Acknowledgements

It gives me sincere pleasure to acknowledge my deepest gratitude to Dr. Mohanlal, Professor and Head of the Department of English and other European Languages, University of Sagar, Sagar, for his constant encouragement and valuable guidance, without which this work would not have been possible. I am also grateful to Dr. S. Mallikarjunan, Reader, Department of English, University of Sagar, for giving me many a constructive suggestion during the progress of this work.

I wish to record my thanks to the Librarians of the Jawaharlal Nehru Library, University of Sagar; University Libraries of Madras and Hyderabad, and The British Council Library, Delhi. My thanks are also due to the Librarian, National Library, Calcutta, for helping me with books from time to time. I am equally indebted to a number of writers and scholars whose views have helped me directly or indirectly in shaping this study.

Lastly, I must not fail to express my gratitude to my parents and husband for their constant understanding and patience during this engagement.

Rajshree Chouksey

(viii)