ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, I take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to my mentor and research guide Dr. C.R. Yaravintelimath, Professor Emeritus, Department of Studies in English, Karnataka University, Dharwad, for his constant encouragement and help as a guide. I have pestered him more than any of his other Ph.D. students might have done, but he always had a smile of welcome.

My special thanks are due to Prof. G.S. Amur, whose help made my stay at Dharwad comfortable, and, more valuable, whose inspiring words kept my literary pursuits going.

I am highly indebted to the scholars who kindly discussed the topic with me threadbare. Thanks to the suggestions made by Dr. M.K. Naik, Prof. Sujit Mukherjee and Prof. Meenakshi Mukherjee, Prof. S. Settar, Shri. R.M. Girji, Prof. K. Raghvendra Rao and Shri Panchappa.

My sincere thanks are due to Prof. B.S. Naikar, Chairman, Dept. of English, Karnataka University, Dharwad, for his inspiration. His constant encouragement to research has been initiating me to this kind of work.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to my beloved teachers in Karnataka University— Prof. Giraddi Govindraj, Prof. R.M. Mansur, Prof. C.V. Venugopal, Prof. C.S. Kanagali and Miss. S.M. Ratnakar— for their kind suggestions. I am also thankful to the kind and ready help extended by N.B. Nayak and Muttu, non-teaching staff, Dept. of English, KUD.

One of the best things to have happened during my research work was my coming in contact with Prof. G.B. Sajjan, who meticulously went through the final draft of the thesis, and made detailed suggestions. I as a student of language and literature have been made aware of many a nuance of English usage. I thank him from the bottom of my heart.

I wish to place on record my sincere thanks to my beloved teachers who all along shaped me and ‘educated’ me in the real sense of the term through my student career from primary education to the Bachelor’s degree stage.

During my research work I was greatly benefited by various libraries and institutions. Thanks to the Library Staff of Basvanal Library; K.U.D. Library; CIEFL, Hyderabad; Shivaji University, Kolhapur; Dhvanyalok, Mysore; the University of Delhi, Delhi and others.

I had a valuable discussion with my research colleagues on the campus. My thanks therefore go also to Dr. R.G. Hegde, P. Kannan, Dr. B.P. Donur, Marie Raj, B.S. Tallur, Appu, Manu, Sanjukumar. Dr. Dodamani, Rajashekar, Prabhu, and Ashok. Special mention must be made of Nagesh, whose company in ‘all respects’ kept me regaled during the long hours of my plodding work.

I am likewise thankful to my friends who provided material and supported my work—Devu, Ravi Havinale, ‘Ragam’, E. Lavanya and Shrikant.

I would be failing in my duty if I forgot to mention the names of my well-wishers, who constantly gave me moral support. I am highly indebted to Siddanna Hiremath, Hadimani Sahebru, Revanneppa, Basanna, Kuber, Manappa and their team.

My heartfelt thanks go also to my friends, to name a few, Veeresh, Shashidhar, Goudru, Chandru, Manju, Sangmesh and Chamaraj. I must remember on this occasion late Mr. Veeresh, my friend, philosopher and guide, whose acquaintance was an unforgettable event in my life. Words fail to do justice to his ideas, which not only shaped my thoughts but also shook my feelings, there by bringing about a change in my attitude to life. I could do no more than acknowledge the fact that I was fortunate in meeting one, who did not believe in ‘fortunate’ but only in the ‘uncertainty’ of life.

Thanks be to Shri. R.K. Hegde and G.S. Vaidya for the D.T.P. non-stop and overtime work which they put in to enable me to meet the deadline.

Words fail to express my deep sense of gratitude to people who sacrifice anything for my wellbeing. Thanks to ‘Avva’—my mother, Mama, Malleshanna, Pakku (Prakash) and Puttu, who were keen to see this work to be successful.

NSG