ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, with utmost humility, record my faithful acknowledgement to the Lord Almighty for His divine help and His abundant blessings showered on me to complete this project successfully.

I place on record my unfathomable indebtedness and gratitude to my supervisor and guide Dr. J.G. Duressh, Head, Department of English, Scott Christian College (Autonomous) for his extraordinary patience and meticulousness which set such unattainable levels for me and for his valuable clarifications of thought and timely suggestions which saw the project through its teething troubles.

I thankfully remember Dr. K. Vimala who offered unstinted support of encouragement and her readiness to help me to bring out this project all through my research period.

I am grateful to my Principal Dr. S. Chandralekha for enabling me to choose this research topic and inspired me to this academic venture.

I am obliged to NSS Management and my colleagues for their continued encouragement and moral support. I happily recollect the reassuring encouragement from the faculty members of the English Department, Scot Christian College (Autonomous).
I greatly acknowledge the help and guidance given to me by friend and sister Sheeba S. Nair. I cannot forget the readiness and enthusiasm which she took up the tedious job of proof reading the text.

I cannot forget Dr. Janardhanan, Dr. Madhumathi, Mr. Prem Kumar Srinivasan and my student Devi Grace for their magnanimity in making available primary and secondary sources.

I am indebted to the Victors of West Luthern Street, Nagercoil for the goodness and generosity extended towards me in promoting my research.

My thanks are due to the librarians of British Council Library, American Library and Connemara Library, Chennai, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University Library, Tirunelveli, Kerala University Library, Centre for Research and Canadian Studies and Institute of English, Thiruvananthapuram, SCILET library, Madurai, Sydney Cave library, Scott Christian College, Karyavattam University Library and the library of Sree Ayyappa College for Women.

I am grateful to Mrs. Jayasree Sanjay for her generous hospitality, which made my long and exacting hours of study at Dhvanyaloka, Mysore, an enriching experience.

Those who bore the brunt of my research work need praise and thanks. My mother, husband and my daughters have been my companions in this arduous journey.
This acknowledgement will be incomplete if I do not place on record my gratitude to Mr. G. Janin Jaji for the timely and neat execution of the dissertation.

To conclude, I remember and thank all my friends and all the kind hearted souls who joined hands to see me through this enterprise.

R. Janatha Kumari