## Acknowledgement

I am grateful to my thesis supervisor Prof. Rajas K. Parchure for his encouragement, guidance and unfailing courtesy. I thank Prof. Sangeeta Shroff for her guidance.

I thank Smt. S.M. Mane and Shri S.S. Jogale for their assistance. I adore my daughters Ananya and Sukanya for exempting me from our usual week-end activities when I was busy on the thesis. I appreciate my wife Jaya for being my best critic.