CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION
R.K.Narayan is an outstanding Indian novelist in English with a prolific creative output. His creative activity spans over nearly six decades. In *Malgudi Days* he has recorded the changing times and the impact of various socio-political and historical events not only on Malgudi and its life, but also on the life of a nation as a whole. His imaginary town Malgudi serves as a microcosm into which he crowds the macrolinguistic human experience. Malgudi plays a vital role almost like a major character in shaping the perspective or human relationships. Malgudi is essentially changeless beneath its veneer of change.

The language and style in *Malgudi Days* is a unique creation of R.K.Narayan’s fictive imagination. His language and style creates the world by way of complementing, compromising the stories and thoughts with a miraculous lightness of touch. The very novelty of his language and style in *Malgudi Days* lies in the manner in which he visualizes the Indian social context before and after independence.

Following are the findings of a detailed study of R.K.Narayan’s language and style in *Malgudi Days*. 
5.1. MORPHOLOGY

Following are the significant morphological findings.

1. In *Malgudi Days* Lexical Morphology is found in both of its uses, i.e. the complex word formation and the formation of compound words. The three types of compound words are also manifested in this book, such as,

   (i) by writing the words independently;

   Ex - head master

   (ii) by hyphenating the constituent words;

   Ex - sea-god

   (iii) by merging the constituent words into single unit;

   Ex - bedroom.

2. Five types of substantive compounds are used in *Malgudi Days*. In the first type, the second element is determined by the first element.

   Ex - rose+flower.

   In the second type, the first element is determined by the second element.

   Ex - model+ village.
In the third type, the elements are in apposition to each other.

Ex – boy +friend .

In the fourth type, the second element is the name of a part of the body or dress and the compound denotes animate things or personified inanimate things.

Ex – grey + hair .

In the fifth type, the two elements are joined by means of a preposition which comes in between. Here the first element is considered important.


String compounds are also found in use in Malgudi Days.

Ex – boot polish boys .

One can also find use of clipped compounds in this book.

Ex- Kindergarten days .

(kindergarten school days)

3. Here other types of compounds are also used in which the grammatical functions of the constituent words are different from that of the resulting compound.
The first type of such compounds used here is
Adjective + Noun;
Ex - half + glad
The second type is Pronoun+Noun,
Ex - his + children .
The third type is Particle + Noun,
Ex - out + caste .
The fourth type is Noun + Adjective/ particle forms ,
Ex - city + bred
God + given .
The fifth type is Pronoun + Adjectives ,
Ex - all + sufferering .
The sixth type is Adjective + Adjective ,
Ex - well + behaved .
The seventh type is Particle + Verb ,
Ex - over + look .

4. R.K.Narayan has also made use of creative morphological structures in Malgudi Days.
Ex - postman + Thanapa
He has used typical Indian compounds in this book.
Ex - betel sellers
In some compounds one element is taken from Indian language and the other element is taken from English.

Ex – margosa tree

Some compounds are found here which are composed of elements of at least two different languages.

Ex – Satyagraha movement

There are some compounds in which the constituent elements are drawn from two different languages having identical meaning.

Ex – lathi stick

There are some compounds in which the first element is a modifier in English but functions as head in Indian language.

Ex – Coconut payasam

Some other compounds are also found here in which the position of the modifier is changed to the initial component.

Ex – brinjal soup

Contextual classification is another feature, which is used by R.K.Narayan in this book in the field of Administration, Culture, Buildings, Edibles,
Attitudes, Occupations, Politics, Religion and Social life.

5.2. SYNTAX

All the types of syntactic structures such as the Noun Phrase, the Verb Phrase, the Prepositional Phrase, the Adjective Phrase, the Adverb Phrase, Mood and Modality, and other sentence patterns have been used here in their various manifestations as follows.

1. Noun Phrase

(i) Noun Phrase with pre-head modifiers such as the determiner, the pre-determiner, the ordinal and the cardinal have been used.

(ii) So far as the pre-modification of a noun by an adjective is concerned, one can find the adjective freely occurring in attributive position, such as 'rough' in 'rough track'.

