Acknowledgments

My gratitude is, first and foremost, to the Supreme Almighty whose inspiration and guidance have strengthened my intellectual capacity to complete the task of writing this thesis successfully.

Let me express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to those who have assisted me in completing this stupendous task. First and foremost, I gratefully acknowledge the guidance, encouragement, and continuing support and help of my supervisor, Dr A.S.Dasan, in the course of writing, re-writing, and finalising the drafts of the research work. His constructive criticisms and his invaluable suggestions made at different stages of writing are part of the thesis. He was instrumental in sensitizing me towards certain social goals of Cooperative Learning. He made me realize and learn how thesis writing was a collective endeavour.

I had the honour and privilege of having the opportunity of meeting some well-known professionals in the field of my research at esteemed institutions like CIFEL, Hyderabad, which is, now, a deemed University: My special thanks are due to Professor G. Rajagopal, Centre for ESL Studies; Dr S. Sircar, Department of Methods; Dr S.R. Prahalad, Centre for Material Development, and Dr J. Sen, Centre for English studies for their help in my writing the initial synopsis and outline of my research. I would also like to salute Dr G. Motteram, University of Manchester, UK, whom I met at an international symposium in India, for constructive reading of the final synopsis of the thesis. Conversation with specialists like him was a unique opportunity for my personal academic growth and revising the contents of the thesis wherever necessary.
I extend my heartfelt thanks to Dr Lancy D’Souza, Department of Psychology, Maharaja’s College, University of Mysore, Dr K. Yeshodhara, Department of Education of University of Mysore, Professor Pon Subbaiah, Head of Centre for Testing and Evaluation, CIIL, Mysore, and two other friends of the Department of Statistics of the University of Mysore for their insightful comments and assistance in finalising the fourth and the fifth chapters of the study. I am thankful to Professor S. Rajagopalan, Head of English Language Teachers of India (ELTAI), Chnnai, for his reading of the penultimate draft of the thesis. I would like to express my appreciation to Professor Prabhakara, Principal of Mahajana First Grade College, Mysore, India, Dr Monshi Tousi, Head of the English Department of Mashhad Islamic Azad University, Mashhad, Iran, and the teachers and the students of their respective colleges’ for their co-operation in the experimental part of this study.

I would also like to record my appreciation and gratitude to Profs. Mahadev, Sunitha, Nageswara Rao, and Chander of the Department of English, University of Mysore, for their presence and supportive suggestions offered at the time of pre-thesis submission colloquium. I am grateful to the University of Mysore – higher authorities and other personnel from all the concerned sections of the University, and many others who have not been named here for their cooperation.

Finally, I am grateful to my family members, especially my grandfather whose encouragement made me a teacher who will never cease learning.

S.M.H.Hosseini