ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My debt to Dr. R. Shanmuga Sundaram is far larger than that which a scholar conventionally owes to his guide. He is chiefly responsible for my appreciation of John Braine through a study of Psychology and I am extremely grateful to him.

I acknowledge my deep sense of gratitude to Professor S. Jagadisan, for his guidance and suggestions at every stage of preparation and progress of this thesis.

I remain grateful to Professor A.S. Patankar and Dr. D. Subbiah, for their valuable advice and support.

My thanks are due to Dr. (Mrs.) Shanthi Raghavan, for suggesting a suitable title for this thesis.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not make a particular reference to my wife Mrs. Valli C. Kumarasamy and daughter C. Anupama, for their enthusiastic help and unfailing encouragement.

My thanks are due to the staff at the Student Xerox Centre, T. Nagar, for their cooperation and neat execution of this work.