CHAPTER FIVE

This chapter consists of sustained arguments in favour of the selected research line; a critical study of socio-political aspects and treatment of nature from the selected travelogues by Norman Lewis, Colin Thubron and Newby Eric. To concertize the ideas I have extensively used primary and secondary resources to form my proposition so the arguments in favour of my hypothesis form solid view of the aspects. The textual analysis highlights the contemporary socio-political situations of China, Russia, India, Burma, and Afghanistan. The aspect ‘socio’ refers to the contemporary social conditions which include traditions, class relations, and new changes taking place on the ground of globalization. While latter aspect, refers to the political situations, contemporary upheavals, and historical epochs. I have tried to scan the impressions conveyed in the account about the setup in the selected texts.

Travel writing has always been a great source of past and cultural knowledge. Understanding it I have initially pointed out the contribution of the selected writer’s to the genre and critical evaluation of their writings. I have drawn conclusions with the help of the comparative techniques. In other words the chapter functions as a yardstick that determines the reliability of text for the selected approaches. The main objective of stressing the political development and its influence on global community is immediate concern of the study. It indents to get information of some political thoughts or movements that had been responsible for the drastic change in the contemporary setup and its immediate effects upon the masses. The selected approaches socio-political aspects and the treatment of nature are different entities. The research is text based, while tackling them

276
on the chosen line I have endeavoured to give complete picture of it. I have considered the flaws noticed in the style of some authors whose are less figurative, poetic and also lacks emotional gamete while treating the nature around. I have shown in some cases how they are inconsistent and forced to write about it. I have endeavoured to word out the complete picture of the nations India, Afghan, Russia and China. The accounts are reliable for disclosing an innate relationship between literature and society which exclusively consists the class, epoch and milieu. The selected the accounts are direct outcome of social and political contemporary structures of different nations namely India, Russia, China, Afghan and Burma, exclusively projecting public, private worlds of the figures appearing in the account, personal, political issues of the specific age. This study however, concentrates on Modern time travel accounts and analyzes the socio-political conditions of the time bind to places. Three leading post war British travel writers analysis show a pattern of development and change in terms of the place, culture, politics nature around the author during the trip. The emphasis therefore has been on the subjective response of the author to the society. The travel writer’s point of views reflected in the accounts dominants frame of the research.

Chapter One:

The chapter is introductory; it primarily attempted locating the genre in the present literary scenerio. It shades light on some of the major aspects of travelogues such as defining the genre, the types of the travel writing, finding its historical growth and theories related to it. Having the genre old in origin its historical study has been confined to some five hundred years yet some references to Bible are
irrepressible those have helped me to form my opinion on the nature of oldest mankind business and travel flourished in the entire world. In spite of all limitations the analysis in connection of its types made by Dissayannake namely Information oriented, Experiential and Intellectual is done partially. First chapter of the thesis “Introduction to Travelogues” traces the history of the form from 14th century till the modern writings. The travel history reveals the aspect of traditional accounts and its role shaping contemporary mentalities. Some initial incidents have been considered that show how the number of cultures came in touch of one another and changed the entire course of the world. It shows how the early adventures of the Greeks got introduced with Egyptian and Persia writing style and started using alphabet. Introduction in the later developments focuses on the fasting trade and commerce during the Renaissance. It shows how reading culture flourished throughout Europe asking more circulation of the books. The chapter makes inquiry of the contemporary social conditions number of myths that led to the exploration age. The chapter links major incident with one another so the historical incidents so a compressive picture is framed. Apart from all the missionary impact, regent’s accounts are considered to view the contemporary mentalities. Some references to Grand Tour in 1660 until 1840 shows the popularity of the travel among the Europeans. I have also pointed how introduction of railway in England changed the face of tourism industry that could not keep aloof the Romantic school poet about its impact. Considering emerging impact of ethnography and other narrative I have pointed out how the genre is multifaceted that has changed the old character combining with others.
Chapter Two

