Preface

*Words are Maps*

*Words are Purposes*

(Andrienne Rich, “Diving into the Wreck”)

Truly ‘words’ are manifestations of the ‘world within’. Words architect language, which on the other hand expresses our toils and pains, describes our feelings and emotions, and communicates our thoughts and dreams. The expanse of language as a wand of magic mesmerized me and I decided to explore the fictitious world of Katherine Mansfield to see how language cultivates and enriches our vision. Stylistics is, therefore, a useful discipline since it makes the study of language not only interesting but also challenging. It is equally amazing, for it not only shows the foliage of a tree but the chemistry in operation under the surface of the earth also.

How profitable is the application of Stylistics, to the assessment of literariness of a text is illustrative in the form of this thesis. This work makes an elaborate and observant survey of the craft of Katherine Mansfield as a short story-teller. Of all the genres in English, Short Story is still a neglected realm; therefore, this choice was another purposive challenge that I willingly accepted.

The spread of contents is neatly divided into eight chapters.

Chapter I *Survey of Short Fiction in Commonwealth Countries*
records the rise of Commonwealth literature and its contribution to the body or mainstream of literature. It also explains coining of the word 'Commonwealth' and the various members all over the world. The utility of Commonwealth Literature is ascertained by citations of famous critics. Chapter II Research Methodology deals with the description of research tools and its utility. The advantage of the selected tools, like Selection, Parallelism, and Cohesion as necessary for the format of the textual study is asserted. Chapter III Katherine Mansfield: The Story Teller in Making embodies an exhaustive account of Katherine’s life and works. It also records her singular traits and puts her in comparison to her contemporaries in New Zealand and abroad to analyze her creative potential. Chapter IV The Short Story: A Popular Genre is an extensive survey of the rise of the short story as a genre. It deals with the various definitions as formulated by scholars all over the world to rate its characteristic features. This chapter also shows the various kinds of Short Stories. A microscopic study of the features of all kinds of stories is done to make the nature of all stories distinctive. Chapter V Linguistic Stylistics: The Frame and the Tool explores the utility of linguistic stylistics. That linguistic stylistics is now more than a quarter century old; it is widely accepted as an important tool of Literary Criticism. The claim of stylistics is discussed here and its utility in its range is focused as a tool to measure the depths and heights of ‘what can be apprehended only.
through the examination of the verbal art'. Chapter VI **Style as Selection, Parallelism, and Cohesion** determines the role of selection, parallelism, and cohesion at linguistic level for a holistic approach to the text. These three components are necessary for the format of a text. Chapter VII **Style as Deviation: A Probe into Mansfield's Art** studies style as deviation in concurrence with Mansfield's art. Deviation is functional as a tool of figuration in transmitting the speaker's perception and intends adding an emphasis to a verbal structure. It helps the reader or listener to identify the intent meaning. This approach to the work is not merely to encode its literary merits but also to evaluate the creative force of literature and language, as both are indispensable to a work. Literary use of language is not possible without the violation or deviation from the norms of the standard. Chapter VIII **Conclusion: A Revaluation** makes a final study of Katherine Mansfield as a writer with an innovative bent. The objective analysis of the statistical data projects her structural and stylistic feature of the narrative pattern she adopts. In this study three stories are picked up from each collection for an analysis whereby it is found that her style is more subjective than verbal and more literary and descriptive in style.