ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all I owe my profound gratitude to almighty Allah for giving me courage and vision to complete this work. My sincere thanks and gratitude are to my supervisor Dr. Abdul Matin for his unprecedented and untiring support throughout my research. He is the person who supported and guided me in the difficult phase of my work and made me to sail my boat further even against the winds of time. He always encouraged me to follow the right path. I am highly thankful to the Chairman, Department of Sociology and social work, Prof. Noor Muhammad for his valuable suggestions and guidance throughout my research and extending to me the facilities of seminar library whenever needed. My special thanks are to Dr. P.K. Mathur for clearing me of some doubts regarding various concepts pertaining to my research.

I have no words to thank Mr. Musavir Ahmad (Lecturer in the department of linguistics, Kashmir University) and Mr. Mushtaque Ahmad for having edited the first draft of my thesis and making it readable as it is in its present form. My special thanks to UGC for granting me the fellowship when it was needed the most. It made my work to proceed smoothly and I never felt paucity of funds.

It would have been impossible to complete my thesis without support, help and cooperation of the library staff members in Aligarh and Delhi. I appreciate for allowing me to access in the Maulana Azad library, Allama Iqbal library AMU in Aligarh; JNU library; and Ratan Tata library in Delhi.
I owe my sincere thanks to my friend Imtiaz Ahmad (Research Scholar in Jamia Millia University) who supported and helped me in a number of ways throughout my research. Sometimes with a word of encouragement, sometimes with a stiff criticism, which makes me fresh to work again. I am also thankful to Primrose, Nusrat, Shabeena, Inab, and Shama for making my research a bit easier and joyful. I also thank my roommates Fouzia and Afifa for being there for me whenever needed.

I am feeling short of words to express my thanks and gratitude to my family, who stood by me through thick and thin. My father, the best father on earth, always gave me the liberties of a son and made me to follow my dreams. My mother, the mother with a strong will, always facilitated in achieving my goal. My sisters with a golden heart always encouraged me to be ambitious. My uncle Mr. Zami` Ansari has been a pillar of moral support and guided me in a number of fruitful ways throughout my research. I cannot forget to thank my grand father Mr. Ghulam Rasool for his enquiring nature regarding progress of my research that made me to work even harder. Last but not least, I thank campus computers especially Azad bhai for typing and formatting my thesis at various stages to lead to the final completion of the work.

Humaira Shoukat