

Acknowledgements

It is a pleasure to acknowledge my indebtedness to all the people and institutions whose assistance has made this work possible. I am immensely grateful to my supervisor, Professor Soumyajit Samanta of the Department of English, North Bengal University, without whose invaluable guidance this work would not have been possible. I am also indebted to other faculty members of the English Department of North Bengal University for their encouragement. A special thanks to the University Grants Commission for providing me with financial support under the Junior Research Fellowship scheme for the first two years of this research.

I would like to thank Dr. Debkumar Mukhopadhyay, Principal, and my other colleagues, especially Papiadi, Apurba and Sougata, at Maynaguri College who had extended every kind of institutional and/or mental support to me during the strenuous process. My heartfelt thanks to the librarians and staff members of the Central Library of North Bengal University, Jadavpur University and Calcutta University; the National Library, British Council Library and American Library, Kolkata; and State Council Library and Institute of Culture Library, Golepark for providing me with the books and journals much needed for the research.

I must express my gratitude to all those friends of mine, who even if not always related to the researcher behind this dissertation, are inextricably related to the person behind it. Among them I would like to mention Sutapadi and Nilanjana for their wonderful acts of friendship and uplifting company. Indranil, Sutirthada, Mrinalda and Barnalidi, Biplabda, Jaya, Ipsitadi, Koyel, Lily-Masimoni, Pinaki and Richa have also been the endless sources of support in their own ways and to them I will always remain grateful.

I owe a debt of gratitude to both Dr. Partha Pratim Pan (Parthada), and Dr. Minakshi Chakraborty (Minakshidi) for their generous and spontaneous concern for my physical, emotional, and intellectual wellbeing in the last few years. Special thanks to Chandreyidi, and also Sunny, for the various ways they have helped me during the research. I must also thank Sandipda to whom the dissertation owes its final appearance.

Finally, my heartfelt gratitude to my family- Didi, Rimi, Abhishek and Partha for their love and encouragement that has sustained me during these days of research, and most importantly Amitabha, who has been there with me from the first day of the project to the last day of it with such an all-encompassing support that remains beyond a formal note of acknowledgement of gratitude.