SUMMARY

The research work entitled ‘Comic Sensibility and Psycho-analysis In The Novels Of Anne Tyler’ describes about all her novels by pointing out her position in the Southern fiction. Hence comparison has been made with other women novelists of the Southern America. Tyler has been compared with Welty and Faulkner. A number of similarities and dissimilarities exist among them. A kind of resemblance exists between the novel ‘The Golden Apples’ written by Welty and Tyler’s “Dinner At Homesick Restaurant” with regards to the theme. The heroes of these novels are familiar appearing as an adventurous lovers. Similarly, The Hamlet written by Faulkner is a very special kind of creation, which match with the sales persons created by Welty in The Death of a Salesman.

A large number of comparisons found in these three novelists are described in the thesis. Effort has been made
to cover all the novelists who are contemporaries of Tyler.

There after in the second chapter: “The Psychology Study Of The Novels Written Between 1964-70” which has three different novel namely, ‘If Morning Ever Comes’, ‘The Tin Can Tree’ and ‘A Slipping Down Life’. All these three novels are based on the family relationship i.e. between parents and children or husband and wife. The very first novel ‘If Morning Ever Comes’ is a novel of a boy named, Benjamin Josiah Hawkes who is a docile 24 years Law scholar and suffering from the post-adolescence. As he lives in the women dominated world in which the Hawkes house and its concerned matters are managed by women only. Dr. Phillips Hawkes, father of Ben Joe has an extra-martial affair to a lady Lille Belle Mosley. Also he has an illegitimate son from her. There is a big reason works behind his extra-martial affair, it’s the communication gap between husband and wife which lead him towards another lady.
Hence, he inclines towards Lille and does not concentrate and pay attention to his family. With the result, Mrs. Hawkes becomes a domintative figure of the Hawkes family who managed every affairs of the house. It is not only Mrs. Hawkes even her own daughters who are also independent and self-reliant. That is why they handle every trivial and big issue of the house. So they neglect the sole male heir of the family, Ben Joe which make him a depressed soul. Thus, he suffers from identity crisis. He even wishes to take his responsibility towards his family on his shoulders but fails due to the dominance of women in the home, which hinders him to fulfill his dreams. As a result, he finds a solution of this problem through getting married with his childhood beloved Ms. Shelly Domer so that he can fulfill his dream of becoming the responsible head of the family.

Another novel is ‘The Tin Can Tree’ , it is the novel of the psychological coming back of the characters to their home. The ignorant and harsh attitude
of parents towards their children has casted a worse impact on the soft mind of the child and hence he decides to run far away from the home to some foreign land. Similar is the step taken by the little protagonist of the present novel master Simon Pike who gets depressed from the death of his loving sister baby Janie and, moreover, from the neglected behaviour of his mother towards him. So he finds a substitute Ms. Joan Pike, his cousin, in place of his mother and even positioned her as his mother. Ms. Joan Pike is also a victim of child abuse as the odd and strange attitude of her parents makes her an escapee from her parental home to her uncle Mr. R. J. Pike’s home at Larksville. Here she pours her love over ignorant Simon and Janie to receive love, an act of compensation from the side of Joan. Being failed to endure the changed atmosphere due to Janie’s death, she decides to escape from her uncle’s house to her parental home. With the result, master Simon becomes alone and so he also decides to run far away from his home to the
native town of Green’s i.e. Caraway. The act of running away of little Simon shakes his mother Mrs. Lou Pike. She understands the value of her single alive child in her life and so begins to hunt him town to town. In the last, mother Lou gets back her only child Simon. Finally, they are reunited.

