ABSTRACT

Chapter I is a brief introduction to Rossetti’s poetic career especially with regard to his literary ballads which were a means of literary escapism for him. The hypothesis is stated. The methodology chosen to prove it, and the reasons for choosing that particular methodology are clearly specified.

Chapter II begins with an introduction to "Sister Helen". It is a detailed and minute comparative and contrastive study of the narrative structure and the dramatic mode of presentation of the traditional medieval ballad "Edward Edward" and "Sister Helen".

Chapter III is a detailed and minute linguistic and stylistic analysis of all the lexical and grammatical categories of both the poems.

Chapter IV is a detailed and minute stylistic analysis of all the grammatical, lexical and phonological schemes and tropes of both the poems.

Chapter V is a detailed and minute stylistic analysis of the stanzaic structure and prosody of both the poems.

Chapter VI concludes this dissertation by asserting that Rossetti by escaping to the medieval past by writing a literary ballad "Sister Helen" in conscious and deliberate imitation of the traditional medieval ballad
"Edward Edward" was in reality creating an artistically new and independent entity with a beauty of its own. The chapter ends with a few remarks on the merits of this dissertation, its contribution to the relevant field of study, and value for other research scholars.