The selection of a right topic for research poses many problems to a scholar. The difficulties were far more real in my case, as my professional experience as a producer in theatre, television theatre and films and a critic in those areas seemed to come in the way of doing something tangible, exclusively in the academic field. Initially, I experienced a sense of restriction, albeit it was not there. It appeared as though I must put aside my earlier experience.

How to bring the weight of experience of over twenty-five years in the arts to bear upon an academic research was the main question. It must be such as to tap the best of creativity in play interpretation in theatre while helping to bring an exciting and original research on the academic side as well, to fit spontaneously into an academic mould.

Indeed it was a challenging proposition. Not to keep aside the theatre experience but to channelise it in the academic direction. After a few preliminary discussions, Dr. P. Marudanayagam, Professor and Head, Department of English, Pondicherry University, who was kind enough to be my guide, suggested the topic, "Aural and Visual Elements in Sean O'Casey's Dublin Trilogy." This topic would at once demand an
interpretation of the play (the text) while exploring the Aural and Visual Elements. Both would run concurrently.

At every step I consulted my guide and he showed immense, almost divine patience and an honest excitement each time he went through several parts of the draft thesis. The clinical precision with which he weeded out what was superfluous for this particular research not only enlightened me, but also made me feel the process of research as a piece of enjoyable literary adventure. But for his constant and consistent encouragement, the present research findings would not have come through. I am most grateful to him for his love, courtesy and the professional respect he spontaneously gave.

Unfortunately, the reference material available in the libraries in South India on Sean O’Casey is rather meagre. It is in this area the American Center Library, The British Council Library, The Maxmueller Bhavan Library and The Alliance Francaise Library and the officials there, in particular M/s. Klaus Schindler and Joel Raffier, were of great and genuine help. I owe them a deep debt of gratitude.

I shall be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge the help rendered by Ms. Mini Krishnan, Editor, MacMillan & Co., Madras, in suggesting reference works, and Dr. M.S.
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