ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am greatly indebted to Dr. A.G. Joshi for guiding me in writing this dissertation and for making me aware of the rigours of academic discipline. He has helped me shape my ideas with meticulous care and exemplary patience. He remained a great source of inspiration at every stage of this work. This formal acknowledgement is an inadequate expression of my profound gratitude to him.

I would also like to thank Dr. C.J. Jahagirdar, Head, Department of English, Dr. P.B. Deshpande and other members of the Department, Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

I am also thankful to Shri P.J. Tamhankar, Principal, Smt. Mathubai Garware Kanya, Mahavidyalaya Sangli, and Shri D.H. Kulkarni, Secretary, Women's Education Society, Sangli for their constant encouragement and valuable help. I am also thankful to Dr. R.G. Desai, Dr. B.N. Sardesai and Prof. V.B. Mahajan for their encouragement.

I must extend my thanks to the Librarian and staff of (I) Shivaji University Library, Kolhapur, (II) Mumbai University Library, Mumbai, (III) Osmania University Library, Hyderabad, (IV) CIEFL Library, Hyderabad (V) British Council Library, Mumbai, (VI) Smt. Mathubai Garware Kanya Mahavidyalaya Library, Sangli (vii) Devchand College Library, Arjunnagar.

I must record my feelings of deep gratitude to my mother, brothers-Vilas, and Prasad, sisters-Shanta, Chabu, Mangal, Chaya, Vaishali, Sulekha and Yogita. I must express gratitude to my uncle, Appasaheb and aunt Sou. Mangal Sugate and my brother-inlaw, Shri Hariram Gondhali, who have always encouraged me to strive for higher education. My expression of gratitude would be incomplete were I not to mention Shashikant, Babasaheb, Uttam, Prashant and Suhas for their moral support and encouragement. I am also thankful to Archana and Sarita for their help. I must thank Shri Mangalkumar Patil for his valuable help. I am also thankful to the members of the family of Shri G.N. Joshi, Mrs. & Mr. Kinange for their valuable help and encouragement in completing this study. Finally I would like to thank Mr. Sanjay Suryawanshi (S&S Services) for his prompt and neat computer typing in the presentation of this dissertation.

A. S. Sugate.