PREFACE

Upamanyu Chatterjee (b. 1959) is one of the major writers not only of the last decades of the century but also of the post-colonial Indo-English writing. He may be bracketed with Salman Rushdie rather than any other Indian writer because like Rushdie he was interested in the post-colonial social, political and economic conditions of India. Linguistic experiment is another parallel between the two writers. This thesis discusses the two novels of Chatterjee’s *English, August: An Indian Story* (1988) and *The Last Burden* (1993) and examines their thematic and stylistic aspects.

The thesis is divided into 4 chapters. In the first chapter, the history of the Indo-English novel from the mid-nineteenth century to the final decades of the twentieth century is sketched. In the second chapter, Chatterjee’s *English, August* is discussed in terms of theme and technique. The third chapter contains the discussion of his second novel *The Last Burden* which is about the saga of a middle-class Indian family. The final chapter is a conclusion that summarizes Chatterjee’s literary achievement in respect of theme and technique of his works and his contribution to the Indo-anglian fiction.