

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A profound sense of gratitude binds me to my mentor, esteemed Prof. Sachin Ketkar, Professor, Department of English, The M. S. University of Baroda. Words fail me when I try to express my gratitude towards Prof. Sachin Ketkar for without his continual and scholarly guidance, this thesis would have never been possible. I would express my sincere thanks to Prof. Ketkar for encouraging my research and for allowing me to grow as a research scholar. His suggestions in my research work have been priceless. I was to some extent worried at the initial stage that how could I pursue and sustain my research under such a prolific writer and critic, but his kind nature and affectionate soul has made me eligible to learn his scholarly treasure.

I express my sincere thanks to the Department of English, The M. S. University of Baroda for giving me an opportunity to conduct this research work. I especially wish to thank Professor Deeptha Achar and Dr. Rajan Barrett for their encouraging words throughout this research.

I am grateful to the staff at my college library, Kheralu; at the Hansa Mehta Library, Vadodara; and DRS Library, the Department of English (Faculty of Arts), the M. S. University of Baroda.

I extend my gratitude to R. H. Chaudhari, the Principal of The K.N.S.B.L. Arts and Commerce College, Kheralu who has not only encouraged me to join Ph.D. but also sanctioned required leaves to attend coursework while conducting research. How can I forget my friend Dr. Manish Vyas, who has supported me in preparing a methodical sketch at the initial stage? I am grateful to Dr. Vyas, who supported and often sent me some valuable books relevant to my research topic. I also thank my friend Iliyasbhai for providing me certain details related to this research work. I thank Amarendra for formatting help at the last stage.

I am grateful to my colleagues: Babubhai Chaudhari, Kamlesh Patel and Dr. M. B. Patel, who always supported me and managed the extra work during my absence from the college.

A special thanks to my family. Words cannot express how grateful I am to my mother and father for all the sacrifices they have made for me. Their prayer for me was what sustained me thus far. I would express heartfelt thanks to my wife Babu for her emotional and moral support. Without her energetic support I could not have managed this crucial phase so far. I would also express appreciation to my dear sons: Nirmal and Hardik who were always my support while dealing with the computer work.

I dedicate this thesis to my parents— Ijuben and Hemrajbhai.

Bhagvanbhai Chaudhari