

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to many distinguished people and institutions that have helped and supported me during the journey of my research.

Firstly, I would like to extend my deep sense of reverence and gratitude to the person who is a lot more than my friend, philosopher and guide, Prof. Sachin C. Ketkar for the unending support during my research, for his kindness, consideration, patience, motivation, resoluteness and immense knowledge, for his esteemed consent to guide me and for the motivation to choose such a topic. Enlightening me with the first glance of research and conducting the academic study regarding such an intricate topic couldn't be as simple as he made this for me. He is my mentor and a better advisor for my doctorate study beyond imagination. His research guidance had started ever since 2011 when I was doing M.A. I cannot thank him enough for the enormous support he has extended throughout. He saw things in me which I could not. I am extremely fortunate that it was only because of him that the academic in me was born. One cannot possibly want a better research guide than him. He is my role model and I will be thankful to god, if I could ever be even a bit of him in academics.

Besides my guide, I would like to thank Prof. Hitesh D. Raviya, the Head, Department of English and the Vice-Dean, Faculty of Arts, for providing me with the requisite institutional support throughout my research tenure. His genuine institutional aid is worthy of my high regards and his endless guidance for academics and administration is hard to forget throughout my life. His generosity has always been the key to face the challenges and maintaining the work-research balance.

Also, I would like to acknowledge the generosity and support extended by the former Head of the English Department, Prof. Sudha P. Pandya.

I express my profound gratitude to Prof. K. Krishnan, the former Dean and to Prof. Adhya Saxena, the current Dean, the Faculty of Arts, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for their logistic support, scholarly advice, invaluable suggestions

and blessings. Also, I would like to thank Prof. Sanjay Karandikar the then Dean of Students (2017) and the external expert for my Ph.D. admission, for his warmth and advice.

My sincere thanks go to the then Departmental Research Committee which constituted of Prof. Sudha P. Pandya, Prof. Sachin C. Ketkar, Dr. Hitesh D. Raviya, Prof. Deeptha Achar, Dr. Neeti Singh and Dr. Aditi Vahia for approving my proposal and providing me an opportunity to join the rigorous research programme. Without their precious time and academic support, it would not have been possible to conduct this research.

I extend my deep sense of gratitude to the teachers of The Department of English, Faculty of Arts, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, for the suggestions, encouragement and optimism. Especially, I am so thankful to Dr. Bela Desai and Ms. Utpala Mehta for the constant motivation and warmth.

I am also extremely grateful to Prof. Madhurita Chaudhary for the encouragement, guidance and support she has extended.

I extend sincere thanks to Department of English non-teaching staff members, Ms. Pallavi Patel and Mr. Ramesh Vaghela for their welcoming support always.

I also whole heartedly thank the university head-office staff, especially Mr. Mayur Dhamecha for his patience, kindness, consideration and endless help.

I am exceedingly thankful to the UGC SAP DRS II, Department of English which provided me an academic environment nurturing my academic skills. I can't thank enough for lending me the precious books from the DRS library.

I am also thankful to the Shrimati Hansa Mehta Library, the Maharaja Sayajirao University and JSTOR for the timely academic help.

I would like to thank my fellow researchers and friends, Mr. Parth Dave, Mr. Pronoy Singha, Mr. Kirti Vitthani, Mr. Ajay Chhuchar, Mr. Shailendra Mishra, Mr. Jitendra Singh, Sabbir Galariya and Janak Parmar for the stimulating discussions and the fun we have had in the last few years.

My special thanks are also for Mr. Yogesh Bhanushankar Oza, the former Principal of Baroda Sanskrit Mahavidhyalaya, for his constant guidance, encouragement and inspiration since my childhood.

At this stage in my life, I would like to sincerely acknowledge the precious guidance of my high school English teacher, Mr. Murali Mohan Krishnaiah. Considering my writing performance in the subject of English then (2007), he suggested me to opt for B.A. English, if I could not make it to engineering. I believe this journey's green flag was waved by him and I extend hearty thanks to him.

I would like to acknowledge the people whom I regard precious as gems, my Pappa and Mummy, for showing confidence in me, for giving me the freedom to choose what I desired and for never pressurizing me for taking things up.

My Pappa, Mr. Narendra M. Parmar, I bow down and extend my love to him. I can never imagine myself like him, being able to do so much for the family. Words will never be enough to say how much I value him. This project has indeed been a marathon and with infinite gratitude I dedicate this thesis to him.

My Mummy, Mrs. Padmini N. Parmar, I salute her for all the selfless love, care, pain and sacrifice she did to shape my life and making me into who I am. Although she knew very little of what I worked upon, she was willing to support any decision I made. I would never be able to pay back the love and affection showered upon me by her. I also thank her for the wholehearted and boundless funding and assistance she provided for the conduct of my research.

Also, I express my deep thanks to my brother Major Chintan Parmar and sister in law Ms. Rakshita Parmar for their motivation, support and prayers.

All the more, I acknowledge my baby, my little son Keyansh, who has been the light of my life for the last three-four years, for the patience he has shown during my studying and thesis writing. His presence has always motivated me to set good examples.

My heartfelt thanks are also for my in laws Mr. Vijay Joshi, Mrs. Meena Joshi and Mr. Nikunj Joshi for the unconditional support they extended to me and my family so far. I genuinely thank them for their love and trust.

I would also like to thank my dearest friends Manit, Nrupa and Dhanashree for their love and support. They always managed to make me feel lighter from the academic strains.

I would like to thank each and every one, associated with me, for supporting me academically, physically and spiritually throughout the research and my life in general.

Last but not the least; I owe many thanks to a very special person, my wife, Chandni. I appreciate her for the sleepless nights she spent in raising our son and sparing me to do my research work. I thank her for the unfailing trust she has showered upon me during the time of crisis. I am extremely fortunate to have her in my life for always letting me read and write, giving me the space for the conduct of my research. I may have lived, breathed and even dreamt of this thesis but one thing is certain that without her, my life and dreams would not have made it to this phase. I am greatly indebted to her and I genuinely thank her from the bottom of my heart.

I extend sincere apologies to those, whom I might have missed to acknowledge.

-Mr. Parmar Dhiren Narendra