ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I gratefully acknowledge the valuable guidance of Dr. P.S. Sastri who was kind enough to supervise this study. I always found him ready with an encouraging heart and a helping hand. Dr. Sastri, gently but firmly pointed out the imperfections, guided me through the intricacies whenever I staggered, and also occasionally shook me out of my complacency. I wonder whether I will be able to prove myself worthy of his affection.

The University Grants Commission was kind enough to grant me Teacher Fellowship for three years under the Faculty Improvement Programme. This gave me the required time as well as pecuniary support to pursue my studies with a little concentration. I am also thankful to the Education Department of the Government of Madhya Pradesh for relieving me to avail myself of the University Grants Commission Fellowship.

The constant encouragement and perennial help of Dr. C.B.L. Verma, Principal Government Arts & Science College, Durg (M.P.) can never be forgotten.

My heartfelt thanks to the Director and Staff of the
American Studies Research Centre, Hyderabad for promptly providing scholarly help and all the facilities for the completion of my project. The Librarian, American Centre Library, Bombay supplied me the needed material without any delay. The Officer-in-charge Post Graduate Teaching Department (Humanities), Nagpur University and the members of the Department of English deserve thanks for their assistance.

I thank the late Dr. Jagdish Chander (until recently Prof. & Head, Department of English, Panjab University Chandigarh), who, as the Visiting Professor at Nagpur University in 1978, gave me invaluable help and advice.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge my sense of gratitude to my elder brothers and sister who have been my mainstay during my arduous work and always gave me support as well as encouragement.

Last but not the least, my thanks to all my friends and colleagues who in some way or another helped me in achieving the completion of this study.

A.A.S.