George Laming, one of the West Indian major writers, is a pioneer of Caribbean fiction and major exponent of West Indian literary tradition. His contribution popularised Caribbean literature abroad. Born and educated in Barbados, sometime editor of the literary magazine Bim, Laming migrated to London where he acquainted himself with famous writers like Samuel Selvon and V.S. Naipaul and published his early works -- In The Castle of My Skin (1953), The Emigrants (1954).

The process of creating an independent cultural ethos in the West Indies led to creativity and much literary production. The West Indian novel dramatises and evaluates the human condition in West Indies. By analysis and exploration of sociological condition of Caribbean society, West Indian novel traces the history of the nation and depicts socio-cultural crises in the heterogenous society exposed to a complex fate. The novelist in West Indies is presently obsessed with the historicity of West Indies, colonial and post-colonial situations and gropes for individual identity.

George Lamming's novels are essentially novels of society. For him, the self is the social self, the consciousness a natural consciousness. Lamming is deeply concerned about the Negro's lot
in contemporary society. His essays and novels focus the sense of alienation, frustration, abandonment and loss of cultural identity of black people. He carries out an unusually subtle and profound analysis of the colonial phenomenon and its vestiges and relates them to the present. Exile, as a universal experience pervades the novels of George Lamming. In his essays Lamming as a detached observer and without being didactic, analyses the political situation and the growing dissensions and unrest in the society. In some of his novels he has dealt with the theme of self-exile, a sort of withdrawal from one's own society in search of order and peace outside the country.

Lamming's famous novels — *In The Castle of My Skin* (1953), depicting colonial situation, *Season of Adventure* (1960) about achievement of political independence and *Water with Berries* (1971) presenting post-independence uprising — trace the history of the country. They collectively deal with the theme of colonialism and legacy of colonialism most allegorically and with utmost social relevance.

The present study confines itself to the three novels of George Lamming — *In the Castle of My Skin*, *Water with Berries* and *Natives of My Person*, eventhough references are made to his other works too.

I express my profound sense of gratitude to my research supervisor, Dr. S.A. Khayyom, Reader in the Department of English and
Comparative Literature for his invaluable guidance and constant encouragement throughout the period of my research. I am also thankful to Prof. K. Venkata Reddy, Head, Department of English and Comparative Literature and all other members of Staff for their encouragement.

I am also grateful to Sri S. Narayana, Lecturer in English, S.S.B.N. Junior College, Anantapur, who gave me valuable suggestions in the course of my research work. I am also thankful to Anil and Anisha, Research Scholars, who helped me in the collection of research material.

My thanks are due to my parents and other members of my family for their constant inspiration and encouragement in the course of my research study.

And finally, I thank Mr. N.H.Achari for painstakingly typing my dissertation within the stipulated time.

-- C.G. MANJUNATH RAO