

## 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, Śaśirekhā, 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.

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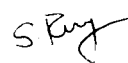
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