Schindler’s Ark

Schindler Ark is an outstanding work in literature. It is proved by the comments like, “An astounding story . . . in this case, the truth is far more powerful than anything the imagination can invent” (Newsweek). “An extraordinary achievement” (Graham Greene). “Keneally had done marvellous justice to a marvellous story” (Sunday Times). A notable achievement of the writer Thomas Keneally is Schindler Ark, a winner of Booker Prize in 1982. This masterpiece was made into the internationally acclaimed film “Schindler’s List” by Steven Spielberg, which has gone to win the seven Academy awards including Best Director and Best Film. “Keneally’s portrait of Schindler is inspiring . . . he keeps clear of the pitfalls of sensationalism, handling the almost unbearable with the tough delicacy which it demands.” Either virtue or effectiveness or moralities are the difficult words to illustrate the leading role Herr Oskar Schindler. In the traditional sense, he was not an honourable young man. He is a drinker, womanizer and at first, an exploiter. He even neglects his wife in the evenings.

I have to be home,” said Oskar. At home was Ingrid, his German mistress. “You’re a bloody stallion, said Goeth. Not in your class,” said Schindler. No, you’re right. I’m a frigging Olympian” [Schindler Ark, p.28].

Deutsch Emailwaren fabric, the German enamel Works, was the name of Herr Schindler flourishing business. The story recreates the true story of Oskar Schindler, the Czech-born Southern German entrepreneur who has risked his life to hoard 1100 of his Jewish workers from the death camps of Nazi-occupied Poland by Hitler who
wished to make Europe free from Jews. ‘The Jewish people are going to be annihilated’, says every party member. ‘Sure it’s in our programme, elimination of the annihilation – we’ll take care of it’ (Schindler Ark, p.37).

He had found himself from saving the polish Jews from Nazi death mechanism. The story remains as a authentication to the indescribable horrors of Hitler attempts. This documentary novel recounts the life of flamboyant profiteer and womanizer and also explains the implausible heroism of one man’s attempt to do well in the centre of contemptible immorality.

The text not only explores the complex nature of virtue, the importance of individual human life but also the role of witnesses in the Holocaust and the attention to rules and details of the sustained Nazi system of terror. Perilously, this story of Schindler was begun with Gothic Nazis, with Secret Service (SS) self-indulgence, with the emaciated and brutalised girl and with the figure of the imagination somehow as popular as the golden-hearted whore, the good German.

In 1933, the era of Genocide was begun. Adolf Hitler and national socialist German workers (Nazi) party want to get rid of Germany from the influence of ultimately the world of tainted groups: Jews, Gypsies, Homosexuals and handicapped. The Nuremberg laws were passed by the German government in 1935 which defined a person raised Christian who had at least two Jewish parents was considered a Jew and therefore adulterated. These individuals are called Jews not based on their religious practices but on bloodiness. Adolf Hitler and Nazi came to power in the year 1933. They had taken a swearword to restore the pervious glory in their place and to take it back to its apex. By the time country was full in the sway of its enormous War. The influence of occupation, surrender and humiliating restrictions
can be observed up on the nation. The Nazi forces aimed at turning German into super power by the end of the decade. On the other side hatred was observed towards the Jews, however a newly-fangled term ‘Anti-Semitism’ was coined. The word Anti-Semitism means intolerance or loathing aligned with the Jews. German Journalist Wilhelm Marr originated this term Anti-Semitism which not only denotes the abhorrence of Jews but also various moderate sophisticated and international political trends of the eighteen and nineteenth century. Jews are treated as non-Germans and treacherous citizens. Atrocious riots were launched against Jews and false rumours were spread against Jews that they were using the blood of Christian children for ritual purposes.

It was in 1290, Jews were banished from England with the Edict of Expulsion. They were allowed to the country only after 1655. Nevertheless, Jews continued to play a role in the country’s literary works. It was witnessed by Marlowe’s The Jew of Malta and Shakespeare’s Merchant of Venice in Anti-Semitism manner. The work puts some information about Jews. Schindler is obviously intended to demonstrate that he was not anti-Semitism at heart. He says that every SS men had at least one Jewish friend, one ‘good Jew’. The Last Jew (2000) is a novel by Noah Gordan. It is about the Jews when they were expelled from Spain. Mike Gold’s Jews without Money in 1930 can be said as the same story of a hundred Ghettos scattered over the world. Splegelman’s Maus II: A Survivor’s Tale, And Here My Troubles Began is a biography of author’s father, Vladek Spiegelman, a Polish Jew and Holocaust survivor of Hitler’s Europe during the Second World War. In this work, the author metaphors Jews as Mice and Nazis as rats.

The epoch of devastation made Jews ethnically substandard. Six million Jews were killed by Nazi regime and its collaborators. The word Holocaust is of
Greek origin which means a sacrifice by fire. During the era of holocaust, the German authorities also targeted the other groups like Roma, the disabled, and Poles, Russians, Jehovah’s, Communists, Socialists, witnesses and Homosexuals.

During those hard times in Krakow, Schindler risked his life and wealth to save Jews from the clutches of Germans and Nazis. He was a German. But he is impartial. His neutrality is observed in the below lines,

Stern, the self-declared capitalist, the scholar made his statement, “I have to tell you sir that I am a Jew”. “Well” Herr Schindler growled at him, “I’m a German. So there we are!” (Schindler Ark, p.48).

_Schindler Ark_ is the fact-based novel written in 1983. This novel had chronicled first person accounts. Astonishingly, Schindler did nothing ahead of or subsequent to the war. Oskar Schindler is always restless and hungers for company. The story bridges the gap between veracity and creative writing. The protagonist was stretched as an unlikely hero, egoistical, self-indulgent, disloyal, exploiter and non-virtuous. Initially, he too is indifferent to the enigma of Jews and has no apprehension for the ethical values in his life. However, he started realizing the slaughter of Hitler and Nazi regime and develops a concern for Jews who ought to have to survive and began to feel empathic to his factory workers as a human being deserve to live. This emphatic feel and compassion forced him to save Jews and non-Germans and his great personal risk.

