ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is my proud privilege to express my profound gratitude to my research Supervisor, Prof. R.S. Pathak, Head of the Deptt. of English, for his very valuable guidance, but for which the present research would not have taken the present shape.

I am deeply indebted to all those who have helped me in various ways to complete this study. I wish to convey my very special thanks to the following: Prof. M.J. Das, Dr. R.S. Sharma, Dr. M. Kundu for their valuable suggestions; Dr. Ramji Rey and Dr. S.J. Singh, for helping me in my analysis of the data; Dr. Ajit Jain, Mr. Gianni and Mrs. Lucia Rocca for their ungrudging help; and Dr. S.C. Garg, Mrs. Meena Garg, Shanu and Sunil Garg, who have been a source of inspiration, affection and encouragement for the last four years.

My sincere thanks are also due to the Librarians of Dr. H.S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar; CIEFL, Hyderabad; ELTI, Bhuweshwar; Osmania University, Hyderabad; and ICSSR Regional Library, Hyderabad, for their unstinted help in making books and journals available to me, and to Mr. G.P. Rai, for his efficient secretarial assistance.

Last but not least, I am much beholden to the teachers of the Deptt. and all my friends for their valuable help and suggestions.

(Thomas, K.A.)