ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to my father, Rajendra Singh and my mother Chandra Lekha Sinha who despite their being a family of modest means continued to encourage me to pursue not only higher education but also to carry out research work. I am only girl child of my parent who is a marginal farmer in a village, Mahnar. During my interaction with my family affairs I have intimately learned the problems of peasant particularly in the time of famine and flood where even their financial straits shrunk even smaller. Being myself only child, I made up my mind to do something to find solution to the problems of sharecropper.

With completion of my master degree in English with gold medal in 2012, I turned to Prof. Shiva Jatan Thakur, Head of the Department, Department of English, Patna University, Patna and Former Member Bihar Public Service Commission for research guidance and selection of the topic of research to my instinctive disposition. Prof. Thakur advised me to do research work on the great American Novelist, John Steinbeck, a Nobel laureate whose mighty pen is devoted to highlight the plight of the agriculture workers and emerged to representative of proletarian class.

(i)
Accordingly, I resolved to pursue research on the famous book The Grapes of Wrath which received Nobel Prize 1962. Initially, I encountered a lot of problems as the critical books on John Steinbeck hardly available in any book stall in Patna and the local libraries of Patna. My problem was however solved when Barnes and Nobel for American Publishers agreed to send me all the books and articles relating to the works of John Steinbeck.

I am, indeed, indebted to my supervisor, Prof. Shiva Jatan Thakur, for his immeasurable support and guidance in my research work. He sat and operated the computer for hours together to pore over my manuscript and corrected and edited the passages where required. Despite his visible disability, he has remained a perpetual source of inspiration to shape and chisel my academic and social career.

I cannot fail in my duty to acknowledge the social and financial support of my mother-in-law and father-in-law, Mrs Sanju Shree Singh and Dr Bharat Singh, Assistant Director General (Rtd), BSNL, Delhi for their constant encouragement and inspiration to complete the research with greater sincerity. My father-in-law wishes me to shine brighter in my literary career and analogous to his own brilliant career in recognition of which the BSNL awarded him Vishisht Sanchar Seva Padak & Ativishisht Sanchar Seva Padak.
I am indescribably indebted to my husband, Mr Ashish Tejashvi, Junior Accounts Officer, BSNL, Bangalore for his massive support to my research work. He went so far as to type my manuscript on computer at a stretch for its transmission to my supervisor to check the manuscript through electronic copy. I am lucky to have such loving and supporting husband who leaves no stone unturned to make me accomplish the research work well within the timeframe. He excels not only in his academic achievement and employment but also brings laurels in extracurricular activities with lots of Medal and championship to his credit.

I would fail in my duty if the due co-operation and academic guidance extended to me by the distinguished teachers of the Department like Prof. Shanker A. Dutt, Prof. Muniba Sami, Prof. S.M. Ashok, Prof. Indibar Mukherjee and Dr. Arjun Kumar are not duly acknowledged and appreciated.

I am equally grateful to the American center library and British council division library, both Bangalore and of Delhi for their extending co-operation by supplying journals and research articles on and about John Steinbeck which helped me to prepare manuscript with reference to books in hand.

(iii)
I am equally grateful to the internet resources which supplied me all the relevant literary social and political information to the decade which saw the production of The Grapes of Wrath in the year 1939.

I put on the record the valuable services rendered to me by a number of secretarial staffs like Mr. Raghu Nath Prasad Verma, P.A. to my supervisor, Rajmohan, assistant of the Department and Ram Lal Mahato, driver of my supervisor for contributing their own share of cooperation in checking the certificates and other documents and getting this thesis ready in its final form for its submission to the university for evaluation.

Annu Prakash

Research Scholar

Department of English

Patna University, Patna

Patna

Sept.20, 2017