Preface

English literature has been influencing the Indian literature and mind for a considerable time. And this influence has been deep and wide. A clear idea of this fact can be had from a study of English and Hindi problem plays. In the present study, English and Hindi problem plays in general and those of Shaw and Mishra in particular have been discussed with a view to making a comparative assessment of the two as writers of problem plays.

In the introductory chapter a survey of the researches and studies done in relation to this dissertation is made and the chief trends in criticism on the subject have been outlined. A brief statement about the subject matter and the need of the present study and its methodology is also given. Chapter II presents a survey of the problem plays in English and Hindi along with their social and intellectual backgrounds. The problem plays of Bernard Shaw have been studied in Chapter III. His reactions against the tendencies in the existing drama and the influences which worked in making him a problem playwright have also been discussed. Chapter IV is devoted to a discussion of Mishra's problem plays including his reactions to the existing Hindi drama, the influence of English problem plays in general and Shaw's in particular. In Chapter V, an attempt is made to analyse the similarities and differences in the two playwrights' handling of themes, plot, character, dialogue and language in their problem plays. The concluding chapter
of this dissertation is devoted to a comparative assessment of English and Hindi problem plays along with a comparative evaluation of Shaw and Mahab as writers of problem plays in light of the discussion in the preceding chapters.

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