Acknowledgement

Let me place on record my indebtedness to all those who encouraged and supported me in the course of this project and helped me to realize my dream.

I express my profound gratitude to my supervisor, Dr. Varghese C. Abraham for his valuable guidance, vast knowledge, innovative suggestions and meticulous editing which have been responsible for the evolution of this thesis into its present form. I also appreciate the warm hospitality extended to me by his family.

I thank UGC for granting me the teacher fellowship and the management of St. Peter’s College, Kolenchery, for permitting me to avail the FIP, without which I would not have been able to complete my thesis.

I especially remember with gratitude the encouragement and help tendered to me by our Principal Dr. Thampy Abraham and also the services rendered by the office staff.

I will forever be indebted to my dear friends Shibu P. V., Sonia James and Jessy James for their invaluable camaraderie and support. I also appreciate the encouragement given by my colleagues in the department. Particular regards are due to my fellow researchers and friends Madhu V., Suja T. V., Lakshmi S. and Rakesh C. Jose.
I thank the Principal of Maharaja’s College, Prof. N. L. Beena, Head of the Department of English, Prof. R. Rajashree and the faculty of the Department of English for their cooperation and timely help. I also remember with gratitude Mr. P.T. Markose, the librarian, and all the staff of Maharaja’s College Library.

I am deeply indebted to my parents V. J. Joseph and Rosamma Joseph for their faith in me and also their heartfelt care, prayers and support which made this difficult journey a bearable one. I remember with warmth the reassuring support of my father-in-law K. S. Scaria and my sisters Reinu and Roshan.

I express my inexpressible gratitude to my husband Jack Zacharias who had been with me always, motivating and supporting me and without him my work would have remained incomplete. I cherish the infinite patience and tolerance and loving concern shown by my children Joseph and Antony.

Finally, I thank God Almighty for His infinite Grace that helped me to complete this research work.

Binuja Joseph