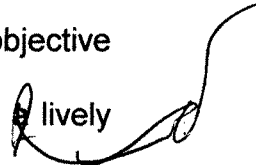



CHAPTER = V

CHAPTER - V

CONCLUSIONS

A deep study of Waugh's three novels **DECLINE AND FALL** (1928), **PUT OUT MORE FLAGS** (1942), and **THE LOVED ONE** (1948), shows why critics have labelled him with so many titles : a satirist, a moralist, a comic inventor, and a novelist with objective approach. All titles are appropriate as Waugh has written such  lively and brilliant fiction, that all the time, he deserves these titles. Through his satires and comedies Waugh shows his vehement reaction against the follies of the modern society.

Waugh's novels are remarkable for their picaresque form and the quest-motif. The ills of the contemporary life are brought forward with the help of picaresque form and the quest-motif. Waugh's novels are the mirrors of the contemporary life. They uphold to reflect meaningless, arbitrary, and anarchistic universe, that provides tensions and conflicts. His characters have to suffer to cope with.

 Waugh longs for the traditional moral universe. This universe exists outside the novel i.e. **Decline and Fall** (1928). Waugh appears both as a social observer and a novelist. Waugh's deep sensitivity for the past, tradition, and morality has no value in this self centered universe where his protagonists live.

Waugh's early novel **Decline and Fall** (1928) indicates the breakdown of human relationship and man's need to ~~search~~ ^{for a} the disciplined universe. Therefore, Waugh's protagonists are isolated. Paul Pennyfeather in **Decline and Fall** isolates himself from the universe, where the relationship between cause and effect do not function. In his later novels although his protagonists are active and they have a capacity to survive. They isolate themselves with an urge to do something better. In **Put Out More Flags** (1942) isolated Basil Seal has a strong wish to fight with Germans. Dennis Barlow in **The Loved One** (1948) isolates himself from the modern Americanized world. He has a strong wish to write a book about it. Like Waugh his protagonists prefer to be isolated without mattering about having experience or not. Paul Pennyfeather in **Decline and Fall** (1928) isolates and prefers to be away from the meaningless world. So isolation seem to be the major theme of many of Waugh's novels.

Waugh's three novels **Decline and Fall** (1928), **Put Out More Flags** (1942), and **The Loved One** (1948) reveal Waugh's attitude towards the contemporary society and exposes the meaningless, chaotic, self-centered contemporary life. His protagonists either accept this routine of the universe or leave this universe, with experience. In **Decline and Fall** (1928) innocent Paul Pennyfeather accept this routine world and prefers to be out of this universe. Basil Seal in **Put Out More Flags** (1942) and Dennis Barlow in **The Loved One**

(1948), are active, and have an urge to change their experience in something better. they, too, leave the universe.

The social structure gets violated in Waugh's fiction. His novels tend to speak about social conflicts and social problems. His protagonists for their own enjoyment and selfishness, take advantage of others. Margot Beste-Chetwynde in **Decline and Fall** deceives Paul Pennyfeather. Basil Seal in **Put Out More Flags** tricks Ambrose into writing a story. Dennis Barlow in **The Loved One** blackmails Mr. Joyboy.

Waugh's women characters do represent the class consciousness and upper middle class mentality. They are at the front to disturb the order and peace of life. Margot Beste-Chetwynde of **Decline and Fall**, and Angela Lyne of **Put Out More Flags** are of hollow nature and of uncharacteristic behaviour. Margot Beste-Chetwynde in **Decline and Fall** engages herself in the business of transferring the prostitutes. Angela Lyne in **Put Out More Flags** engages herself in getting addicted to wine. Waugh's women characters lack morality. Angela Lyne in **Put Out More Flags** is not happy with her husband Cedric so she has an affair with Basil Seal. Margot in **Decline and Fall** makes others puppets and toys. Margot promises to marry Paul but she doesn't fulfil her promise. Waugh's women characters, in his novels appear to be rude, immoral, deceivers, and self-centered. these features of women characters lack

sympathy. Waugh does not have sympathetic attitude towards the women characters as his own experience with Evelyn Gardner his first wife makes him critical and sarcastic towards women. Although Waugh makes Aimee Thanatogenos of **The Loved One** to die he does not feel sympathy for her as she is the part of the modern artificial American world.

Education system is shown collapsing in his novel **Decline and Fall**. It shows that the modern world has no serious attitude towards this significant pillar of the society. **Decline and Fall** mocks at British education system. Behind this mocking lies a serious and purposeful meditation of the contemporary society. Education system is full of immoral people who make moral people suffer a lot.

Waugh does not like politicians. The politicians who appear in his novels are shown lacking serious purpose. Metroland in **Decline and Fall** is as showy as other characters. Joseph Miainwaring in **Put Out More Flags**, too, appear as careless as others.

