ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Every work leaves a trail of memory behind. I deem it a privilege and duty to express my gratitude to my mentor and guide,

Dr. R. Jothiprakash, Associate Professor of English, Wiley College, Marshall, Texas, U.S.A., who has all along been a source of inspiration and encouragement to me to complete my research work. His learned advice, stimulating discussions, and valuable suggestions have greatly helped me in completing my work successfully.

My heart wells up with gratitude and reverence to thank my co-guide and former Principal, Dr. K. Subrahmanyam, presently Educational Adviser, Vivekananda College, Tiruvendakam West, for having been a fountain of inspiration and guidance.

I wish to record my sincere thanks to Professor Dr. N. Ramachandran Nair, former Head of the Department of English, Calicut University, Calicut, and member of the Doctoral Committee for his very useful suggestions and counsel.

Mere words cannot serve to express my indebtedness to my close friend, Dr. M. R. Kubendran, Faculty-in-charge, Faculty of English and Foreign Languages, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, who inspired me to pursue my doctoral work.

I extend my thanks to Sri. M. S. Prabakaran, Dr. S. Lakshmi, Dr. M. A. Jeyaraju, and Dr. A. Joseph Dorairaj, members of the Faculty of English and Foreign Languages, Gandhigram Rural Institute, for their concern,
encouragement, moral support and help. I record my thanks to Sri.O. Mahendran, Sri. S. Vasudevan and Sri. P. Murugan of the Faculty of English and Foreign Languages for their valuable assistance during the course of my research work.

I express my thanks to my colleagues Dr.R.Ilango, Vice-Principal and Flead of the Department of English. Professor V. Hariharan and Professor B. Ramamoorthy of the Department of English, Vivekananda College, Tiruvedakam West, who constantly encouraged me.

I place on record my gratitude to Revered Swamiji Sadananda Maharaj and my Principal Dr. R. Vanniarajan for their kind blessings and generous help in offering me financial assistance under the Faculty Improvement Programme (FIP).

I thank the authorities of the Indo-American Centre for International Studies (formerly ASRC), Hyderabad, for making available the material needed for my research and for granting me a Teacher Research Grant.

I thank my wife and my children, who helped me in their own special way to complete my work successfully.

Finally, I thank God for His blessings and grace.