ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank everyone who had been a part of my academic journey. For all intents and purposes, my essential gratitude goes to my guide Dr Jaylaxmi Jadeja. She had been effectively accommodating and reassuringly authoritative. It is amusing; my first reading of a Doctorate dissertation was Dr Jadeja’s thesis on the comparative literature. I am obliged to have her as a guide. Apart from professional commitment and vast knowledge, her devotion for reading, unmatched flawless structured teaching and research in the comparative literature inspired me to match her uttermost distinction. Her feedback on the chapters came handy. Her encouragement prompts me to present the best I can.

I am grateful to Professor Jaydeepsinh Dodiya, head of the Department of English and Comparative Studies, Saurashtra University- Rajkot for his support. Professor Kamal Mehta has set the foundation of the research process; he had been an encouraging mentor from my earliest steps in my academic life in the institute. In fact, all faculties of the English Department had been immensely supportive in each stage of research. I want to thank Dr RavirajSinh Zala, his personal library and love for inadvertent reading inspired me. Prof. Mukherjee has been encouraging with his dynamic and functional inputs throughout the coursework.

I recognise efforts of my friends and batch mates, Jayesh Kachot, Vinayba Jadeja, Prof. Neeharika Rawat, Head of English Department at Shree K.O. Shah Arts & Commerce College, Dhoraji. I thank them for keeping me updated me with the formalities at Exam Department and being highly attentive to my queries. Shabir Parmar assisted me to understand the concept of Islam, a fundamental component of research. I am honoured to fathom the essence of religious practices and beliefs from him.

I am in lifetime debt to Professor G.R. Taneja in Delhi University. Without his affectionate support to find the books required necessarily to begin literature review. His
insightful critique had shaped and enhanced my writing proficiency. I want to thank the Library of Western Australia- Perth for opening up a world of reference books to utilise in research. I appreciate Mr Parminder Singh, Asst. Professor with Sri Guru Gobind Singh College as well as Manager IT/HR, Panjab Digital Library, Chandigarh for his regular feedback on research. I extend the thank note to Dr Anchal Dhara, a research scholar at the Department of English-Himachal Pradesh University and Mrs Megha Sharma for reading the first draft out of their busy lives to provide an astute review.

I am beholden to my parents, Divya Dangar and Parbatbhai Dangar for instilling the element of hard work and persuasion, their vision and back-up instigated me to pursue academic excellence. My siblings, Switu, Khushi and Meru provided assistance with procedural aspects and printing. Big thanks to my husband Bharat Karangiya to make sure I worked on thesis every single day. He played a strict disciplinarian and pushed me to write in a set timeframe. He has been a unreservedly supportive partner to let me work and an enthusiastic listener while I chattered about the thesis. This is my expression to appreciate to literature, every book I read and each interesting idea I received in an exchange with any academic/non-academic person to shape me in the extensive and challenging undertaking.