ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With a deep sense of gratitude I wish to record my indebtedness to Dr. T.E. Shammugam, M.A., M.Litt., Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychology, University of Madras whose expertised guidance and thought provoking suggestions encouraged the present study.

It is also great pleasure to thank Dr. P. Rama Rao, Ph.D., Professor and Head, Department of Psychology, University of Madras for his valuable suggestions and keen interest in this work.

My thanks are due to Dr. K. Viswanathan, Ph.D., Lecturer, Department of Statistics, University of Madras and Mr. K. Krishnan, Assistant Director, Department of Statistics, Government of Tamilnadu for their help in analysing the data, and to Mr. K. Krishnavenu for his help in the fieldwork.

I express my thanks to Dr. Frank Peterson and Dr. Robert Klein of Child Health and Human Development, National Institutes of Health, USA for their valuable comments that encouraged my endurance in completing the work. My sincere thanks are due to Dr. J. Curmins, the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Canada for his critical comments and suggestions on the research work, and to Dr. N.N. Eich of Bilingual Education Service Center of Georgetown University, USA and to Dr. D.T. Hoi of George Mason University, USA for their valuable comments on the work.

I express my gratitude to Prof. O.S. Suriyanarayanan and Prof. K. Mahadevan for their insightful guidance in clarifying my expression of thoughts. I am also grateful to Mr. K. Ramana for his guidance in statistical analysis and my thanks are due to Mr. K. Pitchandi and Mr. K. Murugan for their constant support.
My research work would not have completed without the School teachers and Young Children, who encouraged the research work through their enthusiasm. I would also greatly appreciate the financial assistance from the University grants commission in the form of research fellowship, without it the work would not have materialized.

Last, but not least, my heartfelt thanks are to Dr. T.K. Sampath for his constant support and encouragement during the preparation of the Thesis.

K. Karpagavelli Kalyani