ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am indebted to my supervisor Dr. B.K. Banerjee, for his encouragement and affection. I acknowledge my debt to Professor K.K.Roy, Department of English, North Bengal University, whose erudite exhortation helped shape my synopsis. I am grateful to Professor Asutosh Banerjee, Department of English, North Bengal University, for his valuable suggestions.

Here are my heart-felt thanks for Professor Isaac Sequiera, of American Studies Research Centre, Hyderabad, Professor Visvanath Chatterjee of Jadavpur University, Calcutta, and, Shakespeare Professor Amitava Roy of Rabindra Bharati University, Calcutta.

I record my obligations to the staff of the Department of English, Registrar Branch and University Library of North Bengal University, the staff of American Studies Research Centre, Hyderabad, American Center Library, Calcutta, National Library, Calcutta, Indian Council of Social Science Research, Calcutta. I am thankful to Rev. J. Gimenez, S. D. B. Catholic Church, Purnea, as he translated some dialogues from the plays of Tennessee Williams, from Italian to English.

I express my gratitude to University of North Bengal for granting me long-term Research Fellowship and to Professor M. Glen Johnson and Professor David Harrell for allowing me to utilize "ASRC Teacher Research Grant" twice.

My parents' loving solicitude and mute blessings made the rigours of this effort enjoyable. My only brother Kalyan's unstinting co-operation, love and best wishes never let my spirits slacken. Last but not the least, the brothers of <u>PRATILIPI COMPUTER</u> <u>CONCERN</u> deserve a vote of thanks for their keen co-operation.