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All through my teaching career I was beset with the idea of pursuing research in an area which could be both inspiring and original. It was almost near the time of my superannuation from active service that the desire could materialise. My revered teacher, Professor A.A. Ansari advised me to work on Wordsworth’s *Preface to Lyrical Ballads*. Professor K.K. Sharma of the university of Allahabad suggested different topics on Romantics, especially, on Wordsworth and Keats. I had not yet made up my mind when after sometime my teacher Professor Masoodul Hasan advised me to read Anglo-Indian poetry and find out a topic for myself in this area. Credit goes to Prof. Hasan for introducing Anglo-Indian literature in the Department of English. It was just during an informal chat that my friend Dr. R.K. Agarwal, Head, Department of English, Bagla College, Hathras, asked me to read Sarojini Naidu. I read the poetess with avidity and absorbing interest. I felt great fascination for the poems, “Indian weavers,” “To a Budha seated on a Lotus,” “Ecstasy” and the “Queen’s Rival.” A study of these poems motivated me to go through all her poems with zest and verve. I found them varied in nature: religious, mystic, romantic and patriotic. The imagery permeating her work struck me a lot.
Consequently I decided to work on the Major themes and Imagery of Mrs. S. Naidu's poetry which I was able to complete after superannuation.

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[ SYED AMIN ASHRAF ]