ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I sincerely thank Dr. R. Sethumadhavan, Professor, Institute for Energy Studies, for his able guidance during my research work. He has been a source of inspiration both during the execution of this work and in my life.

I am grateful to the members of the Doctoral Committee, Dr. S. Renganarayanan, Principal, Rajalakshmi Engineering College, and Dr. E. Natarajan, Professor, Institute for Energy Studies, for monitoring the progress of the research work and for suggesting improvements.

My special gratitude is due to Dr. K. Subbarayudu, Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Pondicherry Engineering College, who as Research Co-ordinator enlightened me on various subjects connected with the research work. I also thank Dr. L. Karunamoorthy, Professor and Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, College of Engineering Guindy, for his help in the completion of the work. I am extremely indebted to Dr. M. Venkata Ramanan, Senior Assistant Professor, Institute for Energy Studies, without whose help I would not have completed the research work.

I place on record the assistance provided by many under-graduate and post-graduate students of Pondicherry Engineering College during experimentation.

L. KUMARARAJA