Preface & Acknowledgements

Diaspora literature is a literature of reason, pain and distress. Its beginnings can be traced to the undocumented tales of migration in the past decades. Diaspora as a genre emerged when a spurt of writings were published. These writings depicted the need to survive in a land of opportunities and oppressions. Bharati Mukherjee depicts the immigrant women’s efforts to assimilate, to find a place in the mainstream of the life of the adopted land, discarding the previous lifestyle of their nation. She also records that they have to pass through physical, mental and emotional agonies, which affect their entire personality. Mukherjee narrates variety of perspectives, focused upon the concept of self within a large society. This also teaches indirectly on what skill one has to develop, so that one can live in another culture with content. When the immigrants have the necessary skills to live in another country, there is little or no tension that arises in their new country which promotes solidarity. Mukherjee’s theme centres on the phenomenon of migration, the status of the new immigrants, and their approach of alienation. Also, the novelist uses the women characters to look at the spatiotemporal connection between diverse cultures. The present Ph.D title “Diasporic Disintegration and Reconstructing Identities in Select Novels of Bharati Mukherjee” has not been attempted by any researcher so far. Therefore, I have made an attempt to work on it.

Research is indeed a gratifying experience, possible only with the encouragement of many good hearts and helpful hands. It is definitely worth replenishing thanks for every good heart who has made me feel this rewarding experience.
In this long run and thirst, I am lucky to be a research scholar of Dr. D. Dhanalakshmi, Associate professor, Department of English, Periyar E.V.R. College, Trichy who is my guide and mentor, she enriched my thoughts, encouraged and corrected me throughout this research work with her analytic criticisms, ideas and instructions. Also I take this wonderful opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude towards my research guide for her invaluable guidance and support she endorsed to me and for the love she poured upon me. I am ever grateful and extremely thankful to my Research Supervisor for her consistent support, steadfast guidance and encouragement in completing this thesis. She was always available whenever I approached her for consultation even amidst her busy schedules. I always remember the guidance, enthusiasm, opportunity, unflinching help, reliable support, personal care and freedom she granted me during the span of my research. Needless to say, but for her meticulous effort, minute correction work and effective guidance, this thesis would not have taken its present shape.

I extend my sincere thanks to Madam Dr. J. Manjula, the former Principal and the present Principal i/c Prof. Shantha Robinson, Periyar E.V.R. College, Trichy for their magnanimity in permitting me to carry out this research work and provide the infrastructural facility. I also thank Prof. A. William John Bosco, Head of the Department, for providing facilities and his constant encouragement helped me a lot to complete this work successfully.

I wish to emphasize my profound gratitude and indebtedness to my Doctoral Committee Members Dr. T. Jayakumar, Associate Professor, Department of English, Periyar E.V.R. College, Trichy and Dr. M.H. Mohamed Rafiq, Associate Professor, Department of English, Jamal Mohammed College, Trichy for their
constant encouragement and suggestions in carrying out this thesis successfully. With sincere gratitude, I mention here the help rendered by them in giving invaluable ideas, suggestions and guidance towards completion of this research work.

I extend my gratitude to Dr. K. S. Dhanam, Associate Professor cum Library-in-charge, Department of English, Periyar E.V.R. College, Trichy for her generosity in allowing me to use the resources available in the Department library for my study. I express my deep sense of gratitude for her valuable guidance, constructive criticism, precious suggestions and constant encouragement rendered during the course of my study.

I should be failing in my duty if I do not mention the very helpful and instructive guidance extended to me by Dr. K. Radah, Associate Professor, Department of English, Periyar E.V.R. College, Trichy for her invaluable and prompt guidance throughout the course of my study. I also acknowledge my gratitude to Dr. A. Mathivanan Associate Professor, Department of English, Periyar E.V.R. College, Trichy for his support and motivation.

I thank to Dr. G. Gurumoorthi, former Controller of Examinations, Periyar E.V.R. College, Trichy for their unflagging support, valuable advice and inspiring suggestions for shaping my research work.

