

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My most sincere and special thanks go to Dr. Sanjiv Kumar under whose critical supervision, this thesis has been completed. I really feel myself privileged to be getting a supervisor of the stature of Dr. Sanjiv Kumar, and getting the opportunity to work with him. His guidance helped me throughout my research and documentation of this thesis. I could not have imagined having a better advisor and mentor for my Ph.D. study.

Completing this work would have been all the more difficult were it not for the support and guidance provided by the other faculty members and students of the Department of English and Foreign Languages at Central University of Haryana. I am indebted to Prof. Bir Singh Yadav and other respected teachers of the department for their help.

I am also indebted to Dr. Suman Ahlawat and Dr. Gurjinder Kaur for their constant encouragement in helping me to define the key issues.

I am indeed grateful to my dear parents, whose undiluted affection and support enabled me to accomplish the task in hand. I dedicate this thesis to my father who always had confidence in me. I am truly grateful to my amazing husband, Rakesh, for his unconditional love and support. I thank him for extending me moral support in the moments of perplexity and confusion. I am exceedingly thankful to my sister-in-law, Dr. Sunil Dabas, Padma Shri Awardee, for her constant encouragement and support which cannot be returned but can only be acknowledged. I also extend my deep sense of gratitude for my classmates and the library staff of this university for providing me resources and suitable ambience for my research.

(Indu Rani)