

Acknowledgements

This thesis appears in its current form due to the assistance and guidance of several people. I would, therefore, like to offer my sincere thanks to all of them.

First and Foremost, I would like to express my profound gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Gautam K Borah for his continuous support, patience, motivation, enthusiasm and for sharing with me his wide range of knowledge during my Ph.D research. I owe a lot of gratitude to him for always being there for me and I feel privileged to be associated with a person like him during my life. I could not have imagined having a better supervisor for my Ph.D work. All shortcomings are of course mine, however.

It is a great pleasure to express my deepest thanks and gratitude to the members of the doctoral committee - Prof Madam M. Sarma and Prof Madhumita Barbora for their advice, comments, cooperation and encouragement.

I would like to thank all the other faculty members and the non teaching staff of the Department of English and Foreign Languages, Tezpur University for their kind support. Besides, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Mr. Bhaskar Bhattarai for his wonderful patience and generous support.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Pushpa Renu Bhattacharyya and Dr. Hidam for their friendly assistance, endless help and generous advice.

I am also very grateful to my parents, my brothers, and my aunt for their unbelievable love and support throughout.

Finally, my heartfelt gratitude goes to Sanjay Heisnam, my husband. His support has been unconditional all these years. He had sacrificed so many things for me so that I could complete my Ph.D. He had hidden all his problems to support me whenever I needed it. 'Thank you!' for lending your ears and for digesting all my 'frustration', despite your so busy schedule.

Louriyam Bebica Devi