Research Methodology and Work Plan

a. Research Methodology:

- Research Design: Research would be designed as per chapters. It will be in descriptive manner.
- Selection of Samples: Researcher will take help of eleven novels and critical work done on them. The explanation and description would be in descriptive method for further research in detail.
- Data Collection Procedures: The information in relation to subject of research the following are resources are useful for further study in detail.
  - Primary Resource: Eleven novels of R. K. Narayan
  - Secondary Resource: Reviews, Journals, leading critical papers, etc. Various views by critics, discussions with experts, related papers etc.
  - Method of Analysis: Researcher decides to adopt descriptive method for analyzing the spirit of place in the works of R.K. Narayan. Researcher would like to go through critical views and references or eminent comments and form his confirmed view about the subject.

b. Work Plan

The Thesis runs into five chapters:

Chapter First, an introduction to the research undertaken, spells out the overall theme of the research. Since setting is the centrifugal aspect of the study, the term has been thoroughly dealt with, focusing major realizations of it. The chapter also anticipates the contrastive study of the setting in the Narayan novels with the similar study in certain novels read here primarily for their treatment of the setting and singles out Malgudi, a unique and characteristic setting as it emerges as quintessence of Narayan’s craft of fictions.

Chapter Second, the Planting, considers the early Narayan novels, the pace-setters in terms of Narayan’s recurrent themes, characterization and worldview, and study them in the context of the setting dealt with by the novelist.

Chapter three, the Growth, considers the later novels, as they reflect the craft of the mature and established novelist. The chapter studies these novels for the different realizations of the
setting cast against the study of the setting in the works of Narayan considered for his treatment of the setting in his novels.

Chapter fourth, *the Harvest*, considers the recent novels of Narayan as they reflect the culmination of the novelist’s image and vision as a comic ironist. It also studies the different realizations of the setting in the Narayan novels in the context of growth and development in the setting.

Chapter fifth, *the Conclusion*, reads like a overview of the thesis. It sums up the ongoing research study and underlines the emerging findings born of the major theme of the thesis: the setting as discovery in the novels of R. K. Narayan. In the final analysis the study projects a dual realization. The use of the setting becomes a technique for the novelist to project his fictional universe and this study becomes a discovery for the reader to understand the essentials of Narayan’s craft of fiction.