Acknowledgments

This present study was an effort that required the aid and support of many. Firstly, I feel deeply beholden to the Almighty "Allah" without whose supreme power, it would have not been possible to bring this dream of mine into reality.

It is my privilege to express my deepest sense of indebtedness and appreciation to my esteemed guide Professor Deepthi Gupta, for encouragement, thoughtful guidance throughout all the stages of the present study. Without her assistance, meticulous supervisions, constructive criticism and invaluable support, this dissertation could have never been accomplished. Moreover, I am extremely indebted to her for giving me the chance to discover the admirable human qualities she possesses as a person.

My deepest gratitude also goes out to the Chairperson of the Department of English and Cultural Studies, Panjab University, Prof. Rana Nayer, and the fabulous committee members of the faculty for their constant support and feedback throughout the different stages of my research.

I am highly thankful to the official at the embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran at New Delhi, India for their kind co-operation and help wherever sought for, especially his Excellency Mr. Nabizadeh, the ambassador, Professor Mohammad Hossein Karim, Counselor and Director Science, Technology and Education in India and Subcontinent and Mr. Abbas Kashefi Ashtiani, the First Secretary of the embassy.

I would also like to express my whole heartly thanks to Dr. Karim Najafi, The Cultural Counselor of the embassy of Islamic Republic of Iran at New Delhi, India and his family for being kind, supportive and helpful during my research tenure.

Last but not least, I would like to dedicate this dissertation to my husband (Hamid Adeli) and my loving daughter (Hedieh Adeli) for their love, emotional support, encouraging attitude, enormous understanding, endless patience, and for many things which I cannot express with words.

Akram Hashemi

26/05/2011