PREFACE

It has been widely acknowledged in our times that Nirad C. Chaudhuri is a prominent critic of cultures conducting his art of writing in a supreme felicitous manner. His migration to England and his final settlement in London were highly contributory for his development of maturity as a scholar. He adopted the English language as a medium of his thought and expression. Somehow, he felt that in the post-independent India his beloved English language would not be very popular and respected. Chaudhuri might not have been right in his perception about the future of the English language in India; but then it was his passionate love towards the English language and British culture that he felt like centralizing himself in London and therefore he migrated.

This migration to England gave him a unique opportunity to demonstrate his critical works and analytical insights. In London he was greatly respected by the elite and he acquired for himself a precious niche in the cultural environment of England. But, however, it is his Indian traditional cultural values that made him a great personality vibrant with profound Eastern wisdom. The ancestral Hindu philosophy of life was the ultimate passion in him. He always felt that the ancient Hindu philosophy if understood and implemented properly would give the ultimate solution to the strife torn, mechanized and urbanized modern world. It is this faith of Chaudhuri that gave him the prominent place of an enlightened critic of cultures in modern times. He always pleaded that the modern Western civilizations are required to be coordinated with the ancient Hindu wisdom in order to be really and sincerely humanistic.

Chaudhuri's intellectual dimensions as a critic are highly vulnerable. In order to highlight these vulnerable qualities of Nirad Chaudhuri as a critic of cultures, the foregoing project has been taken up. It has been divided into the following chapters.
Introduction


Chapter – II : Social Awareness

Chapter – III : Understanding the rituals, manners and etiquette.

Chapter – IV : References to his learning, language etc.


Chapter – VI : Philosophy of Life.

Conclusion

In writing this thesis, I have closely followed the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. References to the primary sources are given within the body of the thesis, with the following abbreviations and page numbers bracketed at the end of the quotes.

Books

The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian  : (AUI)
A Passage to England  : (PE)
The Continent of Circe  : (CC)
The Intellectual of India  : (II)
Scholar Extraordinary  : (SE)
To Live or Not Live  : (TLNL)
Thy Hand, Great Anarch!  : (THA)
Hinduism  : (H)
Three Horsemen of the New Apocalypse  : (THM)
The East is East and The West is West  : (EEWW)
From the Archives of a Centenarian  : (Archives)