ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

For the completion of this study I am thankful to many. I thank Dr. C. Ravindran Nambiar, my supervisor, who, amidst his academic and journalistic commitments, found time to persuade me with his personal attention, and highly encouraging words, and also to go through this dissertation. His comments and suggestions for improvement were very valuable and inspiring. Prof. C. D. Narasimhaiah, who kindly allowed me to make use of his library, has been a source of great inspiration.

In this study, Dr. M. Dasan, my former colleague, Mr. Rajendra Babu and Mr. Balakrishnan (Department of History, Government College, Madappally), my present colleagues, and Mrs. Rekha, my former student, now of the Department of English, Guruvayoorappan College, Calicut, helped me by making many books easily available. My thanks are due to all of them for their kind help. Also, I am grateful to the librarians of Government College, Madappally, S.B. College, Changanachery, the University of Calicut, the University of Kerala, Mahatma Gandhi University, and the University of Mysore. Special mention must be made of Mr. Dinakar, the librarian, and his staff at SCILET, American College,
Madurai from where I got most of the materials for this study. I remember them with gratitude. Thankful am I equally and more to all the authors and the critics who sharpened my views when I read them intensively and extensively. Above all, I thank God for enabling me to complete the work.