ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my deep and sincere gratitude to my guide, Prof. N. Jayaram for supervision, guidance, and advice. You agreed to guide me at a stage when I was going through the most difficult time to find a supervisor for my Ph.D. work. Your comments are always been very insightful and detailed with suggestions on style, content, as well as wider relevance of the work. Above all and the most needed, you provided me constant support throughout this work. Your wide knowledge and logical way of thinking have been of great value for me. I have learnt a lot from you these past few years, not just the academic work, but also the values of life. Your lessons will guide me throughout my life.

I wish to express my warm and sincere thanks to Prof. Abdul Shaban and Prof. K.P. Jayasankar for giving me their valuable comments, which helped me formulate the basic concepts. I specially want to thank Prof. Shaban for his enthusiastic support of the project, his engagement responses and productive questions. He has always pushed me to the theoretical implications of my formulation and statements.

I am grateful to all the participants in this research. I am most thankful to the filmmakers – Shyam Benegal, Kabir Khan, Amit Khanna, Mahesh Bhatt, Vinay Shukla, Hyder Ali, Kamlesh Pandey, Shibani Bathija, and Ashutosh Gowariker, who gave me their valuable time in spite of their busy schedules. Apart from filmmakers, I am most indebted to the film critic Rajiv Masand. In my initial stage of fieldwork, he was the first person who gave me the contacts of prominent film critics and filmmakers. I started my fieldwork with those contacts. I am also grateful to the film critics – Mayank Shekhar, Rauf Ahmed, Shiladitya Sen, Nasreen Kunni Kabir, Nandini Ramnath. Moreover, the responses of the academicians and critical thinkers like Ram Puniyani, Asghar Ali Engineer, and Irfan Engineer helped me to strengthen my argument in this study. I am also thankful to the audience who spent time watching the films, which were relevant to my study.
I would like to express my gratitude to all my family members. Without their encouragement and understanding it would have been impossible to me to finish this work. My mother is the one who sincerely raised me with her caring and gentle love. My brother Mossarrap Hossain Khan is the person who instilled the fundamentals of learning by showing me the joys of intellectual pursuits ever since I was a child. Being a Ph.D. candidate himself, he understood each and every hurdle to finish the work. He was always there to guide me. I must thank my sister-in-law Mary Ann Chacko who is more than a sister. She was always there for my mental and academic strength. Thank you to my sister for being my mental strength. I want to thank to my mother-in-law and father-in-law for their constant support and encouragement. Finally, Saptarshi Kundu, my husband and my best friend who travelled to Mumbai to be together. You were there in each and every stage of this study and your unconditional mental support and encouragement when I was upset and helping me out to analyse my work further by giving your critical comments. I could never have done this without you.

I would gladly remember the love and support that all my colleagues extended to me in this journey. Special thanks to Premlatha, Sohini, Jaya, Tina, Ketoki, Rincy, Benedict, Bidu, Sahana, Melody Debu, Meghadeepa, Barsha, and Fiaz for making the whole experience a wonderful one. You became the member of my extended family. I specially must thank to Diviya who was always there for my every academic help, which was required during conducting the research.

I want to thank the Tata Institute of Social Sciences for the opportunity to pursue PhD research. I want to thank the staff at the Sir Dorabji Tata Memorial Library, Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Thank you Poornima and Vidya and all at the Research and Development section for helping me all the formalities smoothly.