Acknowledgements

My debts in writing this thesis are manifold. I acknowledge my respect for my supervisor, Prof. H.S. Gill, and my deepest gratitude to him for standing by me throughout the period of its completion and for always supporting me in times of need.

I thank my parents for their love and infinite patience and for teaching me to love and be patient with others.

My brother for providing all the liveliness and help when the going got tough.

I am grateful to the University Grants Commission for their assistance with a fellowship and the American Research Studies Centre, Hyderabad, for their research grant and the use of their awesome library.

I thank Mr. L.N. Malik of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Library, New Delhi, and Mr. Abdul Subhan of the British Council Library, New Delhi, for their magical skills at locating the elusive and for always making time to help.

Many thanks to the Jawaharlal Nehru University Library, New Delhi, The British Council Library, New Delhi, The American Center Library, New Delhi, The Sahitya Academy, New Delhi, and the Central Reference and the South Campus Libraries of Delhi University, without whose resources this thesis would not have been possible.

My thanks are due to M/s. A.P. Computers and Amar Photostat for the typing, photocopying and binding required for this thesis. Special thanks to Anil Pawar who patiently bore all my complaints and change of plans and showed me what it truly meant to have "grace under pressure".

And finally, without ever managing to thank her completely, Anjana, for providing me with refuge and strength and for being, simply, my friend.

Chandana Dutta