Acknowledgements

This work would have not been possible without the initiation and encouragement of Professor Gill. I also need to acknowledge the tremendous amount of freedom he allowed during the process of writing this thesis and for the Structuralist perspective that I developed during the course of attending his class. I take this opportunity to thank all the teachers of the Centre especially Professor Harish Narang and Dr. Manjali for their interest in my work. I also here need to mention Mr. Suresh Chabria, Dr. Madan Gopal Singh and Dr. Ravi Vasudevan for their very valuable insights into Film Studies.

I am extremely grateful to Surma Ghatak and Ritaban Ghatak for not only discussing my numerous nascent queries but also for sharing with me whatever information and material they had with so much of love and warmth. I can never forget my meetings with them. Thanks to Jogin, Meghnath, Shumi, Banida, Putuldi and Palda for translating with utter devotion and for walking extra miles for me.

My special thanks to my very dear friends Jogin, Rajesh, Meghnath and my friend and sister Dimple for critiquing, analyzing and for helping me to develop a critical perspective which somehow I was unable to develop. I hope to be forgiven by them. Thanks for all your love and support: To Honey for staying awake while I slept and for always being there; to Bobby and Dimple for your indelible love and concern; to Vermaji for not only helping me to process this work but for the numerous sleepless nights that you spent; to Nanji for enduring; to Bela for discussing; to Mamu, Niti, Gopal, Zovi, Sonali, Kishwar, Meenakshi, Sunil, Narin, Sandhaya, and Jenifer for encouraging; to Rajesh for walking along with me.

Last of all I need to really thank Dr. Jaidev who not only read and reread my work but who has actually taught me all that I know about literature over the course of several years. I can never thank him enough. I owe this work to all my friends for the numerous little things they did for me from making a cup of tea to talking to me in my moments of despair and to my very warm family especially to my mother for her unflinching inspiration and patience and my father who earnestly helped me to understand the meaning of work.

28th April 1998

(Diamond Oberoi Vahali)