

Acknowledgements

This dissertation would never have been completed without the efforts of a number of people, who not only helped me conducting the research, but also stood by me in every moment of need. First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my mentor and research supervisor Dr. Rajan J. Barrett for his guidance and support. Without him, perhaps the dissertation would never be completed.

I have no words adequate to express my sincere gratitude to Professor Adhya B. Saxena, Dean, Faculty of Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for her critical inputs, encouragement and support and Dr. Hitesh Raviya, Professor and Head, Department of English and Vice- Dean, Faculty of Arts, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for his kind words, cooperation and encouragement. I express my sincere regards to the Faculty Members of the Department of English, especially Professor Sachin C. Ketkar, Professor Deeptha Achar, Professor Madhurita Chaudhary, Dr. Bela Desai and all other teachers of the Department for their constant encouragement, suggestions and research inputs. I also thank my fellow research scholars in the Department, especially Mr. Somnath K. Jagtap and Mr. Dhiren Parmar for their support and kind help. I also thank Mrs. Pallavi Patel and Mr. Ramesh Vaghela, for their kind support. I express my gratitude to the administrative departments, administration fellow boarders and the staff members of Vikram Sarabhai Hostel and University administration of Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for their help and cooperation.

I express my sincere gratitude to my friend Dr. Pradipta Shyam Chowdhury, Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of North Bengal for his consistent help, support, guidance and encouragement. I express my indebtedness to Dr. Sumanapal Bhikkhu, the eminent Buddhist scholar and lecturer in the Department of Pali, University of Calcutta for his continuous guidance and support. I also thank Mr. Sayan Chatterjee, PhD research scholar,

Department of English, University of North Bengal for his help and cooperation in technical issues related to the dissertation and my student Dr. Sudipta Halder for his suggestions and help.

I sincerely thank Dr. Mausumi Ghosh, Principal of Sri Ramkrishna Sarada Vidyamahapitha for her support, guidance and encouragement. I thank my colleagues in the Departments of English and Bengali, especially Mr. Jayanto Ghosh and Dr. Anik Kumar Saha for their kind cooperation, support and help. I express my indebtedness to my parents, my maternal grandmother late Mrs. Pranati Banerjee, my maternal aunt late Mrs. Lipi Banerjee, my sister Sriparna, my brother-in-law Shounak and my niece Hitangshi for being with me in moments of crisis.

I express my indebtedness to the administration of British Council Library, Kolkata and Hansa Mehta Central Library, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Indian Museum, Kolkata, National Museum, New Delhi, Bodhgaya Museum, Guwahati Museum, Orissa State Museum, Bhubaneswar, and the archaeological sites at Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra, Udaygiri, Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Hirapur, Bhubaneswar in Orissa, Bodhgaya, Kurkihar in Bihar, for providing me the resources to write my dissertation. I acknowledge my debt to various websites, especially www.marxists.org for their resources accessible to everyone and PMLA Handbook Eighth Edition for helping me to format my dissertation.

Subham Amin

