ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

These few words are not mere formality but are an expression of sentiments from the core of my heart. This study, which spanned over years and culminated into this thesis, is the end result of the blessings of Almighty and support and co-operation of my Supervisor, my father and my children. First and foremost, I am indebted to my Supervisor, Prof. Shelley Walia, Prof. Department of English, Panjab University, Chandigarh, under whose able guidance and rare foresight I undertook the present research work for Ph.D. His encouraging and helping attitude, constructive criticism, friendly discussions and forbearance for long hours in checking the manuscripts, have greatly contributed to the completion of the thesis. His ‘whys’, ‘hows’ and ‘so whats’ kept me on the track of original and painstaking research while making the learning process exciting. This thanks is further extended to Dr. Rumina Sethi for her critical encouragement and analytical judgement.

I am greatly beholden to my father, Mr. S.C Sharma who taught me to be hardworking, consistent and farsighted. Without his help and support, I would not have been able to complete the thesis in any way. There are no words to match his sacrifice, willingness to do anything and everything for me at any odd hour. My heart is full of emotions for the unknowing co-operation given by my children, both having been born during the crucial years of my research work. They learned to be away from their mother for long hours spent on the computer, in the library and in study, at a very tender age without cribbing or complaining. Last but not the least, my great grandmother too has defied her age and constrains in assisting me and coxing me to complete this study in time so that she can see it becoming a reality.

This thesis is the combined work of the efforts of all these people who supported me physically and mentally. My thanks are further due to the faculty members of English Department, my colleagues and friends, my extended family and the rest of whom I have forgotten to mention here but who have supported and co-operated with me in many ways towards the completion of this research work.

Date: 6.03.2006
Chandigarh

POOJA SHARMA
Department of English
Panjab University