Acknowledgements

It was only by the grace of God I was able to complete this task. It was His mercy alone that made me come across teachers and friends who were of invaluable help to me during the course of this study.

I am deeply indebted to Dr. P. P. Raveendran, my guide and supervising teacher for initiating me to the world of Bakhtin. His valuable suggestions and his patient and sincere correction of the manuscript alone have brought this dissertation into light.

I cannot forget the help I received from Dr. T. K. Nandakumar and Dr. C. B. Mohandas. It was Dr. T. K Nandakumar, who introduced me to a wonderful guide like Dr. P.P. Raveendran. Both Dr. Nandakumar and Dr. Mohandas were very supportive and friendly and were very generous in lending me their books and were kind enough to spend their valuable time for clearing my doubts. Mrs. Shalini Nandakumar and Mrs. Sreela Mohandas also were very happy to help me.

Dr. B. Hariharan, whom I met through my friend, Dr. Dhanya Menon helped me a lot in unravelling many complexities of Bakhtin. I do not have the words to thank Dr. Rajeev Krishnan and Dr. P. Madhavan who helped me a good deal in collecting materials on my research topic.
The teachers, fellow researchers, librarians and the staff of the School of Letters, MG University, ASRC, CIEFL and SKVC also helped me immensely during the course of this work. Dr. Salil Varma, Mr. Anilkumar, Miss Deepa, Dr. Indu, Dr. Bibi, Dr. Roy, Dr. Sajeev, Dr. Subash, Dr. Antony, Dr. Neena and Mr. Sudeendran Nair require special mention here. The DTP workers Pauly and Biju helped me in getting this dissertation printed. The staff of the Videon Industry assisted me a lot during system failures.

I would be ungrateful if I do not mention the help I received from my family members for the timely completion of this project. I do not have the words to express my thanks for the wholehearted and selfless support given to me by my parents. Their prayers, sacrifices and consolations always guided me in the right path and helped me to stick on to my duty even in the face of adversities. My husband Martin was always there to motivate and encourage me. He is so much involved in my work and that this dissertation is as much his as it is mine. The pranks of my garrulous little son, Joel were always a happy diversion from this monotonous job. I cannot also forget the support and prayers of my brother and his wife, my grand mother, my mother-in-law and all my other relatives and friends at this juncture but I am unable to mention all their names here.