ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of Allah, the most Gracious and merciful, who showers me with the necessary courage, vision, determination and faith, and for making this dream into reality. It is surely the Allah’s benevolent hand who generated in me the desire to hunt for realities to accomplish this work.

I would like to express my deepest sense of appreciation to Prof. Md. Rizwan Khan, Professor in the Department of English and my research supervisor who has been a tremendous mentor for me with his valuable, constructive and effective guidance, assistant and patience throughout each stage of the present study. In fact, he had been a constant source of inspiration and encouragement for me.

I would like to thank Professor Seemun Hasan, Chairperson, Department of English at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (India), for her encouraging gestures and extending all official support.

I would especially like to thank Dr. Vibha Sharma, Associate Professor, Department of English, for providing brilliant comments and suggestions and constant cooperation whenever needed. I have learned and benefited a lot from my long association with her.

I am also thankful to Mr. Ashfaque Ahamd, Computer Center for data processing and Statistical representation and to all the supporting Staff for their cooperation in AMU. In addition, I would also like to thank the Seminar In charge of Department of English, Khan Parwez Rafiq, and the Librarian of Maulana Azad Library, Dr. Nabi Hasan and his staff, for extending their valuable support. Outside Aligarh, I would like to extend my sense of gratitude to the British Council Library and American Center, New Delhi, and the libraries of Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, English and Foreign Language University, Hyderabad, and Pune University.

I will ever feel indebted to all teachers and students, who participated in the Pilot Survey and the Main Study and extended their inputs in the questionnaires.

A special thanks to my family. Words cannot express how grateful I am to my Father Mr. Abdulwahab Damani and mother Mrs. Fahmideh Damani, for being a source of inspiration to me throughout my life. Your prayer for me was what sustained me thus far. I would like to express my gratitude to my husband Dr. Amanollah Tamandehrou
for his constant patience and encouragement that showed during my stay in India to complete the present research in spite of difficulties that we faced.

Last but not the least, I would also like to thank all of my close friends and family members who always encouraged and believed me to strive towards my goal.

Shamseh Damani Fard