the thesis writing period. Their feedback and advice has been instrumental in shaping up this thesis. A special word of mention goes to Aliya for putting up with me and sharing various thoughts during the “long tea sessions” when we were roommates.

Thanks are due to my seniors Asfar bhai, Showket bhai and Eram apa for their amiable and enduring support and trust which has made positive influence on my life and through process.

I was extraordinarily fortunate to have a loving and caring family even after my marriage. I would like to shower my deep gratitude towards my In-laws Mama and Papa, along with Apiya & Viqar bhai, Asra & Saud and Ahmad for their continuous guidance, appreciation and moral support in my life.

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. The Person unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, and confusion into clarity.... It turns problems into gifts, failures into success, the unexpected into perfect timing, and mistakes into important events. Such was the character of Sarmad who entered my life during the PhD course... to stand by me till the end. Words fail to express my appreciation for him whose dedication, love and persistent confidence in me has taken the load off my shoulder. I owe him for unselfishly letting his intelligence, passion and ambitions collide with mine.

I fall short in pursue of thanking my family, on whose unconditional love, support and ever encouraging words I have relied throughout my time at the University. My Family forms an invisible aura of positives energy and insulates me from the negativity radiated by the world. I am ever grateful to my most beloved parents Papa and Ammi, my dearest sister Bushra, brother-in-law Ashfaque bhai and my ever charming brother Aamir. Their unflinching courage and conviction will always inspire me, and I hope to continue, in my own small way, the noble mission for which they sacrificed alot. It is to them that I dedicate this work.

Uzma Shamim

Uzma Shamim