VI
CONCLUSION

What is noticeable with respect to Indian writing in English is that in spite of its global presence, its formation cannot be delinked from Indianness. The introductory chapter is an attempt to highlight this formation. It deals with Jhumpa Lahiri’s contribution to Indian writing in English. The chapter introduces her four fictional literary works namely, *Interpreter of Maladies*, *The Namesake*, *Unaccustomed Earth* and *The Lowland*. Her works are of exceptional significance in the history of Indian English Literature. They deal with experiences of a community that is facing struggle on account of diversities in terms of political, social, ethnic, racial and familial and is representing and recognizing itself through Indianness. They focus on the feeling of disorder and disintegration not only of external world but also of internal world of characters. Multiculturalism brings instability in their lives while affirming many cultures at the same time. Observing old traditions and customs on one hand and on other, acquiring new traditions play a vital part in identity formation for one. This chapter presents summary and general analysis of her works. The brief account of Indian English Literature in the beginning of the chapter particularly focus on the Indian diasporic writers and their works which will help one understand the general concept of literature of the particular class of the writers. It has a comprehensive account of Jhumpa Lahiri’s biography and trace the nature of formative influences on Lahiri’s creativity. It also gives a general critical assessment of her four works.

The second chapter entitled ‘Theoretical Constructs of Indianness and Multiculturalism’ is an attempt to have a glance at Indian English Literature. It discusses various issues such as what Indian Literature is, what the concepts ‘multiculturalism’ and ‘Indianness’ are, what connects diaspora with India, how Indian English Literature can be analyzed. It particularly focuses on the question of defining Indianness and multiculturalism and views and definitions of Indianness and multiculturalism by various critics such as Salman Rushdie, Satendra Nandan, Subramani, V.K. Gokak, S.
Indian English Literature is an endeavour to present India at the world level. The Indian English Literature is different from the western English literature in terms of themes, language, style of writing, imagery, etc. Indianness is the major source of inspiration and influence for Indian writers in English. Indianness brings all the details of cultural patterns of India that are deeply rooted in antiquity and have modern relevance. Multiculturalism is the consequence of a growing realization of the unintended social and cultural pluralism which resulted from large-scale immigration to the countries like America, England, Canada, Australia, etc. Multiculturalism ignores the great values as human solidarity, community, a sense of rootedness, selflessness, deep and self-effacing humility and contentment. In spite of depiction of cultural diversity and diverse traditions, customs, ways of life and philosophies, Indianness dominates in Indian English Literature. Indian English Literature is a successful endeavour to present India at the world level. The Indian English Literature is different from the western literature in English in terms of themes, language, style of writing, imagery, etc. Indianness constitutes Indian identity which is represented through art, legends, myths, customs, religion, rites, food and others. These are approved, reserved or rejected at different times depending upon one’s Indianness and multiculturalism. But there is always a feeling of oneness even after several years’ physical displacement from the homeland. Indianness is the major source of inspiration and influence. Indianness brings all the details of cultural patterns of India that are deeply rooted in antiquity and have modern relevance.

The third chapter entitled ‘Jhumpa Lahiri’s Works as Narratives of Multiculturalism and Representation of Indian Society and Culture’ is about how Jhumpa Lahiri represents cultural diversity and reflects upon Indian society and culture in India and America. It focuses on the Indian traditions, beliefs, rituals and way of life such as Annaprasan, Durga Pujo, death and marriage rituals, etc. In Lahiri’s works, The Indian or Indian-American communities adhere to the Indian way of life, traditions, festivals and rituals
in order to remain pure and inviolate and thus to seek identity. Regarding multiculturalism and Indianness in Lahiri’s works it can be said that they have multicultural settings and represent change in traditions, thinking, Indian way of life and values in Indian society. Consciousness of being Indian in characters is very clear in most of the stories and the novels. They believe that their faith is the truest faith in the world. Jhumpa Lahiri’s works have influence of Indian history, politics, psychology, ecology, literature, geography, culture and society curiously and are peculiarly presented and reflected upon in the multicultural society which strongly influences and transforms the characters’ reactions and behaviour. There are particular traits of Indian families and multicultural families. They are identifiable through the feelings and interactions among the members of families.

The fourth chapter ‘Multiculturalism and Indianness in Themes and Characters’ presents an insight into Indianness and multiculturalism in themes and characterization in her works. The chapter starts with the general introduction of the themes of Indian writing in English such as social change, cultural transformation, independence movement and partition of India, religious and political problems, struggle between tradition and modernity, moral disruption, East-West encounter, mysticism, impact of western cultural, etc. The multicultural literature has also identifiable themes such as struggle for adjustment, representation and recognition, experiences in multicultural society, etc. The major themes her books form are social change, changes in thinking morality and religiousness, political and religious problems, lack of communication, cultural hybridity, east-west encounter immigrants’ experiences, Indian mysticism and longing for social and mental integrity. The characters can live happily even in foreign land since their immigration is voluntary or semi- voluntary. But such is not the case with them because their sense of Indianness is so strong and intense that in spite of their voluntary or semi-voluntary migration, they fail to replace the new one with old one. It means that something is lacking in the new one and the old one has something which cannot be forgotten and given up at any cost. The first generation characters are Indian when they try to preserve their Indianness and suggest other to follow. The children or the