The study intends to watch the development of Waugh as a fiction writer and as a satirist. **Decline and Fall** (1928), **Put Out More Flags** (1942) and **The Loved One** (1948) are wonderful satires. Waugh satirizes the contemporary world with the intention to present the social truth. Waugh sees and attacks the quantitative and corrupt values of his time. Waugh has no very serious hope of changing this world. He is interested only in exposing this world. His satires are

directed to a lack of sense in the contemporary world. In **Decline and Fall** (1928) he portrays the disintegrated society, where permanent moral values have died. The English society has become a victim of moral and social decay. This world makes Paul its victim and throws him off. In **Put Out More Flags** (1942) Waugh satirizes the society which makes Basil Seal selfish, greedy and Betrayal. **The Loved One** is the satire on American way of life and death. The lack of religion at Whispering Glades is highlighted in this satire.

For his satires Waugh selects the silver fork world. It is a world of an upper middle class. Waugh's plots are set among these societies where his protagonist grope. Waugh's satirical attitude gives a novel the contemporary reference. Waugh deals with the human situation in a world of shattered belief. **Decline and Fall** (1928) shows how Paul moves meaninglessly in a world of pretences. Waugh satirizes the English aristocratic society that makes Paul a victim. **Put Out More Flags** (1942) deals with war time and the war time generation. Basil Seal plays tricks and earns profit and amusement out of the war. His tricks and the farce created by other characters are target of the satire. Waugh exposes and satires the society which has no serious attitude to the war, and which turns Basil Seal into a selfish creature.

The Loved One (1948) is the novel about American attitude to death and artificial life. The encounter of British characters and American characters in the polished, artificial life style world where

Britishers do represent the cultured people. It helps the novelist to satirize the American world. Dennis Barlow accidentally goes to Whispering Glades that represents American's attitude towards death. Waugh mocks at and satirizes Whispering Glades and its various activities. The satire criticizes the denial of actuality of death, lack of relation in the forest Lawn type funeral, Aimee's and Joyboy's attitude to life.

A study of these three novels points out that Waugh uses a way of satire and comedy to expose the operations of the contemporary universe. In Waugh's comic universe events that occur are contingent. The event are chosen less to uphold values of either class or religion than to convey a comic world. Waugh's universe is absurd and comic where anything can take place. Waugh stands aloof from his comic universe to watch how his protagonists face such modern comic universe.

Waugh in **Decline and Fall** (1928) projects a world lacking a serious purpose or moral evolution. In this world people are moving without identity or psychology. This universe operates according to whims and chances. This is the universe where aims are impossible, and effect represent without causes. It is very difficult to maintain stability and identity in such a world where institutions are constantly displaced, and where alternative laws operate. The dissolution

of persons, the changing identity, exchange of roles are the routine of this comic universe.

Paul Pennyfeather, the protagonist is thrown into this world. Whatever he experiences and comes across creates comic situation. He witnesses the modern world where his appearance creates comic situation. It is the world where people hate his philosophy of life. Grimes, Prendergast, Margot are fit for such universe. It is an alternative world where characters disappear and reappear, born and die, and chance, fortune operate mysteriously.

Paul sacrifices his identity to come out of this universe. He hold his place outside the central comic universe. This comic universe makes Paul static rather than dynamic, and his static nature creates humour and comedy.

Put Out More Flags (1942) and **The Loved One** (1948) are comedies although the protagonists are dynamic. Their nature creates humorous situations. The three women in **Put Out More Flags** think that the war is beneficial for Basil. But Basil stands opposite of these ideals. Basil plays tricks humorously in this universe.

The Loved One (1948) is a black comedy. Dennis's advantages proceed the action. There are a number of humorous situations in this novel. The ways the dead bodies are decorated at Whispering Glades is humorous. It is humorous that the burial areas are fixed

at 'Whispering Glades' according to the status and profession of the dead. The ways of Dennis Barlow and Mr. Joyboy to attract Aimee Thanatogenos create comic situations. To impress Aimee, Mr. Joyboy sends decorated smiling corpses and Dennis sends somebody else's poems. It is ironic Aimee is incinerated at 'The Happier Hunting Ground'.

In the novels **Decline and Fall**, **Put Out More Flags** and **The Loved One**, Waugh appears as ^a moralist. He upholds a catholic perspective. Waugh does not look at his novels as a mere aesthetic achievement which have private meaning. Religion is at the base of his creative art. His early novel, **Decline and Fall** shows Waugh's religious concern with ultimate realities and a system of values. The characters have gone away from religious concern. His characters have lost a touch with their religion that made people part of a real community. His characters are puppet in the modernized society, and they fall easily prey to its operations. Paul Pennyfeather comes from the religious world where sex repression and religious experiences are the most important things. But he himself has no place in this irreligious world. The novel **The Loved One** (1948) shows the lack of religion in the Forest Lawn types of funeral. He examines the theological implications of death. His protagonists are not religious. Paul Pennyfeather in **Decline and Fall** accepts everything and he has not a capacity to revolt. This irreligious world throws him off and Paul does not complain. Basil Seal in **Put Out More Flags** (1942) and

Dennis Barlow in **The Loved One** (1948) are part of this irreligious universe where their tricks and advantages lack morality and religiousness.

