ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I shall be eternally indebted to Dr. Shashi Bala, Professor, Department of Guru Nanak Studies, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, who has guided me through the turmoil and rigours of completing the present research project. I am also grateful to Mrs. Anu Kandhari, research scholar in the department, for going through the manuscript and rendering her valuable suggestions.

I am also thankful to Dr. Gursharanjit Singh, Head, Department of Guru Nanak Studies, for his enduring support and encouragement. Gratitude is also due to the teaching and non-teaching staff of the department of Guru Nanak Studies, for their help and co-operation.

I also acknowledge the support of my wife and children for inspiring and encouraging me during the difficult phases of the work.

My acknowledgements are also due to the authors and publishers whose works have been referred in the thesis. I also thank the librarian and the staff of the library who offered their full support during the completion of my research work.

I also express my gratitude to K.G. Graphics for their help in composing and bringing out the thesis to this form.

Vipan Kumar