Acknowledgement

The field of fairy tales had always attracted me. This interest culminated into my M. A. Dissertation with Prof. Marina Aleksevna, in Simferopol State University.

The credit to convert this latent interest into a research work goes to my supervisor Prof. Amar Basu. It was for his guidance and constant inspiration that helped converge my thoughts and gave shape to the research work. I am grateful to Prof. Amar Basu for his constructive guidance & his ubiquitous support throughout this research work which not only went a long way to complete the thesis, but also enriched my learning in more ways than one.

I also extend my appreciation to Prof. A. Basu’s family for their understanding & support.

Special regards lies with Ms. Neera Kongari (Center for Japanese & North East Asian Languages) for providing materials on Japanese tales.

I’m also grateful to Mr. A. Chakraborty for introducing me with the works of Rolan Barthes.

I am thankful to the library staff of JNU for helping me in locating the required materials.
It was but for my father's belief and his persistent encouragement that helped me overcome moments of distress and gave me confidence to complete the thesis.

I would like to acknowledge with immense gratitude the tacit support from my in laws which provided me with the much needed mental strength.

I am thankful to Neeraj & Suman Srivastava, my brother & sister-in-law for their support on computer systems and helpful advice they provided from time to time.

I also extend my regards to my friends, Anubha Sukhla & M. Ramakrishnan for their invaluable support throughout the research work.

Last but not the least, I am grateful to my husband for his complete support that went a long way in my completing the research work.

New Delhi

13 March 2000

( Preeti Das )