Acknowledgements

“At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.”

— Albert Schweitzer

Praise be to the Almighty who gave me inspiration to venture into this gigantic task and blessed me with patience and strength to overcome the difficulties which crossed my way in the accomplishment of this research project!

Words always prove to be too weak to express the sincerest gratitude. This research has seen the light of the day after the unforgettable help and support of quite a few people around me to whom I record my heartfelt gratitude.

I sincerely acknowledge, at the outset, my debt of gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Arun Kumar Joshi, Principal (Retd.), Govt. College, Srikaranpur (Raj.) (Formerly Head, Dept. of English, Govt. Dungar College, Bikaner, Rajasthan) who very cordially extended his constant and insightful guidance, keen interest, cogent criticism, constructive suggestions and meticulous supervision during the course of this investigation. His ever encouraging and ‘never say No’ attitude made my scholarly pursuit a pleasant experience rather than a stressful toil. A selfless mentor and a beacon light, he always encouraged my strengths and rectified my weaknesses.

I am grateful to Dr. H.R. Isran, Ex. Principal, R.N.Ruia Govt College, Ramgarh-Shekhawati (Sikar) who painstakingly did the scrutiny of the manuscript and offered invaluable comments and suggestions.

I am very much beholden to Ms. Bapsi Sidhwa herself who answered my queries every time when contacted through electronic medium and shared her views on her own writing.

I am thankful to the Principal, R.N. Ruia Govt College, Ramgarh-Shekhawati (Sikar) for his helping attitude and for making all available resources of
the college open for me. My sincerest thanks are due to my colleagues in the college for the relevant and valuable discussions that I had with them and for the suggestions, comments and assistance which they extended to me generously.

The debt of gratefulness to Dr. Prashant Sharma and my sister Asha Sharma is too big to be expressed in words. From the preliminary stage to the concluding one, they kept my spirit buoyant through their unfailing love, constant encouragement, unflagging inspiration and timely care to accomplish this work. But for their support and co-operation, it would have been difficult for me to complete this research work.

I am no less indebted to my sisters Bela, Prabha and Anu for their active and endless support, advice and suggestions, silent prayers and good wishes throughout this venture and my life in general. To them I owe more than I can say.

Equally thankful I am to Dr. Y.R. Indoria, Mr. Adesh Sharma and Mr. Yogeeshwaran who always boosted up my morale and instilled confidence in me with constant words of encouragement at various stages of my study.

I proudly express my thankfulness to my husband Mr. Kiran Chandrakant Hegde who has always been an active inspirational force for me. I am indebted to him for his ever readiness to provide me help of every sort, at every stage. His unfathomable patience and trust on me made me able to visualize this dream.

My heartiest thanks are due to my parents-in-law whose blessings and prayers helped me towards this goal. I am grateful to my sister-in-law Aarti Naik and her husband Mr. Rajiv Naik for their continuous encouragement and affectionate co-operation.

I feel blessed to have my nieces Swapnil and Ujjwal who unfailingly helped me in carrying out this task by taking care of my little baby Atharv and providing a lively ambience at home.
Friends are the real worth. I am proud to have them with me anytime I needed them. Jeet, Nandlal, Harpal, Rajbala, Santosh, Anjali, Krishn, Pritam, Amit, Mrs. Sharda Indalia, Mr. Naveen Kumar are but a few to name.

I express my gratitude to the library staff of Govt Dungar College, Bikaner, R.N.Ruia Govt College, Ramgarh-Shekhawati (Sikar), Govt Lohia PG College, Churu, and the University of Rajasthan for helping me with relevant study material.

Last but not the least, I place on record my sense of gratitude to all those who have helped me and contributed in this work directly or indirectly.

Jyoti Sharma