Acknowledgement

Acknowledgement is more than a formal vote of thanks. It is with this spirit that I gratefully acknowledge the guidance, encouragement, help and assistance from my mentors, well-wishers and others, without which this project would not have been completed.

First and foremost, I owe a deep gratitude to Professor Mohammad Aslam, Professor and Head of the Department of English, Central University of Kashmir, and former Professor of English in Kashmir University, for his constant encouragement and painstaking guidance during all stages of the completion of the project. Interaction with him always helped me refine my position and gain clarity on the subject.

Thanks are also due to Professor Hameeda Nayeem, present Head of the Department of English, Kashmir University, for her help and encouragement.

I am also indebted to a large number of people, including the faculty of the Department of English, Kashmir University, for sharing their expertise and wisdom.

Gratitude is also due to the administrative and library staff of the Department of English and the staff of the Allama Iqbal Library in University of Kashmir for their help. I am also grateful to the staff of the Libraries in Jawahar
Lal Nehru University, Delhi University and Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi for their help in locating some important secondary sources related to this project.

Besides my parents, I am also highly thankful to my sister and brother for bearing with me throughout, especially during some testing times which we had to endure jointly.

Abid Ahmad