ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Research work for a Ph.D. degree is arduous and sometimes a tedious exercise, but it has been very rewarding for me. Thanks to the very sympathetic and helping attitude of many friends and respected professors actively engaged in research. I should like to thank them all.

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to Professor H.K. Trivedi, who was not only a guiding teacher but also one who steadily led me to light whenever I fumbled in darkness. He has been a source of constant inspiration and encouragement throughout this period when I was far away from my friends and relatives back at home in Iran. No words are adequate to express my feelings of gratitude to him.

I must also thank Professor V.P. Bharadwaj of Gujarat University and Dr. R.J. Mody of Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research for their kind helping work.

I would like to thank the Iranian Ministry of Oil (OPEC Relations Department), Tehran, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), Ahwaz, Central Bank of IR Iran (Economic Department), Tehran, OPEC Secretariat (OPEC Public Information), Vienna, Exxon and Shell oil companies, U.A.E’s Ministry of Petroleum, Abu Dhabi, U.A.E’s Consulate (Bombay), Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, etc., for providing me the necessary information to pursue my research smoothly.

I also thank Professor Dr. P.R. Odell of University of Erasmus, the Netherlands, Dr. F. Fesharaki, of East-West Centre, U.S.A., Dr. S.A. Al-Fathi, of OPEC Secretariat, Dr. H. Zakariya, and Mr. G.J. Trivedi of I.I.M. Ahmedabad, for their kind help.

I am also grateful to Mr. Mahin and Mrs. Smita Modi for their constant encouragement.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to following friends: Parvez, Nikhil, Sandeep, Charles, Jay, Amarjeet, Bina, Sanjeev, Ashfak, Joe, Aziz, Sohail, Chaaya, Manishi, Ashish, Ajay, Siddharth, Nafisa, Afroz, Chinmoy, Manucher, Jigar and Gurjeet.

Last but not the least, I must thank all members of my family who gave me support, both financial and psychological throughout my study in India. A special word of thanks is due to my brother Dr. Bahram Habibniya, who encouraged me to pursue research work for a Ph.D. degree.

[Signature]
Houshang Habibniya