

CHAPTER - V
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The present dissertation deals with Eric Ambler's *The Mask of Dimitrios* (1939) and *Journey into Fear* (1930) with reference to Thriller Fiction. It is divided into five chapters with an introduction. The introduction part contains life and works of Eric Ambler, who is one of the eminent authors in the world of Thriller Fiction. It shows his important contribution in the history of Modern British Literature. He is an influential author who influences his next generations. The first chapter is theoretical framework which is divided into following points- 'The Concept of Thriller', 'Popular Fiction', 'Thriller Fiction', 'Definition of Thriller Fiction', 'Characteristics of Thriller Fiction', 'Sub-genres of Thriller Fiction', and 'A Brief Overview of the History of Thriller Fiction'. After examining, analyzing, and comparing the select novels in the context of Thriller Fiction, certain conclusions are drawn in the present chapter.

It is said that Thriller Fiction is a broad genre of literature. It has now categorized in the Popular Fiction which emerged in the 20th century, as a new genre of literature. Its main intention is to attract the readers and entertain them. It is a fiction of sensational events which evoke the feelings of the readers. It gives pleasure to them in their leisure time. The purpose of the authors of Popular Fiction is commercial, but they focus on the hidden issues in the society.

Thriller fiction is one of the popular genres of Popular Fiction, which creates sudden rush of emotions, excitement, suspense, tension, surprise, and fear among the readers. It emphasizes on thrilling incidents including a crime, murder, assassination, serial killer, violence, horror, and terror. In the day to day life, there are different types of songs, dances, paintings, music,

and figures create thriller in the mind of people. In short, it is true to say that anything which thrills, it is a thriller.

The second chapter analyses his first novel *The Mask of Dimitrios* (1939). The title of it reveals that the real mask of a man, Dimitrios. After fascinating the dead body of Dimitrios, Latimer is the protagonist of the novel travels from the different cities to collecting the information about the history of the man. His journey is not simple but full of adventurous. It reveals Dimitrios is not dead but he is alive. He is a dangerous man who blackmails others. He is a murderer, an assassinator, a thief, and a robber who continuously changes his passport with different names to hide his original identity. The police try to catch him, but he never comes in their hand. Finally, he is killed in the game of money, which is arranged by Mr. Peters. Latimer also supports him in his blackmailing game. Through his journey, he reveals the real mask of Dimitrios who tries to hide from the society.

The third chapter also analyses his second novel *Journey into fear* (1940). The title of this novel is very attractive. It shows that there is journey which is a full of fear. Graham is the protagonist of the novel, who travels by the boat because someone tries to kill him in the hotel's room. There is a big risk to for him go by a bus or a train. However, it is best for him to travel by the boat. There he stays in the strange atmosphere which shows him horror, violence, death, and fear. The man who tries to kill him in the hotel is also present on a boat. So, his whole journey goes under the fear of death.

The fourth chapter of the dissertation is a comparative perspective. There is a comparison between two select novels of the present study. The novels selected for the present study are *The Mask of Dimitrios* (1939) and *Journey into Fear* (1940) of Eric Ambler. After the analysis of these two

novels in the light thriller fiction, it shows that there are many similarities and differences between them. So, it is necessary to compare them with each other.

A lot of similarities and dissimilarities are found from the opening to the end of the novels, which include development of the plot, setting, characters, incidents, themes, and techniques. Both novels are published during the period of 'Phony War'. The opening scene of the novels is different. The first novel opens with the dead body of the Dimitrios, which is floated on the Beach of Bosphorous River. The second novel opens with someone's horrible attack on the protagonist named Graham without reason. Both novels focus on the elements of adventures, excitement, mystery, suspense, surprise, tension, and fear.

Eric Ambler focuses on adventurous, suspenseful, espionage, political, and historical events to create horrible effect on the reader's mind. The protagonists go through troublesome situation to achieve their mission. They are ordinary citizens but adventurous person go from very bad condition. They unknowingly caught in an extraordinary atmosphere while completing their big journey. Along with adventurous actions, suspense finds continuously in his stories, which create excitement and curiosity for further reading.

There are some political events and incidents present in his novels. The characters involve in the political activities as a murder of the political leader, spied for other country, and government agents. Like political incidents, there are some historical events also create thriller in mind while reading. Both novels are influenced by the World War I and World War II. The novelist describes a conflict between Turkish and Greek army which shows horror of the time. Through the political activities and historical

events, he focuses on the social, political, and economical background of his time.

