Acknowledgement

A major dissertation is not the work of an individual. The input of various people has made this achievable. I wish to extend my gratitude to all of them.

I thank God for the wisdom and determination he has bequeathed upon me during this research project, and certainly, throughout my life: "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4: 13)

The researcher conveys her gratitude to Dr. (Thiru). T. S. K. Meenakshi Sundaram, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D (USA), Chancellor, Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore for providing her the opportunity to carry out her research in this esteemed University.

The researcher expresses her sincere thanks to Dr. (Tmt). Sheela Ramachandran, M.Sc., P.G. Dip., Ph.D (Avinashilingam), Vice-Chancellor, Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore for the best wishes bestowed upon her throughout the study.

The researcher enunciates her respectful appreciation to Late Thiru T. K. Shanmuganandam, B.A., B.L., former Chancellor, Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore for his blessings and encouragement. The researcher expresses her earnest gratefulness to Hon. Colonel. Dr. (Tmt). Saroja Prabhakaran, M.A., Dip. Ed. (Madras), Ph.D. (Mother Teresa), former Vice-Chancellor, Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore for her valuable help and encouragement.

The researcher conveys her earnest gratitude to Dr. (Mrs). Gowri Ramakrishnan, M.Sc., (Madras), M.Phil., Ph.D. (Avinashilingam), Registrar, Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore for her support during the course of the dissertation.

The researcher is grateful to Dr. P. SanthanaKrishnan, Director, Research and Consultancy, Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore for his inspiring words and support through research conventions which have been useful for the researchers.
I also owe my gratitude to former Deans, Faculty of Humanities – **Dr. D. Lalitha**, Professor and Head, Department of Tamil (Retd.) and Dr. A. Rajeswari, Professor and Head, Department of Economics (Retd.). I also thank Dr. B. Neelavathy, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Professor and Head, Department of Tamil.

The researcher expresses her special thanks to **Dr. (Tmt). S. BaghyaLakshmi**, M.A., Dip.Ed.(Madras), M.Phil (Bharathiar), Ph.D.(Avinashilingam), former Dean, Faculty of Humanities and former Professor and Head, Department of English, Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore for her encouragement and support.

The researcher expresses her profound gratitude to her guide **Dr. (Tmt). S. Kalamani**, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. (Avinashilingam), Associate Professor and HOD incharge, Department of English, Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore for her guidance, support and encouragement. The researcher takes this opportunity to place on record her indebtedness to her guide.

The researcher also expresses her heartfelt thanks to all the faculty members of the English Department for their continuous support and guidance.

The researcher owes her special thanks to **Dr. (Mrs). Poornavalli Mathiaparanam**, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D. for her kind help, encouragement and support rendered during the period of her study.

The researcher conveys her bountiful gratitude to the librarians of the following institutions for permitting her to utilize the Library facilities - Avinashilingam University for Women, Coimbatore, SCILET, The American College, Madurai, Nirmala College for Women, Coimbatore, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore, Madurai Kamraj University, Madurai and Gandhigram Rural University, Dindigul.

The researcher takes this opportunity to expresses her profound gratitude to her husband **Dhanasingh** and daughter **Jeba Kirubashini** for their love, patience and understanding. The researcher expresses her gratitude to her beloved parents.
Sudhan Appadurai and Helen Sudhan. The researcher also expresses her heartfelt gratitude to her brothers Adam and David for their continuous support rendered during the study. The researcher also expresses her special thanks to her sister Dr. Jasmine for her encouraging words and prayers. The researcher also conveys her gratitude to her father-in-law Devaraj, mother-in-law Jebamani and brothers-in-law for their constant support and prayers.