

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Dr. Parag Moni Sarma, for supervising this research and rendering all possible help and guidance. The work would not have been possible without his sincere help and co-operation. I am indebted to him for sparing his valuable time both during his stint as Reader and Head, Department of English, Assam University, and as Reader, Department of Cultural Studies of Tezpur University.

My thanks are due to Prof. A.M. Bhuiya for introducing me to Dr. P.M. Sarma and also for acquainting me with the necessary regulations regarding Ph.D of Assam University, to Prof. Harish Narang of J.N.U for inspiring me to select the topic during a Refresher Course at J.M.I, New Delhi, to Prof. Tapadhir Bhattacharjee, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Assam University, for providing me valuable suggestions at the proposal stage, to my dear student M. Abbasuddin of Delhi University for helping me to select the topic of research, to my teacher and colleague Dr. Sibtapan Bose for helping me through discussions on source texts, and to Dr. Mrinal Kanti Bhattacharya, former Principal of N.C. College, Badarpur, for his encouragement and special help in procuring necessary books from different parts of the country.

I also express my sincere thanks to all faculty members of the Department of English of Assam University, Prof. Dipankar Purkayastha and Dr. Dipendu Das (Head) in particular, for providing constructive suggestions during the periodical

seminar presentations, to Prof. Sunil Kumar Datta (Head) and all other members of the Department of Cultural Studies of Tezpur University for helping me in various ways and taking care during my stay at Tezpur University.

My special thanks are also due to my family members for their patience and support. My wife Nehar deserves special acknowledgement for helping me in proof-reading of the drafts by taking out time from her household chore.

I also take opportunity to thank Mr. Debabrata Chakraborty of Hi-Tech Graphic Centre, Badarpur, for taking special care in typing/composing and printing the thesis, and to Modern Printers of Karimganj for binding and cover printing.

Md. Mortuja Hussain