ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A thesis is only possible because of the efforts of many individuals. I, for that reason, take this opportunity to express my sense of gratitude to all who helped me at various places in the completion of my research work.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my guru and guide Dr. Ranjana Harish, for giving me the confidence and support to begin my doctoral studies. Her expertise in gender studies and autobiographical studies helped me to explore the vast horizon of women’s writing, especially the genre of auto/biography. I can never repay what she has taught me, as a true mentor. Under her mentorship I learnt to believe in myself and my work. For her generous support, and the invaluable time she devoted to my thesis, I owe her a debt of special significance. I am grateful to her for allowing me to use her personal library, which is always open to all of her researchers.

I particularly want to acknowledge the caring support offered by Prin. Dr. Suhas Jhala, the Principal of my college, who with her kindly inquiries regarding my progress encouraged me in completing the thesis. I thank my departmental colleagues, Ms. Ulupi Patel and Mr. Nitesh Solanki for their ceaseless words of encouragement. I express thankfulness towards my college librarian, Ms. Urvi Kamboya for being the source of strength during this incredible journey.

I am happy to acknowledge the co-operation extended to me by the librarians of Jawaharlal Nehru University, Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, and M S University. I am also grateful to local libraries like the M J Library and the Gujarat Vidhyapeeth, for providing me study material. I also appreciate the help offered by Ms. Sindhu Menon, secretarial librarian, Vikram Sarabhai Library, IIM, Ahmedabad. The INFLIBNET Centre and their Enlist Program owe a special mention.
I am infinitely indebted to my family, especially my parents and parents-in-law for their blessings, love and support throughout the course of my study. A word of heartfelt gratitude is due for my husband Jatin Patel and my dear daughters Sakhi & Sanjana, who have been extremely patient, helping, loving and understanding throughout the arduous process of my research.

I wish to thank my dear friend Dr. Rucha Brahmbhatt, a recipient of research associateship at Hadassah-Brandies Institute, Massachusetts, US for her doctoral research. Her decisive and energetic support during the write-up stage and the path towards thesis completion is hard to believe. Thanks to Dr. Nigam Dave, Dean, School of Liberal Arts Studies, PDPU for his timely help during the final phase.

Finally, I dedicate this work to my father, for being an omnipresent figure in my life, who taught me the value of hard work, and, to me, he will always remain a source of endless inspiration in every walk of life.

Kavita J. Patel