PREFACE

This thesis presents a study of 'fusion of political satire and artistic purpose in the novels of George Orwell'. The thesis has been divided in nine chapters.

Orwell's reputation as a writer rests largely on his novels but his gifts are not those of a novelist. He is a reputed political writer. The significant features of his literary art are: his uncommon intelligence, deep-rooted insight into miseries of life, his loveliness, his disgust for totalitarianism and Fascism. Orwell's distinction is that these gifts in his case were completed by a talent for writing nervous, flexible and lucid prose. So deeply indeed was political writing a part of Orwell's nature that these qualities are manifest in his work which did not reveal themselves in his life.

The first chapter deals with the literary background of the author and presents a brief biographical sketch of his life and early influences that shaped his mind. In this chapter, the researcher has attempted to give a critical evaluation of writer's work and his place in the English literature.

The second chapter centers around the analysis of Burmese Days its origin, theme, characterization, merits and demerits. This chapter also focuses on writer's philosophy of imperialism and Fascism, communism and capitalism.

The third chapter centers around his episodic novel, A Clergyman's Daughter. It throws light on theme of poverty and its destructive effects on man. It also presents a vital analysis of a sick and selfish father's treatment of his unfortunate daughter. It exposes the conflict of middle classes who are struggling to fulfill their needs with limited resources and compulsions of faith.

The fourth chapter provides a detailed account of theme, characterization and salient features of the novel Keep the Aspidistra Flying. In this novel, Orwell has shown that socio-political order is set up in such a design by the dictators that the poor are forced to live in poverty. The plot of the novel centers around hero's struggle against "money god". The novel also describes the fate of a common man who finds himself incapable of struggling against poverty. In the end it leads to the total emotional collapse of the hero.

The fifth chapter deals with the theme of the novel Coming Up For Air. It demonstrates Orwell's feeling of hopelessness in the world of hate, terror, disunity,
suspicion and mistrust. Bowling's suffocating life in congested society of Ellesmere suburbs of London is contrasted in relation to the rural society of his childhood in Lower Binfield.

The sixth chapter evaluates the political and literary value of Orwell's famous novel Animal Farm through the use of beast fable. The novelist attempts to go beyond a condemnation of Russian communism and its subsequent growth and the decay to describe human psychology. In political terms the book can be labelled as a pessimistic expression of Orwell's views on Soviet communism and Hitler's dictatorship. The novel successfully shows that political activity of any kind and in pursuit of any selfish goal is not only ridiculous but disastrous.

The seventh chapter deals with his novel Nineteen Eighty Four. Here an attempt has been made to demonstrate Orwell's originality and political sensibility in a realistic synthesis of familiar materials. It is a fantasy novel written in a naturalistic form. It successfully exposes the sick world of power-worship and adoration of evil. Orwell helplessly strives for the restoration of human dignity, its face value; it is an ordinary novel but in reality it is a political document of first rate quality.

The eighth chapter deals with an overall assessment of Orwell as a successful novelist with a great political sensibility. His artistic achievement as a novelist, shortcomings, diction, objectives and humanism find full expression here. The prominent focus has been on Orwell's place in literature as a political writer and his fusion of political satire and artistic purpose, with a general assessment of his novels. An attempt has been made to assess the novelist's authorial maturity as a literary artist.

The concluding chapter highlights the main outcomes of the research. It brings out the artistic features of Orwell's novels in a political context. It reveals a constricted political vision of a hard realist, a realist who cares much for human beings. It is obvious that his main concern is man-healthy, virtuous, happy and economically self-supporting.

This thesis projects George Orwell not only as a political satirist or a polemicist but also as a complete novelist and connoisseur of varied nuances of literature with his firm assertion in Man's dignity and human potentialities. It systematically studies the growth and evolution of humanistic movements which enabled Orwell to envisage that revolutions brought about in terms of socialistic and the capitalistic machinations
merely annihilate human aspirations. It also traces the development of the recurrent dual images of poverty and politics, together with the related imagery of oppression. The result is to show how Orwell’s desire to verify his ideas by personal experience and objective observation inhibited the creation of an imaginative world.

The present study, while following Orwell’s political themes, endeavours to show them interacting with the literary forms he chose to use. More attention is given to his rhetorical style in an attempt to fix his peculiar excellence as a political writer. This attempt to focus on the prophetic vision of George Orwell in his post Spanish Civil War works, a watershed in his artistic maturity and political vision. Orwell is ranked along with the British writers like D.H. Lawrence, E.M. Forster and Graham Greene.

The research intends to satirically expose modern pretence and hypocrisy and thus bring into focus Orwell’s relentless literary and fictional efforts inculcated against all forms of evil showing his aversion to both the socialistic and capitalistic patterns of society. It deals with the artistic exposition of the totalitarian and dictatorial powers which remain hidden ‘inside the whale.’ As George Orwell felt the smouldering anguish of the thirties, his concern for a way out to the crisis - social, moral, political, even existential has been shared by other novelists like Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, Aldous Huxley, C.P. Snow, Meyers, Rex Warner, John Wain, William Golding and Kingley Amis.

In short, the researcher has made his humble attempts to identify the salient features of a political writer of uncommon wit and great reputation. The researcher complies totally with the opinion of Dr. A Jones in *The World of George Orwell*, on Orwell.

“People almost of any political persuasion can find some of their political views expressed in Orwell’s work, very eloquently.”