PREFACE

Anita Desai, Shobha De' and Jhumpa Lahiri need no introduction. They are admittedly the most readable and significant short story writers. The Indian English Short Story has been a neglected genre right from the beginning. Nevertheless, short story is the simplest form of literature. Whereby a writer can communicate to convey, in a short shrift. These trio-writers have contributed to short-story writing with recognizable variety, timidity as well as marginality. Admittedly, they have been successful in their efforts to cultivate the qualities of art, beauty and truth within the realm of shorter fiction.

In order to evaluate the realm of shorter fiction respective attitudes to the contemporary world around this study is divided into five chapters. Chapter one deals with the biographical records of the three writers. Chapter second maps the study of origin of short story both in home and abroad. The third chapter reveals the genius of these three writers marked by a probe into the nature of their characters in different relationships within the social and familial milieus. The fourth chapter details the techniques and forms evolved by these writers. The succeeding chapter evaluates the language used by the trio-writers, along with the derived propositions about their craftsmanship.

The present study lays no claims to be all-inclusive or thorough, but substantial attempts are made to bring out their creativity and individuality of prose styles.