ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It is my honest and sincere duty to express my sense of gratitude to all those who have helped me directly or indirectly in completing the present research work. I know it is a difficult task for me to mention all the names in person because it always involves the possibility of missing someone who is very near and dear to me.

I feel proud and fortunate enough to have Dr. A. Y. Shinde as my Research Guide. He spared no efforts to give me valuable research guidance and make this dissertation as good as possible. He has been my 'Teacher, Philosopher and Guide' in the true sense. He motivated the interest for research in me. I owe deep gratitude to him. Along with my research guide, I have equal respect and warm feelings to Prof. Dr M. L. Jadhav, Head, Dept. of English, Shivaji University, Kolhapur, Prof. Dr. P. A. Attar and their colleagues who always inspire, support and guide students like me, in academic pursuits.

I have great respect to the Naik Nimbalkars, the royal family of Phaltan. They have not only opened the doors of higher education to the rural students like me but also supported to achieve spectacular success. Warm thanks are also due to Hon. Shrimant Ramraje Naik Nimbalkar, Hon. Shrimant Raghunathraje Naik Nimanlkar and Hon, Shrimant Sanjeevraje Naik Nimbalkar. I would also like to thank Prof. Nagre, Head, Dept. of English, M. J. S. College, Shrigonda who is my idol and true well wishers. I feel proud to acknowledge special thanks to my teachers who always inspired me Mr. S. Dixit, Mr. M. T. Dhole, Mr. A. Shinde, Shri. V. Dhamal, F. Shaikh, Mrs. Mane and Mrs. Jagtap. I express thanks to the Librarians and their staff, in particular to the libraries of Shivaji, Pune, C. S. College, Satara and Mudhoji College, Phaltan. I am equally grateful to Dr. Mudavvar Madam, Head, Dept. of English, C. S. College, Satara. I would also like to thank my teachers and authorities from C. S. College, Satara.

Each and every person in the world stands on the encouragement of one's family. I express my deep attachment and love to my Parents, In-laws, Uncles, Aunts and all the relatives who have been helpful and supportive in my overall progression. Their well wishes and blessings have brought me to this stage. I am grateful to Dr. Manoj Borate, my life partner, for his kind support in the advancement of my educational career and my pursuit of academic excellence. It also gives me great pleasure to express my sense of gratitude towards my late father Kundlik Chakane, my mother Smt. Anjanidevi, My in-laws Kanta Borate and Mrs. Malan Borate, my uncle Chandrakant Zurange and Aunt Mandakini Zurange. I am thankful to my brother-in-laws Rajendra Borate, Mahesh Borate, Rajendra Mehetre, Prashant Borate, Ganesh Borate and Shrinivas Borate, my sister- in- law Prof. Shailaja Nale, my brothers Shivaji Chakane, Vishnu Nale and Prof. Dattatraya Shinde and sisters Sou. Meenakshi, Sou. Shubhangi, Sou. Arti and Sou. Supriya, my son Shreej, my nephews Abhijeet, Unmesh, Shivkumar, Ishan and Aashish and My nieces Anagha, Harshadha, Yashashri and Shubhra for their emotional, lovable support and co-operation which enabled me to make my dream a reality.

Lastly, I must thank all the scholars mentioned in the Bibliography because of them my research work is an outcome on the supreme land prepared by them.

Place: Satara Date: March, 2015 Research Student

(Manjusha Kundlik Chakane)