ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This thesis has reached fruition only through the various efforts of many people. I deem this is an opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to all those who have been a source of inspiration to this thesis.

First of all, I extend my profound gratitude towards my supervisor, Associate Professor Dr. Lata Chhatre. She had given me the numerous discussions; each discussion is full of insights and new ideas. I sincerely appreciate her inspiring guidance throughout the research period.

I would like to also thank Professor Dr. Sadananda More, head of Department of Philosophy, who had given me a constant source of inspiration from initial advice and contracts in early stages of conceptual inception. I am also sincerely thankful to Professor Dr. K. C. Rauta and Dr. Hema More for serving on my thesis supervisory committee.

I express my gratitude to the scholars, translators, and editors, whose works made an invaluable contribution to my deep understanding of the concept of faith in Buddhism. I also express my gratitude to the authorities of the Library of the Department of Philosophy in Pune and the Delhi University Library System in Delhi for allowing me to use the relevant materials. I would like to record my sincere thanks to the authorities of University of Pune for providing me all the necessary research facilities.

Thanks are also due to the Venerable Masters, who had given me the lessons with reference to the teachings of the Buddha, the precious experiences in life, and the noble sentiment in the early period of my youth. I am also
deeply indebted to the Bhikṣus, Bhikṣunīs, Upāsakas, and Upāsikās for their undivided support and interest in many ways, to my family for their love and attention to every step in my life; without whom I would be unable to complete my thesis.

Additional thanks to all my research colleagues and friends for their countless discussions and encouragement in every respect.

Doan Phuoc Tri

January 19, 2013