ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

My Guide, Dr. Sunil R. Sawant has been a perpetual source of inspiration for me since my college days. I am very much fortunate to have had a unique advantage of his scholarly guidance and valuable assistance at every phase of my research work. He not only monitored the path and pace of the work but also developed in me research attitude and research culture that would surely help me in my future career. I wish to remain indebted to him forever.

I am very much thankful to Dr. P. A. Attar, Professor & Head, Department of English, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for his valuable cooperation. I am also thankful to the distinguished faculty in the Department of English, Shivaji University, Kolhapur for their support. My sincere thanks are due to the Hon’ble Vice Chancellor Dr. N. J. Pawar, Registrar Prof. Dr. D. V. Muley, Controller of Examinations Dr. B. M. Hirdekar and Librarian Dr. Mrs. Namita B. Khot — the four proficient pillars of Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

I am evermore obliged to my mentor Dr. Ashok Thorat, Director, IASE, Pune for confiding in me and giving me an opportunity to find foothold in the field of teaching. Alongside, I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to all my Gurus from the Department of English, Chh. Shivaji College, Satara headed by Dr. Sunanda Chavan, whose names are engraved in my heart. I thankfully remember Dr. Maya Pandit–Narkar, Dr. Gautami Pawar, Dr. Simon Bernabas and Dr. Devadatta Ranade for their valuable inputs. I acknowledge the priceless help and encouragement I received from Dr. Deepali Patil at the crucial stage of submission of the thesis. Two successive principals of my college— Dr. Kewal B. Jaiswal and Dr. Sahadeo R. Medhe — deserve a special gratitude for their words of wisdom.

My colleagues in the department, Ms. Swati Pawar and Ms. Madhuri Dixit always supported me and shared my responsibilities. I received timely cooperation and motivation from Dr. Rajendra Shinde, the Vice Principal and Dr. Rajendra Marwade, the Librarian. My former colleagues from
Rajarambapu Institute of Technology (RIT), Islampur – Dr. Bhagwan alias Bapu Nikam and Mr. Sunil Yadav – always stood by me and boosted my morale. I am grateful to them all.

My warmest thanks are due to all my friends and colleagues who spared their time for stimulating interaction with me on the topics associated with the area of research. This thesis would not have been possible without their backing.

It is impossible to sum up with no mention to the members of my family. My beloved mother, Mrs. Ujjwala Patil deserves maximum credit of this project. She has been my lifelong tutor who has ingrained in me patience and perseverance, the two essential prerequisites for every researcher. Her untiring efforts to bring me solace and satiety at the final stage of thesis writing are unforgettable. My father, Mr. Tejpal Patil familiarised me with the basics of English language and literature. His wealth of experience and expertise has been my greatest strength. My wife, Swati consistently motivated me and kept me going against all odds. Mr. Vinayakrao Nimbalkar, my father-in-law and Vikram, my brother-in-law, were ready to help me in every circumstance, enthusiastically appended by my mother-in-law Mrs. Hemlata Nimbalkar and Priyanka, her ingenious daughter-in-law.

My elder brothers, Abhijit and Premjit have immensely helped in my overall development, along with my sisters-in-law, Mrs. Suvarna and Mrs. Seema. My nephew Atharva and niece Shivani always bring me joy and contentment of becoming an uncle. Last but certainly not the least; I thank my favourite laptop Acer and my son Apoorv, who did a great service to me by perfectly complementing with each other in exchanging their positions as and when I wished them to!

I dedicate this work to the fond memories of my distinguished grandfathers who are no more to see their ultimate aspiration finally realised—Mr. Amrutrao Patil, an ideal Judge as well as a man of principle, and
Mr. Shankarrao Gharge, a saintly personality and an exemplary MLA of Koregaon constituency.

Satyajit Tejpal Patil