ABSTRACT

This study aims at analysing Huxley’s *Brave New World*, Orwell’s *Nineteen Eighty Four* and Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451* by applying Marxist and Neo-Marxist approaches. The earliest studies of these novels highlight more the marvels or mischiefs of science in a futurist society. The present study fixes the focus on the socio-cultural matrix of the context of production of these novels. Marxist literary criticism interprets literature considering the economic factors which shape the writers’ consciousness and Neo-Marxist criticism considers social and cultural factors which influence literature. The application of Marxist and Neo-Marxist criticism to select novels of Huxley, Orwell and Bradbury brings out the concern of these writers for modern society faced with dangers inherent in an autocratic set up, aided by developments in science and technology.

Chapter II covers the scope and limitation of the study and undertakes to survey the developments of Science Fiction as a genre and the contribution of Huxley, Orwell and Bradbury to it.

Chapter III of the thesis examines Huxley’s *Brave New World* as a nightmarish world where people are chemically and psychologically conditioned to accept without dissent, their social status. The World State in *Brave New World*, projects an Utopia, where citizens are apparently happy, but at the cost of human values.

Chapter IV brings out *Nineteen Eighty Four* by Orwell as parodying totalitarian governments’ discouragement of dissent, reflecting the political scenario of the early twentieth century.

Chapter V, highlights the suppression, and the intellectual deprivation of the people projected by of Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*. Bradbury’s work presents a society devoid of
freedom of expression and independent thought. The developments in Science and Technology have improved the living conditions of people, but led to abuse of power by the ruling group.

Chapter VI, that forms the conclusion gathers the findings that emerge from the analyses of these three novels in the light of Marxist and Neo-Marxist critical concepts. The study brings to sharp focus, the dehumanisation of the common man by people in power in modern society. Be it totalitarian or democratic, the society remains inclusive in theory and exclusive in practice.