Acknowledgements

First and foremost I express my sincere thanks to the Almighty God who has been my rock of strength and wisdom throughout my research endeavour and has done great things for me.

I thank the Vice-Chancellor and the Registrar of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University for permitting me to register and carry on my research work in the University.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr.(Mrs.) R.Florence Mary, Principal, Sarah Tucker College, Tirunelveli, and the U.G.C., for granting me study leave for one year to do my research study under VIII Plan F.I.P. at the Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli.

I am profoundly indebted to my guide and supervisor Dr.V. Sam Sahayam, Reader & Head i/c, Department of English, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli, who guided my research work with scholarly insight, critical interest, friendly concern and, above all, with a perfectionist's eye for the correctness of language, and appropriateness of style, format of the thesis and the overall evolution of thought. I do
remember with a deep sense of gratitude the long hours he devoted to me discussing the different aspects of the thesis, clarifying, criticising and elucidating at every phase of progress of my thesis.

I am especially grateful to my Professor Mrs. Felicina Devadoss, Head of the Department of English, Sarah Tucker College, for her keen interest and enthusiastic help in my research study. My special thanks are due to all the members of the faculty of English, Sarah Tucker College, for their encouragement, scholarly suggestions and, above all, their diligent help in proof-reading my thesis.

I owe my sincere thanks to the authorities of the libraries at SCILET, American College, Madurai; St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai; V.V.V. College for Women, Virudhunagar; St. Ignatius College of Education, Palayamkottai; Central Library, Palayamkottai; Folklore Resources & Research Centre, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai and The University Library, M.S. University, Tirunelveli, for their ready assistance in making available all the books and journals needed for my research. My special and sincere thanks are due also to Mrs. Prema Nair, Librarian, Sarah Tucker College and Mrs. Vimala Samuel, Professor and
Head of the Department of Tamil, Sarah Tucker College, for providing me most willingly with all the necessary books and journals related to my research.

I would like to express my deep sense of gratitude to the following persons who have been of considerable assistance to me in my research study: Dr. C. D. Narasimhaiah, Director, Dhvanyaloka for his hospitality and the opportunity to go through the books and journals on Indian Writing in English, especially on Nayantara Sahgal during my visit to Mysore; Dr. (Mrs.) Jasbir Jain, Professor of English, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur, and Dr. S. D. Lourdu, Director, Folklore Resources and Research Centre, St. Xavier's College, Palayamkottai, for giving me scholarly guidance and providing me with some valuable primary as well as secondary source materials for my research study; Mr. Akilon Kannan for making available to me many novels of Akilon and readily responding to my enquiries on Akilon, his father; Dr. (Mrs.) Padma Srinivasan, Reader, Department of English and Comparative Literature, M.K. University, Madurai, for her timely help in procuring certain valuable works on literary criticism; Dr. R. Balachandran, Reader in English, Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, for his
profound interest in my research and for his many valuable suggestions.

In a more personal sense, I express my gratitude to my husband who has been a wonderful source of encouragement and support to me at every stage of my research and I thank him for his multifarious help in the preparation of this thesis. My thanks are also due to my daughter Eunice and my son Eugene for their sustained co-operation and patient support. I specially thank my parents, relatives and friends for their prayer support and words of encouragement.

I owe my special thanks also to Mr. P. Sushil Kumar for the neat execution of my thesis.

B.R.