Acknowledgements

This enriching and contributive research journey could not have been possible without the kind support and illuminating guidance of innumerable people. At this juncture of the research, I take an opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to those who have encouraged and helped me to accomplish the work.

I express my profound sense of gratitude to my supervisor Dr Ravesinh Zala, Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies, Rajkot. I am extremely thankful to him for his insightful guidance, incessant checking of the drafts and kind and friendly encouragement that made this research work possible and pleasant.

I am thankful to Dr Jaydeepsinh Dodiya, Professor and Head, Department of English and CLS, Rajkot who has always been there to help me whether academic or administrative. I am equally thankful to Dr Kamal Mehta, Professor, Department of English and CLS, Rajkot for guiding and supporting in the research from the research proposal to completion of the thesis. I convey my sincere thanks to Dr Sanjay Mukherjee, Ms Dhwani Vachharajani, the faculties of the Department of English and CLS, Rajkot for their kind support and encouragement.

The research could not have been completed without the unabating encouragement and support of my friends and colleagues. I am indebted to Dr
Vishal Bhadani, Mr Mihir Dave, Mr Jigar Abhani, Mr Bhautik Limbani, Ms Pooja Mehta and Dr Krishna Daiya who have not only tirelessly checked the drafts but also discussed the subject as well as guided and motivated to move ahead in this journey. I express my sincere gratefulness to them.

I also express my sense of gratitude to Dr Sunil Sagar and all the colleagues of the Department of Communication Skills, Marwadi University, Rajkot as well as Dr Urja Mankad and the colleagues at General Department, VVP Engineering College, Rajkot for guiding and facilitating the formidable research work.

I am very much thankful to the different libraries for providing necessary recourse and material pertaining to the research. I thank the Central Library of Saurashtra University, Rajkot, the Library of Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, the Library of VVP Engineering College, Rajkot and the Library of Marwadi University, Rajkot.

I would rather show my love than to be thankful to my parents who have taken all the troubles to see me here. I express my love to my wife who has been my companion in this whole journey. I am also thankful to my parents-in-law, family members and friends for their support and care.

At last, I extend my sense of gratitude to all the known and unknown who might not have been mentioned here but have helped me.

Vipul Solanki