

SYNOPSIS OF THE THESIS

STATEMENT NO.1

RELEVANCE OF THE PRESENT WORK AS WELL AS ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE MODERN SANSKRIT LITERATURE

Dr. Keshab Chandra Dash is one of the prominent and renowned authors from Orissa in modern Sanskrit literature. His works in Sanskrit include novels, poems, short stories and stories for children. Dr. Dash has truly pioneered Sanskrit novels in a modern style. He is a Professor and Head of Nyāya Darśana Department, Sri Jagannatha Sanskrit University, Puri. Dr. Dash has received a number of prestigious awards including Sahitya Academy Award, Bharatiya Bhasa Parishad Award, UGC National Veda Vyasa Sanskrit Award etc.

A novel usually demands very simple yet subtle use of expressions to depict life explicitly. As far as prose literature is concerned, Dr. Dash has penned his novels keeping the modern day affairs in perspective. In fact, novels are fictions which are written to give entertainment to the readers. If this purpose is fulfilled, the purpose of novel is over. But if some novelist imparts teachings apart from entertainment, it is an additional quality of the author. It is with this quality we can really gauge the stature of Dr. Keshab Chandra Dash's literary creations and his immense contribution to modern Sanskrit prose literature.

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.

A literary study of his following novels is attempted for the first time in the present thesis: Āvartam, Añjali, Aruṇā, Madhuyānam, Nikaṣā, Oum-Śāntiḥ, Pratipad, Ṛtam, Śaśirekhā, Śikhā, Śitalatṛṣṇā, Tilottamā and Visargaḥ. The study would aim at summarizing the novels, analyzing the characters, discussing the plot constructions, demonstrating the author's thoughts on feminism and reflecting the descriptions and narrations present in the novels. The study also aims at analyzing Dr. Dash's use of Sanskrit language and his style of writing. An attempt would be made to evaluate the literary merits of his works and to bring to light his valuable contribution to contemporary Sanskrit literature.

The English translations of two of his novels viz Śaśirekhā and Tilottamā are prepared for the first time.

STATEMENT NO.2

METHODOLOGY, SOURCES AND ORIGINALITY

I have divided my study into six chapters with specific sub headings for better presentation. The critical and analytical methods have been adopted in the preparation of the thesis.

I have fully drawn upon all the available relevant published and unpublished literature.

I have studied all the thirteen novels, translated them into my mother tongue, Bengali at first and thereafter attempted to translate them into English and evaluated them critically. While doing so, I have also studied relevant literature to support my work and interacted personally with the author to know his views.

To the best of my knowledge, an attempt is made for the first time to make a comprehensive, literary and critical study of all the thirteen novels of Dr. Keshab Chandra Dash.

The study is presented in the following six chapters based on analysis of the original novels.