CONCLUSION

The thesis entitled “Themes and Techniques in ‘Misk al-Qadima’ of Najib Mahfouz” reaches conclusion that the modern Arabic novel has come into existence with the influence of the western literature. Beginning from the translation works, the Arabic novel has been reached its high water mark by the contribution of various outstanding writers such as Muhammad Hussein Hykal, Syed Mustafa Lutfi al-Manfaluti, Jibril Khalil Jibril, Dr, Taha Hussein, Mikhail Nuwaimah, Tawfiq al-Hakim, Najib Mahfouz, Ihsan Abdul Quddus, Yusuf Idris, Zakariya Tamer, etc. This new genre of Arabic literature climbed its zenith of development by the contribution of Najib Mahfouz. As the modern Arabic novel touched the every aspect of human life, the Arab people accepted it in great extend. Nobody can deny the impact of Arabic novel in socio-political, socio-economic, socio-cultural, socio-religious and other part of Egyptian as well as Arab society. If we notice towards the development of Egyptian society we may find the movement part-played by the people as the result of the impact of Arabic literature especially novel.

Najib Mahfouz was one of the leading Egyptian figures who left no stone unturned for the development of Arabic language and literature through their valuable writings. He is mostly famous as a novelist, short story writer as well as a dramatist. As a well known novelist, Najib Mahfouz has produced the most professional novels of all about Cairo, its people and their lives. He portrays the changes that have occurred in the lives of the Egyptians highlighting the difference between one generation and another as
these are influenced by new sources, ideas and events. He was an Innovative novelist and author of ‘Awlad Haratina’ (The Children of our Alley), for which he was awarded with the Nobel Prize for literature in 1988.

The writings of Najib Mahfouz have been categorized traditionally as historical in that he dealt with subjects inspired by ancient Egyptian history. In an area of the world where literacy is still not widespread, radio, cinema, and television play a crucial role in the education and entertainment of the people. Many of the writings of Mahfouz have been successfully adapted to the screen and stage. This enabled him to become widely known and admired throughout the Arab world. Mahfouz also wrote many scripts for works of other writers, which may perhaps explain the mastery of cinematic techniques that is manifest in his own writings.

‘Mısır al-Qadima’ is Najib Mahfouz’s first published book and it was a translation of English writer James Baikie’s concise history of Ancient Egypt, namely ‘Peeps at Many Lands: Ancient Egypt’ published by the periodical Al-Majalah al-Jadidah (The New Magazine). Here, Najib Mahfouz provides a critical approach of Egyptian and Arab society from historical perspective. He also provides a critical analysis of Contemporary Arabic literature, both in terms of its appreciation by native audiences and its interpretation by foreign ones. Specifically, he encourages the development of new fictional conventions and the use of multiple interpretive perspectives that are dependent neither on outmoded Arab conventions nor on dominant Western approaches.
To make the work interesting and beyond the level of understanding, I have divided this thesis into six chapters as follows:

Chapter- 1: The Novel: The Genre, its Growth and Development in Egypt

Chapter- 2: Contribution of Najib Mahfouz to the Development of Arabic Language and Literature

Chapter- 3: Najib Mahfouz as a Novelist

Chapter- 4: ‘Misr al-Qadima’: An Introduction

Chapter- 5: Themes and Techniques in ‘Misr al-Qadima’

Chapter- 6: Influence of ‘Misr al-Qadima’ on Egyptian society

The first chapter points out the novel its meaning and source, its definition with its various connotations. Growth and development of modern Arabic novel, its kinds such as philosophical novel, historical novel, etc., its relation with other worldly novels, prominent Arabic novelists like Muhammad Hussein Haykal, Muhammad Muwailihi, Tawfiq al-Hakim, Taha Hussein are looked carefully.

The second chapter highlights the life and works of Najib Mahfouz. His birth, family background, education, literary career, his contribution towards the development of modern Arabic language and literature, especially in the field of modern Arabic novel and short story are discussed in every wink of an eye.
The third chapter emphasized Najib Mahfouz as one of the greatest novelists. The discussions on his historical novels, realistic novels, post realistic novels, etc. are core sight of this chapter.


The fifth chapter explores the themes and techniques of ‘Misr al-Quadima’ of Najib Mahfouz. In this chapter, I have seen that the author of ‘Misr al-Quadima’, Najib Mahfouz, has a deep interest in both literature and history. He strives to change literature by example and through his metaphorical treatment of topics related to literary theory. He also aims to change both the relation between literature and history and the perception of Arabic literature in general. In this book he provides a critical approach of Egyptian and Arab society from historical perspective. He also provides a critical analysis of Contemporary Arabic literature, both in terms of its appreciation by native audiences and its interpretation by foreign ones. Specifically, he encourages the development of new fictional conventions and the use of multiple interpretive perspectives that are dependent neither on outmoded Arab conventions nor on dominant Western approaches.
And the sixth i.e. the final chapter bears the influence of ‘Mısır al-Qadima’ on Egyptian society. This chapter also discusses the influence of ‘Mısır al-Qadima’ in respect of modern society, modern heritage, modern religion, modern administration, modern temples, tombs and mosques, modern literature, modern military technique, etc.

And thus the thesis entitled “Themes and Techniques in ‘Mısır al-Qadima’ of Najib Mahfouz” comes to an end.