ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This research has been made possible by the strenuous efforts of many to whom I stand deeply indebted. In humble gratitude, I bow to the Almighty who granted me in immeasurable abundance His wisdom, perseverance, and grace without which this thesis would not have been possible.

It is my profound duty to express my sincere thanks to The Vice Chancellor, The Registrar, The Research Coordinator and The English Department of Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli for having given me an opportunity to do my doctoral research in the University.

It is my proud privilege to record my deep sense of gratitude to my Research Guide, Dr. C.Kannammal, Associate Professor (Rtd.), J.K.K.Nattraja College of Arts and Science, Komarapalayam for her valuable guidance, immense help and expert critical comments. I am extremely thankful to her for the unstinting support and encouragement she has rendered me throughout the course of my research.

I am deeply indebted to my father, Mr.V.Murugesan, who introduced me to the alphabets and dreamt of my attaining a doctoral degree. His constant motivation and advice helped me at every stage of my research work. I am equally grateful to my mother, Mrs.M.Eswari, for her moral support and encouragement during the ordeal of my research. I acknowledge my heartfelt thanks to my husband, Mr.M.Mahendran and my beloved sons, M.Nikhil, M.Yokesh and G.Gokul who are the perennial sources of support and stimulations for the completion of the thesis.
I owe special thanks to my friends, Ms.V.SaralaDevi, Ms.L.Mohanasundari and Ms.S.K.Manjuladevi for their inspiration and fruitful discussions during the research process.

I must acknowledge my colleagues, Ms.P.Kavitha, Ms.K.S.Punithaasree, Assistant Professors of English, Nandha Engineering College and my peers for their generous help in shaping this thesis.

My thanks are also due to the Librarians of the SCILET Library, American College, Madurai, Bharathiar University, Coimbatore and Erode District Central Library who promptly and generously supplied information for the sources and material in their libraries.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Aryaa Infostat Technologies, Erode for the neat execution of the thesis and to all well-wishers for their timely help and support.

M.MYTHILI