

## Acknowledgements

I record my profound gratitude to my Guide and Supervisor, **Dr.V.Ayothi**, Professor of English, Department of English, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, for his constant guidance and encouragement to carryout this Doctoral Research. He has been of immense help to me at every step of my research work.

**Dr.M.Balasubramanian**, who, as the member of Doctoral Committee helped me with his valuable suggestions that enabled me to sharpen my focus on the thesis. **Dr.A.Noel Joseph Irudayaraj**, Head of the Department of English, Bharathidasan University whose critical observations of my thesis, was of great help. My sincere thanks to both of them.

A very special and heartfelt thanks to **Prof. R.P. Nair**, former Head of the Department of English, The American College, Madurai, not only for his insightful comments on the early drafts but also for being there for me as a Teacher and Friend always.

I am also grateful to all the members of the Faculty for their genuine interest in my work. I owe a particular debt to the Librarians and staff of Indo-Sashtri Canadian Institute, New Delhi; Bharathidasan University Library, St.Paul's Seminary Library, Tiruchirappalli. I thank

**Mr.S.Ganesan**, Lecturer, Rajah's College, Pudukottai for helping me with books, articles and suggestions.

With great pleasure I acknowledge my appreciation of the encouragement given by my aunt, **Gowselya**. She has been my constant support and source of inspiration, even during the moments of doubt and despair. Without her assistance this study could never have been completed and I wish to place on record my deep gratitude to her.

**Maya**, who is my daily reminder of all that is good in this world, took efforts to purchase and ship the essential primary and secondary sources from London. I thank her for her endless support and love. I thank **Armstrong** for his continuing encouragement and support.

My thanks are also due to Mr. **C.K.Prabaharan**, Rajeswari Enterprises, Madurai for typing out this thesis neatly and perfectly.

I express my deep appreciation to my friends who have helped me in various ways. I thank my family for their encouragement and understanding and for providing me with every facility I needed to do my research.

