The purpose of the thesis is to analyse the impact of the Press on the Political Developments of Kerala with special reference to 1957-59.

The socio-political scenario of Kerala would never be complete without the study of the Newspapers of Kerala which have deep rooted influence on its mass. The Kerala press is now a powerful organ of public opinion and it has come to occupy a position of influence. It exposes misdeeds, mal-administration, official lapses and social evils without fear or favour. The credibility acquired by the Kerala Press since the days of missionaries helped them to play as the watch dogs of democracy. This is the Central conceptional tool which I have used in the entire study.

The period from 1957-59 was one of intense political activity in the history of Kerala. It was a turning point in the political history of Kerala. Many foreigners like Nossiter (England), Lieten (Holland), Turlach (German) have done extensive studies on this period. But these writers have given emphasis to the effects of communism. Foreign writers have concentrated on economic conditions. Politics and
Journalism are interlinked in the case of Kerala. Therefore when we attempt an analytical study of the political history of Kerala, journalism is an essential factor.

In the 1950's there was no Television in Kerala. The number of Radio stations in the state was very limited. Mass communication was effected through the newspapers. The newspapers of Kerala played a dominant role in the political developments of Kerala during this period.

The newborn state of Kerala was considered as a microcosm of India. What happened in Kerala was of vital interest to New Delhi and rest of the country. The world's first communist government by ballot was installed in Kerala in 1957. The whole World was watching the politics of Kerala during this period. The United States and the Western countries doubted the survival of an elected communist government. Many could not agree that a communist government could rule according to the Democratic Constitution of India. Many of the journals and newspapers of Kerala justified this view. My study is the function and operation of newspapers in the specific political scenario of Kerala.

The data has been collected by both formal and non-formal techniques of interviews and observations. The researcher had contacted senior journalists who have covered
the period and are still alive. Political leaders and men of rich living experience were also interviewed. The researcher visited the libraries of leading Malayalam Dailies and had observed the newspapers of the period under study.

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