ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

No words are enough to express the deep sense of gratitude that I feel for my research guide, Dr. B.S. Valke. He has not only been my guide in the true sense of the word, but he has also been the main source of my inspiration, always sympathetic, patient, gently chiding and encouraging. I shall always be grateful to him for opening up the vast vistas of knowledge that I have gained not only through this dissertation but also by several fruitful discussions I had with him on a variety of topics. I shall always cherish those enlightened and enlivened moments. I consider myself fortunate that I was guided by such a knowledgeable, experienced and wonderful person of Dr. Valke's stature.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr. Ashok Thorat, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Fine Arts who has always been so supportive, encouraging, understanding and inspiring by his very presence. He was someone I could always depend on at any time to listen, guide and encourage me in all my endeavours. I have indeed learnt a lot from him and I shall always value and cherish his guidance and friendship.

My thanks are due to Dr. S B. Gokhale, Head, Department of English, University of Pune. He too has been a constant source of inspiration to me, always willing to talk and listen, encourage and advice, no matter how busy he was. I am also greatly indebted to Shri G.V. Phadke the renowned spelling reformer who was kind enough to spend hours with me discussing his spelling reforms and enlightening me on this subject. His encouragement and motivation has always been very inspiring.

I am also grateful to Dr. Vinaydeep who was kind enough to go through some parts of my research and make very concrete and positive suggestions. I shall always be grateful for his advice and help. I would also like to express my gratitude to Dr. Harsha Chatrath who has been a true friend to me, prodding me on when I faltered and being very supportive and encouraging.
I would also like to express my gratitude to Munira Lokhandwalla who has always been there for me whenever I felt like using her as my sounding board. She too has been helpful with her valuable suggestions and I find it difficult to find any words to express my gratitude for her friendship and constant encouragement.

How can I express my gratitude to my husband Gautam who has always been so understanding, supportive and encouraging? His presence in my life has always been inspiring and I know that I would not have been able to complete this thesis if it had not been for his steady guidance and the trust he had in me throughout the years we have been together. I would also like to express my gratitude to my loving sons Anirudh and Vignesh, who did not find it surprising at all to find their mother studying along with them ever since they were born! I thank them for being so understanding several times and on several occasions. I would like to dedicate my thesis to these three most important people in my life.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to my parents for everything they have done for me and are still doing so that I may realize my ambitions. My father has always been my ideal, my inspiration and he continues to be so. I am grateful to my mother who has been so encouraging, understanding and helpful to me on several occasions and I feel blessed for having such parents.

Last but not the least my thanks go out to Shakuntala Kanapuram and Nitin Bhute who have helped me in all the computer related activities, printing and giving the final touches to my thesis. I am deeply grateful to them for giving me so much of their time and being so very patient and understanding and willing to work for hours so that I could finish my work in time.

Research student

Rama Gautam