Whether it is the Ramayana, the Iliad, or Paradise Lost, every culture’s epic deals with the concept of evil in one form or another. All major writers have dealt with the subject because it is all pervasive. Even an illiterate person knows what is evil. Since it plays such a dominant role in our lives, I have undertaken the explored the concept of evil with particular reference to the works of Conrad, Dostoevsky, and Asimov.

Among others, Webster's New World Dictionary gives the following meanings of the word "Evil": "morally bad or wrong", "anything causing harm, pain etc," "sin", and "wicked". However, for the purpose of this study, I have defined evil as those thoughts, words, actions, and qualities which prevent a man from realizing his full potential.

My approach to the subject is descriptive and analytical. The concept of evil is explored in the context of the other fictional elements like plot and character. The first chapter introduces the idea, and the next six chapters discuss selected works of Asimov, Conrad, and Dostoevsky. At the end of the thesis, I have gathered the conclusions of the earlier chapters and examined them in the light of the definition of evil given in the above paragraph.

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