

Acknowledgement

During the long period of research and writing I have incurred debt to a good number of people. First and foremost, I would like to express my appreciation and heartiest thanks to my Supervisors — Dr. Debashis Bandyopadhyay and Dr. Joyjit Ghosh — who apart from acting as Supervisors of my thesis, helped me in all possible ways from the day of getting registered as a Ph. D. scholar in Vidyasagar University to the moment of completion and final submission of my thesis. I feel any word to express my gratitude to Professor Debashis Bandyopadhyay and Professor. Joyjit Ghosh would only fall short of conveying the reality of the extent and kind of co-operation they extended to me. Whenever I approached them, even if for an insignificant issue, they gave me a patient hearing and suggested necessary guidance to accomplish my work. I can only admit that I feel fortunate enough to have the benefit from their vast scholarship and meticulous editorial judgment. Without their unflinching moral and material support, guidance and faith in my work I could never complete my Ph. D. thesis.

I am also deeply indebted to the esteemed faculty members of the Department of English at Vidyasagar University — Professor Tirthankar Das Purokayastha (Retd.), Dr. Indranil Acharya, Professor Hemant Kumar Golapalli for their encouragement and moral support. I would also like to convey my gratitude to Dr. Sharmistha Chatterjee Sriwastav, Head and Professor of English at Aliah University, Dr. Amzed Hossein, Professor of English at Aliah University, and Dr. Tajuddin Ahmed, Associate Professor of English at Aliah University for their inspiration and encouragement. Special thanks to my senior friend Sk. Nasim Ali, Head and Assistant Professor of English at Nayagram Pandit Raghunath Murmu Government College, who like an elder brother helped me to purchase a substantial number of books and articles online which are not available in Indian libraries. I am also grateful to Dr. Subhrangsu S. Mondal, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Texas, Dr. Debdulal Banerjee, Associate Professor, Department of Botany and Forestry, Vidyasagar University and my pal Mr. Rajkumar Adgiri for the same reason. My debts to all of them are unfathomable.

I am also thankful to the Librarian and authorities of the National Library, Kolkata and British Council Library, Kolkata for providing me most of the required materials in photocopy, photography and web version. Their direct and indirect assistance instilled in me a lot of self-confidence to go on with my research. I also recollect my batchmates of the Doctoral programme at the Department of English, Vidyasagar University for the sharing of their research experiences with me.

I shall be failing in my duty if at this point I do not acknowledge the debts of personal and non-academic nature that I have incurred over the years. I fondly reminisce about the sacrifices done by my recently deceased grandmother Mrs. Gandhari Singha since the day of my entry into the academic world. I am equally grateful to my family: my parents, sister and my wife for their unconditional love and support.

.....

Beetoshok Singha