

Madhan PhD Thesis Evaluation Report

Title: The Evolution of Vikram Seth as a Novelist: A Thematic Study
Name of the Candidate: P. Madhan
Reg. No.: 1356

In Modern Indian Writing in English, a few writers like Vikram Seth, Arundhati Roy, Manju Kapur and Manesh Dattani have tried their hands at composing the eternal art of uniting love and life in their works.

Vikram Seth, born in Kolkata in 1952, is a well-known man of letters, novelist, poet, librettist, children's writer and biographer. PhD Candidate P. Madhan has selected the writer's first aspect, perhaps the most important one, for his research.

In the Introductory Chapter, the Candidate discusses the growth of the Indian fiction in English.

In the Second Chapter, he analyses Vikram Seth's novel in verse entitled *The Golden Gate*. He has clearly established the fact that the novel portrays alternative life styles, gender breakdowns and anti-military protests. He has quoted from primary as well as secondary sources to confirm his arguments. The Candidate has to be appreciated for proving the fact that the novel is a vibrant absorbing one and is notable for its vivid characterization as well as for its linguistic dexterity.

In the third chapter, the Candidate analyses historical, political and romantic factors that are abundantly prevalent in the novel entitled *A Suitable Boy*. This novel, by the way, propelled Seth into the public spotlight.

In the fourth chapter, the Candidate proves that Vikram Seth has depicted in his novel *An Equal Music* the impact of western classical music on the lives, hopes and fears of the European protagonists.

In the fifth chapter, he analyses the craftsmanship of Seth as a novelist through his logical arguments. He has substantiated his conclusions with solid evidences.

In the final chapter the Candidate summarizes his findings in a satisfactory and convincing manner. His language is lucid and powerful.

The 196 page thesis concludes with a Bibliography of works consulted on eighteen pages.

With regard to technicalities, although the Candidate has not followed certain regulations as indicated in the recently published MLA handbook still the thesis has to be commended for the logical arguments it contains and for the supporting citations. Based on its impressive strength, it is recommended for the award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English in Alagappa University.

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