Acknowledgements

Words are inadequate to express my indebtedness and sense of gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Goutam Buddha Sural, Associate Professor and Head, Department of English, Bankura Christian College. I am blessed and privileged to finish my thesis under his guidance. I remember with gratitude the help he rendered in choosing the topic, his dedication to the work, willingness to help, systematic guidance and all his indefatigable efforts. I owe him a lot for his patience and meticulous supervision.

I am very much obliged to Prof. Himadri Lahiri, Professor, Department of English, The University of Burdwan, for his continuous support and assistance.

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to the librarians of all the libraries I visited during my research.

I am extremely grateful to the Management and the Teacher-In-Charge, Saltora Netaji Centenary College, Saltora, Bankura for providing me the opportunity to continue my research work. I am also grateful to all my companions in Saltora Ntaji Centenary College for their valuable suggestions which helped me a lot in my endeavour.

Especially, I am indebted to Dr. Sandip Tikait, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, for his continuous support.

I owe a special debt of gratitude to my father, Mr. Bamdev Saha, who initiated me into the world of literature and shaped my views to become the person that I am. The constant encouragement that he gives enables me to strive, to seek, to achieve, and never
to yield. I would also like to thank my mother, Smt. Krishna Saha, for all that she has been to me all these years.

Only with feelings of love and gratitude can I think of my wife Ananya, whose wholehearted support has been the inspiring force behind this whole venture. But for her tolerance this thesis would not have materialized.

My child Soham, though he is only six years old, would often leave me alone during my research work. His presence and liveliness relieved me of much of the tediousness of the research.

I am also grateful to my brother Krishanu and sister-in-law Jayita for their gentle way of encouragement and my parents-in-law, Mr. Sanjoy Narayan Chatterjee and Smt. Alpana Chatterjee, for their pride in and prayers for me.

( Santanu Saha )