ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My profound thanks and gratefulness are due to God, the Almighty who provided me with the all means that made this study a reality.

I would like to convey my most sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Padmini Bhuyan Boruah, who provided me with academic support at the times when I needed it the most. When I first met Dr. Boruah, I was inspired by her knowledge and insight regarding reading comprehension and area of my study. I feel honored to have been a student of her during this study. Her constant professional guidance provided me with the impetus and confidence to complete this degree and the years at the Gauhati University.

Appreciation is also extended to Professors Anita Tamuli, Jyotiprakash Tamuli and Rekibuddin Ahmed who helped make my years at the University of Gauhati enjoyable. My thanks also go to the participants of this study. Without their cooperation, this study could not have been undertaken.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this dissertation to my parents for their unconditional love and support. Their love, supports have given me the strength and motivation needed to complete this dissertation.

Thank you.

Ramin Hosseinpour Milaghardan

Gauhati University, India