The documentary novel _Schindler’s Ark_ recounts the lives of flamboyant, abuser and womanizer Schindler, his long suffering wife, Emilie, the brutal Nazi Secret Service (SS) commandant Amon Goeth, Schindler’s courageous factory manager Itzhak stern and hundreds of Jews who were undergone the horrors of the Nazi machinery. Schindler come to Krakow, Poland to make his destiny, and to
accomplish his ambitions. But to the end of the story, all his dreams and aspirations turned to end the secret service of Nazi and to protect his Jewish employees. He looks well-bred in his manifestation. And expensive watch, cuff links, Nazi party pin are highlighted in his appearance. From Krakow hotel room he next visits ‘Judenrat’ which is a Jewish council in Krakow. He tells his accountant Itzhak stern that he needs investors Jews. As Jews are not supposed to own their own business, Schindler wants to pay the investors in product not money. He knows well that he will be profited lofty if he doesn’t desire to reimburse the Jewish employees in cash.

Jews approved to accept possessions as payment. Finally, he secured the profit from the Jewish investors. Jews rather than poles are very inexpensive to utilize and employ. Schindler, with the help of stern had set up a new factory and hired the Jews as the workers. He told them, ‘you’ll be safe working here. If you work here, then you’ll live through the war’(Schindler Ark, p.100). It was March 20, 1941 the dead line for Jews to enter the Ghetto. The very word Ghetto had a comforting and inherited loop. By that time, he arrives at his new luxurious apartment which was recently vacated by the Nussbaum family, who themselves are in Ghetto with other families. A little girl in the street shouts “Good bye Jews”.

Schindler offered Stern to look after his business. Stern refused the proposal of Schindler to run the business. When the day of regime had approached, immediately Stern had noticed the actuality and fills the factory with numerous Jewish employees. Schindler was unaware that Stern has a soft corner for Jews and he is using his position in the factory to hoard the lives of Jewish employees. To his surprise, one day when Stern has brought one armed man to meet Schindler to thank him for making an employee in his factory such that his life is saved. Schindler dismissed his gratitude and scolded Stern for his mindful task.
On the other side, Amon Goeth a aggressive Nazi Secret Service Commandant started his construction on the Plaszow Labour Camp. And he was charged with building and running the camp. After the completion of Plaszow, Jews were sent to the camp. On the day of massacre, Schindler’s girl friend watched the obliteration for the first time. He was stimulated by what he sees. He then was able to persuade Goeth to build his own camp such that he can house his factory workers. He was pretending as he was unintentional to save the lives of Jews. But he cannot continue this pretension for a long time.

When Ragina Perlman a Jewish girl approached him and begs to employ her parents, he refused it by inwards but has an intention to save her family. He therefore covers his empathetic nature yelling at Stern and declared that he is not in the business of saving Jews. When this seriousness has broken, he gave his gold watch to bring Perlmans over. This decision of sacrificing his own needs and deeds for the sake of Jewish employees had self-motivated him to actively save Jews from the clutches of Germans. He started giving more and more of his personal items to use as bribe to bring people to his factory. Bigheartedness was a disease in Oskar, a hysterical thing, one of his passions. The SS invasion of Kazimierz however would arouse in him a fundamental disgust.

He shrugged:

“I am a capitalist by temperament and I don’t like being regulated.”

The streets were jeered and hurled mud. “The Jews are going, The Jews are going. Good bye Jews” (Schindler Ark, p.98).

Initially, Schindler was the supporter of the German National Socialist Party. He was really appalled when he came to know that the Nazi party plans to
exterminate Jews from the whole of Europe. Later, he was highly resolute to do what he can do for the benefit of Jews. By the end of the war, he has saved many people from certain death in the Nazi concentration camps. He maintained sociable relations among the people which helped him to establish well during the moment of war. Nazis opined that the Jews are ‘Sub-Human’. They even devised a plan to use the Chemical Zyklon B to execute a large number of Jews at a time.

“If they want to win the war,” said Oskar, “they’d have to get rid of SS men like that.” “Get rid of them?” asked Toffel. “For Christ’s sake, they’re the bastards who’re on top. “Prime minister Skladkowski, on the floor of parliament in war saw, declared, “Economic war on the Jews? All right!” (Schindler Ark, p.99)

In 1941, when a Jewish Ghetto was established in Krakow, they were all enforced to live underneath heavy Nazi control. The Ghetto would initiate a negligible inconvenience in Oskar’s life. Despite of mounting difficulties Schindler was able to preserve his relations in the name of employment. All his activities were observed by the SS officers. He was arrested twice and investigated. Then, in the butt-end of 1941, Oskar found himself under an apprehend. Oskar beamed at the Gestapo man. “Whoever gave you my name,” he said, “is a fool and is wasting your time.” (Schindler Ark, p.116).

Under the Krakow Ghetto, life became very durable for Jews. Hardheartedly, they were taken in trains to so-called Labour Camps. They were forced to be away from their homes. One day, a young chemist called Bachner escaped from the death camp and returned with information about the Gas chambers which can exterminate up to 10,000 people per day. The Ghetto had been split into two sections like ‘useful’ and ‘not-useful’. The ‘not-useful’ were about 2000 were transported to the death
camps at Auschwitz or they were killed capriciously by Goeth for winter sport whereas the ‘useful’ were housed about 10,000 were sent to the nearby work Camp. In such critical times, Schindler sought to make the world know what’s going on indoors the Germany. For this, he asked his Jewish friend Stern to prepare a report about the happenings in the Ghetto camp. Then, he wished to furnish that report to Dr. Sedlacek, who can overtake it to the most influential people outside the Germany. In 1944, Russians were trying to advance into the Germany. By the time Nazi’s were transporting their prisoners to the other camps, Schindler too transported his workers to Plaszow first.

Later, he also took permission to move them to his hometown Zwittau in Czechoslovakia. With of the help of Stern, he has drawn the list of 1100 Jews and shifted them safely to his new Camp.

You are a damn fool, Philip told Oskar. They will shoot you for trying to corrupt their guards. But it will probably come to the SS court and you will be asked why aren’t in the army”. “The reason is obvious,” said Oskar. “I’m an essential war producer. You can get General Schindler to say so” (Schindler Ark, p.126).

“My workers”, said Schindler. “Essential industrial workers. My office manager, it’s idiocy. I have Armaments Inspectorate contracts, and here you are taking the workers I need to fulfil them.” “You can’t have them back,” said the young man. “They’re on the list.” The Schutzstaffel(SS) Non-Commissioned Officer(NCO) knew from experience that the list conferred an equal destination on all the members (Schindler Ark, p.137).

