Acknowledgements

One is not a human if one is thankless. With a view to exhibiting one’s
gratefulness language is the best form and words play a significant role to express
one’s gratitude. But words fail me to express my sincerest thanks as I owe more than I
can say.

How can I forget the consideration, cordiality and nicety of my revered supervisor Dr. Pushpinder Syal, Professor, Department of English, Punjab University Chandigarh whose timely help, sincere guidance and prompt feedback were instrumental in shaping this study. The rare quality of her head and heart cudgeled me to bring out the maximum. The warmth of inspiration at my desperate times during this period of work I received from her has been a perennial source of inculcation of the voice of Robert Frost’s lines: “The woods are lovely, dark and deep. / But I have promises to keep. / And miles to go before I sleep, / And miles to go before I sleep.”

I am sincerely obliged and heartily grateful to Prof. Dr. Shankarji Jha, D.Litt., Department of Sanskrit, Punjab University, Chandigarh who not only consented to be my co-guide when I was standing at the crossroads but also for his valuable suggestions, expert guidance and opportune succour. His considerate, cordial and helpful attitude deterred me to stumble when I felt weak.

The deepest debt of gratitude that I owe is to my father-like Guru Dr. K. N. Sharma, Sastri M.O.L., under whose scholarly advice, proficient and invaluable guidance and painstaking effort at the age of eighty-two, I had the privilege to complete this research work. I shall remain indebted to him throughout my life.

Special thanks to my near and dear Dr. Shveta Sharma for sharing some of her thoughts and skillful help.

I cannot conclude this acknowledgement without recording my sincerest sense of gratitude and special note of thanks to my brother Mr. A. D. Sharma for his precious support, incessant encouragement and just being there in hour of need to achieve this goal.

Above all, I thank the Almighty for his blessings.

AMRITA