ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am extremely grateful to Dr. B. Sreedevi for her kindness in accepting me as her research scholar, following the sudden demise of Prof. R. Viswanathan. I also thank her for the help, encouragement and guidance given in the writing of my thesis.

Dr. R. Viswanthan, my teacher and former guide, is the driving force behind this thesis. Without his guidance, advice and directions, this work would not have been possible. I deeply regret the negligence on my part of not completing the work during his lifetime.

I wish to thank my colleagues in the college, especially the English department faculty, for their support. ASRC, Hyderabad deserves special mention for providing the major chunk of the reading material that I have used. Thanks are also due to the staff of English department library, University of Calicut; RIE library, Bangalore; CIIL library, Mysore. My friends in the U.S., Ms. Sreejaya and Mr. Asif Ismail had been kind enough to send some important books and xeroxed articles. I am further indebted to my former teachers and non-teaching staff of English department in the University.

The love and backing provided by my parents, wife and daughters (Aditi and Aparna) cannot be expressed in a few words. My father, Prof. C.P.Sivadasan has been the biggest source of inspiration all through my life. Lastly, I am obliged to each and every person who has helped me, in the completion of this work.

C.P. Satheesh