ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This study would not have been possible without the support and cooperation of many wonderful persons.

I remember with much gratitude and reverence the support and guidance provided by my supervisor Dr. Meena T. Pillai. I am also indebted to Dr. N. Prasanthakumar, Head of the Department of English, Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, for his seamless support.

I express my gratitude to the faculty of the Department of English, the library staff at Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kalady; the Institute of English, University of Kerala; and EMS Memorial Library, Kakkanad.

Then there is Sneha Susan Shibu, who took pains to go through the initial drafts and provide me with valuable insights. She reminded me that best friends can be separated physically, but never spiritually.

And finally, my family needs to be thanked for standing by me all through the work and for believing in my abilities to complete this task.

Let me end this note with special thanks to Anand, my soul-mate for being there for me always, and to my babies, Ameya and Amit, who might have missed me a lot during my work, though they never complained.

Above all, I express my boundless sense of gratitude to the Almighty, who remained as beacon in my moments of confusion and steered me towards my goal.