ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the Vice Chancellor, the Registrar and the Controller of Examinations, Annamalai University, for having permitted and enabled me to carry out the research in this University. My most earnest acknowledgement must go to Dr. S. Velusamy, the Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Annamalai University for his moral support and useful guidance which made possible my successful completion of this research.

I wish to record my gratefulness to the former Dean and Head of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Prof. B. Palaniappan whose analytical ideas gave a shape and sharpness to my views and made my work easy.

I am deeply indebted to my guide, Dr. V. Ramalingam, Professor and Head, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Annamalai University for the acute observations and illuminating comments he made whenever I approached him seeking suggestions for improvement of my work. His vast knowledge and versatile scholarship, his critical acumen and careful guidance constituted the real persuasive force behind my work.

No less is my gratitude to Dr. S. Palanivel, Professor whose invaluable advice and unfailing encouragement helped me a lot. I extremely thank him for the excellent research environment he has created to learn and pursue my research work. Besides, I am very much grateful to Dr. M. Balasubramanian, Assistant Professor for the technical support and guidance I received whenever I approached him during the period of my research.

My sincere thanks are also due to my colleagues Mrs. G. Arulselvi, Mrs. M. Arulselvi and Mr. K. Rajan for their valuable suggestions during various stages of my Ph.D tenure.

I may be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge the support which I received from my father Dr. V.R. Angappan, Professor of English (Retd.) and my mother Mrs. A. Kamala, especially my father whose role in polishing, embellishing and embroidering the language aspect of my thesis is of great importance.

I would never have done all this without the excellent support and help of my husband Dr. S. Thirugnanasambandam, Associate Professor, Department of Structural Engineering. I
should also acknowledge the unforgettable support which I got from my son Selvan. S.T. Sai Rajarajan who was persuading and urging me to complete my work smoothly and successfully.

I can never forget the Almighty, who is always beside me in constantly guiding and encouraging me in every walk of my life.

A. Geetha