Later, Schindler was under arrest for the third time and has taken back to Krakow from Czechoslovakia to question his friendship with Amon Goeth. Previously, all his influential friends have come to his rescue but this time he was
worried that he cannot escape from Nazis plight. Fortunately, his friends again came to his rescue. During his arrest time his lovely wife has substituted all his duties especially in the Brinnlitz camp.

Schindler moved to Bueno Aries in 1949. He then moved to Germany in 1960’s. Thereafter residing again in Germany, made him to experience the significant experiences. One side he was criticized my Germans, on the other; he was extremely honoured by the Jewish people. Later an enormous wickedness, extreme criminality and cruel acts have been out. Goeth was charged with vacating Plaszow and exhuming and smouldering the bodies of 10,000 Jews killed there and at the Krakow Ghetto. Seeing this Massacre and atrocities of Germans, Schindler realized that all his workers including Stern have to face the death in the hands of Nazi. Then and there he decided to sacrifice his fortune and spend whatever he can to save as many Jews. He then urged and was able to convince Goeth to sell him all his Jewish workers to work in his factory in Czechoslovakia. Thereafter all the Jewish workers were transported to Czechoslovakia in two separate trains. However, when woman were diverted to Auschwitz, Schindler was strained to purchase them again. From the face of his own workers, Oskar could read something of the Ghetto torment. In fact it’s a barbarous Ghetto. “Whoever saves one life . . . saves the world entire . . . .” No thinking person could fail to see what would happen. I was now resolved to do everything in my power to defeat the system (Schindler Ark, p.147).

By the time when war ends, Schindler had characterized himself as a War criminal and planned to take flight at midnight along with his wife. Many a days he felt gloomy that he could not be able to save more Jews and more lives. He is an eventual redeemer of Jews with an intention to save the lives of Jewish factory workers he crooked himself from voracious war profiteer to a man willing to forfeit
his fortune. No one can describe the condition of soul Oskar on the March 13\textsuperscript{th}, the Ghetto’s last and worse day. Psychological impunity had been harder to achieve. Nearly four thousand Jews were executed in the streets. Later, their bodies were taken to Plaszow on open plat formed trucks and obscured in two mass graves in the woods beyond the new camp. Oskar would lay special weight on this day. Beyond this day he would claim the more orthodox of the Ghetto had a slogan. “An hour of life is still life”(Schindler Ark, p.157) Schindler said that he hardly believe in himself.

Keneally’s characterisation in his novels is usually complex. The characters are neither wholly good nor wholly evil. Of course, they generally reflect the complexity of human nature. Their explanation, Keneally gives the reader full pictures of their inner and outer lives. He leaves the description of his characters to his readers to draw their own conclusions and pass judgment. In other words, he has no direct presence in his novels. The author describes his characters in terms what he calls ‘technical neutrality’ which makes it possible for the reader to contemplate things in all different aspects. Nevertheless, with in the author's ethical system, he had designed each and every character in such a way that covers all the mindsets in the society around us.

The highest achievement in Schindler’s Ark is the creation of memorable characters whose circumstances of life are unimaginably remote from their own, but those aspirations are the same. The protagonist of this master piece Schindler doesn’t give any importance to the relationships but is very particular about the outside pleasures. He is designed as an opinionated character. Keneally’s profoundly explored this character, his struggles, inconsistencies, turbulent thoughts and actions. His flight from loneliness toward the illusionary comforts of power, honour, wealth and status under the tyrannical rule creates a definition of modernism. The
unforeseen changes and developments in his character surprise every reader. An unlikely hero, Schindler saved the lives of 1,100 Jews during the holocaust. His character is complex and fickle because he is a profiteer primarily than any other aspect. He is moderately successful businessman who recognises and wishes only for profit in wartime. He purchased Jewish-owned enamelware factory and used bribery to make the war supplies. He had joined the Nazi party not for the ideological reasons but to make the profit. The real Schindler never revealed his aspirations and motivations. His metamorphosis from the man of indifference to the man of compassion and he could not sit idle and watch the people who were being sentenced to death. As Patrick White’s *Voss* is repeatedly compared to God, Schindler has also become a religious symbol to Jews. Like a saviour Christ, Schindler has gone into the shoes of Jews.

A drastic change is observed when he strived his best to save the lives as Jews as many as he can. Nevertheless, whatever may be the aspirations and motives of Schindler, his efforts and good effects of his ambitions are undeniable and haven’t gone in vain. He was mocked by Germans from all sides. But he continued his task without ant break. Some people made threats and hissed at him as he passed in the streets of Vienna. “Jews Kisser” (*Schindler Ark*, p.251).

Itzhak Stern had made the factory a haven for the Krakow Jews before Schindler recognise the happenings of the fate. He was the man behind the thoughts and changes in the life of Schindler. His encouragement to help the people is abundantly clear. He also brought out the moral side of the protagonist. Third major character is Amon Goeth who represents the evil of the Nazi party. He is an incarnation of the mindless atrocities of the third Reich and its “Final Solution”. He is both complicated and conflicted man. Helen is a minor character. She is the victim
of sadism and ruthlessness of Goeth. Jewish maid Helen Hirsch is also the victim of Goeth’s misbehaviour.

Schindler raised his voice now. He was like a man enunciating a principle of physics. “He won’t kill you, because he enjoys you too much, my dear Helen. He doesn’t want anyone to know it’s a Jew he’s enjoying. He shot the woman from the steps because she meant nothing to him; she was one of a series, she neither offended nor pleased him. You understand that. But you . . . it’s not decent, Helen. But it’s life (Schindler Ark, p.31).

Among men like Goeth and Oskar the word gratitude did not have an abstract meaning. They say, “Gratitude was a pay-off. Gratitude was a drink and diamonds.” (Schindler Ark, p.189).

