

**CHAPTER-V**  
**CONCLUSIONS**

## Chapter V

### **Conclusions**

The analysis of the select novels reveals that the crime emerges as a central thematic concern. In order to understand Ruth Rendell's depiction of crime, the present research work is undertaken. The dissertation is divided into five chapters with an introduction. In introduction, a brief review of Ruth Rendell's life and work is undertaken in order to place her in the literary tradition and know the social and literary influences on her writing. In its initial part, a brief review of the relevant literature is undertaken that puts the research lacuna that is aimed to bridge, in the present research work. Aims and objectives are stated in it to maintain a logical line of the dissertation. The first chapter of theory takes the review of definitions; opinions and books addressed to the topic of crime. The features of crime fiction are also drawn in this chapter. It also comprises a short introduction to the popular literature. The subsequent chapters deal with the analysis of the two select novels. The fourth chapter comprises a comparative perspective. The comparison is done on various issues such as criminals, their crimes, reasons and effects of crimes, Rendell's writing style and attitude. In the present chapter, certain conclusions will be drawn that can be generalized in the area of crime fiction in general and the fictional world of Ruth Rendell in particular.

After analysis of her select novels, it becomes apparent that her writing deals with the universal problem of human being that is 'crime'. Rendell expands the boundaries of crime fiction. She writes crime novels

in the vein of social critic. Very effectively she handles and presents before us her craft in modern settings. She is not much interested in old fashioned detective stories but the novels of characters. She does not produce one type of novel chronologically. Crime fiction is not a water-tight compartment for her. She has added her originality and merits to her crime writing. She is one of the literary innovators. Through her fiction, she presents social realities. She uses crime as a vehicle for expressing her views on human life. She gives us a picture of contemporary society. She does not like to be pigeonholed into one kind of writing. She has written (up to 2013) nearly eighty books.

In the select novels, she wants people to understand the horror of crimes; therefore, Ruth Rendell rejects the romanticized depiction of life. Her novels underline the fact that crime is inescapable. Her age genuinely seems to have no impact on her life. Writing is a passion for her. She writes crime fiction with some purposes. She wants to say that crime is very integral part of society. It is difficult, to be a good, and moral human being. People should maintain their social responsibilities. Her skills of attaching evil social components to crime raise her fiction above the level of genre fiction.

A close reading of the two selected novels highlights certain things. In the analytical part of this dissertation, the concept of crime, Rendell's views about crimes and criminals, reasons behind the crimes and its impact on the life of human beings and society are found out by the researcher. Both the selected novels brilliantly catch the attention of readers. In it through the elements of the crime Rendell talks on human life. She presents before us the social realities of human life taking crime

as a vehicle. These novels are not conservative in their attitude. Both novels have a social attach. Through these novels; she depicts the life of criminals. She attracts the reader's attention towards the very serious problem of society. Though, the criminals in these novels have anti-heroic qualities we feel sympathy for them, and they become lovable characters. They are true to life. We face such people in day today life. With both criminal characters, the protagonists of these novels, Alan Groombridge and Victor Jenner she gives us the experience of their life. Both are victims of their life that is why we feel sympathy for them. Through these characters, Rendell shows us that how does crime affect the life of people? After their punishments, it is hard for them to adjust with society and live earlier life. These all things are not easy for them. In these novels, she keeps readers suspense; her surprises are not artificial or unbelievable. These are the realities of life. These novels are intense study of Rendell's characters. These characters are all steeped in a web of consequences stemming from their actions.

It is also revealed that Rendell is not much interested in the process of investigation but to study the minds of characters. She is more interested to study the psychology of the criminals rather than the process of investigation. These novels are not normal whodunit. Ruth Rendell deals more with the reasons behind the criminal acts rather than other technical aspects of crime fiction. Through these characters, Rendell depicts the characters having split personality. She deals with inner human component and shows cruelty and inhumanness of human beings. Like Golden Age crime fiction novelists she is not interested in find out whom and how done the crimes, but she is interested in finding out the

motives behind crimes. Hence, her novels are known as 'whydunnit' novels. Along with these features the two novels speak about the family institution, parent-child relationship, illiteracy, and poverty. Rendell tells that how the childhood, family, and the parents, greediness and aspiration affect the personality of human beings. She attracts her reader's attention towards the life of psychopaths. We feel sympathy for them, but we cannot do anything for them. Psychopaths like Victor are also one of the factors of society. They need special treatments, but the government and the general public do not give attention towards them, and they become responsible for the disorder in the society. In these two novels, her focus is not on the police force or their investigation process, but her focus is on the circumstance of the criminals, so they do horrible crimes, and makes society to disorder. Rendell finds the root behind their wrong behavior in their psychology, and shows that how psychological factors become responsible for crimes. Through these elements, she talks on the human nature. She is interested in showing that though there are some external factors responsible for the criminal actions the root laid in their psychology. Psychology is one of the most responsible factors for becoming criminal. So Rendell makes us aware about how to save society getting destroyed and disturbed because of such crimes and criminals. She makes us aware about the responsibilities of governments and of the general public about crimes, their solutions and about how to maintain law and order in the society. In this way, her books are the scariest there are not because of blood, gore and mutilation, but because they expose the infinitely greater menace of mental trauma.

Ruth Rendell does not create straightforward crimes, culprits and victims. To focus on the matter of reality and to denote the philosophy she creates very ambiguous and complex characters and situations that are plausible and true to life. Very compassionately she explores the dark recesses of the human psyche which reveals the split personality of the protagonists. She exposes an evil in human being. Rendell has a keen eye on evil things and who longs for social welfare. Her crime fiction is not an escapist fantasy; is a social history. Rendell is a literary innovator of crime fiction genre which stands her supreme among all crime fiction writers of the world.