With my veneration I convey my thanks to Mr. A. Loganathan, Deputy Registrar of Co-operative societies, Karur who right from the beginning of my research career has supported me and encouraged me in all my endeavours. I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to Mr. L. Santhosh Kumar and Mr. L. Sugantha Kumar for their timely help, rare suggestions, constant encouragement, support, healthy discussions and strong conversations during the period of my research work.
I express my sincere thanks to my friend Dr. R. Saravanan, Assistant Professor of English, Vivekanandha College of Arts and Sciences for Women, Thiruchengode for his continuous support and motivation.

I express my heartfelt thanks to Dr. J. Kalveen, Assistant Professor of English, Periyar E.V.R. College, Trichy, Dr. V. G. Manivannan, Assistant Professor of English, Urumu Dhanalakshmi College, Trichy, for their constant encouragement, kind support and help in the needy hour.

I am grateful to my friends, Dr. K. Mohanraj, Assistant Professor of English, Vivekanandha College of Arts and Sciences for Women, Thiruchengode, Prof. A. Athiappan, Assistant professor of English, Thiruvalluvar Government Arts college, Rasipuram, Prof. S. Raja Assistant Professor of English, Vivekanandha College of Arts and Sciences for Women, Thiruchengode for their support to collect materials and technical assistance.

I extend my thanks to Dr. P. Muthukrishnan, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, Karpaham University, Coimbatore, Dr. C. Ravindersingh, Assistant Professor of Botany, Vivekanandha College of Arts and Sciences for Women, Thiruchengode for their encouragement and support during the work.

I express my thanks to my friends, P. Saravanan, Electrical and electronics engineer, S. Sakthivel, Typist, Principal District Court, Namakkal, Prof. M. Sugendiran, Assistant Professor of English, Sri.PSG Arts and Science College, Sankagiri, S.Vinith Kumar, Automobile Engineer, Valavanthi for their encouragement and moral support.

I thank Mrs. R. Rajalakshmi, Mrs. V. Subathra, Ph.D. Research Scholars, Department of English, Periyar E.V.R. College, Trichy for their timely help in collecting the sources of the research, and the valuable suggestions regarding the research work.
I also extend my heartfelt thanks to Ms. K. Geetha, M.Phil Scholar, Badvavani College of Arts and Science for Women, Salem for her timely help and constant encouragement helped me a lot to complete this work successfully.

My thanks are due to the Librarians of SCILET, American College, Madurai, Madurai Kamaraj University, Bharathidasan University, Periyar E.V.R. College, Jamal Mohamed College, St. Joseph’s College, Tiruchirappalli, University of Madras, Cannimara Library, American Center Library, Chennai, Central Institute of English and Foreign Language Library, Hyderabad for their liberal support by providing materials for my research.

I wonder how I have become so blessed to have Thiru. K. Thangaraju and Tmt. T. Thangaponnu as my beloved parents, the most two important persons in the world and the greatest parents anyone can wish for! They are the source of all my inspirations. Their godly sacrifice has made me what I am today. They are the persons who always encourage me and support me to achieve my success and also stand by my side in the time of difficulties. I express my cordial thanks to my beloved parents.

I extend my thanks to my beloved brothers Mr. T. Soundararajan, Mr. T. Vimalraj, dear sister Mrs. T. Dhanalakshmi and sisters-in-law S. Suba, V. Manjula, my beloved nephews B. Tamilbharath, B. Suseendhiran, S. Varshan and nieces B. Suleka, S. Rithiha, V. Ilanthenral, and all my family members for their blessings, moral support, encouragement and kind cooperation at every moment of my progress.

I whole heartedly express my cordial thanks to the Almighty God. I submit my thanks at His feet for giving me knowledge, wisdom and all goodness to carry out this research work. I am always thankful for His Mercy and Grace.

T. PRABHU