Among the short story writers in English, Raja Rao has made some contribution to the genre with his short stories. Except for a few stray essays, a full length study has not yet been made on the short stories of Raja Rao. The present study aims at a thematic account of the published short stories of Raja Rao.

The dissertation is divided into seven chapters. The first chapter is by way of a general introduction to Raja Rao, the short story writer, placing him in the growth and development of Indian short story in English. The second chapter entitled "A Spot in Space Recedingly Real" deals with three of his short stories — 'The Cow of the Barricades', 'Narsiga' and 'In Khandesh'.

The third chapter entitled "Infinite Patience and the Vicissitudes in Life" offers a thematic analysis of Raja Rao's three powerful stories — 'Javni', 'Akkayya', and 'Nimka' presenting the picture of woman whose prominent features are infinite patience and capacity for selfless service.
The fourth chapter entitled "Money Verses Values" is concerned with Raja Rao's two stories — 'The Little Gram Shop' and 'A Client' — which lay stress on human values.

The fifth chapter entitled "Local Legend" is devoted to a thematic study of 'Kanakapala' and 'Companions', which are fraught with metaphysical concerns.

The sixth chapter entitled "A Spiritual Pilgrimage" relates itself to a thematic analysis of 'India - A Fable' and 'The Policeman and the Rose'. An attempt is made in the last chapter to assess Raja Rao as a short story writer pointing out his strength and weaknesses.

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NEWTON RAJ, N.