

A short story, novel or drama is in fact a representation or reflection of life. Multiple techniques are used with reference to plot, characterization and narration for this purpose. The role of a narrator is quite significant in this respect. The narrator has been vital in the development of theme and events of a story from the beginning. The history of the genre of the short story reveals that the narrator has been portrayed in many ways according to the structure, composition and other requirements of the story. This thesis aims at discovering and identifying the significance of the narrator in the development and success of a short story. The research is based on the hypothesis that using a narrator is quite helpful for the story- writer because it can state the external and extraneous factors as well as the internal realities and hidden phenomenon.

The thesis includes six chapters in all. The first chapter deals with the introduction, definition and literary limitations of a narrator. It also sheds light on its significance in fiction and studies the historical development of its use in fiction. In the second chapter the early period of Urdu Short Story has been studied in this respect and particularly the use of narrator by the writers like Sajjad Haidar Yaldrum and Prem Chand has been studied and analyzed.

The third chapter covers the period between 1936 and 1947 and the use of this technique by the writers like Saadat Hassan Manto, Krishan Chand, Rajindar Singh Bedi, Ghulam Abbass, Aziz Ahmad and Amsat Chughtai has been specifically studied and analyzed. This period is considered very important in the history of Urdu short story and the Progressive school of thought influenced the Urdu short story the most in this period. Angarey, the first anthology of progressive short stories was published; which has also been a focus of study in this chapter. The fourth chapter deals with the post-colonial story writers until 1960s. It includes the most important names such as Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi, Mumtaz Mufti, Qurat al Ain Haidar, Ashfaq Ahmed, Bano Qudsia, Khadija Mastoor, Razia Fashi Ahmad, Akhtar Jamal and Ghulam Saqlain Naqvi. An attempt has been made to comprehend how these writers have used the narrator to develop their short stories and make them more effective. The fifth chapter deals with the contemporary short story. Modern writers like Intizar Hussain, Anwar Sajjad, Khalida Hussain, Mirza Hamid Baig, Rasheed Amjad, Mansha yaad and Asad Muhammad Khan have been studied in respect of the use of narrator in their short stories. The last chapter gives an overview of the whole period and concludes the whole thesis by giving an over-all analysis of the role narrator in Urdu short story.