Chinua Achebe, author born and educated in Nigeria, which his father taught in a school under the Church Missionary Society. He studied at University College, Ibadan, 1948-53, then worked for the Nigerian Broadcasting service in Lagos. He is one of the most highly regarded of African Writers in English.

Achebe’s reputation was found don his first four novels, which can be seen as a sequence recreating Africa’s journey from tradition to modernity. His *Things Fall Apart* (1958) is the most representative of the novelist’s views. His later novels include *No Longer at Ease* (1960), *Arrow of God* (1964), *A Man of the People* (1966), and *Anthills of the Savannah* (1987).

Achebe’s novels focus on the traditions of Igbo society, the effect of Christian influences, and the clash of values during and after the colonial era. His style relies heavily on the Igbo oral tradition, and combines straightforward narration with representations of folk stories, proverbs and oratory. He has also published a number of short stories, children’s books, and essay collections.
Achebe worked hard to develop his own style, even as he pioneered the creation of the Nigerian novel itself. A visit to Nigeria by Queen Elizabeth II in 1956 brought issues of colonialism and politics to the surface, and was a significant moment for Achebe. Achebe framed the conflict in terms of the country’s colonial past.

Achebe illuminated the path writers around the world seeking new words and forms for new realities and societies. He frequently includes folk songs and descriptions of dancing in his work. In *Things Fall Apart* ceremonial dancing and the singing of folk songs reflect the realities of Igbo tradition. He weaves folk tales into the fabric of his stories, illuminating community values in both the content and the form of the story telling.

A prevalent theme in Achebe’s novels is the inter-section of African tradition (particularly Igbo varieties) and modernity, especially as embodied by European Colonialism. The standard Achebean ending results in the destruction of an individual and, by synecdoche the downfall of the community. Odili’s descent into the luxury of corruption and hedonism in *A Man of the People*, for example, is symbolic of the past-colonial crisis in Nigeria and else-
where. Even with the emphasis on colonialism, however, Achebe’s tragic endings embody the traditional confluence of fate, individual and society, as represented by Sophocles and Shakespeare. Still, Achebe seeks to portray neither moral absolutes nor a fatalistic inevitability. He believe that ‘Evil is never all evil; goodness on the other hand is often tainted with selfishness. His style is a powerful fusion of myth, legend and modern techniques. His novel are wise, exciting and essential, a powerful antidote to the cynicism.

The present thesis has been divided into five chapters excluding conclusion. Chapter I, which is entitled as “Things Fall Apart” discusses the theme of the novel as a colonial encounter. This chapter elaborates the thematic exploration of the novelist from this chapter onwards; the other chapters right from Chapter II to V have been allotted to other novels for their details examinations. Conclusion deals with the findings of the present work.