ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am indebted to Prof. K.T. Sunitha, my research supervisor, for her guidance, encouragement and valuable suggestions. The wide-ranging discussions, which I had with my guide, gave me the confidence to complete my research.

I sincerely thank my teachers in the Department of Studies in English and Research, Prof. K.C. Belliappa, Prof. T. Nageshwar Rao, Prof. B.K. Banker, Prof. K.M. Chandar, Prof. Mahadeva, Prof. C.P. Ravichandra, Prof. A.S. Dasan, Prof. Rudramuni, Dr. T. Subramanyan, Dr. Devikarani and Mr. Ramesh Jayaramaiah for their support and cooperation.

Gratitude is due to Prof. K.M. Chandar, Chairman, Department of Studies in English, University of Mysore.

I thank my father, Mr. K. Biligiraiah, my beloved brother, Mr. M.B. Suresh for their moral support, immeasurable help, and encouragement to complete my thesis successfully.

I am grateful to the staff of the Libraries of University of Mysore, CILL Library, Mysore. Dhvanyaloka, Prof. C.D. Narasimaiah’s literary Criterion Centre, Mysore. EFLU (The English and foreign Language Universitsy, Hyderabad) and Sahitya Academy in New Delhi for the books and reading materials made available to me.

I would like to remember my debt to the departed soul: my mother, Smt. Late Basamma, whose memories have always guided me and the values she inculcated in me have shaped my life. Whatever little merit this thesis deserves is an outcome of the sacrifice made by my late mother Basamma.
I thank my friends, acquaintances and well-wishers who have supported me.

Finally, I am grateful to the UGC for the research fellowship awarded to me under the Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship.