John Galsworthy (1867-1933), the author of several short-stories, novels and plays came on to the literary scene when drama was being revived. For more than a century there had been no great plays. Novel had its heyday and talented writers took to novel writing. It was the Swedish playwright Henrik Ibsen who sparked off the dramatic revival in England and Bernard Shaw, Galsworthy, W.B. Yeats and T.S. Eliot who gave a solid footing to drama.

It is interesting that Galsworthy should get interested in social problems of his day. Unlike Shaw who had know poverty and suffering which he transformed into art, Galsworthy belonged to bourgeosie class and had lived a cosy life. Probably it is the writer in him which responded to the social evils besides his reading Dickens.

At the time when Galsworthy began writing plays others in the theatre were concerned in producing theatrical works designed to offer general entertainment. But John Galsworthy wanted to address the audience and impress them with the ideas. He does it with warn humility and compassion. He seems to be placing himself along the side of his persons on stage. Although his
plays did not have longer runs than others his audiences were induced to think more. This quality gave to his theatrical writings a peculiar appeal. If Shaw's wit aroused delight and laughter it was confined to intellectuals whereas Galsworthy's could still wait others to reconsider their views of life around them.

The dissertation is in six chapters including "Introduction" and "Conclusion". In the 'Introduction' a brief summary of the development of British drama in the later nineteenth century and up to the advent of John Galsworthy is given. Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5 contain critical discussions of Justice, Strife, Fugitive, Loyalties. The concluding chapter summarises the thesis.