

SPECIMEN FORMAT FOR THESES OF MONTH

Faculty : Humanities

Department : English

Branch/ Area: : English

Sub Subject Heading: : Indian Writing in English

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Title of the thesis : Journey towards self-realization: A study of Upamanyu Chatterjee's Select Novels

(i) In Roman Script
(ii) In roman Script

Nomenclature of Degree: : Ph.D

Month & Year of Enrolment: : July 2012

Month & Year of Registration: : July 2012

Month & Year of Submission: : January 2017

Month & Year of Award : December 2017

Name of Supervisor : Dr.S.Kalamani

Designation of Supervisor : Professor of English

Centre/department/school in which research was conducted : English

University's Name & Address : Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women

Abstract within 300 words:

The study entitled “Journey towards Self-realization: A Study of Upamanyu Chatterjee’s Select Novels” is divided into six chapters including introduction and conclusion. The introductory chapter gives an overview of the major writers dealing with the philosophy of existentialism and major themes dealt by the Indian English novelists. Upamanyu Chatterjee’s place in Indian Writing in English, his achievements and an outline of his works, along with a review of literature. Chapter 2 Socio-cultural Problems studies the problems that arise due to westernization namely hybridity and mimicry and the prevalent social evils like corruption, misuse of power, the erosion of values and gender disparity. Chapter 3 Identity Crisis deals with the impact of western culture and the resultant loss of traditional and familial values leading to loneliness, frustration and identity crisis. Chapter 4 Moral Degeneration studies how the protagonists instead of being heroes become antiheroes with their untruthfulness, immorality and rejection of traditional and moral values. Chapter 5 Existential Loneliness studies how the protagonists, the representatives of the modern man become lonely failing to appreciate the qualities of love, faith, understanding and selflessness. Chapter 6 Conclusion deals with man struggling to know his own self. The process of becoming makes him understand what is freedom and how he should make use of it so that his responsibility as a true man can be realized and carried out in his different roles as son, husband and father and finally as a true human being in the society. The study is an attempt to establish Upamanyu Chatterjee as a realist and a writer with a social purpose committed to social change.

Major objectives :

- To explore the socio-cultural problems due to the impact of colonialism
- To analyse the problem of identity crisis in the modern society
- To study the protagonists as antiheroes in Chatterjee’s novels
- To assess the existential loneliness of the major characters who attain self-realization

- To draw out conclusions through the study of characters who attain self-realization by understanding their different roles in the society.

Hypothesis: Man creates conflict and feels lonely; hence he finds himself as a misfit in the society. When he tries to overcome his problems, his journey towards self-realization begins. This study is an attempt to analyse the works and characters of Upamanyu Chatterjee with the message of bringing about a change in the society through a positive attitude in the minds of the people.

Methodology : For documentation *MLA Handbook* Eighth Edition has been followed.

Theories and concepts used are Post colonialism, Feminism, Identity crisis, Archetypal hero, Existential philosophy and Self- realization

i) Findings:

The thesis reiterates that in his journey towards self-realization, man faces identity crisis and gains ethical awareness at the cost of inner conflicts; Freedom, choice, action and responsibility play an important role in the process of ‘Becoming’; Self-realization helps man to understand his role as son, husband, father and responsible human being in the society

Examiners

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