ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The credit for moulding my clay into the shape suggested by this study should go to Prof. V. S. Seturaman (Formerly Head of the Department of English & Dean, Faculty of Arts, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh), who belongs to a fast-vanishing order of idealist-teachers. To me he has not been just a research supervisor: he has been a sobering, sensitising and humanising influence in a profound sense. The gratitude I feel towards him is too deep for words. Next only to him I owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. T. Srinivas of the R.V.R. Government Arts College, Tiruchirappalli for the invaluable help he has rendered in curbing the waywardness of my linguistic expression. I am also deeply indebted to Prof. Jack Stillinger of the University of Illinois, U.S.A., Prof. S. Viswanathan of the Central University of Hyderabad, Prof. C. Subba Rao of the Sri Krishnadevaraya University, and Mr. R. A. Jayantha of the Sri Venkateswara University for their expert comments on the theory presented in this study. I am beholden to Dr. (Miss) C. T. Indra of the University of Madras and Smt. Sivagami, Research Scholar in the University of Illinois, for their generous gestures. And I owe much to my beloved colleagues
Messrs. M.V. Subba Rao and C. Krishna Murthy for various kinds of help I have received from them in the course of a long-drawn effort. My thanks are also due to Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddy for his assistance in typing out this work.

I place on record my gratitude to the A.S.R.C., Hyderabad, for allowing me a grant to facilitate the use of the impressive collection of books available at the Centre.

Tirupati
April, 1984.

(Thattarathodi Raghavan)