## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere heartfelt gratitude to my research supervisor and guide, Dr. Hitesh Raviya, Head, Department of English, the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for his bountiful support and guidance with which I have been able to complete my research. I truly acknowledge his constant scholarly guidance, encouragement and motivational support that was much needed for me to be able to strive and accomplish my academic goals within the stipulated period of time.

I heartily thank all the learned professors of the Department of English, the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for their valuable suggestions during presentations and reviews, and their good wishes that have always been with me throughout my Ph.D. journey.

I am truly grateful to Professor Krishnan, Former Dean, Faculty of Arts, the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, and Professor Adhya Saxena, Dean, Faculty of Arts, the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for their inspiring words and encouragement.

I am also thankful to all the teachers of Departmental Research Committee namely Professor Sachin Ketkar, Professor Madhurita Choudhary, Dr Charul Jain, Dr Neeti Singh, and Dr Aditi Vahia for rendering their support and encouragement. I am also grateful to the administrative staff of the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for granting permissions and making the process easier for me in the course of this research study. I thank all my co-scholars whose casual talks and support has helped me a lot through my research journey. Lastly, I will always be indebted for my father's encouragement, endless praise, and support.

## SHAHDADPURI DEEPALI DINESH