Conclusion

After close study of this research work it is found that as a distinct literary genre, the Arabic novel began to develop in Egypt from the late nineteenth century with translations from European languages- chiefly French and English. The Arabic novel got its maturity when the first artistic novel *Zaynab* published in 1913 that is regarded as the first full-fledged genuine novel in Arabic. H. A. R. Gibb and others identified it as the first real novel in Arabic. Several eminent writers from the Arab world were influenced by this novel and started to write in their novels not only discussing the societal issues but also wrote them in expressive, attractive and straightforward as well as easily under stood prose.

By the influence of Haykal's novel *Zaynab* several writers from the modern times like Ṭaha Husayn, Mahmud Taymur, Tawfiq al- Hakim, Najib Mahfouz etc. started to write in their novels not only discussing the contemporary societal issues but also wrote them in expressive, attractive, straightforward as well as easily understood prose.

Among them the novelist Najib Mahfouz (1911- 2006) was an outstanding figure in the realm of Arabic Literature. No other writer of the Arab world has attracted the attention of such a wide range of readers and critics as Najib Mahfouz. He was not only a creative novelist, well-judged literary critic and thinker but also a great humanist, courteous, and had a great sense of humour, mystical humility and clear conscience.

Najib Mahfouz began his literary career while he was reading in secondary school. He wrote an impressive number of novels, short stories, dramas and philosophical literary essays, which got huge acceptance across the world and translated in over two dozen languages. His imprint of genius and literary talents traces out in his novels. His novels may be divided into three categories.

In the first category Mahfouz contributed his historical novels which are- *Abath al- Aqdar* (1939), Radubis (1943) and *Kifah Tiba* (1944).

The second category comprises social novels which are – *al- Qahira al- Jadida* (New Cairo, 1945), *Khan al- Khalili*, 1946, *Zuqaq al- Midaq* (Midaq Alley, 1947), *Bidaya wa Nihaya* (The Beginning and the End, 1949), *al- Thulathiyya* (The Trilogy, 1956- 57) etc.

The third category includes his post realistic novels which are- *Awladuu Harratina* (Children of Gebelawi, 1951), *al- Liss wal- Kilab* (The Thief and the Dogs, 1961), *al- Suman al- Kharif* (Autumn Quail, 1962), *Miramar*, 1967 etc.

Among his popular novels *The Trilogy* is considered as masterpiece of Arabic Literature. This is an evocative, sensual, provocative and overwhelming account of Egypt moving towards independence. Most of the interesting aspects of *The Trilogy* are domestic and national transitions and how al-Sayyid Ahmad's second and third generation adapt and refuse the changes going on. According to Hamdi Sakkut it can be ranked as the most significant work in the history of the Arabic novel. Mahfouz through his masterpiece *The Trilogy* discusses about social, political and religious themes against the background of 20th century Egypt. The author minutely observes the people of his nation whose life styles are contrary to the faith they profess. He has taken an equal observation in the individual, family and the nation as a whole. His novel also depicts the hypocrisy, patriarchy, oppression, corruption, sexism, class – consciousness etc. In fact his novel is a microcosm of Egypt. Mahfouz is traumatized by this type of societal decadence, creates public awareness against the same.

Najib Mahfouz presents Egyptian life in a new light, as he offers a collection of writings full of local narratives and luminous descriptions of the political changes that have taken place in the Egypt and Islam in the modern world. From the life history of Najib Mahfouz it is found that he has wide

knowledge of various culture, religions and philosophies. He combined both intellectual and cultural influences from the East and the West. Mahfouz's literary talent is clearly associated with a significant development in the mode of literary presentation and the code of reference to external reality. It is also found from the overall study of Mahfouz's work about the different aspects of life such as love, birth, death and tussle between man and woman. In short he excels in portraying the various socio-political trends in relation to human society. His characters are vivid and his plots are true to life.

Many of his writings have been adapted to the screen. This enables him to become widely known and admired throughout the Arab world. He succeeded in putting the Arabic novel on the world literary map and winning a wider relationship and international recognition. For this great writing skill and ability he got Nobel Prize for literature. So he was the first Arabic writer to be so honoured. Mahfouz, who is called the Balzac of Egypt, described the development of his country in the twentieth century. In fact with Mahfouz the Arabic novel has achieved genuine maturity. His contributions to the genre laid the ground work throughout the Arab world.

In his masterpiece novel *The Trilogy*, Mahfauz shows in graphic detail, the social disparities and political corruption similar to that of European novel. He described the novel as a true picture of his society. He showed his full awareness regarding the different types of social situations which was prevailing in his own society. His writings convey that Egyptians are human, with typical questions of faith, secularity, ethics, and change. His portrayals of Egyptian locals are essential to understanding that Muslims in Egypt are diverse and attracted to change, while at the same time they want to adhere to their own basic religious principles.

Mahfouz was also conscious about the political situation of Egypt. He described the national struggle of the Egyptian people to end autocratic rule and to establish democracy in a proper manner. It is also found from this novel the various aspects of life such as love, birth, death and the struggle between man and women. Mahfouz probes all aspects of Egyptian life through accurate descriptions of locales and characters. His descriptions provide a universal outlook on the human condition. He reflects on the problems of time and change, human suffering, injustices, alienation, cruelty and loneliness—all aspects of the human condition.

It is a fact that Mahfouz is the first Arab Nobel laureate opens up the possibility for Muslim literature to serve as a vehicle to understanding Muslims, Islam, and ordinary life. *The Trilogy* changed the face of Arabic literature; the Arabic novel had previously been ineffective and there was a sense of alienation and inability to communicate with others. Mahfouz provided accessibility, and after *The Trilogy,* many writers quickly began realizing the possibility of Arab novels. Mahfouz offered literature as a way to tell the story of Egyptian life and Islam; he pioneered the advent of a whole literary era and, at the same time, introduced the preeminent literary genre of the future. By writing a novel about Egyptians and quotidian life in an Islamic world, Mahfouz has filled a gap for readers in the West and the East; he changed perceptions, sensibilities, and focus with regard to the typical Muslim image.

The research topic is "*Social Consciousness in 'The Trilogy' of Najib Mahfouz*". It is not possible to discuss the details in single research work. So the following suggestions may be provided for further research work relevant to this topic-

1. Reflection of social issues in the historical novel of Najib Mahfouz.
2. Reflection of social issues in the social novel of Najib Mahfouz.

3. Reflection of social issues in the post realistic novel of Najib Mahfouz.

4. Depiction of love and sex in the novel of Najib Mahfouz.

5. Contribution of Najib Mahfouz to Arabic short story.

So it is found that Najib Mahfouz's masterpiece *The Trilogy* has possessed almost all the good qualities of novel. It will not be an exaggeration to say that Najib Mahfouz's *The Trilogy* has no parallels. It is blending of so many elements that it is difficult to reduce it to any neat or mechanical classification.

It will be felt that Mahfouz's novel *The Trilogy* deserves to be a subject of full length research or a detailed study. It is hoped critics and scholars would take up to this noble task and bring to light the myriad shades of the prose style of this great master. It is a "gift unopened".