The other character is the girl in the Red Coat who represents the innocence of Jews being slaughtered. The fundamental and universal ideas are explored in this literary piece. Hope is the major theme. Before protagonist’s arrival, Jews had accepted the death and Nazi Regime very silently. But when the factory of Schindler became an asylum and an Ark to set their lives free, Jews started developing a hope that they will survive in the future. The hope for the survival is increasing day-by-day even if they knew that the death would sting them in any minute. Schindler gave them a hope with his unselfish behaviour when he got ready to sacrifice his wealth and aspirations completely for their lives. This can be briefed as the triumph of the human spirit. In those critical hours also two people managed to fall in love which once again proved their hope for survival. Jews might never have expected that one man being a complete profiteer and womanizer would stand against the existing evil on their behalf to rescue their lives in those critical conditions. In fact, it is like one man army. He risked his life and stood alone against the overwhelming of the evils in
the Nazi party. This wonderful thought that one man can save the life of other is the touching element in this work.

Issues of illusory freedom, social humiliations, the sorrow of rejection and the search for identity, dominations on the lives of Krakow Jews in Schindler’s ark are well discussed in the novel. Jews suffered from the unwillingness and banishment by some general consent. The list of Nazi’s represents the evil and death where as Schindler’s list represent the pure goodness and a hope for survival. The pain of refusal and disown could not be tolerated by Jews. But the consistent behaviour of Schindler added colours to their lives.

‘Feminism’ is a concept which came into light in 1960’s. During ancient times Greek poetess Sapcho (1560) had challenged the literature dominated by man. Catherine the Great (1470), the queen of Joan of Arc in France was ordered by the divine to liberate France. She was only woman warrior who was burnt alive. Later on Virginia Woolf, Jane Austen, George Eliot, Bronte Sisters and other feminist writers have created a new dimension in literature. Siman De Beauvoir says, “One is not born, but rather becomes a woman. It is civilisation as a whole that produces the creature which is described as ‘feminine’.

In Schindler Ark, the female characters played an important role. One of the main characters is Emilie Schindler. Being neglected by her husband, she managed to manage herself to support him especially in his needs and deeds that to in his absence. The readers mostly called her as Oskar’s abandoned wife. She believed in him than any other. In Emilie’s words “My dear Oskar” was always growling, “I never needed the damn money” (Schindler Ark, p.79). She was a boon in his life.
The other character is Ingrid. Amon killed him for no fault. This reveals the insecurity of women. There was no protection either to men or women under the dictatorship of Hitler. Not for equal rights but they were tortured, punished, worked and killed. Schindler, in those hard times, he has extended his level best to the women. He bought them again when the train was missed. On the other hand in his dark life, there were many women. Another character is Helen. Helen looked across the room and saw Amon lolling on the sofa and smiling, “Stop shaking, you stupid girl,” he told her, “or I won’t be able to save you from the hound”. Then he said, why don’t you be my magical substance? (Schindler Ark, p.251).

Every piece of literature focuses the importance of its age or periods. It describes the political, economical, political and sociological conditions of the periods. Schindler Ark also highlights the events and conditions of the society during the World War II. The author primarily aims to study how the work of literature reflects its historical and socio-cultural context. He dug the ancient archives in order to get the background of that one particular context or situation. He understood how a literary work is related to its context. The author’s approaches are really interdisciplinary. He threw the history and literature together. He gave all kinds of super interesting contexts for understanding that a reader reads the text again and again. Political and social upheavals of the time are reflected in the work. He talks about politics and class and power and to talk an interdisciplinary approach to the study of literature.

The literary work is generally refers to a period after colonialism. In its use as a critical approach, post-colonialism refers to a “collection of theoretical and critical strategies used to examine the culture, literature, politics history and so forth of former colonies of the European empires and their relationship with rest of the world”
Facing many culture and history; for example, Edward said used the word *Orientalism* challenges post-colonial writers attempt to resurrect the discourse about the East constructed by the West. Major figures of post-colonialism includes Edward Said, Frantz Fanon (Africa), Salman Rushdie, Chinua Achebe, Wole Soyinka and so on.

Post-colonial criticism has focused especially on third world countries like America, Africa, Asia, Caribbean etc. However, some scholars and readers extended the scope of analyses and cultural production of the countries like Australia, Canada which have achieved independence much earlier than third world countries. The post criticism refers to the political ideologies, which legitimated the modern invasion, occupation and exploitation of colonial powers. It appeared in the decolonisation that marked the second half of the 20th century and has been appropriated by contemporary critical discourse in the wide range of domains. In this sense, post-colonialism will pertain to a set of features (political, economic, social etc.) which characterises these countries and that the way they negotiate their colonial heritage. Being understood that the long period of dependency necessarily had a profound influence on the social, cultural and literary fabric of these societies. It aims at decolonising the future.

The final hour of colonialism has struck and millions of inhabitants of Africa, Asia and Latin America rise to meet life and demand their unrestricted right for self-determination. [Che Guevava, Speech to the United Nations, December 11 1964].

Furthermore, post-colonialism deals with cultural and national identity in the colonised societies; the uncertainty of developing a national identity after colonial rule; the ways in which writers articulate and celebrate their National identity has
been generated. Post-colonial theory as epistemology, ethics and politics addresses the matters of identity, gender, and race, racism and so on. Even though he is an Australian writer, Keneally, focused on the legitimacy of Germany and its post-colonial society. German too, like any other country is not free from the effects of World War I. In fact it affected more when compared.

The war has completely shaken the foundations of Germany and swiped its authenticity. When Germans were striving for the identity, non-Germans like poles and Jews might have embarrassed them from all sides. A feeling of racialism was planted deeply. For this under the dictatorship of Hitler they aimed to take off the roots of other race in Germany. They were immoral and cruel. Finally, they were half-successful in accomplishing their dreams and plans. The immediate suicide of Hitler once again introduced them to the true meanings of fear, identity etc. Hence, Keneally is a post-colonial writer.

Keneally reflected the ideas and tensions of the time during the World War II. He engaged human history as a history of ideas. This literary text Schindler’s Ark represented the power at the time and also certain kind of Marxism and post-colonial analysis. ‘Marxism’ claims especially on human consciousness which is constituted by an ideology - that is, the beliefs, values and the ways of thinking and feeling through which human beings perceive, and by recourse to which they explain what they take to be reality (Abrams. M.H., Glossary of Literary Terms, p.148). Hungarian thinker George Lukacs proposed that ‘each great work of literature creates its own world which is very unique and seeming distinct from everyday reality.

