The thesis presented here concerns Self and analyses the concept from purely a modernist sense of the term. This view considers Self as a dissolute concept that fades into the reality or truth of existence, unlike the traditional sense of Self being transcendental, overwhelming or philosophic. Man's existence is contingent - fated to constantly changing predicament. Therefore, Self too cannot be perceived as a unified whole and possibly be ever consistent as it is subject to the fleeting tendency of existence. As a result, Self is never one and the same at various instances, but for certain predominant characteristics. Self, then, is a variegated role player in the context of existence different and changing from moment to moment. Each Self forms a fragment of the entire matrix of Self, while the questing individual is a single personality with multiple or multi-dimensional selves in him. His self-analysis is not conclusive but is a process of 'unselfing' - where the mind unweaves the various fragments. The thesis is a study based on the aforementioned aspects of 'Self' discerned through the unselfing process made dissolute in a compromise with reality of life. Select novels of Iris Murdoch and Saul Bellow are chosen for study to broadly categorize Self in its four possible basic forms, taking into
consideration the similarities and dissimilarities in the characterization of the protagonists.

The First CHAPTER -

PSYCHIC UNSELFING SYSTEM deals with Murdoch's Bruno's Dream and Bellow's Herzog. The protagonists, Bruno and Herzog, of the two respective novels, are entangled in the tragic predicament of existence. They 'unself' by confronting their misdoings towards their own selves, their personal circle of relationships, society and also the victimization and vice-versa. In this encounter with the various fragments of selves within, they come to terms with their personal obsessions, fears, alienation and make a final compromise with reality and death, thereby, acquiring a balanced state of existence. The unselfing is purely psychological and much in the novels concern the psychic pattern of the selves of the two respective individuals.

The Second CHAPTER -

RAPTURES OF COMIC SELF - examines Murdoch's The Bell and Bellow's Henderson the Rain King considering Dora and Henderson respectively who unself in comic extravaganza inspite of being alienated characters. Their comicality lies in their spontaneous revelation of their eccentricities and
idiosyncrasies and in their purging of the illusions and absurdities of certain communities and tribes - Imber Community in the former and Arnewis and Wariri tribes in the latter. The protagonists here reveal the idle or absurdly brilliant indulgence of selves in certain specific contexts.

The Third CHAPTER -

OBSESSED FORM OF SELF explores Murdoch's The Flight From the Enchanter and Bellow's The Dean's December which involve the power potential of the two protagonists, Mischa Fox and a Dean, Albert Corde, and show a marked distinction of their power wielding selves. The enchanting, negative power Mischa Fox employs over a small society and the Dean, Albert Corde's power that brings about clarity of thought in the minds in the people of two nations, societies and their cultures are the focus in the two novels. The two protagonists reveal either the diabolic nature of Self or the dedicated peculiarity of Self respectively, reserved to certain characters and contexts alone.

The Fourth CHAPTER -

EFFICACY OF WRITER'S SELF - discusses Murdoch's The Black Prince and Bellow's Humboldt's Gift wherein the Self searching minds of the protagonists, Bradley Pearson and
Citrine, show profound insight - a reservation for writers alone, into the predicament of existence. Bradley shows skill and comprehensiveness in rendering sublimated surrender of Self to the contingencies and Citrine rebels against a world of sex, violence and money - each Self reinstating a peculiar mood or passion innate in professionals.

In the Conclusion, the psychology of Self-seeking individuals is classified under four broad heads and studied: individuals who are emotional, a common tendency in man, individuals who are earnest in their eccentricity, individuals who are scheming and individuals who are professionally trained or skilled. The comparative study shows that Murdoch and Bellow believe in the value of human existence dangling between the pseudo selves.