

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank and acknowledge the keen insights, critical inputs and apt guidance of my research guide Prof. Deeptha Achar. She has helped me to widen my scope, perspective, tested my limits and introduced me to different knowledge systems, without which my research would not be possible. Her liberal yet disciplined nature gave me enough freedom to pursue my paths under her constant guidance. Even my future endeavours will be indebted to her.

I would like to acknowledge the love and care of late Prof. J.H. Khan. former Head of Department of English, Sardar Patel University. He was my MPhil supervisor and his care, helpful nature and guidance has made an impact in my life personally as well as professionally as a teacher. His loving image is always there in my heart as a guiding star.

I also want to acknowledge here my teacher, Manish R Solanki, Assistant Professor of Department of English, Sardar Patel University for showing me different paths which enabled me to develop a perspective which has helped me after my post-graduate years.

I would like to thank Prof. Sudha Pandya, former Head of the English Department, MSU for her support in my initial days as JRF. I would like to thank Prof. Hitesh Raviya, Head, Department of English, MSU for his support and attention.

I would like to thank Dr. Rajan Barrett for his help and all the unfinished conversation which formed many questions and provided ground for constant self-questioning. I would like to thank him for his suggestions in formation of the title of this dissertation.

I would like to thank Santosh Dash for his helpful guidance on the topic of the Enlightenment and providing his insights on Chapter 1.

I would like to thank all the teachers of Department of English, MSU, for their direct and indirect help with this research. I thank Dhiren Parmar, Devang Nanavati, and Somnath Jagtap for their support during this research. I would like to thank Rameshbhai and Pallavi Ben for their help with administrative work and support. DRS library at the Department of English MSU, where I spent a year sitting and reading is wonderful place for any research scholar to develop his/her ideas. I am grateful to the Department and all the persons connected to DRS Library for their support.

I would like to thank my friends Lancy, Onvi, Lizy, Kesha, Pratiksha, Bageshree, and Jay Prakash for their constant support and all the conversations which made this research fun and worth pushing. I would like to thank them for all the help. The year I spent at the Department with Lancy, Onvi and Lizy, working side by side together on different topics was

a year full of great learning with fun. Kesha was in his first year when I first met him, Pratiksha, Bageshree and Jay Prakash I met later after their joining. I will cherish their memory with love. I would like to thank my colleagues Dr. Kunal Seth and Heena Parmar for their concern and support. I would like to thank my friends Lalji and Tarakbhai for their timely scolding and useful advice.

I would like to thank my parents Shree Rameshbhai Akhabhai Gohel and Shree Harkhiben Rameshbhai Gohel for giving their heart, soul and blood in my education. Although their education stopped at 7th and 3rd standard respectively they have done everything in their capacity so that my education doesn't stop. My whole existence and work are a result of their hard work, I cannot thank them in words.

I would like to thank my wife Nisha, who has spent many sleepless nights with me during the writing of this dissertation, who has cared for me and supported and motivated me with her love and care all these years. I acknowledge her contribution.

I would like to acknowledge here, also, the contribution of my two-year-old daughter Rudraa for giving me hope for a better future, and making my life content and full of happiness and joy.

Gohel Bhaveshbhai Rameshbhai