Like the masters of realism in the novel such as Balzac and Tolstoy, even Keneally brings to life a greatest possibility of richness of the objective conditions of life. Schindler’s Ark is not particularly about the division of the classes in the society.
or not about the suffering in poverty. It comes out with Marxist concepts of ‘lived experience’, ‘hegemony’, ‘social realism’ and ‘bourgeois ideology’. These SS men are as corruptible as any other police Force then? The gentleman of the Budapest rescue committee asked Oskar. “In my experience,” growled Oskar, “there isn’t one of them that isn’t” (*Schindler’s Ark*, p.171). The question arose, as it had in Krakusa Street. What could embarrass the SS? What could embarrass Amon? (*Schindler’s Ark*, p.183).

Marxism is in full swing during the World War II. No wages were paid. An inequality was found everywhere under the leadership of Nazi’s. Jews had experienced the true meaning of hell. Fight for survival was noticed. In fact, it’s a fight with fate. The below lines speak about the division of classes in the society. All right stern, if God made man in his image, which race is most like Him? “Is the pole more like Him than the Czench?” There was none of that whimsy today. Instead he growled, “What does everyone think”? Stern told him that the prisoners were like prisoners. (*Schindler’s Ark*, p-277)

They did their work and hoped for the survival. They were employed in all the industries under very low wages. These were paid less and forced to work hard, but at the end of the day when they were back from their working places, it was a question that their partners and children may or may not at home. The reason is Nazi’s often jail the Jews, if they observe any kind of independence that is being enjoyed by Jews. If God made everyone in His image, why are all these inequalities in the society? To which class might have those Jews belong to? There might be another class next to ‘lower’. Jews had never enjoyed the true meaning of life. Life was a question mark to Jews under the dictatorship of Hitler.
“I’m going to get you All out”, Oskar grunted all at once. He put a balled fist on the desk. “I’m going to get you All out”. “All?” asked Stern. He could not help himself. Such massive Biblical rescues didn’t suit the era. “You, anyhow,” said Oskar. “You” (Schindler’s Ark, p.277).

“My German comrades! “it began. “If I speak to you today, it is first in order that you should hear my voice and should know that I am unhurt and well, and, second, that you should know of a crime unparalleled in German history. This time we shall settle accounts with them in the manner to which we National Socialists are accustomed.” (Schindler’s Ark, p.292). So Die All Jewish Bolshevists! (Schindler’s Ark, p.297).

Modernism describes the realisation in the society. Modernism is not simply a change or trans-continent or universal. It is a new trend in thoughts. Premise of Modernism is the encouragement with the aim of identification. Modernism in this sense questioned the certainties that had supported the traditional modes of social organisation, traditional ways of conceiving the human self, religion and morality. In Schindler’s Ark few Jews came forward to question the authority. But they were killed if they raise their voices.

Existentialism is a term applied to the work of a number of 19th and 20th century philosophers who despite of their profound doctrinal differences generally held that the focus of philosophical thought should be to deal with the conditions of existence of the individual person and their emotions, actions, responsibilities and thoughts. The early 19th philosopher Soren Kiekegaard, posthumously regarded as the father the ‘Existentialism’ maintained that the individual is solely responsible for giving their own life meaning and living that life passionately and sincerely in spite of
many existential obstacles and distractions including despair, angst, absurdity, alienation and boredom. Existentialism became fashionable in the post world war years as a way to reassert the importance of human individuality and freedom. It’s a philosophy which emphasis the uniqueness of isolation of the individual experience in a hostile or indifferent universe, regards human existence as unexplainable and stresses freedom of choice and responsibility for the consequences of one acts. Schindler’s Ark also deals with the themes of Existentialism like the dire situation of women and the debilitation effects of poverty, the blatant oppression of political rights, the degrading of true faith and the lack of spirituality, fight for freedom and confrontation. Hence Keneally is an Existential writer.

Objectivism is a philosophical system developed by Russian-American writer Ayn Rand (1905-1982). Rand first expressed Objectivism in her fiction, most notably The Fountainhead (1943) and Atlas Shrugged (1957), and later in non-fiction essays and books. Leonard Peikoff, a professional philosopher and Rand’s designated intellectual heir, later gave it a more formal structure. Peikoff characterises Objectivism as a “closed system” that is not subject to change. Human beings have direct contact with reality through sense perception, that one can attain objective knowledge from perception through the process of concept formation and inductive logic, that the proper moral purpose of one’s life is the pursuit of one’s own happiness (rational self-interest), that the only social system consistent with this morality is one that displays full respect for individual rights embodied in laissez-faire capitalism, and that the role of art in human life is to transform humans’ metaphysical ideas by selective reproduction of reality into a physical form—a work of art—that one can comprehend and to which one can respond emotionally.
In *Schindler’s Ark* . . . the word ‘Ark’ itself is a main object. He took an unexpected stand on the title of the book. The author liked Ark better than list. “It was not only the question of Noah’s Ark, but the Ark of the convenant, a symbol of the contract between Yaweh and the tribe of Israel. A similar though very rough compact was existed between Schindler and his Jews. If they did their work properly—if the accountant kept the books well, if the engineers and the people on the floor produced or, later in the war – he would rescue them. I call it a ‘rough compact’ because of those people who were lost to the list through factors Schindler could not control” (*Schindler’s Ark*, p.188).

The word Symbolism is a coherent system composed of number of symbolic elements. The word ‘List’ in the title is also another object. The first name in the list was that of Oberfuhrer Julian, the second that of Martin Plathe of the Abwehr in Breslau. The third name was veteran Franz Bosch, the fourth was Ferrum of Sosnowiec. Oskar list is believed as a sweet chariot which might swing slow. There is *Schindler’s List*. It was worth everything to be on it (*Schindler’s List*, p.304). The author fictionally has put together a party of travellers in *Schindler’s List*, a sort of Canterbury Tales Group.

The word ‘Death’ was used as a symbol for end of life throughout the novel. A death walks (*Schindler’s Ark*, p.229). Death in its true sense walks and dances in the streets of Germany. If I go empathetic with Jews . . . sure almost all of us are fortunate that we are not under the dictatorship of Adolf Hitler. It seems that being born, as a Jew is a sin. The intolerance, the racism, psychological imbalance of leaders, love for their nation, strive for identification, overcrowded strength, economic crises etc., forced them to undertake the revolutionary deeds and brutalities against the
innocent Jews. Jews were just puppets in the hands of Hitler. Everything in this world definitely has its limits . . . but their suffering has no ending.

