ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It would not have been possible without the kind support and help of many individuals and organizations to complete the present research work on the womannovelist, Nayantara Sahgal. Hence, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all of them.

I offer my sincere and special gratitude to my Research Supervisor, Dr. J. Samuel Kirubahar, Associate Professor of English, Research Centre in English, VHNSN College(Autonomous), Virudhunagar, Tamil Nadu, India, whose suggestions and encouragement helped me to complete this thesis. His wide knowledge and his logical way of thinking have been of great value for me. His understanding and encouraging guidance have provided a good basis for the present thesis. I would like to acknowledge with gratitude the crucial role of my research guide who has invested his full effort in guiding me. I am highly indebted to him for his guidance and constant supervision as well as for providing necessary information regarding the progress of my thesis. The blessing, help and guidance given by him made me complete the work in time.

Many thanks are to Dr. R. Selvam the Head of the department of English, VHNSN College (Autonomous), Virudhunagar and other faculty members. I have to appreciate the friendly ambiance given by everyone which enabled me to visit the research centre in English without hesitation.

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the Principal, Dr. P. Selvameekshi, VVV College for Women(Autonomous), Virudhunagar for her
kind permission to do my doctoral research under part-time scheme in Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli

I equally express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to my Head of the Department of English, Dr. N. Velmani, Dean of Arts and Research Co-ordinator for her enthusiasm and constant encouragement to complete this research work in time.

Special thanks are dedicated to my mother-in-law, father-in-law, brothers, sisters, relatives and my son and daughter for their unselfish and unfailing support in all my endeavors throughout my life. They have always blessed me in the journey of life.

I owe utmost gratitude to my husband, S. Kannapiran, whose sincerity and encouragement I will never forget. As he has been my inspiration, I can finish the present work soon.

Finally, to my caring, loving, and supportive mother N. Ulagamani, Accounts officer, BSNL, Virudhunagar, and my father V. Chandra Mohan, Junior Telecom Officer, BSNL, Virudhunagar, I offer my enduring gratitude for their patience and steadfast encouragement to complete the present thesis.

I am deeply grateful to my friends K. Kavitha, and B. Kanagalakshmi, VVV College for Women (Autonomous), Virudhunagar, for her valuable advice and friendly help. Their extensive discussions around my work have been very helpful for this study. I warmly thank my friends for their kind co-operation in this venture.
I remain thankful to Dr. A. K. Muthusamy, Associate Professor of English, VHNSN College (Autonomous), Virudhunagar, for his help in bibliography. He made me have a working bibliography during the inception of my research.

I am grateful to the librarians of Sahitya Akademi Library, New Delhi, Dhavanyaloka, Mysore, British Council Library, Chennai, SCILET, The American College, Madurai; TPM Library, Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai and PG Department Library, Research Centre in English, VHNSN College(Autonomous), Virudhunagar.

I thank Ms. Kokila, Computer Assistant, in bringing out the thesis within a stipulated time by typing.

I would like to thank Dr. R. Suriya Prakash Narayanan, Assistant Professor, Research Centre in English, VHNSN College (Autonomous), his timely help rendered in shaping the thesis.

Last but not the least; I thank the one above all of us, the omnipresent God, for answering my prayers and giving me the strength to put my steps forward, thank you so much Dear Lord.

Mrs. C. Veenarani