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Topic of Research: **Aesthetics of Dissonance: A Study of Khalid Jawed's Art of Fiction**

Findings

In this thesis, *Aesthetics of Dissonance: A Study of Khalid Jawed's Art of Fiction*, an attempt has been made to formulate a critical framework to read the novels of Khalid Jawed. Such a framework is the aesthetics of dissonance, which I argue allows us to come to terms with the multi-faceted existential narratives of Jawed's fiction. This thesis is divided into five chapters. Tracing the idea of dissonance in music, and building it through psychology and existential thought, I tease out an ontological understanding of being operational in the word "na-saaz" (disharmony, out-of-tune, dissonance). Furthermore, I frame the aesthetics of dissonance vis-a-vis *stimmung* as it allows us to see aesthetics and existential question as mutually inscribed into each other. The three chapters engage in understanding how the lack of attunement is reflected in three important ways in the novels of Khalid Jawed. Jawed's three novels constitute the ambit of this thesis. In what follows, the three chapters focus on the three sites that give rise to three varieties of dissonant experience, namely corporeal, ethical, and existential. In conclusion, I argue that Jawed's self-reflexive narratives tease out the ways in which characters' attunement with their world gets broken, leading to despair and out-of-tune experiences. The story-world which emanates from such sites of dissonance allows Jawed to explore uncanny existential situations. The aesthetics that emerges therein and shapes the character's story-world has been called the aesthetics of dissonance.

1. Summary of Abstract (only 2 pages)
2. Soft Copy in PDF format with Hardcopy