

PREFACE

The present thesis is based on a literary study of the novels of Keshab Chandra Dash attempted for the first time. The thirteen novels of Dr. Dash include Āvartam, Añjaliḥ, Aruṇā, Madhuyānam, Nikaṣā, Oum-Śāntiḥ, Pratipad, Ṛtam, Śāṣirekhā, Śikhā, Śitalatṛṣṇā, Tilottamā and Visargaḥ. For a first time, a comprehensive study is aimed to capture the literary aspects of all the novels in a single palette.

With reference to the context of Modern Sanskrit Literature, the works of Dr. Keshab Chandra Dash are analyzed and a critical study is conducted to compare each of the literary aspects of his novels with its relevance to the modern era. In the modern era, novels are studied mostly for being comfortable and entertaining ourselves with fantasy and our curiosity and desire for insight about reality. Novels stand a class apart when appealing to the masses and gaining popularity and prominence among all. I have chosen this topic because of my love for novels and finding an opportunity to work in the field of Modern Sanskrit Literature. I was inspired and amazed to see the use of Sanskrit language to highlight and discuss the socio-economic issues of the modern day.

The author's novels provide an overview of Sanskrit literature produced in post independence period and emphasize on the continuity of the long range stature of Sanskrit and its new perspective of involving modern day realism to create public interest in novel-reading. Various issues such as downfall in moral values of life, immigration of people from villages to cities in search of materialistic luxury, ever increasing male dominance in society and the voice of women amidst that and

absence of economic stability even after half a century of the country's independence.

The present study is divided into six chapters. Of them, the first chapter contains an introduction about the author and his works. The second chapter includes a study of the origin and development of Prose Sanskrit Literature. The third chapter contains a detailed summary of each of the thirteen novels. A literary study of the novels is presented in the fourth chapter. The fifth chapter contains translations in English language for two of the novels, namely, Tilottamā and Saṣirekha. The sixth chapter includes concluding remarks about the entire study.

Most of Dr. Keshab Chandra Dash's novels are elongated short stories having only a few characters. The novels are generally 90 – 100 pages long including the author's reflections of the plot and characters. The insights that the author reflect, provides the reader with refreshing content and expression. Dr. Dash is a true magician of words and gambler of feelings. His novels depict his highly thoughtful sensitiveness towards common characters. His thought provoking ideas attract the reader's mind and become a baseline of creative activity. The socio-economic conditions prevalent in the novels can be well related with the modern era. This encourages the reader to subconsciously get involved into the novel and relate any of the characters with his or her own self.

Dr. Rabindra Kumar Panda, Nyāyācārya, Viśiṣṭācārya, Ph.D., my Guru, mentor and research guide, is the Officiating Head and Professor, Department of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, Faculty of Arts as well as the Principal, Baroda Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, The M.S.University of Baroda. I find myself privileged to have such an iconic guide and mentor continuously motivating and rejuvenating me on my thoughts and work. I express my deepest gratitude to him for encouraging me

throughout this journey. He has provided me with invaluable suggestions from time to time to complete my thesis work. He is a creative writer, poet and critic in Modern Sanskrit literature. He initially advised me to take up the literary study of novels of Keshab Chandra Dash as subject of my research study. In spite of being associated with several academic commitments and other professional duties, he has provided me valuable guidance in my endeavour to work upon my research. I am grateful to him for his contribution and co-operation in my research work. I wish to be blessed by him in my future goals in life.

I am equally thankful to Dr. Sweta Prajapati, Research Officer, Oriental Institute and Syndicate Member, The M.S. University of Baroda for her kind suggestions and co-operation. She has also been a source of inspiration and motivation in my work. Her affectionate care and due encouragement has provided me a congenial atmosphere for academic pursuits and inquisitive study. I am grateful to her for her constructive suggestions and ideas which have added a rich flavour to my research work.

I express a deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Shweta A. Jejurkar, Assistant Professor, Department of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, Faculty of Arts, The M.S. University of Baroda for her encouragement and inspiration.

I also express a deep sense of gratitude to Ms. Varda A. Vasa, Assistant Professor, Department of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, Faculty of Arts, The M.S. University of Baroda for her co-operation and bright suggestions.

I gratefully acknowledge the help I received from Dr. Suma S. Desai, who has always been a source of inspiration and symbol of perseverance. I also record my special gratitude to Dr. Kartik Pandya, Research Assistant, Oriental Institute, The M.S. University of Baroda, Dr. Nehal Pandya, Dr. Daxa Purohit, Mr. Kamaljitsinh

Sindha. Mr.Vipul Patel. Mr.Harshavardhan Shah. Ms. Archana Gamit. Mr.Tejas Vyas for their valuable help whenever I required the same during the course of my research work.

I express my sincere thanks to the authorities of the Srimati Hansa Mehta Library for allowing me to make use of the rich wealth of knowledge.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks from the bottom of my heart to Dr.Urmi Biswas. Post Doctorate Research Fellow. The M.S.University of Baroda. who had hand held me to the M.S.University and showed me a new door in my life to initiate this research work. I also wish to put on record the encouragement I received from my friend and neighbour. Mrs.Mousumi Dutta. M.A.. B.Ed.. a senior teacher in Navrachana School. Sama.

I have also received encouragement from my relatives in Kolkata. I especially thank my mother. Nita Sanyal. my sister. Somali. my mother-in-law. Mrs.Anjali Ray.

This work could not have been completed without the support and understanding of my seven year old daughter. Hiya. who had many a times. reminded me of my goal to complete my research work inspite of my personal duties and responsibilities.

I also express my thankfulness to my beloved husband. Mr. Rajarsi Ray for his continuous support and encouragement throughout the tenure of the research work.

16-09-2013


Swati Ray