

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

What we find changes who we become. I realised this only towards the end of my PhD, as I looked back to the beginning of my journey as a Doctoral student, struggling with a task I had always dreamt of doing, without much idea of what it entails. While the PhD took away much of my time in the last five years, I have become far richer not solely in knowledge, but more importantly, in developing perspectives.

However, I could never have done this by myself. I am indebted to my supervisor Prof. Madhurita Choudhary for accepting, and encouraging a niche, unconventional subject that has often drawn suspicious looks for its novelty in India. Her maddening eye for detail drove me to polish, and clarify overarching, vague ideas. I especially thank her for the profound patience she has shown during my empty spells, and the warmth and support she exuded every time I met her.

I must also not forget to thank Prof. Sachin Ketkar, Prof. Deeptha Achar and Dr. Rajan Barrett for the constant nudging, feedback, books, coffee, conversations and unfailing encouragement that pushed me to carry on when I was flagging. Their insights, comments and trust in me has led me to work as hard as I could. I will forever be grateful to them all.

I express my sincere thanks to the Dept. of English, The M. S. University of Baroda for giving me the opportunity, the resources, and a stimulating platform to share my research with other faculty, students, and fellow researchers. I found myself enriched every time I came here.

I owe much gratitude to the Director, as well as the Head of the Dept. of Mathematics and Humanities, and my colleagues at Institute of Technology, Nirma University, for the generous, and unflagging support extended to me, that allowed me to complete my

coursework, and eventually, my thesis. One cannot really work well without the enduring support of a workplace, and I cannot underestimate the contribution of Nirma University.

It is my family who bore the brunt of my hectic life, my mood swings, and my messy schedules that deprived them of quality time with me. For about half a decade, I have given more time to my thesis than to them. Without their unspoken support and the numerous sacrifices they have made for me, I would not have continued to both love, and research my subject. Without Mohsin shouldering every responsibility and leaving me free to read and write, my parents who raised a girl capable of questioning everything critically, and my sister Resham whose enthusiasm always cheered me up, I would have faltered long back.