Acknowledgements

With a sincere prayer to the almighty God whose blessings have given me the strength to overcome all the difficulties and sustain hope and in the path of this academic journey, I would like to express my heart-felt thanks and gratitude to those who helped and supported me in various ways to pursue this research.

First of all, I wish to express my sincerest gratitude to my supervisor Prof.

Debashis Bandyopadhyay whose constant support, scholarly guidance, insightful observation, and cheerful encouragement helped me to finish this work in due time.

I wish to thank Dr. Chirantan Sarkar, Assistant Professor at Asannagar Madan Mohan Tarkalankar College, for his valuable advice and encouragement. I am also indebted to Ms. Meenakshi Dey, my friend and batchmate in the Doctoral Programme in the university, for providing various kinds of assistance.

I have no words to thank my parents and wife, Mrinmoyee who stood beside me in the most difficult time and exempted me of the other duties as a family member. My little son with his spirit and energy used to enliven my stressed mind during rigorous work schedule. Without their co-operation, I would never have been able to finish this work.