Name : A. Selva Lakshmi

Qualification :
My academic journey which includes a Bachelor's degree in English from Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education and a Master's degree from Bishop Heber College has equipped me to undertake this research.

Research Area: English Literature (Contemporary Fiction, Psychological Thriller)

Background

  Alex Michaelides has emerged as a prominent voice in contemporary psychological thrillers, blending classical literary references with modern psychological insights. His debut novel The Silent Patient (2019) introduced readers to themes of trauma, silence, and narrative unreliability, while The Maidens (2021) deepened his engagement with Greek tragedy, dark academia, and gendered violence. My undergraduate and postgraduate work explored these novels in isolation, focusing respectively on the use of silence as resistance and the interplay of myth and modern narrative.
 Building upon this foundation, this PhD research proposes a comprehensive literary analysis of Michaelides's evolving oeuvre, with particular attention to narrative form, intertextuality, gender representation, and the construction of psychological tension.

Research Objectives:

- To examine the narrative structure and reliability of narration in Michaelides's novels.
- To investigate the representation of trauma, gender, and mental health.
- To assess Michaelides's contribution to the psychological thriller genre in a global literary context.

Methodology:
The study will employ close textual analysis, supported by theories of narratology, trauma studies, feminist literary criticism, and intertextuality.

Expected Contribution:
This research aims to emphasize the importance of addressing and acknowledging the rippling effects of trauma and psychological balance in an individual.