest in every word and phrase that she selects. Her work reveals strong affinities with modern fiction. Her greatest skill is her language and the novelty of approach is in her technique. Meenakshi Mukherjee has aptly remarked, "Anita Desai is a rare example of an Indo-Anglian writer who achieves the difficult task of bending English language to her purpose without either a self-conscious
attempt at sounding Indian or seeking the anonymous elegance of public school English."

It is to her credit that she raises Indo-Anglian fiction to a higher level: of imaginative insight and profound concern with the mystery and glory of life. She has trodden new ground of filling her characters with sensibility of presenting minutely persons confronted with the existential predicament.

Anita Desai gains depth, vividness and poetic insight which are lacking in the others: her novels are in sharp contrast with the superficiality and make-believe characterizing most of the Indo-Anglian fiction. Her view is profoundly subjective: penetrating and deeply engrossed with the complex and mysterious constituents of the psyche.

A symbol can be defined as the fusion of physical reality with the inner world. The use of symbols not only enriches a work of art and the depiction of a character but provides the very lifeblood, the soul to it. Anita Desai has picturesquely presented the symbolic world of her fiction, the themes of despair, death, desolation and socio-psychic fragmentation. Her symbols can be classified as moral, religious, socio-cultural, natural, moral psychological and
gestural etc.

Sound is the origin of language and a primary means of communication. There is a natural correspondence between sound and sense and words acquire their contents and value through a certain sound symbolism. In Anita Desai's novels there is a certain use of sound symbolism. In her novels sound symbolism are classified as polite, terse, generous, aggressive, courtesy, rustic, elegant, sophisticated and sarcastic etc. All these sounds are very skilfully used according to contexts.

Semiotics is a scientific study of symbol-systems. There are three types of signs: iconic, symbolic and index. Anita Desai has used different devices of expression for elegance. One such is semiotics. Semiotics of psychic, situational socio-cultural, emotional, vocative, referential and imagery have been used in almost all of her novels.

Anita Desai is fond of using words for their own sake. She has a love for the sound of words. She uses native words for items of food, dress, rituals, festivals, trees, etc. Her characters uses words, words, words and through them reveal their mind. One of the most outstanding things in her
novels is that she is fond of describing the animal world just for the sake of displaying her skill in using words for their music and magic. In Anita Desai's novels word symbolism has been used as one word for different symbols, different words for one symbol and also one word for one symbol.

Discourse is a simple process of information exchange between a sender and receiver and each is equipped to code, decode and transmit information through a common set of symbols. The novels of Desai express the discourse symbols. Through discourse they reveal interesting information about characters, situations and predicaments etc. They also give information about their implied authors. Character's, ideas, nature, behaviour and sharing of feelings have been symbolised through discourse.

Anita Desai's use of symbolism has evoked critical writings. As in 'Where Shall We Go This Summer?' She uses symbolism to describe Sita's psychic through the symbol of wounded eagle. Her second novel 'Voices In The City' makes use of symbolism specially in the context of city of Calcutta and how it affects the lives of the characters. The novel 'Fire On The Mountain', makes use of symbolism to portray the character of Nanda Kaul and Raka and it is mainly through
nature imagery that symbolism is used in City. The Peacock
the peacock is an important symbol of the novel II
Ramchandra Rao finds the dance of peacock as both the dance
of life and the dance of death. Another important symbol used
is that of Shiva. II Ramchandra Rao finds Natraj a symbol of
liberation and observes "the Natraj reinforces Maya's love of
life, she feels that she has a greater justification to live". In
Maya's memory the image of Shiva invokes in her a shikla
about Natraj.

Thus we find that Anita Desai in her different
novels has written about different themes. She is remarkably
successful in portraying the psyche of her sensitive, emotional
and sensuous characters. In doing so she makes use of
different symbols and uses them for narrating the story
effectively. She makes use of various good symbols and
metaphorical expressions with success and they are always in
accordance with the demands of the novel. Her novels show a
greater control over the symbols. In this way Anita Desai's
novels contain some of the most skilfully created symbols that
the novelist has to her credit. This most important achieve-
ment adds a new dimension to Anita Desai's literary work and
gives her a significant place in the realm of Indian fiction

(202)