A close reading of these novels shows that Ambler's main intention is not to entertain the readers, but he focuses on the real picture of the contemporary society. There are different types of people live in the society, which is a very dark and corrupt. He shows that some people have good manners but some of them are immoral, they always busy in bad business like drug-dealer, pimps, gun runner, murder, assassination, serial killer, financiers, criminal gangs, moral and political decay, spying, theft, and robbery. Some people are good but sometimes they unknowingly support to these bad activities for money. They are very much greedy for money. They are not kind hearted and never hesitate to kill someone. He reveals 'devil masks' which spoil to the society.

✓ The novelist describes the whole picture of the European society in the 1930s. He attempts to depict the realistic characters to show the different types of people in the society. They give importance for money and money is everything for them. Money becomes a central thing in the world and the people moves around it. Here, he focuses on the social and political reality in the modern period.

The novelist focuses on the political and historical events which show the social, political, and economical background of the nations. Two different nations spend their lot of time to fight between each other because of the power and money. In his novels, he describes the struggle between Greek and Turkish Army who killed people of their opposite side very badly. They destroy their houses and quarters cruelly. The innocent children and women are killed very harshly. Some people are dead because of starving. All these things are immoral and the act against humanity.

The novelist tries to reveal the contemporary society which is full of crimes like robbery, drug smuggling, assassination, blackmailing, a serial killer, and murder. The types of crime reveal evil acts of people in the society. He shows that something evil or bad is entered in the society. Here, his intention is not to create thriller in the mind of readers but to show violence in the society. He imagines the actual acts of crimes and its graphic presentation make his art more popular.

The speciality of the novelist's writing is that his stories are related with the professions of a spy, a doctor, a writer, a teacher, a researcher, a lawyer, and a journalist. He was an engineering student, so the most of the heroes of his novels are from the engineering field. They all are a clever person always tries to fight against immoral things existed in the society.

His heroes are ordinary people innocently caught in strange atmosphere and villains are real kind of people who generate violence in the society. Through these characters, he portrays the people of industrial Europe in the modern period. Because of industrialization people got jobs and money. They become very greedy for money. They never hesitate to do anything for money. To gain money they never think whether the act is good or bad. Therefore, the crimes like murder, robbery, theft, blackmailing and assassination happen continuously in the society. Mostly, innocent people are victim in the different kinds of crimes without any reason.

The protagonists try to save the world from immoral things. They fight against the system which spoils the society. The novelist depicts the conflict between good and evil, moral and immoral things in the society. At first evil dominates on good but at the end good demolishes the evil and dominates on it. In short, it helps to the people to see what is good and what

is bad. The people become aware of what to do and what not to do while living in the society.

The novelist develops the techniques of who-dun-it, how-dun-it, and why-dun-it very tactfully. His heroes are not spies or detectives, but they investigate the real murderer who killed someone for any reason. They find why and how he commits such ultimate crime. Ambler uses the flashback technique to reveal some of his character's past experiences while investigating. The elements of excitement, suspense, surprise, tension, and fear are found from the beginning to the end of the stories. They create curiosity in the mind of the readers. Because of the curiosity they are really wanted to turn the page quickly while reading such type of stories.

His novels are perfect, well-written, gripping plot centered. He employs lucid prose with real places and real people. He has presented the world which deals with full of violence. The violent action and dark menacing settings horrify to the readers. Especially, he has created the thriller in order to show the violence and horror in the society.

No doubt, Eric Ambler is one of the greatest living writers of Thriller Fiction. He is famous for wonderful prose stylist and serious writer. He uses third person narration, cinematic technique, flashback technique, who-dun-it format, simple, and lucid language. He has unique ability to depict regular and everyday people in unusual situations. Thus, the dissertation reveals that, the treatment of Eric Ambler to the popular genre of thriller fiction is unique.

The analysis of the select novels reveals that Ambler is not only concern with the depiction of detective methods, criminal psyche and the sensations of thriller, but on the larger scale he attempts to philosophize certain things that can be utilized in the analysis of thriller, universally. As the dissertation has the limitations other works of Ambler or may other

significant examples of thriller fiction can be analyzed for the more sophisticated results. But to the point, the dissertation is significant as it covers all the significant terminologies used in the literary criticism of the thriller fiction. Thus, the dissertation has the pedagogical and multidisciplinary significant.