

Acknowledgements

This thesis would have been impossible without contribution of different people in many ways. Space does not allow to express my gratitude to all of them.

It gives me immense pleasure to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor, Dr Pradip Jyoti Mahanta, Professor, Department of Cultural Studies and Dean, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tezpur University for his constant guidance, constructive ideas and encouragement. I am thankful to him for being accessible and ever willing help which pushed me forward and steered my endeavours to submit my thesis in the present form.

I am highly indebted to the Department of Cultural Studies and the faculty for their help and valuable insights that helped me at different stages of my work. Words fail to express my deep feelings and regards towards Prof. Sunil Kr. Dutta, Department of Cultural Studies and Prof. Debarshi Pd. Nath, Head, Department of Cultural Studies who helped me in various ways. I am also thankful to Prof. B.K. Danta and Prof. M. M. Sarmah from the Department of English and Foreign Language for their support.

My sincere thanks to staff members of Central Library, Tezpur University, ICHR North East Centre Library, Guwahati, the Assam State Archives, Guwahati and Lakshminath Bezbaroa Library, Dibrugarh University for providing me all assistance that I needed from them. The financial assistance in the form of institutional fellowship received from Tezpur University in the initial stage of this research work is duly acknowledged.

I am also highly obliged to the Vice-Chancellor of Dibrugarh University, Prof. Alok Kr. Burhagohain and all my esteemed colleagues in the Department of History for their continuous interest and inspiration.

I am indeed grateful to my family members for their patience and motivation. Without the support and blessings of my parents and in-laws, it would have been impossible for me to complete the work in time. Special thanks to my husband Shibu for his continuous moral support.