ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A Ph.D. thesis of this magnitude required many years of research and wide help from many quarters. In connection with carrying out this research I came across many difficulties including the paucity of enough material. However, at last I have completed the work.

I feel great pleasure, indeed, in expressing gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Mohammad Iqbal, Centre of West Asian Studies, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh for his guidance and help at various stages of the preparation of the thesis.

I owe a deep sense of gratitude to Prof. M.R.K. Nadvi, Director, Centre of West Asian Studies, Prof. Mahmoodul Haq, Prof. Akhtar Majeed and Dr. Hasan Askari Kazmi for their ungrudging help and guidance.

I would be failing in my duty if I do not pay thanks to Prof. Azar-me-dukht, Department of Persian, A.M.U., Aligarh for her kind help, encouragement and sparing time, despite of her own pressing occupation.

I take this opportunity to thank all my friends
and colleagues particularly Mr. Abdul Moyeed, Mr. Madhir Rehman Suhaib, Ms. Mah Seema Masood, Mr. Mansoor Wahid Khan, Mr. Amanatullah, Ms. Neeresh, Mr. Brijendra Kumar who helped me in a variety of ways. Special thanks are also due to my friend Mr. Raj Babu Saxena, Social Worker, District Council for Child Welfare, Aligarh who helped me extensively in the correction of the proof.

I could not have completed this thesis had not all that has gone in its making been shared with my dear family, whose help and encouragement was invaluable. Words simply cannot express gratitude and appreciation.

(Mohammad Haroon)