ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I wish I can carry out the message you have for me on this earth right – carry it with love and carry with peace. Thank you, GOD;

I would like to extend thanks to the many people, who so generously contributed to the work presented in this thesis.

Special mention goes to my supervisor, Professor Pushpinder Syal. It has been an honor to be her Ph.D. student. My Ph.D has been an amazing experience and I thank her whole-heartedly, not only for her tremendous academic support, but also for giving me so many wonderful opportunities.

I am also indebted to Prof. Akshaya Kumar for his kind guidance and valuable feedback throughout the research. His valuable comments and suggestions were real assets during my Pre-Ph.D course work. I would like also to extend my sincere gratitude to the Chairperson of the Department of English and Cultural Studies. Prof. Rumina Sethi and as well as the committee members of the department.

Similar, profound gratitude goes to the Dean of International Students, Panjab University, Prof. Deepti Gupta for her constant faith and support.

Special mention goes to Prof. Anita Vimla Braggs, Dr. Venkatesh.S in the Department of English, Maharajas’ College and late Prof. C.S. Ramachandra in the Department of Linguistics, University of Mysore, for their constant support and encouragement during my all academic period in India.

I am grateful to Mrs. Sanaz Marzban, my colleague in the Department of English and Cultural Studies, Panjab University, who gave different ideas and has many discussions during my research at Panjab University.

Finally, but by no means least, thanks go to my late parents, brothers and sister for almost a decade support during my academic life in India. They are the most important people in my world and I dedicate this thesis to them.

Mojtaba Tajeri