Introduction:

The Proposed research is a comparative study of two regional novelists Thomas Hardy, a famous English regional novelist and the other, Vyankatesh Madgulkar, a famous Maharashtrian regional novelist. Both of them have written novels and presented ineffable beauty and charm of selected regions. Thomas Hardy’s presentation of ‘Wessex’ and Vyankatesh Madgulkar’s presentation of ‘Maandesh’ attracts reader’s attention. Thomas Hardy’s ‘Wessex’ contains Berkshire, Witshire, Hampshire, Somersetshire, Dorsetshire and Devon – 6 counties, whereas, Vyankatesh Madgulkar’s ‘Maandesh’ contains Atpadi, Jat, Kawathemahankal, Mangalwedha, Maan and Sangola- 6 main Talukas in South-West Maharashtra. Both these writers presented common people with different professions, dress codes, languages, customs, manners, morals, social habits from Wessex and Maandesh. The scale of their dreams is as vast as its setting is confined.

Regional literature is supposed somewhat neglected area in any literature. Regionalism in literature proves a barrier in exploring the writer’s true literary qualities and his contribution to literature. Thomas Hardy and Vyankatesh Madgulkar - these two writers fall in this category. Both of them, by presenting particular regions tried to reveal concept of Man and Destiny through their novels. Destiny makes man face many difficulties and adopt new way of life. Sometimes, lust overcomes intellect. They presented wildness in man and his cultural ideas. Both presented problems generated due to illiteracy, superstitions, vagaries of nature etc. Migration, Dis settlement due to frequent migration is common. Fate, directly, or indirectly plays crucial a role in shaping the lives of people of the Wessex and the Maandesh. It is also common.

Thomas Hardy and Vyankatesh Madgulkar presented a typical socio-cultural aspect of the Wessex and the Maandesh respectively through – geography, landscapes, ways of living life, professions, customs, habits, languages, codes of conduct, agricultural pursuits etc. Both of
them were impressed by tragic pathos of humanity caught in between its craving for happiness and the harsh limitations of material and social facts. It gave rise to revelation of concept of Man and Destiny. Through their novels, they presented that Fate by employing a human instrument brings about tragedy. Hardy,s novels present an important stage in the growth & development of regional English fiction. In the same way, Vyankatesh Madgulkar,s novels are milestones of Marathi regional fiction. Both of them depicted plight of characters set against agricultural society threatened by the forces of the change. Both of them confined to the relatively small setting of the regions- the Wessex & the Maandesh respectively. By depicting these small regions, they described their countries & characters .Both of them tried to sketch two types of characters - 1) the unpolished product of the soil with little or no ambition & leading a normal & uncomplaining existence that has fallen to their lot.2) sophisticated types: active for emotional or intellectual ambition of some type. Many of these aspects form base for comparative study of their selected novels.

Gulian Cladio in his book ‘The challenge of comparative literature’ 1993, (3) defines -

“comparative literature as a specific tendency or branch of literary search which contains systematic study of supranational adjustments”.

This definition of comparative literature forms a ground for this comparative study.

**Major Theories of comparison: A Brief Survey.**

A Brief survey of the major theories of comparison is an integral part of a comparative study. In abroad sense, it contains history of emergence of comparative literature and major theories of comparison. Comparative literature is a continuous process of intellectual adjustment. Matthew Arnold used the coinage ‘Comparative Literature’ first in 1848. It was
used in the field of sociology in the 19th century. Then, in France, in second and third decade of the 19th century, it entered the literary circle and by the end of 19th century, comparative theory established in Europe. In the course of time, it spread all over the world. It shows that comparative literature was not used as a tool of literary studies up to the 20th century. Comparative literature contains theories like – influence, reader response, translations, adaptations, character presentations, themes, period studies, concept studies etc. This research work proposes to give an overview of some of these major theories of comparison. These theories have changed traditional and historical concepts. Flexibility, wide horizons, stresses of agreements and conversations in unity and diversity, the relationship of the local and the universal- all this has resulted into comparative cultural studies.

French school of comparative study emerged first. Then, it reached to Germany and then spread all over Europe. Fanciful, mythological, philosophical, historical ideas paved way for comparative study. As compared to European comparative Literature, American comparative literature is new but it is more powerful. Around Second World War, migrated German comparative writers established American school of comparative literature.

In 1975, British comparative literary organization was established in East Anglia University. In India, JadHAVpur university of Calcutta is supposed as the beginner of modern comparative literature. In Mumbai University, now, a comparative literature department has been established.

Selection of the novels:

The First criterion which is used for the selection of the representative novels is that both novelists are regional novelists and to glorify them at global level is the main objective of this research work. Secondly, these novels represent typical socio-cultural rural scene of Hardy’s Wessex and Madgulkar’s Maandesh with utmost details. It is common aspect. Thirdly, most characters in all selected novels highlight concept of man and destiny in the East and the West.
This study proposes to deal with the following novels of Thomas Hardy.

1. **Far from the Madding Crowd**, 1874.
2. **The Return of the Native**, 1878.
5. **Jude the Obscure**, 1895.

This study proposes to deal with the following novels of Vyankatesh Madgulkar.

1. **Bangarwadi** ,(The Village had no walls) 1954.
2. **Vavatal** (Whirlwind), 1964.
4. **Kowale Diwas** (Tender Age) 1979.
5. **Sattantar** (Change in Rule), 1981.

Great comparatists emphasized relevance and need of comparative studies from different literary traditions. Hence, the present study is an attempt to do comparative study of selected novelists of different literary traditions. Vyankatesh Madgulkar is a hidden gem in Marathi literature. Presentation of his writings at global level will inspire many others to follow same path. Glorification of Wessex and Maandesh can be done through comparative study the novels of Hardy and Madgulkar. They tried to immortalize these regions. Comparative study of these writers may prove fruitful to the budding regional writers and research scholars in England and India, especially Western Maharashtra. This comparative study will pinpoint some unexplored similarities of both writers and thus, it will be helpful for clear perception about both writers for coming generations.

Such a study is an attempt to compare one English regional novelist to the other Maharashtrian regional novelist on the basis of revelation of the same ideas. It may inspire many others to think of some such sources of comparison. And also, it will form a new literary link in between the two countries that is in between the East and the West. By doing comparative study of these two novelists, they will be presented on world literary map and usefulness of their writing for present generation will be focused.
Presentation of the concept of Man and Destiny as revealed through selected novels of these two novelists is the main objective of this research. Many generations of human beings have already faced such difficulties and still they face the same. By making use of this comparative study, it may be possible to think of man’s position in this world as similar in the East or in the West. In modern age, man is making fast progress but, still he must have to bear the blows of destiny, directly or indirectly. He never realizes the role played by it in human life. This comparative study will prove useful as an attempt of a social, cultural study of the English and the Indian society.