‘A Slipping Down Life’ is a novel which throws light on the Westernization of the contemporary world and describes how the western baseless trend has influenced the age old traditions, belief and civilization. The present novel is a story of a desirous and dreamy girl Evie Decker who desires to become a favourite personality to remain in limelight. Like her mother she is also unmusical but for her dreams, she inclines towards an upcoming rock-and-role star Mr. Bertram Drumstring Casey. For her dream, she carves the name of the upcoming star on her forehead, which declares her decision about her future to the society. Thus it is a rebellious act of Ms. Evie against the traditionality of the
society. Ms. Evie gets married with him and settles down. As a result, she gets fame and name in the world of glamour. Soon she becomes pregnant, thus, she also enjoys the pleasure of motherhood. Overall, she achieves everything that she desires. While on the other hand, Mr. Casey loses everything from his grip due to his disloyalty towards his married life. Thus he becomes a failure in his life.

The third chapter is ‘The Description Of The Psychic Of Her Characters In The Novels Written Between 1971-1976. The novel ‘The Clock Winder’ (1972) revolves around the lack of self-reliance in the characters and the act of symbiosis among the characters which help them to get rid of their shortcomings. The main protagonist of the novel is a 20 years old rash girl, Ms. Elizabeth Abbott. She is an orderless and aimless girl, switches to a job of a handy person at Emerson Villa. The Emerson family is a family of eccentric people, the head of the family is widow Mrs.
Pamela Emerson is too dependent on others for her work that she is unable to handle the trivial work of her home such as to manage the flowers in the vase, to synchronise the watches etc. as she is belonged to a wealthy family. Resulted, she lacked self-reliance. This shortcoming is passed to her children through genes and they are also devoid of it. When Ms. Elizabeth Abbott switches there as a handy person, they begin to learn the lesson of self-reliance.

Searching For Caleb’ is a novel of the search of true self and identity by the characters such as Mr. Justine Montague Peck, his sons Mr. Daniel Peck and Mr. Caleb Peck, his grandson Mr. Duncan. All of these are those members of Peck dynasty who are in search of their identity and freedom. For this, they make their path themselves and forbid to follow the path of others. Mr. J. M. Peck is a poor and unknown man who later on establishes shipping business and becomes a business tycoon. He constructs his Victorian type palace and also
fabricates some rules and regulations for his dynasty to allocate their definite status. His son Mr. Caleb is a musical boy who forbids to follow the path of his father as he wishes to make his own identity in the field of music so he runs away from his home. Similarly, his step brother Mr. Daniel Peck makes a successful career in the field of Law. Like rebellious Mr. Caleb, another Peck member who forbids to blindly follow J. M. Peck’s path, is Mr. Duncan Peck. Hence he left his home and tries to make his own path to establish his own identity apart from being a Peck.

‘Earthly Possessions’ is a story of a lady who feel herself burdened from the relationship and encumberance. From the relationship and encumberance. From the beginning of her childhood she dreams to escape from all these to live among strange faces in some strange city. The destiny gives him chances to escape but every time it’s the circumstances which forces her to come back her home. So she begins to dream that after
marriage, her desires may be fulfilled and she may get a chance to live in some foreign country. But again she faces failure as her husband pastor Saul Emory begins to live with her in her parental home along with his ill mother. At last, she implements her decision, fortunately, is kidnapped by a kidnapper Jake Simms Jr. and she becomes his host. Jake Simms opens her eyes by which her eyes and she realises the importance and essentiality of possessions in one’s life.

“Morgan Passing” is another novel in which the character is in search of his own identity. Morgan Gower is an unfortunate protagonist of this novel whose father’s suicidal act drags his life to darkness. Therefore, he remains devoid of education and aim in his life. For financial benefit, he gets married to a rich girl Bonny, whose father imposes an identity on him. But his inner conscious is not satisfied and is always in search of his true identity. So he disguises himself everyday. The
advent of Mrs. Emily Meredith, a puppeteer helps him in searching and achieving his own self made identity.

‘Dinner At Homesick Restaurant’ is a story of a family where the worse relationship of Tull couple causes the abandonment act of Mr. Beck Tull. This incident acts as a tragedy for Tull children. So they develop a peculiar kind of behaviour in them such as elder son Mr. Cody Tull becomes a dominative, aggressive and a competitor young boy. Mr. Ezra Tull becomes a submissive and meek boy who fails to establish a good relationship with any girl. The daughter Ms. Joane becomes a failure in her married life, who divorced thrice.

