Acknowledgements

I am greatly indebted to many a people for their invaluable help and guidance during my writing of this dissertation. I am mostly grateful to my supervisor, Professor Rama Kundu, whose discerning observations on the works of the Indian women writers have enriched me time and again. I am doubly indebted to her for her constant enthusiasm and personal interest about this thesis.

I am also thankful to the Department of English, University of Burdwan, for providing me with a research fellowship during the initial months of my research, which allowed me to undertake this project.

My thanks are also due to the authorities of my college, Sudhiranjan Lahiri Mahavidyalaya, who kindly allowed me to continue my research work and cooperated with me in every way.

I am much obliged to the staff of SCILET, The American College, Madurai, National Library, Kolkata and British Council Library, Kolkata for giving me ready access to the material I required.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my family for their constant inspiration and loving endurance of my seemingly unending preoccupation with this dissertation.

[Signature]

04/07/2005