The chapter comprises detailed study of Norman Lewis’ two accounts namely “A Goddess in Stones” and “Golden Earth: Travels through Burma”. The first account, “Goddess in the Stone” is an attempt to show rising aspirations of a new Indian middle class and identity problem of the aborigines associated with an emerging national political and cultural liberalization. I have pointed how author records his trip through the sub continent, with his insightful details of his encounter with the natives and exclusive culture of four states of India; Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh and Orissa. I have also discussed the visit to India on the ground of Babari Majid demolition and contemporary political upheavals. I have examined the period with special reference to Late Prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. The administrative incompetency to erase feudalistic setup diminishing the possibility of the real rule for the common people is clearly noticed. While examining the opinions expressed by author I have checked with the critical material that supports my proposition. I have shown the reasons of the failure of Indian democracy to meet the need of the people. The reasons for the underdevelopment, injustice, societal imbalance, racial disparity, unemployment failure to implement land reform or the loan consummation of the commons for daily needs is pointed to conclude the worsening situation of India. I have also pointed out some of changes noticed in the market due to the international policies like World trade organization and how the Indian society got through major change. At the same time how India is waded by the internal problems caused by Naxalites. I have also scanned the social life of Mundas and Gonds and their present state on the ganging ground of capitalism India.
The second account “Golden Earth: Travels through Burma” is a historical document of Burma of post independence of 1950s. I have considered author’s journey from Rangoon to the Deep South Mergui, and through the Northern Shan States, between Lashio and Bhamo. While tackling the text I have taken in account different races and political environment, and his eventual encounter with men and women around him during the journey. Working with the main line I found out the contemporary misrule and its consequences resulted in running Burmese society. The period is known after Burma’s first Prime Minister, Mr. U Nu and particularly his failure to deal with the nation problems. I have tried to figure out the reasons of socialist failure in the country. I have also probed into the prevailed conflicts, insurgencies among various groups seen by the author during his journey in the country. I have got to the root cause of it and have mentioned paralyzed situation in country. To detect the social condition mentioned in the account I have primarily considered local colour. Life from major cities like Rangoon and other the city is noticed while analyzing the account the differences are put up. I have found out how in modern time cinema overrules the minds of the natives and at other hand some old form of arts like puppet show losing its fascination for not having proper platform. I have also considered some of the surfacing Buddhist religious myths to understand the society as well as ethnic minorities and their role in the Burmese land like Hindus, Shiks, Muslim, Tibetan and Chinese. I have also considered the recent developments of the country in order to show the contrast how after so many decades the country is leading to health crisis caused by in hygienic state. People lacking employment, health or migration from Myanmar because of disturbed political setup and paralyzed trade and industry clears the picture of
the society. Burma in the time of 1950s is considered with pros and cons.

Nature in both the accounts is separately judged. I found that the nature in the accounts is used as safety valve by author lacking true pastoral longing. But his language is poetic and far reaching that artistically combines the different shades of nature. The writer is remote from pastoral depiction but successfully words out the impulse of it. In the first account he explores Indian nature with its unique features. The Indian topography is considered from the sight of author but it may be said that no special care is taken by the author to stretch to the height of curiosity. It may be said that ethnographic element dominates hardly giving the chance to author use his faculty. While describing the Ganges or landscape excels due to spontaneous response to the strongest objects around him. Author’s entire journey through the hilly area in the company of lakes’ cranes, rivers, vigorous mango trees, scared groves, humming birds and enormous banyans trees makes the passages remarkable. His occasional imageries are creative and inventive which knock the inner urge of the readers.

Nature in second travel account, “The Golden Earth” is exciting compare to the former account but as proved in the main chapter that his nature in Burma does not excel George Orwell who came with the universal concept of utopia considering the same nature. Like all other accounts nature remains second choice of treatment to socio-political aspects. In the account his interaction with nature grows gradually and as artist he enlarges his platform, creating significantly nature picture on his canvas. He flawlessly exploits the water colour impressions to describe distant nature or pagodas notice
at the background. The nature in the account is full of life when he is on the river. Authors’ grasping is poetic and unexceptional which projects his better understanding of the colors. Nature forms a wide range of experience of author on the Burmese river. Nature is symbolic mixture of balance where some obnoxious practices of flesh eating are existing. His nature description is graceful, the wealth of imagery forms rainbow pattern of thoughts in the account. Author has explored imageries which include simile, metaphor, Metonymy, Synecdoche, Hyperbole, and Oxymoron in the account. The elements of sublime found in Romantic School are also visible in the nature description of Norman Lewis; novelty, terror, obscurity, joy, grief, and sympathy. Some depiction of nature is also found with the theories of Ecocriticism it has been proved that the cyclic disturbance and its impact on the morals of the natives are cleanly noticed. The distraction from moral values causing destruction is visible in both nature and mankind.

