Much work has been done on the themes and the imagery in the poems of T.S. Eliot. Nonetheless, the theme of identity crisis in T.S. Eliot's poetry has not received the critical attention it deserves. The aim of the present dissertation is to make a close study of identity crisis in T.S. Eliot's selected poems – Preludes, The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock, Portrait of a Lady, The Waste Land and The Hollow Men. The identity crisis in these poems is brought out through a study of imagery used by T.S. Eliot.

The dissertation is divided into seven chapters. The First Chapter seeks to give a brief account of the conditions of people in Europe and the literary world in the early twentieth century in relation to T.S. Eliot as a poet. The Second Chapter traces the theme of identity crisis in Preludes through various urban images which form a sort of prelude to the poet's conception of modern civilization. The Third and the Fourth Chapters deal with the sordid imagery in the poems The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock and Portrait of a Lady respectively with a view to exploring the theme of identity crisis. The Fifth Chapter is concerned with The Waste Land showing how T.S. Eliot uses a 'heap of broken images' to drive home the theme of identity crisis. The Sixth Chapter is devoted to The Hollow Men.
analysing the theme of identity crisis in terms of powerful imagery. The Last Chapter is by way of summing up the main argument of the thesis.

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