ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I must express my debt of gratitude to Dr. Satyendra Narayan Goswami. Ex. Rabindranath Tagore Professor, G.U. and presently Professor of Garo NEHU for guiding me in preparation of this thesis and his kindly wife Dr. (Mrs.) Mandira Goswami for always inviting me with tea and snacks. I am also thankful to Dr. Prafulla Kataki, Professor of English, G.U. for helping me select my guide.

Among the people who were generous with moral and material help, I am especially indebted to Shri M.M. Datta, Principal M N C. Balika Mahavidyalay, Nalbari and Shri Chiranjilal Jain, HoD, English of the same college.

I am also indebted to my university teacher Prof. H.S. Mahapatro, a Ph.D. from East Anglia, England, now at Utkala University, for stoking my interest in Indian literature. I am also grateful to Prof. Jatin K Nayak, M. Lit., (Oxon), of Sambalpur University for helping me with valuable suggestions.

I am also thankful to my wife Smt. Barnali Sarma, M.A., B.Ed., for helping in umpteen ways in preparation of the thesis. My father-in-law Dr. Ramesh C. Sarma and my mother-in-law Dr. Dipalee Devee for nagging me into completing the project. I am thankful to them. Thanks are inadequate to my little children Ami and Abhi who had to sacrifice their play time so that I could devote time to this project.

I am also indebted to National Library, Calcutta, Gauhati University Library, District Library, Gauhati, Orissa State Library, Bhubaneswar, Phakirmohana Sahitya Parishad, Balasore for helping me with relevant books and documents.

I am especially thankful to the Gauhati University for allowing me to take up this project in comparative literature. And not the least to my family members who had to forego their bare necessities to give me higher education.

Last but not the least my thanks are also due to Pranmoy, Jagadish and Kanak of ELECTROCOMP, Nalbari, for bringing out the typescript of this work.