Acknowledgements

This enormous task made me travel to several Theravada Buddhist countries, i.e. Thailand, Myanmar and Sri Lanka, in search of traditional erudite scholars from the authentic Theravada school of Buddhism. Apart from the treasure trove of India, I was greatly motivated, enriched and encouraged by numerous Buddhist scholars in these countries in many ways than one. Hence, I owe a great deal of gratitude to a number of individuals and institutes that have helped me during the course of my research.

At the very outset, I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. J.R. Joshi, for his wonderful support and supervision throughout my research. Ven. Dr. Nandamālābhivamsa, the rector of International Missionary Buddhist University, is another individual who deserves a special note of thank for his patient and unhindered dhamma discussions with me on my research. I also express my heartfelt gratitude to my co-guide, Dr. Shailaja Bapat for her kind cooperation and guidance.

I am very much grateful to Dr. Mahesh A. Deokar, the Head of Department of Pāli Languages, University of Pune, for helping me with the initial formalities. And, my thank also goes to Dr. Kanchan Mande, the Head of Department of Sanskrit & Prakrit Languages, University of Pune, for providing me lot of facilities to carry out the present study.

I deem it to be of paramount importance to salute and honour my most respected Upajjhāya, Ven. Il-won and Ven. Myo-jean who guided me to sacred path of the Dhamma. I salute with utmost respect and veneration, to Ven. Jeang-kak who not only introduced me to the noble Order of the Blessed One but also gave financial support during my studies.

I am ever so thankful to the Scholarship Foundation of the Un-moon monastery (Korea), my religious alma mater, due to which my work has been smooth and convenient.

I sincerely appreciate Ven. Veluriyāṇa who helped me in reading the Aṭṭhasālinibhāsāṭīkā written in Myanmar language and who encouraged me with lot of compassion when I was in Myanmar. I sincerely appreciate Dr. Sanath Nanayakara, former Deputy Editor of the Encyclopaedia of Buddhism, for undertaking the editing and proof-reading of this thesis. Last but not the least, I avail this opportunity to thank Ven. Kak-seong and Ven. Kyeong-won who guided and supported me all throughout my academic career.