I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Dr. Mrs. Maya Dutt, who supervised this dissertation—but for her encouragement and criticism, kindness and frequent enquiries into my work, which gave me a definite direction, this work would have been incomplete.

Thanks are due to Dr. Mrs. K. Radha, Head of the Institute of English, for facilities offered. Besides a number of foreign scholars like Prof. Jane M. Christian, Dr. Joseph Label, Prof. Janis Tim Hansen and Dr. Glen Johnson, Indian Scholars like Prof. P.C. Kar, Prof. N.R. Shastri, Prof. S.D. Sharma, Dr. Sukhbir Singh, Dr. N. Ramachandran Nair, Dr. K. Narayana Chandran, Dr. Meera Manvi, Prof. M.S. Nagarajan, Prof. R.S. Sharma, Dr. P. Shiv Kumar, Dr. D. Venkateswarlu, all Bellow scholars allowed me essential time to digest my research activities and refine my conclusions.

Thanks are also due to American Studies Research Centre for numerous grants which enabled me to work on this dissertation at the Centre.

I wish to thank Ms. Maya Devi. J, for reading the proof and making important suggestions.

Thanks are also due to COPY CLUB, Trivandrum for undertaking the typing.

Above all, to my parents for their thoughtful patience and understanding.