It has been widely acknowledged that Arnold Bennett is one of the greatest realistic novelists of the Georgian era. His contemporaries like H.G.Wells and John Galsworthy could become conspicuously famous because of their typical specialisations. Galsworthy made his debut as a dramatist and H.G.Wells became famous for his science fiction. Bennett himself remained a mere novelist of the traditional sort. Therefore his exact image as a realist was not properly brought out by the generations of critics. Moreover, with the advent of newer and newer techniques of novel through Virginia Woolf and James Joyce, Bennett's status as a realist got overshadowed. After a close reading of his novel it can be easily concluded that Bennett's relevance as a realist is many times greater than that of his contemporaries. It is aimed at making a critical appraisal of the realism of Bennett, with the following chapterial divisions beginning with an introduction.
1. CHAPTER I  
   : The heritage or realism and Bennett's commitment.

   CHAPTER II  
   : Social and psychological realisms.

   CHAPTER III  
   : The Parallel World.

   CHAPTER IV  
   : The Art of Characterisation.

   CHAPTER V  
   : Humour and Iroiy.

   CHAPTER VI  
   : The Real Drama of Life.

   CHAPTER VII  
   : The Narrative Technique of Arnold Bennett.

   CHAPTER VIII  
   : Bennett's humanism.

CONCLUSION.

Notes and references are given at the end of each Chapter in accordance with the M.L.A. style sheet. The textual references for the novels, as well as the other writings of Bennett, are given with in the body of the thesis, with the following abbreviations of the novels at the end of the quotes followed by page numbers.

Novels
1. A Man from the North (MFN)
2. Anna of the Five Towns (AFT)
3. The Old Wives' Tale (OWT)
4. Clayhanger (CH)
5. Hilda Lessways (HL)
6. These Twain (TT)
7. Buried Alive (BA)
8. Pretty Lady (PL)
9. Aiceyman steps (R. Steps)
10. Sacred and Profane Love (SPL)
11. Whom God Hath joined (WGHJ)

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