CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION: Scope of the subject, Subject matter of the thesis, Method and technique of the thesis and Utility of the study.
Ramvriksha Benipuri was a prolific writer who has enriched Hindi literature in the field of prose. He began his career as a writer in 1921-22. His writing covers a wide field from literature for children to novels, dramas, travelogue, biographies etc. Practically speaking he was one of the versatile geniuses of India with his own style of writing. He has written a lot of literature for children, more than a dozen of dramas, novels, several short stories, and a number of Sansmaran Sahitya and essays. All of them bear the touch of his wonderful pen and drew a clear picture of the then society in almost all fields of human life like social, religious, cultural, economic etc.

Like other writers Benipurijee began his literary career as a poet. But soon he realised that poetic expression does not suit him and, therefore, he turned to prose in which he acquired mastery. He had a style of his own and that peculiarity can easily be found in each and every piece of his writing. Interestingly, when he writes for children he could have the imagination of a child as against the imagination and emotion of an adult in his dramas, novels, short stories and the like.

Analysing the prose writings of Benipurijee one can easily find that his prose style is simple and yet it is quite attractive to the readers. His works need research and analysis.
to find out his actual position in the literary field, particularly in the Hindi world.

1.1 Scope of the subject:

Unfortunately this voracious writer has been neglected by the researchers and analysts as very few have so far attempted to do research work on his writings. To our knowledge, only the following few works have been completed on Benipurijee's works:


Considering the subject matters of the above research monographs, it is clear that very few have so far attempted to analyse the prose works of Benipuri. But the most important thing about Benipuri as a writer is the prose. Under such circumstances the present writer has selected Benipuri's prose for analysis and discussion. It is expected that some undiscovered aspects of Benipuri's prose literature could be
found out, which has remained out of sight of the readers and scholars alike. Moreover towards the end of his life, Benipurijee devoted his writings and attention on the history of freedom struggle of India. He therefore, had his relentless endeavour to collect authentic data to write the history of freedom struggle of India. Therefore, such a work would definitely be useful not only in literal field but also in the field of history.

1.2 Subject matter of the thesis:

The subject proposed for this research monograph is "Ramvriksha Benipuri : As prose writer". As the name signifies our subject will be confined to the analysis of Benipuri's prose-works including the discussion on Benipuri-as Prose-writer.

Ramvriksha Benipuri is at the same time a dramatist, a novelist, a travelogue writer, a story-writer and a Rekhachitrakar. Whenever he writes in prose, his prose takes the shape of conversation and the reader's heart swells up with emotions. Again in dramas he becomes the director and in travelogues he is lost in wilderness. Because whatever he writes, he writes with all his heart and soul and allows his reader to take part in it. In his 'Rekhachitras', his language is quite living and heart-touching. While he writes biographies, he is always impartial to tell the real story. Now, therefore, we shall try to incorporate all these qualities of his prose and endeavour to valuate and examine his
writings while going to discuss about these in this paper.

As regards the subject matter of this thesis, it will include all the prose writings of Ramvriksha Benipuri. For the sake of convenience of study we have first arranged the different writings publication yearwise and then in accordance with the classification, we made. Considering the date of publication. We can arrange his writings in the following way:

1925 - Bagula Bhagat, Siyar Pande, Bihari Satsaye and Vidyapati Ki Padawali.


1930-32 - Patiton Ki Desh Mein, Futkal Kahaniyan (Collected from the Chita Ke Ful).


1940 - Kaidi Ki Patni, Lal Rus, Sat Din and Josh.


1951 - Pairon Mein Pankh Bandhkar, Karl Marx, Amarjyoti Naya Samaj and Suniya.


1953 - Zanjireian Aur Diwareian, Mujha Yad Hain, Vijeta, Dharti Ki Dhadkaneian, Meri Diary, Naye-Purane and Kuchh Mein, Kuchh Ve.

Editing of Journals:

1921 - Editor of 'Kisan' (Weekly).
1921-22 - Sub-Editor of 'Tarun Bharat' (Weekly);
1922 - Sub-Editor of 'Kisan Mitra' (Weekly);
1924 - Sub-Editor of 'Golmal' (Weekly);
1926 - Editor of 'Balak' (Weekly);
1929 - Editor & Director of 'Yuwak' (Monthly);
1930 - Editor of 'Kaidi' (Handwritten);
1934 - Working Editor of 'LOK Sangrah' & 'Karam Veer' (Weekly).
1934 - Working Editor of 'Lok Sangrah' and 'Karam Veer' (Weekly);
1935 - Editor of 'Yogi' (Weekly).
1942 - Editor of 'Tufan' (Handwritten);
1946 - Co-Editor of 'Himalaya' (Monthly) with Shivpujan Sahay;
1946 - Editor of 'Janta' (Weekly);
1948 - Member of Editorial Board of 'Janvani' (Monthly);
1950 - Chief editor of 'Naye-Dhara' and Chunnu-Munnu' (Both Monthly); and
1951 - Chief editor of 'Janta' (Daily).

The above list of the works of Benipuri amply proves that he was a prolific writer in prose and his creations cover a variety of writing including almost all fields of human life. We shall earnestly endeavour to include almost all his creations in prose in the present study.

1.3 Method and technique of the thesis:

The method, approach and technique of the study of a particular subject may give rise to various results. In research papers certain opinion or conclusion needs the support of genuine and authentic references from established scholars or from the text itself. We here, tried our level best to supply with necessary proof for each and every opinion we pass. Therefore, to support our opinion or conclusion we referred to
the opinions of some great and well-established scholars side by side with the reference to some points or lines from the writings of Benipurijee.

Under such circumstances we applied narrative and analytical methods in this paper. Therefore, it became narrative in certain places while analytical in some other places. But as a matter of fact these two methods are not contradictory to each other, one can supplement the other.

1.4 Utility of the subject:

As regards to the utility of such a study, we can say that our intention of the study is to find out the socially applicable elements in the prose writings of Ramvriksha Benipuri and appreciate them. In doing so, we shall never hesitate to discuss the drawbacks, if any, in his writing relating to his style and tackling of the subject matter and in other fields. Finally, our intention is to find out Benipuri's status as a prose writer which has yet been not decided by any scholar. As a voracious writer in Hindi prose it is necessary that he should be judged and his status should be ascertained.

Therefore, it may be easily assumed that the present study is of great importance, particularly from the point of Hindi prose literature. It is also important from the point of Indian literatures as a whole. A great writer, whether he or she is of prose or poetry world, need not remain undiscovered
and neglected. As a matter of fact one should be depreciated for one's drawbacks and be appreciated for one's virtues. We endeavoured to study Benipuri's prose from both these two angles and finally we had our own judgement and conclusion in the following chapters.