Preface and Acknowledgements

Mystery fiction first made its mark in the 1800 with Edgar Allan Poe and his character Le Chevalier C. Auguste Dupin from “The Murders in the Rue Morgue” (1841). “The Mystery of Marie Roget” (1842) and “The Purloined Letter” (1845). They are considered Locked Room Mysteries. These works follow the intelligent amateur solving the most impossible crimes by getting into the psyche of the criminal. Poe is one of the first writers to move away from mystery's supernatural and more towards the intellectual. His writing began to focus on the mind of the villain or culprit rather than rely on 'strange' and 'spooky'. Thus the mystery genre is rooted in realism.

Poe conceals the elements of mystery through his unique fictional mode of writing and how it can be unveiled. The solution of the mystery can be brought about by the identification of the reasons and intellect with that of his opponent. The solution of the mystery depends on the exact admeasurements of the other man’s mental processes. This admeasurements is to be made in terms of analysis. The mystery is not to be solved by the powers of intuition. In intuition, one can put forward no criteria which can lead to the final unraveling of the mystery: there is no step by step progression toward the conclusion.

In this context, I take this opportunity to thank all who helped me in preparing the Thesis. First of all, I place on record my profound sense of gratitude to my Research Guide and supervisor Dr. T. Jayakumar for his steadfast guidance and encouragement throughout the writing of this dissertation. But for his incisive critical analysis and technical suggestions, the Thesis could not here got its shape. I express my deep sense of gratitude to my research advisor for his valuable guidance and for being a source of inspiration in writing the Thesis. He helped me a lot amidst his tight schedule. I thank him cordially.
I wish to thank the former Teachers Dr. R. Mahendran, Dr. P. Kumaresan and Dr. N. Geethanjali for having admitted me to do Ph.D programme in their respective colleges. I will ever remember their timely help. Also, I thank the principal Dr. S. Rajendran for having admitted me to do Ph.D programme in this college.

I would like to thank professor A. William John Bosco, the Head of the Department of English, Periyar E.V.R. College (Autonomous), Tiruchirappalli – 23 for his constant support in doing my research.

My special thanks are due to Prof. M. Ranjith, Head of the Department of English, BDU, Constituent Arts & Science college, Navalurkuttappattu for his valuable help. I place on record of my sincere thanks to Dr. R. Elavarasu, Head of the Department of English, National College, Tiruchirappalli -1 for his moral support and motivation throughout the work.

I am also thankful to the Librarian of OUCIP, Osmania University, Hyderabad and SCILET, American College, Madurai for the great assistant rendered to me during my visit.

I will be failing in my duty if I do not place on record my heart–felt gratitude to my beloved parents, Thiru. K. Srinivasan and S.Thazhambu who have nurtured the discipline of reading since the days of my childhood even though they are illiterate and village dwellers.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to my beloved wife R. Mahalakshimi and my sister M.Kasthuri who give me moral and financial support. My warm regards go to my children Nithish. S and Vedhavarshini. S
I express my sincere thanks to all my colleagues in the Department of English, BDU, Constituent Arts and Science college, Navalurkuttappattu, Tiruchi-9 for their good wishes and precious advice in preparing this thesis.

I wish to thank my friends Mr. T. Jayabal and A. Sankarguru for their encouragement to complete the work.

I wish to thank Saikanna Computers and Sri Amman Computers, Tiruchirappali for the neat execution of the work.

Mr. S. Sundaramoorthy.