## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I dedicate my work to the most compassionate and kind deities in the universe, Shree Radha and Krishna, who bestowed their blessings upon me and enabled me to finish my study.

Before anything else, I want to say how grateful I am to Dr. Anshu Surve, Assistant Professor in the Department of English at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, who has been like a mother to me and who has helped me learn the language of research, provided invaluable feedback on my work, and served as my supervisor throughout this entire process. From the moment she accepted me as a Research Scholar and officially enrolled me as her student, until I finished writing the thesis, gained her guidance, and handed it in, I have been in her debt. Her wealth of experience and vast body of knowledge has been an endless source of inspiration to me in my studies and beyond. For her careful and insightful supervision of this study, as well as her tolerance of my flaws, she has my deepest gratitude. I also appreciate all the help she gave me with my research and am grateful for her thoughtfulness, generosity, patience, inspiration, determination, and wealth of information. She has not only helped me succeed academically, but also become a better educator, person, and survivor. I am grateful for her generosity in providing me with food and a place to stay in the days before the deadline for my thesis. I couldn't have written and completed this thesis without her unwavering support and helpful suggestions.

In addition to my advisor, Prof. Hitesh D. Raviya, Head, Department of English and Vice-Dean, Faculty of Arts, provided me with the necessary institutional support throughout my research period. His true institutional support is deserving of my utmost respect, and his unending advice in the areas of education and administration will be difficult to forget. I am extremely grateful to him for all of the time, energy, and encouragement he has given me.

For allowing me to pursue a PhD degree, I am extremely grateful to the Registrar at Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda and all other officials who helped me get registered. For their blessings and permission at each stage of the enrollment and submission processes, I am indebted to Prof. K. Krishnan, former Dean of the Faculty of Arts, and Prof. Adhya Saxena, Dean of the Faculty of Arts. I am extremely grateful to the Departmental Research Committee at the time for giving me the chance to participate in the tough research programme once they approved my application. It would not have been possible to perform this study without their valuable time and intellectual help. My sincere appreciation goes out to the teachers of the English department of the Arts faculty of Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for their guidance, support, and encouragement. Prof. Sachin Ketkar's direction and insightful conversation on the subject are invaluable to me.

Ms. Pallavi Patel and Mr. Ramesh Vaghela, two non-instructional staff members in the English Department, have my deepest gratitude.

At the time of my PhD registration, I had many questions about the Sanskrit language and theory, and I am grateful to Dr. Shweta Jejurkar, Assistant Professor in the Department of Sanskrit at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, and Dr. Sweta Prajapati, Incharge Director of the Oriental Institute at the same university for guiding.

The administration in the university's Head Office has been nothing but helpful, considerate, and kind to me. I want to express my gratitude to the staff at the Smt. Hansa Mehta Library for letting me use their services to gather resources for my research.

I'd like to express my gratitude to Dr. Daxesh Thakar, Provost of Vanita Vishram Women's University, for granting me leave to complete and submit my PhD thesis in time.

For help with the documentation of my synopsis and thesis, I also like to thank Dr. Dhiren Parmar, Dr. Deepali Shahdadpuri, and Mr. Ajay Chhuchar.

When I was having trouble turning in my PhD and managing job, my friends and colleagues Sneha Prajapati and Priti Paranjape were invaluable resources for me. I'd want to thank Dr. Jaspreet Minhas, a coworker and friend, for continuously pushing me to keep up with my work and finish my thesis on time. Thank you to my friend and coworker Sapna Shah for listening to my research woes and providing invaluable assistance at workplace.

In addition, I would like to express my appreciation to two wonderful people at my current place of employment, Megha Joshi and Mahima Panjabi, for inspiring me to finish my thesis, assisting me with work, managing things behind while I was on leave for submitting the thesis, and reassuring me that everything will be okay.

I owe a great debt of gratitude to my friend, younger sister and researcher Drashti Varia, who never failed to lift my spirits even when things seemed hopeless and bringing me back to research and to Anwesha Basu, who was at my side from the very first to the very last day of my PhD programme. For the six-monthly presentations, the many leanings, and the engaging arguments, I had both of them to thank.

There are no words to express how much I appreciate all the encouragement and enthusiasm that my best friend Hari Mohan has given me over the years. He supported me through every low point, writer's block, and challenge I faced while composing the thesis. He has been an incredible force in my life's worst hours and in developing my thesis.

Dada, Dr. Sunil Surve, husband of my mentor Dr. Anshu Surve, also deserves my gratitude for teaching me the importance of work-life balance, for motivating me to get my work done, and for providing a pleasant space in which to do it. The scoldings of the guide and the solemn mood of investigation were countered by his wry sense of humour.

My deepest gratitude goes to my father, Dr. Hariniwas Tiwari, whom I have always looked up to and who inspired me to pursue a PhD. Because of him, I decided to major in English at the undergraduate level and enrolled in the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda for my master's degree, which led to my eventual doctorate and professional success. He deserves the credit for turning my early-learner curiosity into a Research project. He has guided, aided, motivated, supported, and encouraged me to enrol in a PhD programme, put in the necessary effort to succeed, and earn my degree. His expertise in the field proved invaluable throughout the investigation; whenever questions or difficulties arose, he was only a phone call away.

Sincere appreciation to my dear sister Shaily for her continuous technical assistance and the comfortable time I spent at her house before submitting my thesis. I appreciate her patience with my mood swings and the way she lifted my spirits during my trying periods of subjection. My mother, Seema Tiwari has been a tremendous sources of inspiration and encouragement, and I am grateful to her always. All the times I felt like giving up, it was her love that kept me going. Much of what I have accomplished and who I am today would not have been possible without my mummy's support. When I was

having a tough time writing the thesis, my younger brother Kunal Tiwari was there to reassure me that everything would be well.

Last but not the least, my husband, Saurabh Chaturvedi, deserves my gratitude for putting up with me throughout the years we were geographically apart so that I could write this thesis. I appreciate him realizing how crucial a PhD is to my career.

Without each and every one of you, I would not have been able to finish my research. I deeply apologize to anyone I may have forgotten to thank.

Ms. Garima Hariniwas Tiwari