The another novel is ‘The Accidental Tourist’ which is a storyline of an eccentric Leary family. This family is too reclusive and too orderly. Mr. Macon Leary, a member of Leary is over-systematized and method-lover. The tragedy of her son’s murder and his separation from his wife enhances his eccentricity. The worse impact of their childhood
experiences in which mother’s change loving and
flickering attitude have casted a deep and worse impact
on child psychology and hence they become a society
hater who always try to avoid people and society. The
coming of Mrs. Muriel Pritchett in the life of Mr. Macon
proves a u-turn in his life and he begins to leave his over-
orderly life.

The next one is ‘Breathing Lesson’, it is the
novel which arises the contemporary problem. Here the
widening of western civilization make children stubborn.
Also they distract them from their life and so they never
achieve any definite shape in their life. Beside, the
married life and the inter relationship between husband
and wife is also present. Here the most tragic couple is
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Tull whose marriage is the result of
blind passion by which Ms. Fiona and Mr. Jesse tie up
in the wedlock, soon their married life gets dissolved
inspite of mother Maggie’s efforts to save it. She is a
whimsical character of the novel. Her meddling
behaviour teaches the lesson of endurance for a happy long relationship.

It is an axiomatic fact that comic vision is the spice of life and it gives strength and vitality to the character, situation and the overall assessment of that novel. Mrs. Tyler has also used comic sensibility to provide charm to her novels. Sensibility is her attitude towards life in finding joys in each and everything. This particular aspect is writ large in each and every novel of Anne Tyler.

Here each novel has been treated as an organic whole and so comic spirit has been brought on an individual basis. Comic Sensibility consists of two words comic and sensibility. Comic means anything that is humorous or that evokes humour. Humour is the difference between what is and what should be. It arises from humour of situation, humour of incident and humour of words. It can again be classified into following categories.

Banter is an innocent piece in which characters do not laugh at anybody, they laugh with the people or character or its an innocent piece of humour called genial humour. Irony is an indirect attack in which the character is not able to understand it and other characters feel it and laugh within their sleeves. Satire is an indirect attack on others in a satirical manner. Contrast shows the fall from the height. In any way the tragic intensity is the highest and immediately there is a great fall from the tragic intensity creating all round humour. Sensibility is a mixture of thoughts and feelings. This part is quite perceptible in Anne Tyler’s novels especially those novels described here under.

In the novel “The Tin Can Tree” there is a satire on the contemporary society, which is running blindly behind the modern popular culture. The modern trend is spreading so fast and wide in the society that it is influencing not only
the teenagers but the middle aged persons too, for example a middle aged lady Mrs.Hammond forgets her manner in the blind imitation of the culture and breathe in the air of the foreign culture. She desires cheap popularity in this field and is crazy to become a part of it. She speaks the lines as desired by the radio station on picking each call. This makes her ridiculous before others and so they make fun of her. Such as master Simon is making fun of her and this becomes a centre of humour.

