PREFACE
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Prose is one of the best treasures of human expression and this accounts for the coinage of the saying.

“गद्द कवीनां निकषं वदन्ति”

It includes novel, stories, drama, Belles-lettres (lalit nibandh) Sansmaran, Alochana etc. Because of these prose has eked out a Unique place of its own in Hindi literature. I have selected A study of the Prose works of Acharya Janaki Vallabh Shastri as the subject for my research, the reason is very obvious I am fascinated by the genius of Acharya Janaki Vallabh Shastri especially in his prose writings. His prose writings embrace a wide range covering novel, short stories, Lalit Nibandh, Sansmaran, Alochana etc. Most of his stories are character-based some are incident based while a few are feeling-based (emotional). His characters seem to have depth and range of emotional integrity representing all the sections of the society.

During my student life, I was attracted towards the study of Prose and incourse of time. I found a special charm in and fascination for Bela (a literary monthly magazine published by Acharya Janaki Vallabh Shastri) and I became the member of Bela family.
As time rolled by, I had future acquaintance with the prose of Shastrijee Bering so inspired by his prose writings, I, personally, went to Nirala Niketan, Muzaffarpur and met Acharya Janaki Vallabh Shastri. There expressed my desire to work on him and Consequently he blessed to work seriously under a good guide. Fortunately I met Dr Dharmadeo Tiwari, Professor and Head of the Department of Hindi, Gauhati University. Gauhati, who encouraged me to undertake research on Shastrijee's writing particularly on his prose works. He also promised to render all sort of help and guidance for this endeavour.

In July 1989, I visited Nirala Niketan, Muzaffarpur where shastrijee lives with his small family consisting of his seconds wife Srimati Chhayadevi and a number of pets including cows, dogs, and cats whom Shastrijee treats as his family members and loves them like sons and daughters. Prehaps they are the companions in his loneliness. I gathered informations regarding the thought and philosophy of shastrijee as well as some books from himself. I also managed to collect a number of books written on him by other from Muzaffarpur and Patna (Bihar) and Gauhati University. Gauhati (Assam)

Besides this brief preface and the relevant reference, the present research work comprises seven chapters with a separate concise introduction. They are as follows

This thesis is introduced though the introduction which discusses the utility of the study of the subject, subject matter and sources, methods of the thesis and work done
on Shastrijee. It dwells on the importance of the subject and also contains a list of books and other materials used for the present study in a chronological order.

Chapter I undertakes a short biography of Acharya Janaki Vallabh Shastri analysing his life history with special reference to his creative development. It also embraces the social factors that have influenced and moulded Shastrijee’s literary self.

Chapter II deals with the literary principles of Acharya Janaki Vallabh Shastri including both his views on literature and literary theory. The chapter also emphasises Shastrijee’s contribution to Hindi criticism of the twentieth century. His comparative method of criticism is of new type in Hindi literature. He makes a comparative criticism in new light. His poetic prose style is unique.

Chapter III is a preliminary study of Shastrijee’s prose writings including Novel, Stories, criticism, Belle lettres, Sansmaran etc. Autobiographical work like Karmavetre: Maruxetre and letters are also critically discussed.

Chapter IV here the prose style of Shastrijee has been discussed and it is found that Shastrijee is basically a poet and his poetic style is therefore, reflected in most of his prose writings. His style has some impact of Sanskrit, Urdu and English that make it unique in Hindi literature.

Chapter V discusses the thematic and technical aspects of Acharya Janaki Vallabh Shastrijee’s short stories and novels. Here attempts have been made also to apply Shastrijee’s own critical theories to his creative works.
Chapter VI  an assessment of Shastrijee’s belles-lettres (Lalit Nibandh) and travelogues have been made. It also shows how his prose style is suited to this category of writings.

Chapter VII is the concluding chapter and it offers a hypothesis formulated about Shastrijee’s perception of prose as a mode of creative writing.

I do consider it my bounden duty to express my gratefulness to the persons who have helped me directly or indirectly in this task. I wish to express my deep gratitude to Dr. Dharmadeo Tewari, Professor and Head of the Department of Hindi, Gauhati University, Gauhati Assam, under whose supervision and direction the work has been carried out. I am indebted to him for his valuable guidance, advice and constant encouragement during the period of the work. Special thanks and gratitude are reserved for Acharya Janaki Vallabha Shastri, Nirala Niketan, Muzaffarpur, Dr. Mahendra Madhukar, Professor and head of the Deptt. of Hindi, B.B.A Bihar University, Muzaffarpur, Dr. B.R. Choudhury, Reader, deptt of Hindi, Gauhati University, Dr. Vivek Kr. Srivastava, Reader, Deptt. of Hindi, Gauhati University, Gauhati, Dr. S.M. Mahanta, Gauhati, Dr. B.N. Lahiri, Ex-vice principal, Bongaigaon College whose help and sincere wishes proved invaluable for the completion of the study.

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Gauhati

( BANKE LAL SHARMA )