

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to my research supervisor Dr. Aarati Mujumdar who directed me with all patience one could have. I am very fortunate to enjoy her motherly care along with academic guidance whenever I visited Baroda during past six years.

I express my sincere thanks to the Department of English, The M. S. University of Baroda for providing me an opportunity to pursue my research work. I am very thankful to Professor S.P. Pandya, Head of the Department of English; Professor M.F. Salat, Former Head of the Department of English, of The M.S. University of Baroda, Professor Deeptha Achar and Professor Sachin Ketkar for their guidance, encouragement and support.

This thesis is dedicated to Principal R. C. Desai, Former Secretary of Charutar Vidya Mandal, who helped me have a career in Academics and to Neha, my best friend who helped me survive in it.

Constant motivation from Bhaskar Pandya, Sunil Shah, Kaushal Kotadia and Devang Rangani helped me accomplish this task. I am thankful to almighty for giving me such wonderful friends.

I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the staff of The M.S. University of Baroda, for their cooperation during the course of my studies.

Tarun Patel