Initially, when I thought of a research project, I wanted to make a critical study of either Somerset Maugham or Graham Greene. But on second thoughts, I felt that I would be richly rewarded, if I studied the novel in English of my own country, and that a fairly thorough study of a particular period of Indo-Anglian fiction should serve my purpose. I thought that the Post-Independence era would be a convenient span for my work, broadly speaking, from 1947 to 1977. I have attempted this study with a view to tracing the social, socio-economic, political, religious and cultural changes brought about by the momentous event of Independence as reflected in, and shaping, the new Indo-Anglian novel.

I started my work under the able and inspiring guidance of Professor K. R. Chandrasekharan, the then Professor and Head of the Department of English, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad. I am greatly aware of the debt of gratitude I owe to him and I humbly acknowledge it.

The work, in its present form, should have been completed by me a few years earlier. The delay was caused by a series of surgical operations on my eyes and consequent difficulties. I am also genuinely
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