ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This dissertation is a result of the guidance and co-operation extended to me by many. The research could not have been completed without the insightful advice provided by my guides, Dr. Umesh Pradhan and Dr. Yoshiko Kubota. Kubota Sensei’s comprehensive and in-depth outlook towards Second Language Acquisition directed my dissertation. Pradhan Sir gave valuable inputs from the perspective of educational research, and on the style and format of academic writing in experimental research.

I am very grateful to Dr. Joshi, whose thought-provoking comments brought about more clarity in my writing. Mrs. Ashwini Joshi helped me with the statistical analysis of the data which was necessary to establish the hypotheses. I would also like to thank Dr. Lalita Vartak, for her comments on the thesis, and presentation of the study in a more reader-friendly way.

I deeply express my gratitude towards the enthusiastic students across India for responding to my online questionnaire surveys. Their response gave me an insight into the present status, needs and beliefs of the JFL learners in India. The motivated Japanese language students from Pune and Mumbai wholeheartedly participated in the training programmes.

This study would not have been possible without the continuous support of Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapeeth authorities. Hon. Vice-Chancellor Dr. Deepak Tilak and Dr. Shripad Bhat (Dean, Faculty of Arts and Fine Arts) allowed me to conduct the training programmes in the department of Japanese and also encouraged me to complete my study. I cannot forget our ever-motivating colleague, Late Shri. Vinay Sathe sensei who encouraged me to pursue Ph.D. I dedicate this thesis to my father, Late Sri. Vijay Krishna Patankar, who taught me to aim high and to pour heart and soul in work. I thank my family for keeping me motivated. The faith shown in me and support extended by them has been the best encouragement for me.

Mrs. Manasi Mandar Shirgurkar