New Historicism is a school of literary theory grounded in critical theory and reached its high peak in the 1980’s primarily through the work of the critic Stephen Greenblatt and gained its wide spread popularity in the year 1990. New historicists aim simultaneously to understand the work through its historical context and to understand the culture and intellectual history through literature which documents the new disciples of the history of ideas. New Historicism denies the claim that society has entered a ‘post-modern’ or ‘post-historical’ phase and allegedly ignited the “culture wars”. As Carl Rapp states: “We are the only one who is willing to admit that all knowledge is contaminated including even our own. ”Unlike previous historical criticism which is limited itself to simply demonstrating how a work was reflective of its time, New Historicism evaluates how the work is influenced by the time in which it was produced. It also examines the social sphere in which the author moved the psychological background of the author, the books and theories that may have influenced the author and any other factors which influenced the work of art. New Historicism actually has taken its roots in Marxism and somewhat shared its elements with post-modernism, Greenblatt created the term New Historicism in his book *The Power of Forms in the English Renaissance*. New Historicism is a literary theory that emphasises the understanding of the history of a text by relating it to powers, events, ideologists and movements of the given time frame. There are many New Historicism aspects in the novel *Schindler’s Ark*.

Hitler rose to power in German politics as the leader of the National German workers party or Nazi party. He served as a dictator from 1934-45. German-nationalism was his early interest. He is an Anti-
Semitist. The rise of Christianity has increased the hatred of Jews. He always believed that German army had been betrayed by Civilian leaders and Marxists. He was the unquestioned dictator of Nazi party. Hitler was a powerful speaker. He promised to build a strong nation, undo the injustice of the Versailles Treaty and restore the dignity of the German people. He attacked communism and capitalism terming both of them as Jewish conspiracies and promised to build a strong state which will counter the both. Germany had waged a Genocide war, which resulted in the mass murder of selected groups of the innocent civilians of Europe. The number of people killed included about 60,000,000 Jews, 20,000,000 Gypsies, 10,000,000 Polish Civilians, 70,000 Germans who were considered physically disabled and 100,000 homosexuals besides innumerable political opponents or people of different religious faith.

Schindler’s Ark is an eventual piece of Holocaust Literature. ‘Holocaust’ means a great devastation resulting in the extensive loss of life especially in fire. Auschwitz was the name of German labour camp which was the most evil place in the world. Holocaust literally means “burnt offerings” which was perpetuated against Germany and Japan in Second World War by England and the United States. The words like Holocaust, Anti-Semitism, Nazi-Regime, Ghetto, and Labour Camps might have got its true meaning in Germany itself. Also there are some abbreviated words like S.D. (Security Service), S.S. (The Potential Squads) and Gestapo Torture.

Christopher Peason refers to Keneally’s penchant for warm fuzzy holocaust novels’. That Keneally is without a doubt one of the two or three most over-rated writers in the world today and if an envy. Peter pierce takes an opposite more measured view: one wonders whether critics have made Keneally the scapegoat for
their own distaste for, lack of confidence in, and Australian culture so that attacks on his arts, subjects, politics signify a cultural dead-wish. (The Critic made me: p.103)

Under the charismatic leadership of Adolf Hitler, Nazism was characterized to be strong. The ideology of Nazism is to built a strong Germany, anti-communism, anti-Semitism, a belief in the ‘stab-in- the back myth’, and the idea that German were radically superior to all other races, its impossible to see any personal freedom in Nazi Germany. Punishments were ruthless and often involved torture and imprisonment in Concentration Camps. Holocaust was the extreme consequence of the Nazi principles. Beginning in 1941, it had claimed the lives of 6 millions Jews, one- third of the entire world Jewish population, including 1.5 million children. Anti-Semitism existed in German society in other European countries long before the Nazi Party came in power in 1933. Nazi’s used anti-Semitic propaganda to influence the German Public. It was emphasised as a ‘racial prejudice rather than a religious one’. The thousands of German Military and civilian Personnel were involved in the mass murders. Laws limited the number of Jewish students allowed in public schools, banned Jews from the public places, expelled Jewish officers from the army and transferred ownership of many Jews to the non-Jewish Germans. Many Jews were refused to believe the reality of what was taking place around them. The principal victims of Holocaust was European Jews. The horrors of mass murders and other atrocities committed by Nazi’s shocked the conscience of the people around the world.

Keneally employs the idea of ‘episteme’ to indicate a particular group of knowledge’s and discourses which operate in concert as a dominant discourses in any given historical period. ‘Self-positioning’ is another aspect of New Historicism. Rather the inevitability of personal bias makes it imperative that new historicists be aware of and so forthright as possible about their own psychological and ideological
positions relative to the material they analyse so that their readers can have some idea of human ‘lens’ through which they are viewing issues at hand. New Historicism seeks to promote the power of forms. New Historicist typically focuses its attention on the dominating structure of the society largely without criticism. His investigation is relentlessly synchronic.

New Historicism is that between the present-as-subject and past as object. The enthusiasm attending this ‘New Historicist’ investigation marks our sense of emancipation. Literary historian must perforce within the closed world of textuality and he must not hypostasize a part of his evidence as a historically real. Hence, Keneally is a proven New Historicist. He started his journey from Australia to Germany to investigate the facts about the history.

Keneally is an efficient writer. He did not hesitate to meet the Schindler Jews. He has noticed how civil war affected the people here and there in the world. He has written all his experiences in his Memoir “Searching for Schindler”.

“Had I read “Searching for Schindler” before making the film, I may have made it an hour longer. I owe you so much. The world owes you more” (Steven Spielberg).

Schindler’s Jew Leopold Pfefferberg said,

“I was saved, and my wife was saved, by a Nazi. I was a Jew imprisoned with Jews. So a Nazi saves me and, more important, saves Misia, my younger wife. He was all drinking, all black marketing, all screwing and okay? But he got Misia out of Auschwitz, so to me he is God”

The Schindlerjuden (Schindler’s Jew) are grateful to Oskar even today. He rescued the Jewish workers from deportation and death. At times, he was not hesitated to bribe Nazi officials with gifts of luxury. His sacrifices made Jews to treat Schindler equal to God. “Oh! She smiled. ‘Oskar. Oskar was a God. But Oskar was Oskar as well.” (Misia, Searching for Schindler, p.12).

