ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Pursuing a Ph. D. project is both an enjoyable and a creative experience. It is just like climbing up a high peak, one step at a time, accompanied with commitments, hardships, optimism, encouragement and fulfilment, with the help of so many people. When I found myself at the top enjoying the beautiful scenery, I realized that it was, in fact, a teamwork that got me there. However it will not be enough to express my gratitude in words to all those people who helped me, but still I would like to record my thanks to all of them.

First and foremost, I would like to thank from the core of my heart, the absolute power, God for His blessings to complete my research work without any hurdles.

It is my paramount duty to record my heartfelt gratitude to my research guide and mentor Dr. V. Chanthiramathi, Associate Professor of English, V. O. Chidambaram College, Thoothukudi, for her guidance, direction and encouragement. Her valuable hints and patient perusal of the thesis are praiseworthy. In fact the whole set of alphabet is inadequate to express my deep depth of gratitude to her. I solemnly submit my honest and heartfelt gratitude to her for bringing my dream into reality.

My special thanks to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli for giving me an opportunity to do my Doctoral degree here.

It is a matter of pleasure to record my sincere thanks to Dr. P. K. Kalyani, Professor and Head, Department of English, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli for her help.
I should be grateful to convey my sincere thanks to Dr. C. Veerabahu, Principal, V. O. Chidambaram College, Thoothukudi and Professor K. R. Unni Krishnan, Head, PG & Research Department of English, V. O. Chidambaram College, Thoothukudi for allowing me to use the Research Department as my research centre to carry out my work successfully.

My sincere thanks to Dr. Sudhir Kakar, Psychoanalyst and novelist for his scholarly suggestions.

I wish to thank the staff of the following libraries: Literary Criterion Centre for English Studies, Dhvanyaloka, Mysore, University of Mysore, British Council Library, Chennai, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, and various other libraries for stacking abundant research materials. The lot of critical materials available there helped me in viewing the subject of my study from different perspectives. Moreover the help given and kindness shown by those at the centres stimulated and encouraged me.

I am also very grateful to Dr. T. Lilly Golda, Assistant Professor of English, A. P. C. Mahalaxmi College, Thoothukudi for proof reading.

I am extremely thankful to our Vice Chairman, Mr. S. P. Chandy, Chandy Group of Institutions for taking a lot of interest in my efforts, and for wishing me success.

I heartily thank my beloved husband Mr. A. Sankaralingam and my affectionate kids S. Anupriya and S. Ajay Kumar who supported me in all aspects to complete my research work. I am also indebted to my parents and in-laws for their blessings and prayers.

I humbly record my thanks to all the noble hearts who rendered their helping hands to me in completing this dissertation.
I also take the opportunity to thank Ms. P. Thirumani Selvi and Mr. Mareeswaran, Robert Xerox, Thoothukudi, for their sincere co-operation in compiling and binding my work.

S. GEETHA