ABSTRACT

CHAPTER I, INTRODUCTION, traces the evolution of Native American fiction and proposes an analogical study of N. Scott Momaday's House Made of Dawn, James Welch's Winter in the Blood and Leslie Marmon Silko's Ceremony which have come to be generally regarded as indisputably major modern Native American novels. The chapter also touches upon certain basic tenets of Native American world view and shows that central to Native American view of life is the belief that human beings must live in harmony with the physical and spiritual universe. The study proposes to explicate how the three novels emphasise wholeness, balance and harmony and to highlight how the thematic and structural similarities of these novels derive from the shared Native American experience and vision of their authors.

CHAPTER II, IN BEAUTY IT IS FINISHED: HOUSE MADE OF DAWN, makes a close study of Momaday's House Made of Dawn and shows that the central motif in the novel is the protagonist's journey from chaos to harmony.

CHAPTER III, SURVIVING A STARVING TIME : WINTER IN THE BLOOD, focuses on Welch's Winter in the Blood and highlights that despite its bleakness, the novel is optimistic at the core. By the end of the novel the nameless narrator of Welch has located himself, has found a centre for balance and harmony away from the initial world of alienation and chaos.
CHAPTER IV, UNTANGLING THE SHREDS OF IDENTITY: CEREMONY, deals with Silko's Ceremony which too tells the story of a fragmented protagonist recovering himself in the post-War era and shows that the thread that runs through the novel's short blocks of narratives, poems and myths is the quest for identity, wholeness and harmony.

CHAPTER V sums up the thematic and structural similarities in the three novels and shows that these similarities are not accidental or imitative. They spring from certain basic perceptions in Native American world view. The chapter also touches upon certain differences in these novels and attributes them primarily to the tribal differences among the authors. The chapter highlights that despite the difference in the levels of optimism the movement in all the three novels is from chaos to harmony.