(iii) It can be pre-modified by an intensifier such as 'very' as in 'very stubborn'.
(iv) It can also take comparative and superlative forms whether inflectionally or by the addition of a pre-modifier like 'more' as in

'greater offender'
'more important'
'most wasteful'.

(v) One can come across a large number of constructions with a participle in both present and past forms functioning as pre-modifiers as in,

'the missing mail'
'bowed head'.

(vi) One comes across a number of examples of genitives replacing 'of-' phrase and functioning as a pre-modifier as in,

'a woman's form'.

(vii) At times noun as part of a compound noun functions as pre-modifier as in,

'the servant problem'.

(viii) The pre-modifying adverb is an intensifier whether an emphasiser conveying emphasis such as, 'really'; or an amplifier denoting high degree such as, 'very'; or a down toner suggesting an incomplete or low degree, such as, 'somewhat'.
Further, the adverb 'far-off' has also been used as a pre-modifier of a noun as in,

'those far-off times'

'her far-off home'.

(ix) Multiple pre-modification also occurs in cases where more than one modification may be related to a single head as in,

'a very strong and grown-up person'.

(x) It may apply to more than one head as in

'brand new bats and balls'.

(xi) It may also be possible by a modified modifier as in,

'a much safer place'.

(xii) There are Noun Phrases with post head modifiers of the following types, such as, post modification by prepositional phrase as in,

'a chance of selling it-for two hundred rupees'.

(xiii) Post- modification by non-finite clause as in,

'a ten rupee note lying loose at the bottom of the safe'.
(xiv) Post modification by relative clause as in,  

'\textit{the postman, who had cheated him}'.

(xv) It can also be a restrictive relative clause as in,  

'\textit{an emotion that could not be satisfactorily explained}'  

or, a non-restrictive relative clause as in,  

'\textit{some poor soul who could not redeem it-}'

(xvi) There are also cases of minor post modifications such as,  

'\textit{the cat within}'

(xvii) There are also cases of multiple post modification, such as :-

(a) More than one modification applicable to a single head as in,  

"\textit{the time of the great famine when he stood as high as the parapet}"  

(b) One modification applicable to more than one head as in,  

'\textit{the dust and dead leaves on the road side}'
(c) a modification contains an item on which in turn a further modification is applicable as in,

'the boy sitting on the floor between the chairs'

(d) There can be multiple post-modification of a noun phrase from the merging of all the above conditions.

(xviii) There are also instances of Noun Phrases with both pre-head and post-head modifiers. There are instances of single noun head with one pre-modifying item as well as one post-modifying item.

(xix) There are also cases with more than one head with pre-modification and post modification applicable to both the heads.

(xx) There are also cases where the pre-modifying item is a modified modifier and the post modification contains a term to which a further modification is applicable, as in,

'the most notorious house-breaker of the district'.
There are instances of Noun Phrase within a Noun Phrase in the form of a Noun Phrase containing a Prepositional Phrase.

The Noun Phrase having within itself a single post modifying prepositional phrase is a recurring feature in the book.

There are also Noun Phrases with more than one post modifying prepositional phrases.

Ex – a pot of water from their well.

2. Verb Phrase

(i) Verb phrases with regular lexical verbs, auxiliary verbs and semi auxiliary verbs have been used in R.K.Narayan’s *Malgudi Days*.

(ii) All the three types, such as, ‘do’, ‘are’ and ‘be’ of primary auxiliaries are used here.

Ex – ‘do disturb’

‘has bitten’

‘was reading’

(iii) Modal auxiliaries are also used.

Ex – ‘could fight’
(iv) One can find the use of both the types of verb phrases, i.e. Finite verb phrases and Non-finite verb phrases.

(v) All the three types of simple finite verb phrases have been used:

a. Simple finite verb phrase implying ‘imperative’-
   ‘Give me a handful of sugar’

b. Simple finite verb phrase in the ‘present tense’ form:-
   ‘You ask the physician’

c. The use of ‘past tense’ form of the verb helps in giving the text a past-tense narrative form.

(vi) Complex finite verb phrases are also used in this book.

   Ex – He was sent on errands.

(vii) Modal or Periphrastic Verb phrases in both present and past tense forms are found in use.

