

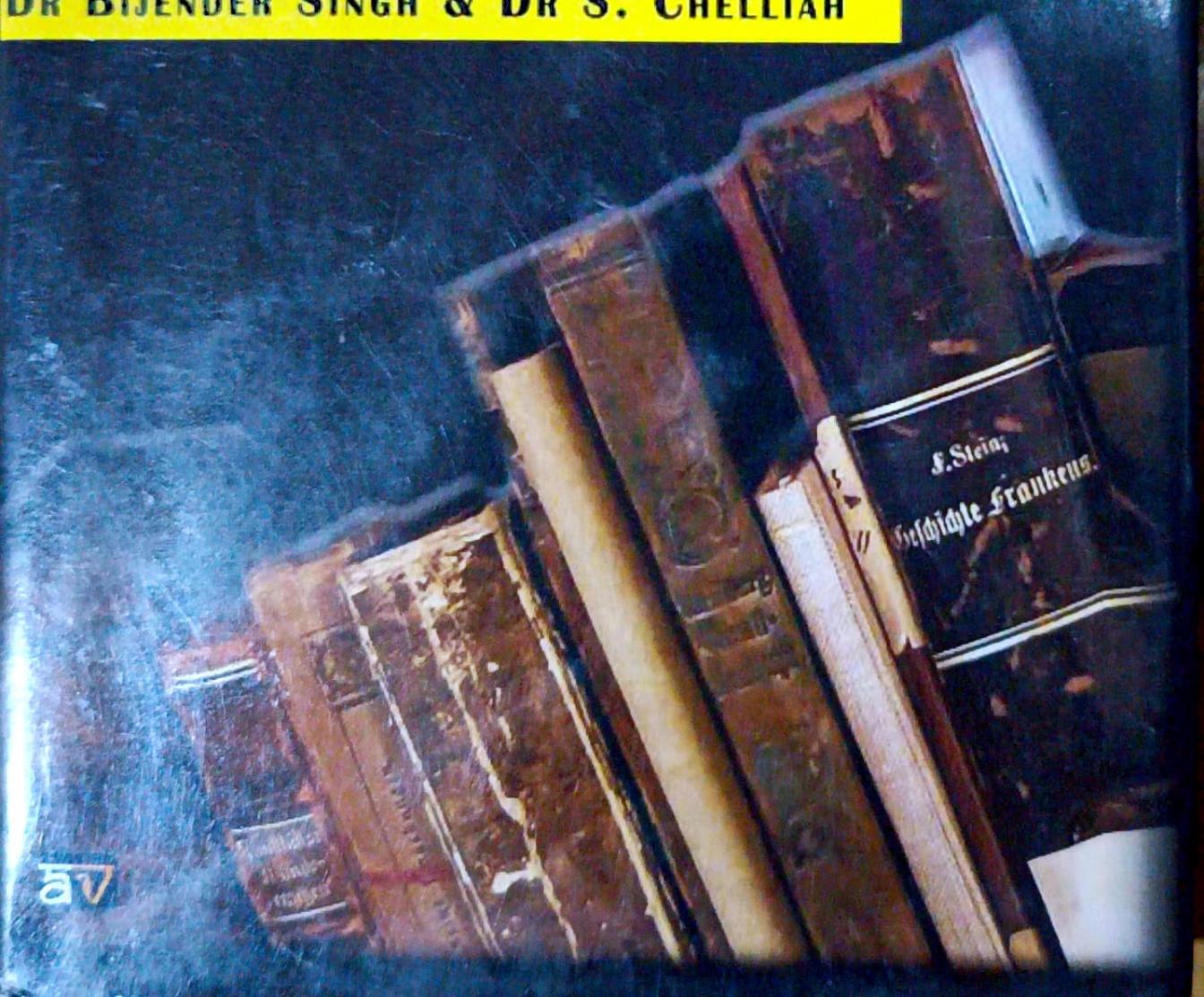
THEMATIC CONCERNS IN

ENGLISH LITERATURE

TEXT AND CONTEXT

EDITED BY

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Theme of Identity Crisis and Rootlessness in V.S. Naipaul's *Half a Life*

Dr Suruchi Sharma

Vidiadhar Surajprasad Naipaul was a Trinidadian-born novelist who is best known for his works on the themes of cultural clash, selflessness rootlessness and identity crisis. He was much inspired from his father who worked in a Trinidadian magazine the *Sentinel*. Naipaul's father Seeprasad wanted to see his son as a writer. Vidiadhar could not fulfill his father's dream because the latter died when the former was still studying in the college. Naipaul started his career by writing short-stories and then he started writing novels also. Naipaul's first published novel was *The Mystic Masseurs* while his first written novel was *Miguel Street*. Naipaul got the prestigious Nobel Prize for Literature in 2001 for his novel *A House for Mr Biswas*.

His novels deal with the problems of the second generation immigrants. His novels *Half a Life* (2001) and its sequel *Magic Seeds* (2004) also are about the identity crisis of Willie Chandran and his life as an itinerant in four countries i.e. India, England, Africa and Germany can be seen in these two novels.

Willie's father Chandran plays an important role in this novel. He gets much influenced from the life of the writer William Maugham who visits India to get material for his spiritual book *A Razor's Edge*. He remains so influenced that he puts the name of his son at the writer's name. Willie's father tells the secret of

