ABSTRACT

CHAPTER I being the introductory one, discusses the existing approaches to Anita Desai and establishes a new perspective for a fresh approach to Anita Desai. It is shown that neurosis is used as a pattern in her novels, and an attempt has been made to discuss the terms neurosis and pattern, as applied in this study. Reasons for not including the novels Bye, Bye Blackbird and In Custody for discussion are also spelt out.

CHAPTER II takes up Anita Desai's first novel, Cry, The Peacock, for a thorough case study of neurosis in Maya, the central character of the novel. By using psychological symptoms, the character of Maya is analysed in order to trace the events that ultimately lead her to death. It is shown that almost all the neurotic symptoms discussed in the first chapter are found in Maya. Many examples are cited from the novel to show that she is a neurotic.

CHAPTER III discusses the neurotic characters, Nirode and Monisha in the novel, Voices in the City. Both the characters are taken for our study solely on the basis of the text. A psycho-analysis of these characters proves that they exhibit neurotic symptoms throughout the novel. The Chapter
also discusses how Monisha dies of hypersensitiveness while Nirode escapes from neurosis by learning to compose himself.

**CHAPTER IV** explores the neurotic symptoms in Sita in *Where Shall We Go this Summer?* A psycho-analysis of the character of Sita proves her hypersensitiveness. It is shown that Sita, in her neurotic fear, refuses to live in a world of insecurity and frustration and at last she saves herself from neurosis and reunites with her husband, Raman. The Chapter also discusses how Sita differs from other neurotic characters in the earlier novels.

**CHAPTER V** is a psycho-analysis of the main character, Nanda Kaul, in *Fire on the Mountain*. It portrays how Nanda Kaul exhibits neurotic symptoms and suffers from a neurotic obsession for vengeance. The Chapter also deals with Nanda Kaul's fear of insecurity for women against the ignorant men and how it suddenly puts an end to her life.

In the **VI CHAPTER**, the novel, *Clear Light of Day*, is taken up for an indepth study. Bimla, the main character of this novel, shows neurotic symptoms. Many instances are cited from this novel to show that Bimla's devotion to her family makes her a neurotic. The Chapter also discusses how she regains her psychic composure.
CHAPTER VII is a summing up of earlier chapters in which all the points discussed earlier are reviewed to expound the pattern of neurosis in the novels of Anita Desai. It is argued and justified that there is always a meaning in the strange behaviour of her characters. And an attempt is also made to estimate the success of Anita Desai in using neurosis as an artistic pattern in her works.