I was becoming aware that many Jewish survivors believed, rightly or wrongly, that the Nazis placed so many concentration camps in predominantly Catholic Poland because of the ripe streak of Anti-Semitism there (Keneally, p.70).

The liquidation of the Ghetto made Schindler very appalled and made him to change his mind about Nazi’s. Jews were managed to escape from the threat of random execution and ghetto for sometimes. “Schindler broke down as he bids farewell to his workers, distraught that he was not able to save Jews. In reality his camp was already crowded beyond its authorised limits” (Schindler’s Ark, p.88).

Thomas Keneally has created an authentic picture of contemporary Australia through his writings. Considered as one of the most revered authors of Australia, he has created a niche for himself as a writer of various genres with astounding success at the world arena. He’s seen Australia as a country of diversified rich cultures and great traditions, which are the persistent themes, explored in his novels. His conception of Australia, reflected in his works is the product of his real experiences of the country. Keneally’s works are diverse and widely acclaimed. His fiction represents the Australian national identity. National identity is the central theme of all his works. It brings in to light the cultural and critical environment in which the works are being authored. Keneally is a chief figure in the literary heritage of Australia as his works are an amalgamation of literary craft and Australian history. He strongly advocates an Australian Republic, an identity that would abolish
monarchy from Australia. The Australians wish to move away from the belief that they are just an offshoot of Britain. He explores the long cherished Australian dream of a republic. His works represent and symbolise the historical identities of the nation.

In many instances, literary identity asserts national identity. Literature of a nation reflects various issues latent in the society. Besides that, it speaks of individual and collective identity of the people. Prominent writers like Patrick White, Judith Wright, Peter Carey, Kim Scott, etc., make Australian literature famous. These writers have anticipated in attributing universality to Australian literature with their works. Australian literature deals with Australian themes as well as the global issues. There have been more than 30 literary awards bestowed to Australian literary personalities. It shows the recognition to Australian literature at the world stage.

Thomas Keneally, with his historical novels, has taken the Australian literature far beyond one country. He is different from other writers of his times as he explores history with popular fiction. Booker prize and Miles Franklin Award are just few feathers of his illustrious career. He has authored 26 works of fiction and 8 works of non-fiction. He’s worked as television commentator, an actor, has been the President of Australian Society of Authors and is a leading stalwart of the Australian republican movement.

“Such a fascinating story surrounded by so many enigmas that it is well worth another visit” (Ed king, Sunday Times).

“A fascinating, absorbing book, replete with anecdote and a quality of writing that continues to mark Keneally out as one of our finest living authors” (Barclay Mebain, Herald).
“It has charm, narrative torque and Heart-rending testimony” (Carlo Gebler, Irish Times).

In the words of Rodeo Drive, *Schindler’s Ark* is the greatest story of humanity man to man. One the very good example of Hitlers artrocites was Anne Frank. Her personal dairy is one of the most imporant documents have survived from the hardtimes. Her short young life snuffed out tragically by the workings of twisted manic ideology. She is a jew in hiding. She had started her dairy writing in june,1942. Being a Jew, her freedom was severly restricted by a series of Anti-Jewish decrees. “Not being able to go outside upsets me more than I can say and I’m treified that her hiding place will be discovered and we will be shot. That of course is a fairly dismal prospect (*The Diary of Young Girl*, p.30).

Jews are branded by their shorn heads. The horrors which were happening their were heartrending. A single bomb takes awat the lives of many. The trainloads of the youngman depart daily. Some of them tries to sneak off the train when it stops at the small samll stations. But unfortunately only few could manage to escape unnoticed and find the place to hide. It seems that Jews are born to die in the hands of Germans. The people get almost nothing to eat much, less top drink as water is available only one hour a day and there was only one lavatory and sink for several thousands of people.

This is the beginning of the end everyone was saying. But Churchill the British Prime Minister who must have heard the same thing that is being repeated in English declared . . .

This is not the end. This is not even the beginning of an end. But it is perhaps the end of the beginning (*Schindler’s Ark*, p.64).
Oskar’s words have lightened the faces of Jews with optimism. Night after night green and grey motor vehicles cruise the streets. They knock on every door to know whether any Jew live there. If so, they immediately takes away the whole family. Most terrible things were happening outside.

Jews were being dragged out of their homes. Many families were torn apart. Men, women and children were separated. When the children came from school to find their parents, they realises that they have disappeared. Jews and Christians alike are waiting . . . the whole world is waiting and many are waiting for deaths (Schindler’s Ark, p.75).

RSVP Gas! Ofcourse, he meant the Danger Gas! (Schindler’s Ark, p.77).

The whole world was at war. Even though the Allies were doing better, the end is nowhere insight. The events that mentioned in the dairy of Anne Frank match the historical novel Schindler’s Ark. This novel was much about Holocaust Literature. In the milestone of the Holocaust Literature, Keneally used the actual testimony of Jews to brilliantly potray the courage and cunning of the good man in the midst of unspeakable evil. The novel Schindler’s Ark takes the footnote of Holocaust history. In November 1918, which was the end of the First World War Germany had battered and bactered. They blamed their own leaders and the traitors at home especially – the Jews.

In 1933, when the German elections were won by the Nazi Party, the mad and bad leader Adolf Hitler has come into power. They began bullying jews and building up the stock of machines. Hitler said, “I’m just protecting the Germans who live here”. He said it very innocently. Many German leaders met and agreed that Jews were not real human. The fit Jews are worked to death and the weak will be starved
or killed in the death camps. The unconditional surrender of Germany he said, “has just been announced. After 6 years of the cruel murder of human beings, victims are being mourned and Europe is now trying to return to peace and order” (Schindler List, p.358).

