Acknowledgement

A long journey of five years has come to happy fruition and as I look back and sift through the jubilant faces that revel in my success, I realize how important each one of them are to me. Let me begin by thanking my supervisor, Dr. Varghese C. Abraham whose insight and knowledge helped me retain focus all through my hazy musings. With great patience and understanding he goaded me out of the intermittent bouts of inertia I often succumbed to. His willingness to share his books, his thoughts and above all, his precious time, has been immensely encouraging.

I thank the UGC for granting me F I P deputation without which my Ph.D. project would have turned out to be a tediously endless affair.

I will forever be thankful to my good friends and fellow researchers Suja T. V. and Madhu V. who stood by me offering valuable advice and resourceful tips to bale me out of turbulent zones. I also thank Rakesh C. Jose, Roshni S., Shibu P. V. and Binuja Joseph for their sincere support and heart-warming camaraderie.

Throughout the five years as research scholar, the library was a serene retreat where I could contemplate and collect my thoughts and for this I am very grateful to Mr. P.T Markose, the librarian, and all the staff of the General Library and Department Library, Maharaja’s College, Ernakulam.
I cannot help but remember my teacher Prof. C.S. Jayaram, who has always been and will continue to be the role model in my pursuit of excellence. I also express my gratitude to my dear friends Prof. Geethakumari V. S., Dr. Priya Jose, Dr. Meera Gopal, and Jaya S. who spurred me on with their motivating words. I am deeply indebted to Prof. R. Rajashree, Head of the Department and all my dear colleagues in the Department of English, Maharaja’s College, for their timely succour. Special thanks are due to Dr. R. K. Jayashree, former head of the English Department, Maharajas College, for the staunch support, care and concern she showed in the last crucial months of the completion of my work.

I especially thank my parents, Smt. Girija and Sri. L. Chandramohan, my grandmother Smt. T.K. Radha, my uncle Sri. T. D. Robin, my brothers Harish and Sandeep, and my sister-in-law Nitha, for their unstinting support and understanding.

To my dear son Darshan I owe tons and tons of gratitude for the amazing tolerance he had exhibited in putting up with the tantrums and agitations of a harried mother.

And finally I express my thankful veneration to God Almighty who constantly assured me of his presence whenever I needed him most.

Lakshmi S.