ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my gratitude to my guide Dr. N. Natarajan for his nutshell enlightenment of feminist concepts, for his constant queries and innumerable flashes, which ordained a feasible coherence and completion for my thesis. I owe him immensely for his constant encouragement, affection and continued moral support and above all indeed, I am grateful to him for his tolerance and kind considerations. I wish to thank him for his academically stimulating suggestions and for encouraging me to meet challenges at every stage of my work.

I am indebted to thank Professor and Head of the English Department, Pondicherry University— Dr.Murali for his support and co-operation. I take this opportunity to thank the other members of the faculty— Dr. Sujatha Vijayaragavan, Dr. Clement, Dr.Baskaran, Dr.Nikila, Dr.Kalpana, Ms.Lakme Mili, Dr..Zakaria and Dr. Marx and the other members of the Research Club for their questions, discussions and constructive criticism on the occasion of the presentation of my seminar papers. The discussion that followed the presentation helped me in getting my ideas into sharper focus.

I would like to thank the British council librarians and the librarians of Connemara Library for their co-operation. I thank Ms. Mary, DTP operator for having typed this dissertation with great care and patience.

I express my thanks to other research scholars in the Department of English for their help and encouragement to do my research work. Their valuable suggestions and thought-provoking ideas were largely beneficial to me in my thesis work.
I thank the administrative staff of Pondicherry University and the Department of English for the help and co-operation they always extended.

I am highly indebted to my understanding and supportive family my husband Devarajan and my daughters Sumi and Reena whose constant encouragement and timely assistance at crucial junctures enabled me to achieve my aim.

T.N.GEETHA