   Present:    Don’t drive

   I will show the knife

   Past: You didn’t grow up without a home.

   She could go.

(viii) Perfective Verb Phrase is used in both of its manifestations.
(a) Present Perfective Verb Phrase-
   Ex – “This has touched the man”

(b) Past Perfective Verb Phrase-
   Ex – “Leela had fallen asleep”.

(ix) One can find here use of both the types of
     Progressive Verb Phrase, that is,
     (a) Present Progressive Verb Phrase-
         Ex – ”They are sandwiching me”
         and
     (b) Past Progressive Verb Phrase-
         Ex – ‘The priest was grumbling’

(x) Here R.K.Narayan has used passive verb phrases
     also in its different manifestations.
     (a) Present Passive-
         Ex – ‘We are declared mad’
     (b) Past Passive-
         Ex – ‘Word was brought to me’

(xi) Perfective Progressive Verb Phrases in both the
     tense forms are used.

     Ex – (a) ‘she has been looking after me’
     (b)‘A gold chain Leela had been
         wearing’.
(xii) Perfective Passive Verb Phrases are used here in the form of

(a) Present Perfective Passive

Ex – 'nothing has so far been done'

(b) Past Perfective Passive

Ex – 'a body had been found'

(xiii) Progressive Passive Verb Phrases are used in both the tenses.

'I do not at all like the way you are being brought up'

'A question was being asked'.

(xiv) Modal Perfective Verb Phrases are used.

Ex – 'You should have done it'

(xv) Some Modal Progressive Verb phrases are also used.

Ex – 'The season would be closing'.

(xvi) Likewise, Modal Passive Verb Phrases are used.

Ex – 'The temple must be opened'.

(xvii) Besides Verb Phrases which include in it auxiliary verbs, one can also find the use of Verb Phrases which include in it semi auxiliary verbs in both the tense forms in Malgudi Days.

Ex – 'You seem to be a good man'.
The boy *seemed to be interested* only in eating and drinking at all hours.

(xviii) All the three types, such as, having ‘-ing’ participle, ‘-ed’ participle and ‘to + infinitive’ form of ‘Finite verb phrase with a non-finite verb’ in both the simple and complex structures are found in use in *Malgudi Days*.

Ex: Muni *kept clearing* his throat.

She *would keep repeating*.

Father and mother *looked disappointed*.

He desperately *tried to escape*.

I am *asked to say*.

(xix) Two types of Non-finite verb phrases, simple and complex, are used in this book.

3. Prepositional Phrase

(i) Narayan has made use of prepositional phrases which include both simple and complex prepositions in *Malgudi Days*.

Ex –‘as the watchman’

‘into the family’.
(ii) The writer has used prepositional phrases for various syntactic functions, i.e., as

(a) adjunct –

Ex – we went back to the car.

(b) post- modifier-

Ex – An illusion of shelter.

(c) complementation of a verb-

Ex – The girl looked at him.

(d) complementation of an adjective –

Ex – You must be very quick about it.

(e) disjunct-

Ex – Ramanujan looked worried after reading it.

(f) Conjunct-

Ex – You have come after a long time.

4. Adjective Phrase-

Adjective Phrases are used in Malgudi Days in both attributive and predicative functions.

Ex – ‘we are on the eve of great discoveries.’

‘Your office room is very dusty’.
5. Adverb Phrase

Adverb Phrases are used here as

(a) adjunct-

Ex - 'Muni obtrusively rose and moved off'.

(b) disjunct-

Ex - 'It completely won the shopman over'.

(c) conjunct-

Ex - 'More likely you are seventy'.

(d) modifier of adjective-

Ex - 'The shopman became very nervous'.

'The mouth of the jug was not narrow enough to choke the cat.'

(e) modifier of adverb-

Ex - 'The old gentleman writes rather frequently now'.

(f) modifier of a Noun Phrase

Ex - I have enough of you.

The stars overhead sparkled brightly.....
6. Mood and Modality

Besides Phrase structures, clausal structures also play a very important role in this book. Mood and Modality play a significant role in appreciation of the book. Examples of different moods:

(a) Declarative –

Ex – ‘You are a rabid leper’.

(b) Interrogative –

Ex – ‘Whom do you call a leper’?

