SYNOPSIS OF PROPOSED THESIS

Introduction:

The proposed Thesis is: *Psycho-analysis of the main characters, interwoven with themes in Abha Dawesar’s novels*.

Abha Dawesar is a Delhi-born and U.S.-based novelist who writes in English. Till date her four novels have been published. They are: ‘*The Three of Us*’ (2003), ‘*Babyji*’ (2005), ‘*That Summer in Paris*’, (2007) and ‘*Family Values*’ (2009). Abha Dawesar is an internationally acclaimed, award-winning novelist, translated into several languages, and a visual artist. Her honours include the stonewal Award from the American Library Association, a Lamba fiction award, and a Fellowship in fiction from the New York foundation of Arts. She was also short-listed for Prix Medici’s Etranger and Prix Bel Ami in France.

A synopsis of the proposed research work is submitted with the Thumb-nail pictures of Abha Dawesar’s novels. Abha Dawesar’s characters are normal human beings, but out of the ordinary characters, the novelist depicts the uniqueness in her characters. Her observation is free, frank and free from taboos. Most of the characters are from Indian background. Her two novels, ‘*Babyji*’ and ‘*Family Values*’ have Delhi background. Basically, her characters are normal human beings whom she makes universalised by her observant eye. The proposed thesis on Abha Dawesar’s novels is divided into six chapters. The first chapter would be of introduction, the second, the third, fourth and fifth will discuss the psycho-analysis of the main characters of the four novels of Abha Dawesar, Along with the thematic study. The Sixth chapter would be rather conclusive of the Thesis, giving an above all study of Abha Dawesar as a novelist-her characters, milieu, themes and as an artist and craftsman.

The proposed Thesis will discuss, after the first chapter of Introduction, the four novels that would form chapter number two, three, four, and fifth. ‘*The Three of Us*’, is her first novel published in America in 2000. It depicts the sexual perversion in American society, and how the so-called modern American life results into disaster in the lives of its three main characters. It is a strangely amoral universe depicted in the novel, which captures the essence of the human
elements discarding all pretentions and superficialities. It deals with all the complexities of human mind and relations – bisexuality, infidelity, fidelity, love, passion, deception, death, ambition all of these and so much more packed into this funny as well as serious - as - hell novel.

‘The Three of Us’ deals with Andre’s having affair’s with a husband and wife when we meet Andre, he is a blank slate, a freshly minted, twenty four year old, College boy on his first day of work at a Manhattan-based Investment Bank. Within a few days, he is seriously involved with the sensuous Nathan, his boss’s boss, and has been seduced by the elegant Sybil, Nathan’s young wife. There is more going on here than a simple, thoroughly enjoyable Sex-farce. Dawesar has created an intricate, often hilarious story with crisp prose and Clean, short sentences which deliver steamy sex scenes, tender family moments, and passages reflective introspection with equally engaging directness.

Dawesar’s ‘Babyji’ is her best known novel, published in 2005, and won her the American Library Association’s Stonewall Award. The focus is centred on its heroine, i.e. Babyji – innocent and fiercely sensual. The novel is a study in female promiscuity through the character of Anamika. Anamika’s character is beautifully summed up by the ‘News-week’ blurb on the cover page of the book.

“Anamika Sharma is a kind of girl whom everyone always hated. She gets perfect grades, and as head perfect of her school in Delhi, has vast authority over her classmates. But Anamika’s extra-curricular activities are far from exemplary”

She is at the centre of a love triangle between a lower-caste house servant, and an educated older divorcee. On the top of that she begins serious flirtations with the most popular girl in school, Sheela Anamika’s flirtations also included two men- The father of her best friend whom she called ‘Adit’, and the other was a classmate, a hoodlum, Chakra Dev.

Abha Dawesar’s third novel ‘That Summer in Paris’ (2007) is a literary gift on many levels, It treats the nature of art, the soul of writer’s joy, of the Platonic sex and sensual sense, The eroticism of food, The despair and the ecstasy of old age, the confusions of youth.
The novel centres round two characters- American writer Maya in her Twenties, and admirer of Prem Rustum, a Seventy-Five year old, Indian-American Nobel Prize winning novelist, who feels he needs to live life. Maya not only admires him but worships the very ground Prem walks on. Both come in contact through on-line dating website and want to have meaningful relations.

Maya leaves New York and is off to Paris for a fellowship, and Rustum Follows her. Their May-December relationship is touching and erotic. What follows is a long sensual seduction, on the Left Bank, Seasoned with erotic Sex-Scenes, great art, great ideas and great food. What makes the novel uniquely provocative is that, while pursuing his feelings for Maya, Prem also confronts of his own mortality as well as his incestuous relationship with his sister, Meher. As a result, this romantic novel is both emotionally and intellectually satisfying.

Her fourth novel ‘Family Values’ has Delhi-based background. It is a brilliantly told story of the ordinary yet remarkable relations that blood and proximity generate. It is a saga of a Delhi family seen through the eyes of a young boy, having all the expected passions – the rivalries, the betrayals, the hatred and the moments of loyalty. It is Abha Dawesar’s dispassionate and detached tone that gives ‘Family Values’ its extra-ordinary power.

The silent observant boy notes his grand father’s consistent meanness to his sons and daughters. He watches his uncle’s greed and avariciousness; his aunt’s resigned despair, his cousin’s determined self-destruction. But the boy and his parents have created their small grace amid the ply wood and plastic of their mean surroundings which are love, generosity and respect. Dawesar’s insights are profound and all the more compelling for the austere quality of her writing. Her controlled prose and unflinching gaze cut through the lies and hypocrisies, boring into the very bone of family life.