Acknowledgement

The long and arduous journey to clench my treasure has made me more conscious of the universal truth that no quest is achieved without the aid, camaraderie, support and commitment of a selfless fellowship. I am humbled by this awareness.

I place on record my sincere gratitude to
- my guide Dr. Alexander Raju, for his unstinting encouragement and unfailing confidence in me.
- the UGC for granting me the teacher fellowship.
- the management and Principal, Bharata Mata College, for providing me the opportunity to avail FIP.
- my colleagues in the Department of English and my friends in the college for their gentle prod of encouragement and genuine nod of assurance.
- the Principal, Baselius College and the HOD and teachers of the Dept. of English and Centre for Research, Baselius College, Kottayam for the facility to conduct my research.
- the library staff of ASRC Hyderabad, USIS Chennai, British Library Thiruvananthapuram, EMS Co-operative Library, Kochi, and MG University Library for painstakingly obtaining for me valuable sources.
- my data-base in the U.S.- ardent well-wisher Mr. George Abraham of U.N., my brother-in-law Dr. George Augustine, and my niece Ammu Prethesh for getting me the ‘most-wanted’ materials when most needed.
- Dr. Kerala Varma for giving me focus and clarity of thought with his deft and valuable suggestions of academic professionalism.
- Dr. Reena Andrews, Dr. Tessy Anthony and my fellow scholars Smt.Priyalakshmi P., Smt. Susan Varghese, Smt. Renju Radhakrishnan and Smt. Bijimol Thomas for the intellectual exercises and for sharing their experiences which has sustained my zeal.
- Smarttek Computers for taking their job to the plane of a sincere vocation.
Words fail to place on record my inexplicable indebtedness and warmth to those whom I hold close to heart -

- my dear teacher Dr. Annie Margaret, for lighting my dark days with her torch of guidance and also for her heart of gold and will of patience.
- my father Sri. Pala K.M. Mathew, for initiating me into the fantasy world of books and for instilling in me intellectual curiosity.
- my mother Maryamma, for urging me on to pursue my dreams, with her constant and tangible presence even in the unchartered realms beyond life.
- my father-in-law Sri. A.P. Augustine and my brother Prof. K.M. George who always took pride in every search for excellence and who have blessed my academic pursuits with their unseen presence.
- my mother-in-law Smt. Philomina, my beloved ‘seven sisters and brothers’ and my extended family, for their support, succor and sustenance through nudging, pushing, chiding and above all, prayers- the mainstay of my work.
- my husband Eugene, for his lessons of self-discipline, order and patience (the proper virtues of a research scholar) and for his silent endurance and consistent reminding which holds me on to reality, from taking- off into a fantasy world - the true spice of my life and work.
- my children Mili and Joshua, for inspiring me to wade into the contours of their enchanting world and for ‘mothering’ me through counsels, concern, care and commitment for my ‘brain-child’ - the eternal elixir of my life.
- my heavenly Mother for accompanying me through the labyrinth of tests and trials to clinch the holy grail of faith by surrendering to His will.
- my Friend Guide and Counsellor –the Holy Sprit – for everything that He is and all that I am.