ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all I would like to thank the Almighty Allah for His blessings that has given me strength and courage to complete this thesis despite the adverse circumstances I faced throughout these years. I heard many times that it takes a village to raise a child. From my own experience, I can say that it takes so much love and support to make one person to achieve one’s dream. Expressing my gratitude is the least I can do for those who helped me along the way. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my Ph. D. supervisor Prof. Dr. S. N. Zeba for having introduced me to the works of Harold Pinter in my M. A. studies and for her generous support throughout the writing process. She was relentless when required and gentle always. Her reading and suggestions were invaluable to the completion of this work. She has been a mentor to me throughout my graduate studies, postgraduate studies and has led me to appreciate various art forms of the twentieth century, particularly theatrical language and forms. It was in her classroom that I first learned to read the theatrical language and forms, which later became an essential element in my scholarly endeavors. She has had an influence on my scholarship that, if I am lucky, will last my entire career.

I would also like to give special recognition to Dr. Vibha Sharma for the way she helped me craft my understanding of theatre history and historiography. My special gratitude also goes to Dr. M. Rizwan Khan and Professor Dr. Tapati Gupta, who offered perceptive criticism at my discussion with them that later proved extremely enlightening and valuable. Thanks also due to Prof. Asif Shuja, Chairman, Department of English, for her kind support.

I happily acknowledge my debt to the librarians and staffs of National Library, Kolkata, Jawharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, and Delhi University, New Delhi, for their immense
help and support in searching invaluable material and for providing me special permission to acquire those materials.

I should particularly like to thank my friends, whose affection and support meant a great deal to the accomplishment of this work. I am especially thankful to Ashique Rashul, Sunij Sharma and Mohsin Khan, who listened to my views and helped me a lot through discussion we had had over the years. I must thank my friend Anna Usova for having so patiently and carefully scanned and mailed from Russia some essential sources for this work. I also would like to extend my special thanks to Kusumika Sarkar, Mir Nurul John, Sohail Chowdhury, Nilofar Yasmin, Mohsin Mandal, Raisul Bari, Waheedul Hoque and Khursheed Alam, who have always been standing by my side when I need them and encouraged me to complete this thesis.

I want to thank all of my family members for their faith, love and support over the years. Especially, my mother and belated father have showered me with love and always supported me with their deepest understanding. Special thanks and gratitude to my wife, Nafisa Parvin, who helped me emotionally through the dark days, helped me to overcome my frustration and is an inspiration to me always; without her encouragement and positive attitude I could not have done this. Even at the last stage of my thesis, she helped me a lot in editing and revising it. Nobody will give my teachers, my friends and family a medal for being so supportive and patient, but I want to express my deepest gratitude, which no words can adequately express. If it were not for their unwavering love and encouragement, I would not have reached this stage.