PREFACE

The following study is an attempt to understand the ideology of the saint-poets of the Bhakti Movement in Indian Literature from the angle of imagery. Adi-Granth not only propagates a unique religious philosophy, but it teaches a practical way of life also. This humble attempt is to make the delicate, subtle and unintangible spiritual experiences of these saint poets of the medieval times, vividly clear so that the ordinary man can have an easy approach to its ideology. It is a great treasury of philosophy which is universal in appeal and also transcends the limits of time and space.

I have devoted more than five years on this research work. But this work is only made possible by the help of many well-wishers and friends.

I acknowledge, wholeheartedly, and with thanks the guidance and inspiration received from my Supervisor, Dr. S.S.Kohli, Head of the Department of Panjabi and Dean of University Instruction, Panjab University, Chandigarh. This soft-spoken gentleman gave me affection and consolation in many critical moments during the period of my research.

I am thankful to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi for a book-grant of Rs. 800/-.
Dr. Harbhajan Singh (Delhi University), Dr. Ravinder Singh Ravi (Punjabi University, Patiala), Dr. Jagbir Singh (Delhi University) and Professor Harbhajan Singh (L.L.R. Govt. College, Dhudike) deserve gratefulness for their timely help and enthusiastic interest in my work.

In preparing reference cards, I was assisted by S. Bagga Singh (Dhudike), S. Jaswant Singh (Takhanwad), Daljit Singh & Parminder Singh (Threeke) and Tejpaul, my daughter. I feel indebted to them all.

I owe much to Mr. Lal and the staff (Panjab University Extension Library, Ludhiana), Mr. Surrinder Singh (Librarian, Khalsa College, Gurusar Sudhar), Mr. Satwinder Singh (Librarian, Govt. College, Ludhiana) and the entire staff of L.L.R. Govt. College Library, Dhudike, for being generous in issuing me necessary books as and when needed.

Many near and dear ones were constant sources of inspiration and encouragement for me. I request them to accept my warm gratitude.

Mr. Trilochan Singh, M.A. (Panjab University, Chandigarh) helped me earnestly in the preparation of the final draft and in giving the final touches to my thesis. I acknowledge, with thanks, his timely help.

12.4.1977

(Jagjit Singh Baggi)