**Chapter Three:**

It is a detail study of two accounts, “Behind the Wall: A Journey through China” and “In Siberia” by Colin Thubron. I while studying the accounts have taken in consideration the author’s journey of ten thousand kilometers from the capital of China; to the far end of the Great Wall stretched to Gobi desert which depict the unpromising struggle of the Chinese for survival in post Mao China. I have highlighted the distinctiveness of the new awakening characterized with the post-communist China in mid 80s. I noticed the shift from collective economy to corporate economy in which women are noticed having considerable role in shaping the new economy. The Chinese perplexed state due to new working class in
metro cities causing socio-political upheavals, imbalanced internal political conditions, and dispute over Tibet is studied along with some ancient and modern myths prevailed in the society. I have inquired in the contemporary sense and sensibilities of the people. Their adaptation of Shakespeare and pop songs in the culture and its impact is discovered that shows popular culture and imitation of the western culture after oppressing policies. I have examined the references of cross-section of Chinese people, beggars, diseased people, farmers, businessmen, city dwellers, unemployed youth, sales men, homemakers; students. The journey is studied with all of the old and contemporary impression conveyed by author. Author’s kin interest to know ancient China and its philosophical, medicinal, and other cultural traits and the present is pointed out as a major part of the social inquires made in the travelogue. Through cross reading the authenticity of the incidents is understood, his account is not only picture gallery but speech gallery as includes live reactions of the maximum peoples from every walk of the life. His technique of recording or reassuring gone days or event makes the work real work of record. The author proves culture shock and political cynicism with number of references. He defaces the Chinese propagandas of social betterment and points out poverty, frustrated youth or the mysterious existence of controlling agencies.

In Siberia: Depicts Russia coincided the fall and the regime of President Yeltsin. The account is a long march from the mainland to impassable border region mixed with number of culture. I have recorded the impressions of the author of various nomadic tribes on the border area. I found how the communist fascination has been overtaken by the capitalistic impulse changing many contexts of the masses. Peoples are preoccupied and are in pensive mood contrarily
triggered off by the market culture. I understood form the depiction the people sketched around are disillusioned, burdened and distracted because of the previous torture. The street hoardings are gaudy, roadside kiosks and the advertisements of Proctor and Gamble emerge have occupied places. The Russians wearing caps, t-shirts bears American emblazoned icons of culture, Pepsi’ or Coca-Cola are advertised which shows immense change in the society. I found women in the depiction are quite liberal in their choice of clothing and have gone for shorter dresses. The change for women in every walk of life is noticed that has brought new opportunities to them, they are engaged in private enterprises. Now they are more considerate of their womanhood where there are number of organization for women of disabilities. Their division of country women is melted now they are contesting in election or given to political campaigning. I have also found out authors’ impression of southern part where the some part of the account is closely connected with the dwellings of Mongolian and boarders of number of newly formed nations. The people are quite far from the communist ideology and are seen engaged in shaman practices. In brief I have shown how Russian is mixture of various cultures shocked or far, untouched of the communist changes.

