PRE FACE

This thesis is titled “A CRITICAL STUDY ON PAUL SCOTT’S THE RAJ QUARTET”, this study sets up criteria that help to understand Paul Scott’s The Raj Quartet. Novels take history to the realm of art. Fiction of all literary forms is most vitally concerned with the social conditions and values. Colonialism generated an imperial myth of racial superiority and divine authority, which transformed the nature of the Englishman when he came to India. A careful perusal of Paul Scott’s The Raj Quartet will unfold his views on history. The novelist’s sensibility was shaped by the politics of the day and weaves artistically the pattern behind the events, which illuminated the essential human conditions during the period 1942-1947 of Indian history. In Scott’s fiction, the handling of time-scale shapes the structure of the novel. The events of The Raj Quartet, covers a period of five years, from the Quit India resolution of the All India Congress committee in August 1942 to the end of the British rule in India and Partition of the country in August 1947. The course of history swiftns British imperialism in India towards its conclusion. The first of The Raj Quartet, The Jewel in the Crown appeared in 1964, followed by The Day of the Scorpion (1968), The Towers of Silence (1971) and A Division of the Spoils (1975). The Skill of the novelist as an accomplished historian in laying bare the complex and often conflicting inter-relationship of the era, and the ramshackle grandeur of the Raj is observed. Scott’s vision of India is ambivalent. He loved Indians but he valued and honoured the work the British did in India.
Chapter-1 Introduction deals with General Survey of Historical Novel. Historical Novel in Indian Writing in English, Indian Freedom Movement Background Novels, Image of Anglo-Indians in Literature. It also deals with Paul Scott’s predecessors and Scott’s Anglo-India.

Chapter-II The Jewel in the Crown is set in the fictional town, Mayapore. Paul Scott explores powerful themes of colonialism, racism, dreadful violence, Anglo-Indian relations, brutality and hatred in a complex environment through the story.

Chapter-III The Day of the Scorpion illustrates the lives of characters involved in the larger social and political conflicts. As the scorpion, encircled by a Ring of Fire, will sting itself to death, so does the British Raj hasten its own destruction when threatened by the flames of Indian independence.

Chapter-IV The Towers of Silence shows the sense of truth and the liberation, it permits Scott hints at the changed attitude of the British towards India by means of this imagery of the rose garden. And the transformation of the garden into a tennis court that implies the new generation of British people who stopped loving India as the ‘garden’ of love.

Chapter-V A Division of Spoils covers in the decamping of the British. Scott uses the imprisonment of Congress members and the civil disturbance at the time of partition to frame the narrative. Employing the device of the cartoons Scott presents the situation of August 1947.

Chapter-V1 Conclusion envisages how Colonialism generated an imperial myth of racial superiority and divine authority, which transformed the nature of the Englishman when he came to India with Paul Scott’s immense creative work.