Acknowledgement

This work is the result of some very special people who have supported me and the research directly and indirectly throughout.

I wish to acknowledge them here.

I begin by thanking the Jain University, Bangalore, for giving me this opportunity of being a Research Scholar in this esteemed institution. My sincere thanks to the President of Jain University, Dr. Chenraj Roychand; the Chancellor, Mr. C. G. Krishnadas Nair; the Vice-Chancellor, Dr. N. Sundararajan; the Pro Vice Chancellor, Dr. Sandeep Shastri; Chief Mentor, Prof. K.S.Shanthamani and the Dean of Languages, Dr. Mythili.P. Rao. I deem it a privilege to have been associated with Jain University; the well-designed structure of the Ph D programme gave me an impetus to complete my work in the designated time of three years.

My grateful thanks are due first to my Research Guide and Supervisor Dr. K G Bhuvana Maheshwari. She always believed that Folk realisms is there and evident. It is her constant trust and guidance that pervades this thesis. Thank you Ma’m.

My profound gratitude goes to Dr. Shireen Nedungadi, Principal, The National Degree College, Autonomous, Basavangudi, Bangalore, who supported and encouraged me at various stages in this research programme. My sincere thanks are due to the Head of the Department P R Mutalik, G B Kulkarni for
their continuous cooperation. I am particularly grateful to my colleagues in the department G N Nagesh and Mekhala Venkatesh for telling me it’s possible and taking over some of my responsibilities in the department which helped me in the completion of the thesis.

My affectionate thanks are due to my parents who, as always, had to put up with my tantrums and uncle D A Shankar who encouraged me in my engagement with literature. My loving thanks are due to my brother Shashi who first introduced and bought me so many books as a child, and now, has guided me in this endeavor too. I take this opportunity to remember and thank two people who no longer are with me now—my doddappa A Keshavamurthy who was a rich resource of tales and Uncle Rangaswamy who was the first to ask me why I am not taking up research. They remain inspirational to this research. I wish to thank my husband N Datta for his continued support and the loving patience of my dear children Gauri and Tarun who gave up their time with me to accommodate my research.