

My MPhil Thesis presents topical review of the novels written after the creation of Pakistan. This is with a view to determining the impact of the changing circumstances on the choice of topics for the Urdu novel.

This thesis has been divided into six chapters, as per following details.

In the first chapter, the importance of the theme/topic in a novel has been highlighted. Besides, those factors which help identify the topic of a novel have been duly examined. In this background, a brief survey of the topics of Urdu novels written from the very beginning up to the creation of Pakistan has been included.

In the second chapter, the impact of the Freedom Movement and the resultant Hindu-Muslim riots on Urdu novel in particular and Urdu literature in general has been evaluated. In this context, the chapter contains a special topical study of three important Urdu novels, namely 'Aag Ka Darya', 'Aangan' and 'Udaas Naslen'.

A study of the political and social changes in the Pakistan society and their impact on the Urdu novel forms part of the third chapter. With regard to the prevalent political and social environment immediately after the creation of Pakistan and its effect on the Urdu novel, a brief review of Khadeeja Mastoor's novel 'Zameen' has been included in this chapter. The chapter also contains an analysis of Shaukat Siddiqui's novel 'Khuda Ki Basti' in the context of the new industrial culture and unequal distribution of wealth. In addition, topical impact of 1965 Indo-Pak War and the Fall of Dacca as also the emergence of an attitude of resistance in the wake of 1977 Martial Law and its effect on Urdu novel has been particularly reviewed.

The fourth chapter describes the new socio-cultural scenario after the creation of Pakistan and traces its impact on the Urdu novel. In this regard, it critically examines three important novels i.e. 'Bah 'Qurbat-e-Marg Mein Mohabbat' and 'Raja Gidh'.

The fifth chapter studies the themes and topics of the modern Urdu novel. After giving a brief background of the modern Urdu literature in Pakistan, it examines in detail such modern novels as 'Basti', 'Khushion Ka Baagh' and 'Diwaar Ke Peechey'.

The sixth chapter reviews, in particular, Urdu novels written with reference to the Struggle for the Liberation of Kashmir. It also generally discusses novels written on miscellaneous topics. After explaining the historical background of the Kashmir dispute, some novels written in this context have been examined in detail. Other novels discussed in this chapter relate to female issues as also historical, romantic, psychological and rural themes.