Acknowledgement

First and foremost, all the praise is to Allah, the Almighty, who has guided me always and without His guidance it could not have been possible for me to finish the present study.

I don't find words to express my deep sense of gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Shabana Hameed for her persistent inspiration, supervision and academically most appropriate suggestions throughout the course of this research work.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Prof. A.R. Fatih, Chairman, Department of Linguistics, for his guidance, inspiration and encouragement during the writing period of this study.

I extend my gratitude also to Prof. Imtiaz Hasnain, Dr. Masood Ali Beg, Dr. Samina A. Surti and Dr. Sabauddin Ahmad for their continuous support and guidance.

I will remain grateful to Dr. Syed Ekteyar Ali for his expert opinion and important inputs during this research work.

My special thanks are also due to my friend Dr. Sadia, H. Hassan for her help and support.

Very sincere thanks are also due to Mr. Najeebul Hasan Khan Incharge Seminar Library, and staff members, Mr. Saleem Ahmad Khan, Mr. Anil K. Goel, Mr. Haseebur Rehman and Mr. Wasiuddin of the Department of Linguistics, for their constant help and support during the entire project. I am also thankful to my other friends and colleagues, for their moral support and help.

I am personally grateful to Mr. Mohd Parvez for his encouragement and support at various stages.

No words can appropriately reflect the guidance and sacrifice of my parents all through my academic career in general, and of this study in particular. They have always been the mainstay of my constant inspiration of motivation and outright sources of strength. My mother's emotional support and my father's infusion of
confidence in me enabled me to venture out on my own to collect data from Allahabad which is the backbone of this study. Words fail to express my love for them and their patience through my academic endeavors. Their deep prayers, emotional and physical support have always been my guiding lights. If at I have achieved anything in my career, I owe it to them totally.

Finally, I must not forget to thank Mr. A.K. Azad who has taken pains in typing the manuscript with utmost care.

(Saba Imtiaz)