

PREFACE

The present dissertation attempts to study the autobiographical fiction in Indian English Literature with particular reference to Mulk Raj Anand's Seven Summers (1951), Raja Rao's The Serpent and the Rope (1960), Manohar Malgonkar's Distant Drum (1960), and Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children (1981).

The present dissertation critically examines the above mentioned novels from the point of view of how the novelists' personal experiences are appropriated in the fictional form.

At times, the writer makes use of the novel form to incorporate his personal experiences which pass for fiction; or alternatively, his autobiography appropriates a good deal of fictional material which passes for facts in his autobiography. This dissertation examines how such writers either enrich or impoverish their literary creations by making most of both the worlds 'fiction and facts'.

The dissertation has been divided into six chapters as follows:

Chapter-1 deals with Introduction comprising the study of interrelation between the novel and autobiography. It also makes an attempt to study the autobiographical novel as a genre. Chapter-2 attempts to study Mulk Raj Anand's Seven Summers which portrays 'the contemporary myth of man' in the Indian context. Chapter-3 studies Raja Rao's The Serpent and the Rope which deals with Ramaswamy's quest for the Absolute Knowledge. Chapter-4 deals

with Manohar Malgonkar's Distant Drum which is also treated as an autobiographical novel. It depicts the growth of the protagonist, Kiran Carud in relation to the military code of conduct which seems to be the motto of Manohar Malgonkar himself. Chapter-5 attempts to study Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children which connects the personal life of Saleem Sinai with the historical life of India. Finally, Chapter-6 records the findings of the study and the conclusions arrived at, and select Bibliography concludes the Dissertation.