ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to use this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. A.W. Azhar who initiated me to the area of cultural studies and initially took the responsibility to supervise my research work. His insistence on precision and correctness provided a sound foundation to this research work. I am equally obliged to Dr. Akhtar Mahdi who virtually adopted me after the retirement of Prof. Azhar. It was due to Dr. Mahdi’s consistent guidance and strict sense of timing that made this research work see the light of the day. I am also thankful to other faculty members of the Centre of Persian and Central Asian Studies of School of languages Literature and culture studies, which always encouraged me in my research work.

I am also grateful to the library staff members of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Khudabakhsh Oriental Public Library, Aligarh Muslim University, Delhi University and the Culture House of Islamic Republic of Iran, New Delhi, who cooperated with me in the completion of this research work.

This is also an occasion to remember my friends especially Sadre Alam, Shafeeque Alam, Md. Tauseef Alam and Fazl-ur-Rahman, who helped me in bringing this research work to its logical conclusion.

Finally, I owe a great deal of gratitude to my parents, uncle and other family members, for their help and encouragement during the course of this study.

(TARIQUE ATA)