ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With great pleasure, I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. Jacob Sundara Raja, Professor, Department of Statistics, University of Kerala, for his valuable guidance and constant encouragement which have been a source of inspiration in my research work.

I am thankful to Dr. R.N.Pillai, Professor and Head, Department of Statistics, University of Kerala, for his keen interest in my research work and for all his encouragements during the preparation of this thesis.

I am indebted to Dr. T.S.Krishnan Moothathu, Reader, Department of Statistics, University of Kerala, with whom I had extremely fruitful discussions very often. I am also thankful to my all other colleagues in the Department of Statistics, University of Kerala for their help and moral support in completing this work.

I am greatly indebted to Professor A.M.Mathai, McGill University, Canada for many of his valuable suggestions during the course of my research work.

P. Yageen Thomas