‘A Slipping Down Life’ in itself means a slip from life. There are number of incidents that raise humour. The novelist presents idiosynacies of her charcters to evoke humour. Ms. Evie is a girl who has made non-living things like the radio as her permanent companion. She doesnot try to interact with human beings by becoming social and rather listens to the radio round the clock. The novelist presents her very comic position by describing that she sleeps while listening to the voice coming out of the radio.
In the novel “The Clock Winder” there is a comical situation of Turkey-operation in which Mrs. Emerson has won a turkey as a prize and handed it over to her handyperson Ms. Elizabeth to chop and cook it. The little creature comes out of Elizabeth’s hand and begins to move hither-thither. She chases it but the trapping seems impossible to her. Timothy offers his help to her in its trapping by his car. Atlast he gives an idea to her to buy already chopped turkey from the market behind the back of his mother. Both of them are going to the market place to buy a turkey by car, which is driven very rashly by Elizabeth. Moreover, she says that she is an expert driver and has been driving when she was just eleven years old. Finally, they bought home a turkey and place it to the kitchen-counter. At the same time, Mrs. Emerson enters in the kitchen and notices two turkeys, one is dead on the counter and other is on its foot. This situation becomes embarrassing for Elizabeth and the readers burst into laughter.
Next chapter is denoted to the description of symbolism found in the novels of Anne Tyler. Symbols are like jewels in the piece of art, which enhance the charm of the novels. They are employed by almost all literary figures to make their ideas more explicit. The domestic novelist Anne Tyler has also used this modern artifice in her works to make them masterpieces. She has taken certain objects from day to day life and make them symbolic for expressing hidden meanings. ‘A Slipping Down Life’ is such a kind of novel as it is over-brimming with symbolic elements. Even the title of this novel has also a touch of symbolism, which bears the complete meaning, and essence of the entire novel in just four words. Evie Decker, the banner character of the novel is a bold and a girl of strong will power, who does not want to bend down before the age-old traditions fixed for women. It is a long list of harsh rules and restrictions for fair sex and thus become trammels in their life. These barriers hinder the progress, growth and success of ladies by
dragging them behind from the main stream of the world. For this reason, she makes an open revolt against the worn out traits of the society through her courageous deeds and proving herself an independent woman who herself takes the decisions of her life. The most admiring and first step of her life is her selection of her husband, which acts as a stepping-stone for her to become a complete lady. As per her own view, a lady becomes complete when she receives the gift of motherhood and has a complete family of her own. For her, Bertram ‘Drumstring’ Casey is not more than an agent for initiating her biological process of reproduction. While ascending on this very ladder of success she has faced a lot of troubles but she surmounts each crisis happily. Finally, she slips into the brightest and happiest life with new energy, passion, and hopes for good future in the form of her unborn baby. Hence, in this way the title symbolises the progressive and forward marching life of an innocent and ambitious woman.
The home is a place that symbolises the life and nature of its inhabitants. The long single tin roof house at Larksville is an abode of three different clannish groups, the Potters, the Pikes and the Green. These three families breathe together inspite of having no blood relations. It is symbolised by the long single tin roof of the house. The members of these houses live individually in their respective life despite living together under a roof.

In ‘The Clock Winder’; the word ‘clock’ symbolises the challenges of life faced by Mrs. Pamela Carter Emerson. She tries to overpower them but fails as all the domestic chores are hard nut for her to crack. Her failure is revealed through the stopped clock in her villa. These stopped clocks are equivalent to death and stagnancy, which Mrs. Pamela wishes to remove. So she has tried many unsuccessful attempts. Likewise, are living far from each other but her repeated efforts for
harmonzing and systematising her household and members of her family do not get success. For this reason, she is in a deadly need of an outside force for winding them.

The clock symbolises human beings. This non-living clock makes himself living and runs throughout life, and bears a parallel with that of living beings as just like them, it has a mechanism in them. If this mechanism gets disturbed, the rhythm of the clock gets upset. Similar is the case with human beings, he is always in a deadly need of a system; its reference is given by the cardiologist Mrs. Emerson.

‘Searching For Caleb’ the title of the novel symbolises the search for one’s inner-self, individuality and identity. The readers must not understand about the plot that there is a search for a person named Caleb. In reality, the characters of the novel such as Justine Montague Peck, Daniel Peck, Duncan and Caleb Peck all hunt their own individuality and a chance to get a unique
and distinct position in their respective life. Justine M. Peck, the head of the dynasty has made his unique identity in shipping business, Daniel Peck in law field; Caleb tries to achieve the height as a musician while Duncan works in a caravan troupe. Thus, there is a hunger for individuality and uniqueness among them and they are hunting for the same.