Nature: Nature in both china and Russia is scaled with equal strength by author but the cultural and topographical familiarity with Russia makes the nature more authentic. The resemblance and nostalgia to European nature is visible in the account. His language is unexceptional for the spontaneity and exactness noticed in connections of landscape, lakes, rivers or the mystic nature on the border land where some cults are noticed black magic practices. Chinese culture is notice lingering with depression, agony, is
reliable with nature. The nature is cherishing on the references to the past Sino cultural glimpses which are intermittently referred here by the author that makes the reading breathing experience. Like the socio-political realities in the travelogue nature too arise from more inward inspection, combined with personal touch of the author. The treatment of nature in ‘Behind the wall’ comes in different manner in the outset, the nature is rare and the socio-political aspects dominate the narration. Nature becomes an integral part of the travelogue with author’s advancing journey in inland and mountain part of China. But one thing is quite true even after many attempts nature is unfathomable in the words; nature in the travelogues is strikingly noticed being exploited at both outset and the closing stages of the respective book. In short it plays a role of solid platform from where author enters into the world of immense veracity. As he succeeds to overcome mental agony and finds the peace restored gives him capacity of tackling the objects closely. The following analysis shows how the transformation takes place. Author is quite surprised with the nature around the wall since it has been spared by the natives, the description is abundant in the description of tall grass, butterflies, mountains, lakes, gardens, river, peasantry life are full life. Yet his unfamiliarity with Chinese flora and fauna is major obstacle in interpreting it with the details of plant name or exclusive details. The shadowy depiction makes the nature appear more mystic or some time obscure lacking the keen attention to it. But in all of the travelogues he has handled nature with the equal strength and simplicity. Early glimpses of the nature in his observation stir up a subterranean meditative mood. Like China here too Russia is noticed having silver lining of the gone days while tackling the nature. The existence of the breathing of nature, self and landscape, comes
charismatic way enticing concrete feel of the living landscape before our eyes.

**Chapter Four:**

In the chapter I have studied two of the major travelogues by Newby Eric (1919-2006) entitled, “A Short walk in the Hindukush” and “Slowly Down the Ganges”. The places visited are different so I have identified socio-political problems of the respective nations. A Short walk in the Hindukush is an account of Afghan. In it I have found out the root causes of the modern instability with internal dispute among various ethnic groups like Tajkas, and Pathans. I have taken in consideration various condition those prepared ground of the future problem that spilt the innocent Afghan world on the name of Jihad. The primary intension of the ambitious journey is to visit Nuristan and ascent of Mir Samir, the highest of peak of Hindukush. Author and his friend Hugh journeyed from the woods at Kaujan, Panjsher valley, Ramgul and finally Nuristan. I have scanned author’s different aspects of the society projected in the account. His awful account on the minorities and neighboring countries the Tajiks, Kafirs, Gujjars and Hazaras, flat-faced Mongols makes the work dynamic in its appeal. I have pointed out the causes of ethnic and religious differences that still dominate Afghan politics, Slowly Down the Ganges: I found that the travel account is based on the Post Nehruian situations which explore Indian society on the ground of complex political phenomena. The account covers larger area of then Indian society noticed on the bank of Ganges. Author being a foreigner is relatively interested and tempted by the Indian myths. Considering the older connection of the British researcher and their writing makes a vital reference to the present travelogues. I think the
craze initially leads to defend his own foreignness and superiority over the visited nation making his journey easy in India. It was the time when Chinese imposed war in India making the leadership to think over its policies. I found how self-consciousness and humanitarian outlook is helping Indians preparing ground for intellectual setup of India. Late rule of English and its impact is felt every well understood in contrast of religious situation of India. The treatment of nature brings to our mind the approach of the romantic poets to nature. They looked upon nature to stir feeling, to escape from the sturdy reality around them. It was intentional sensationalism, kindling and stimulating sentiment for the sake of sensation. Similarly the modern writers’ nature is not collective but individualistic. They certainly lack the spiritualistic and purist uplifting experience. They definitely equal them while tackling the world in connection their responses to the physical world. They are spontaneous and exceptional while dealing with the nature around them. In the course of the writing their understanding to the nature has grown and more sharpened. The imagery is a sensory or pictorial language that is used to enrich meaning. It may appeal to the eye, ear, taste, smell, touch, or movement. And it may be used symbolically. It is often conveyed through smile, metaphor or personification. Imagery is best used in nature, but it can also be used for describing unanimated objects. Imagery is an important element in the writing. It can stimulate the imagination and create vivid pictures in them mind. Imagery also emphasizes a theme. All of the writers are perceptive and consistent explorer of the inner life. Their attempt of describing the turbulent inner world of it comes with the force of a visionary, aesthetic which gives it a spiritual shape.
To sum up I will say that I have not presented the matter at a one to one correspondence between text and the situations discussed in it, but I have pointed out to some extent the relevance of the selected texts to identify or see the society discussed in the respective accounts by the author. I have pointed out how travel account represents the society in its best manner which provides platform to inquire into civilizations.