Acknowledgement

All praises and thanks are to the almighty Allah whose benign benediction gave me the needful strength to accomplish this uphill task.

I am greatly indebted to my supervisor Dr. Samina A. A. Surti for her kindness, inspiring attitude, support and suggestions. Her constant encouragement and help have been of great value to me.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and utmost regards to Prof. Anjani Kumar Sinha, my co-supervisor for taking me under his supervision and for his illuminating ideas, scholarly guidance and creative supervision. I was scared of syntax but his sound advise, good teaching and good ideas enabled me to do research in this area. His intellectual inputs and unflinching encouragement made it possible to accomplish this work. It has been a privilege to work under his supervision.

I would like to express my heartful thanks and deep gratitude to my teachers Prof. Imtiaz Hasnain, Chairman, Department of Linguistics, Aligarh Muslim University, Prof. A. R. Fatihi, Dr. Masood a. Beg, Prof. K. S. Mustafa, Dr. Shabana Hameed, Dr.
Aziz Khan, Dr. Nazreen B. Lashkar, whose interest in my work was a constant source of encouragement to me.

I am indebted to Mrs. Usha Kiran Sinha, and Dr. Anant Kumar Sinha for their warm welcome and genuine hospitality to me during my visit to their home. The loving and caring behaviour of Mrs. Usha made my few hours stay memorable.

I am also grateful to the seminar incharge Mr. Mohammad Najeebul Hasan and Mr. Goyal who supported me in different ways and deserve special mention.

Thanks are also due to Ms. Noor Bano, Mr. Mohammad Haseebur Rahman and rest of the members of the staff of the department of Linguistics.

I am extremely grateful to Dr. Ratna Sanyal, IIIT- Allahabad, for her support.

I wish to convey my special thanks to my friends and classmates Afreen, Kausar, Khushbu, Naheed, Nazia Aapa, Paikar Aapa, Prerna Aapa, Purnima, Shagufta, , Shaista Aapa, Sheeja, Imran and Sohel for their affection and support.

Special thanks go to my friends Nadia and Salmeen for their affection, unconditional support and hospitality.
I am also thankful to the students and research scholars of the department of linguistics for showing their interests in my work, which made me more enthusiastic.

I am extremely grateful to Shabnam and Shazia, whom I consider my best friends since high school. Their love, affection and encouragement were source of strength for me.

I wish to convey my regards to Nazir chachoo to encourage me at each and every step of my study.

My sincere gratitude and regards to my grandparents Late Md. MalishUddin Ahmad and Late Israr Fatma who had vital role in raising me with their caring and gentle love.

I am forever indebted to my Father Md. Sabihuddin Ahmad, beloved Mother Sayeeda Khatoon, my chachoo Md. Sagihuddin Ahmad, dear chachi Sufiya Khatoon, my phuphas Noor Mohammad and Md. Danish, my loving and caring phuphis Ibrar Fatma and Kaniz Fatma for providing me the opportunity to make this academic pursuit. Their immeasurable sacrifices and countless blessings are the source of my strength. I fail to find words to express my gratitude and regards to them for their understanding, endless patience and encouragement.
Very special thanks should be recorded to my loving brothers Tanweer, Azhar, Daud, Yusuf, Tabish, Raghib and my sisters Saba, Shabnam, Nazia and Nishi, who are very supportive and caring siblings. They provided me enough mental and moral strength to accomplish this task successfully.

I am taking the responsibility of all shortcomings in this thesis if any and rendering my unconditional apology for the same.

(Shamim Fatma)