(c) Imperative-

Ex – ‘Do not laugh at your elders’.

(d) Subjunctive-

Ex – ‘Your days are over, my dear Sir, learn that’?

7. Other Sentence Patterns

(i) There is a large variety of sentence patterns in Malgudi Days, from short and simple sentences to unusually long ones.

Ex – ‘You look worried’

‘Go ahead’.
I quietly sat down on the pyol of the house, leaving against the pillar supporting the tiled roof, stretched my legs and resigned myself to staying there all night, since from the tenor of the dialogue going on there was no indication it would ever cease.

(ii) There are also sentences of sing-song balancing:

'Grow up, little one, grow up, grow fat'

(iii) One can find a number of short sentences in a sentence with similarity of meaning:

"I washed his clothes, swept his house ran errands for him, wrote his accounts....."

(iv) To avoid monotony in the narration and to make it more palatable often some items are deliberately deleted in a sentence by R.K. Narayan.

Ex – ‘If the rope fall into the well.....’

(v) One can find multiple embeddings in sentences in this book.

Ex – ‘I obeyed Shiva’s command- at midnight walked out and put my arm into the snake hole’.
A large number of words pertaining to community, religion, places of worship and objects of nature are repeated here.

Ex: 'Oh! that's it, is that it? Mad! Mad!

'Tiger! Tiger! Where are you'.

'Brahmin? O Brahmin, Brahmin'.

5.3 VOCABULARY, IDIOMS AND SOME SEMENTIC FEATURES

1. VOCABULARY

The language of R.K.Narayan is influenced by various languages, both foreign and Indian.

(i) The foreign languages include French, Spanish, South American, Caribbean, Aztec, Dutch, Norse, Scandinavian, Portuguese, Gaelic, African, Afrikaans, Turkish, Persian, Arabic, Malay, Greek, Hungarian, German, Chinese and Japanese.

(ii) The Indian languages include Sanskrit, Urdu, Hindi, Bengali, Kannada, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam.
2.IDIOMS

Different types of idioms are used by R.K.Narayan in *Malgudi Days*.

(i) All the three types of Calques are found here.

(a) Indian idioms translated-

Ex - 'to put hand into another person’s pocket'

meaning

"to pick pocket".

(b) Curses or abuses –

Ex - 'foul mouth'

meaning

'obscure language', 'one who uses foul language'.

(c) Greetings –

Ex - 'salaamed the accountant'

meaning

'to show official respect'.

(ii) One can also find Socio-culturally oriented idioms.

Ex - "racial stamp"

meaning
'a narrow social identity prevailing in Indian social structure'.

(iii) Figurative idioms

Ex - ‘to put arm into snake’s hole’

meaning

‘to invite great danger’

(iv) Idioms of Irony -

Ex - “fingers seem to itch’ – Meaning ‘a natural desire to do something instead of sitting idle’.

(v) Pure idioms -

Ex - ‘hot headed’

meaning

“short temper’.

(vi) Proverb idioms

Ex - ‘if you throw a stone into a gutter it would only sport filth on your face”

meaning

‘One who makes danger for others put himself in danger’.
3. SOME SEMANTIC FEATURES:

English words have undergone semantic change in two forms in this book:

(i) It is often used as a form of code-mixing.

Ex.- 'Mounds of green chillies, cucumber and tomato, vegetable bajjis, water-like appalam sizzling in oil and expanding like the full moon before your eyes or fresh golden jilebis out of the frying pan, not to mention scores of other delicacies, enticing passers-by both by sight and smell'.

(ii) In the second type, the form of the words is English, but the content is either purely Indian or modified version of English content. For example,

in this book the word 'free' is used to mean 'relax' in the context whereas its original meaning in native English is 'not bound'.

The language and style in Malgudi Days is a great creation of R.K.Narayan's powerful imagination. His art of creating realistic characters with an
evocative sense of exploring, gives a new light in *Malgudi Days*. He applies the technique in *Malgudi Days* to measure life, which does not mean to offer only a fictional world. For the generation that rejects romantic imagination outright Narayan offers a pleasant alternative and a happy sojourn into the land of imagination through his fiction.