Many of the Germans had heard of this monotonous destruction. Keneally therefore begged them once again to act in a humane way and justy way to leave the justice to those authorised. If they have to accuse a person, let them do it in a right place. Because now it is New Europe where there will be judges who will listen to them definitely. Number of Schindler Jews had done well in post war Germany. In 1961, Schindler was bankrupt again. His factory has been hurt by harsh winters in which the constructed industry has been closed down. German Press had carried the stories of Schindler’s war-time rescues. Poldek has urged the survivors to denote atleast a day’s pay in a year to Schindler whose state he described as “discouragement, Lonliness and disillusion.” In 1974, Schindler was collapsed in his apartment. He was burnt in the Latin cementary of Jerusalem. He was mourned on every continent. Schindler’s Ark complies oral histories of Holocaust survivors and shapes them into a fictive drama. Most of the author’s early works reflect his interest in spiritual matters ans contemporary issues.

Schindler’s Ark is a Holocaust fiction. The author does depict the Plaszow Concentration Camp. Holocaust is a slaughter on a mass scale especially caused by fire or nuclear. More than 6 million Europan Jews as well as members of other persucated groups were murdered at Concentration Camps such as Auschwitz. The psychology of Nazi’s was represented through out the story. The dairy od Anne Frank had offeref a unique perspective on the events of the Holocaust. Nazism
affected many countries and after the war survivors were scattered over the globe. Thus the novel explored the unjust trial and persecution of Jews.

The work emerged as the result of Keneally’s creative writings and indirectly through sympathies based on his family’s history and ethnic difference from dominant social groups. His fiction reveals so many movements mainly driven by empire, war and famine. This is a historical fiction which focused on the lives of nostalgic Jews during and after the Holocaust. *Exodus* is an historical novel by American novelist Leon Uris about the founding of the state of Israel. The story upholds the transport of Jewish refugees from camp to Palestine. *The Destruction of the European Jew* is a 1961 book by historian Raul Hilberg. It is largely held to be the first comprehensive historical study of the Holocaust. The book also like *Schindler’s Ark* gives the information about the genocide of the Jews by Nazi Germany.

The author as a historicist has abandoned the objectivity and try explicitly to make his own form of past, thus magnifying its contemporary force and significance. There is a kind of emancipation through the protagonist Schindler, to be experienced as the past enlarges power to articulate present concerns. New Historicism recasts history as a battle over the fiction.

New Historicism colonized the discourses, the sceptical activism and observed the overall power structure of the discourse. The novel exhibits the power of Nazi’s without taking the responsibility for it, saying it is only telling a story about power, that power is nothing but the stories it tells about itself. This type of colonial battle of communication which happened in Germany is also joined in Greenblatt’s climatic essay on Othello in Renaissance Self-Fashioning, ‘the supreme symbolic expression of the cultural model I have been describing’ (Greenblatt, 1980: 232).
The author had achieved a critical regard for fictions of Australian history with in a nationalist cultural resurgence. He had concentrated on overseas as well to make living as a writer. His works on European topics was not celebrated at home, yet he continued to write about them. His masterpiece Schindler's Ark is set in Germany, Gossip from the Forest is set in the European countries.

Keneally's interest in moral challenges (Baker 125; Will Banks 136: Pierce) and the ambiguous nature of heroism (Fabre 103-04) and his fascination for history (Allington 36, Slattery 4-5; Walshe 46) have led him to position Australia in relation to the vents overseas. Robert Dixon has made the point that Australian Literature either as a corpus of critical study, is more than what happens within the borders of the nation (Dixon). Despite his pride in sales at home and his national profile in the media, Keneally has often complained of how narrow coterie and national fixations have limited positive responses to his writing and argued that he has been more favourably received overseas (Krausmann 56; Willblanks, 130).

His catholic background and activist sympathy allow to modern polish history and assesses the central place of his Booker Winning Schindler's Ark filmed as Schindler's List. The author is placed in relation to Patrick White (Allington 36), elevated in terms of his Irish Catholic Slant on Australian cultural history (Peter Pierce, “The Critics made me”, Dixson) measured according to many national awards (Common Wealth literary fund, Miles Franklin, Order of Australia) he has received (Baston 49). His personal interest in flawed catholics and true, goodness sparked his taking up Schindler’s story (Searching for Schindler, p.21).

The novel dealt about the new episteme, the new humanism. This humanism is portrayed through the character of Schindler. The same Schindler’s intention in
Schindler’s Ark is also observed in Erzberger in Gossip from the Forest. His passion to save Germans and Germany from the Great War Armistice is depicted in the novel. Schindler’s Ark and The Chant with Jimme Blacksmith are the novels, having heroes who are hardly moral paragons, it is possible to avoid extracting a moral form of stories that Keneally creates.

The power of Historical fiction for a bad and for a good can be immense in shaping consciousness of past. Keneally’s history shapes everything, dynamic reconstruction of the past and how war confuses moral values and challenges Frank Darragh in his faith in confession and absolution, how history shapes everything. Consistent with this reading, the critical response to Keneally’s work Schindler’s Ark centres around the actual historical moment of Spielberg’s filming of Schindler and Holocaust History at Auschwitz. New Histoicism opines that no one wields absolute power even if one is a dictator. It views historical accounts as narratives and stories with a specific positionality and politics of signification.

Keneally has dedicated his magnum opus Schindler’s Ark to Schindler’s Jew, Pfefferberg with a great pride who by zeal and persistence caused this book to be written. In an interview in 2007, he exclaimed that what attracted him to Schindler was that “It was the fact that you could not say where opportunism ended and altruism began. And I like the subversive fact that the spirit breath where it will. This is that good will be emerged from the unlikely places. Los Angeles Times Book Review had described this masterpiece as, “A masterful account of the growth of human soul”.

Historians do many things to gather the exact information about the content they want. Literary writers of historical fiction will go in contact with the real circumstances then and will make sure about any war happenings by conversing with the people who lived in those times. Leo Tolstoy’s literary achievement is War and
Peace. In order to produce a war novel like thais, the author made a visit to the people who lived through the 1812 French Invasion of Russia. He also read all the standard histories available in Russia and French about Napoleonic Wars. Likewise, Keneally also made a regular visits to Schindler’s Jews for an authentic information as well as he had worked from the primary source materials, history books, philosophy texts and other historical novels. He had also used his great deal of own experience in the World War II to bring a vivid detail and first hand accounts of how the Jews were misstructured. His intention was to blur the line between fiction and history, in order to get closer to the ‘truth’. Holocaust survivors had re-adjusted to life after the trauma.