Waugh's novels are remarkable for their picaresque form and the quest-motif. Waugh has effectively used the picaresque form to mock at the contemporary life. The traditional picaresque novels show the adventures and travels of a protagonist whose behaviour is not always moral but likeable. His virtues are rewarded and honoured in the society. Waugh's picaresque novel **Decline and Fall** (1928) on the contrary, presents Paul Pennyfeather always moral but not likeable in the world of Captain Grimes and Margot. Paul Pennyfeather deserves to be unsympathetic for Waugh, as Paul being part of the universe that is full of cheats and immorals, from which Waugh retires himself with his isolation, objectivity and neutrality. But Dennis Barlow in **The Loved One** (1948) is not always moral and unlikable and he exploits and cheats others for his triumph. He deserves to be sympathetic for Waugh as Dennis seems to be a mouthpiece of Waugh, Dennis finally returns to the world of great civilization with genuine past.

Put Out More Flags (1942) presents Basil Seal who goes from place to place making tricks and gaining profits. Basil Seal is always likeable for his sister, mother and mistress. Unlike Paul Pennyfeather, Basil Seal survives and dreams of killing Germans.

The world quest is defined as a search for someone or something. But quest has some different meaning than search. The searcher always knows what he is searching and he can often described what he is searching. The quest is a search for existential meaning. In the quest the knowledge of self is essential. The quest novels show that a protagonists leads to the discovery of several truth about himself and about society. Waugh's novels **Decline and Fall**(1928) and **The Loved One** (1948) are a sort of parody of the quest pattern of the hero in the romantic world. In the romantic world hero's adventures take the form of the quest that shows his triumph and happy marriage. Paul Pennyfeather in **Decline and Fall** travels from one place to another, but Paul does not triumph over the situations. Paul is not in a search of adventure, still he allows himself to be a victim of chance and environment.

Paul goes on changing his multiple-in-one-role-a student, a teacher, a bridegroom, a convict and finally a student again. These several roles reflect lack of many things, the lack of understanding people and their world. the lack of stable identity. Paul passes from one place to another but he doe not understand the nature of the world and tasks he takes to perform. The world in which Paul wanders is aimless. Paul does not grow mature and learn anything from it. He does not return with triumph. He prefers to go away from this world. For that he allows himself to bear the fake identity.

Dennis Barlow in **The Loved One** is also a bundle of several things. He goes to Hollywood to be a writer. He fails in his job and gets fired. He becomes a pet's mortician. He falls in a love with an American girl, Aimee Thanatogenos. When Aimee understands about his job and his position she decides to reject Dennis and to marry Mr. Joyboy. But Dennis forces Aimee to accept him. Aimee is unable to decide between Dennis and Mr. Joyboy. She, therefore, commits suicide. Dennis Barlow does not allow Aimee to marry Mr. Joyboy, but Paul Pennyfeather in **Decline and Fall** allows Margot to marry.

Like Paul, Dennis goes on changing his roles - a writer, a pet's mortician, a lover and a cheater. But these several roles reflect Dennis's advantage and triumph. Dennis unlike Paul does not allow himself to be a victim of situation.

The Loved One (1948) presents the successful quest of the protagonist, Dennis Barlow. He gains his experience in the American world. It is in the American world with all its association, with literature and though that Dennis gains knowledge. This experience takes him to a mature art, Dennis's quest, in several ways is a mocking version of traditional quest, including that of romanticism for negative capability and for death.

Waugh does not comment upon his characters. He does not express his opinions about them. He seems to be interested in watching the characters facing various situations.

Paul Pennyfeathers behaviour in **Decline and Fall** is neither commented nor criticised. His detachment from his characters provide an opportunity to observe the chaotic universe more subtly and clearly.

Waugh's protagonists are of two types- static and dynamic. Paul Pennyfeather in **Decline and Fall** becomes a victim of a dynamic world full of dynamic people. Margot, Captain Grimes, Dr. Fagan are dynamic characters who dominate this universe and enjoy it. These characters go on changing their identities and roles. Like all other characters Paul changes his own identity, but after that he remains static.

The two other protagonists, Basil Seal in **Put Out More Flags** (1942) and Dennis Barlow in **The Loved One** (1948) are dynamic. They have a capacity to mould a situation. Basil Seal and Dennis Barlow are active and earn profits. Ambrose becomes a victim of Basil and Mr. Joyboy becomes a victim of Dennis Barlow.

Death of Waugh's protagonists, i.e. death of Prendergast, in **Decline and Fall**, death of Cedric Lyne in **Put Out More Flags**, and death of Aimee Thanatogenos in **The Loved One**, throw light upon the contemporary world. Being unfit in the contemporary world his protagonists have either to isolate themselves or to die.