

PREFACE

I chanced upon Arun Joshi's novel *The Foreigner* about eight years back. As I read the pages through and through, I found myself in love with Sindi Oberoi, the protagonist, who was imbued with a feeling of rootlessness, and a subsequent desire for a route to success. I was also impressed by the materialistic routes followed by Oberoi and the consequent turning-point in his life. In the succeeding months I found myself too preoccupied with the other novels of Arun Joshi. I was touched by the abyss of rootlessness depicted in the characters, larger than life. Nevertheless, their angst became mine in no time. Displaying the main characters on the podium, I was enthralled to find that they all had some traits common to Sindi Oberoi: an insecure sense of rootlessness, a search for personal roots, a search for worldly routes to success, a turning-point midway, and finally, the route to salvation. Need I say more about how my reading paved the way to the study, "The Routes of the Rootless: A Study of the Novels and Short Stories of Arun Joshi"?