

Acknowledgements

I am happy and satisfied to submit my thesis. The following people and organisations have my sincere gratitude for helping me successfully complete my Ph. D. Their steadfast assistance, inspiration, and knowledge have been priceless.

I would like to convey my deep gratitude to my guide, **Dr. Purnima K. Pandit**, for her constant encouragement, guidance, and priceless insights during the process of finishing my Ph. D. thesis. Her knowledge and support have been very helpful in determining the direction of my research. Her wealth of expertise, consistent positivity, and friendly approach have made this study fascinating and fun, and it will undoubtedly influence my future.

I express my gratitude to the members of my research committee, **Dr. Bankim M. Shah, Dr. Trupti P. Shah, Dr. Bharat Ratanpal, Dr. Arun Pratap, and Dr. Anjani Jiwani**, for their invaluable contributions and helpful reviews during my doctoral studies. I would like to thank all the faculties, research scholars, and staff members of the Department of Applied Mathematics for their helpful support, both directly and indirectly, which made this research journey unforgettable.

I also appreciate that the Head of the Department **Dr. Dhanesh P. Patel**, the former Heads of the Department of Applied Mathematics, **Dr. Dhananjay C. Vakaskar, Dr. Bankim M. Shah** gave me the workspace I needed to complete my work. Without their encouragement, I would not have been able to commit my time and energy to this study, making this accomplishment impossible. I express my gratitude to the current Dean, **Dr. Dhanesh Patel**, for his unwavering assistance with administrative and research-related concerns pertaining to my doctorate. During my tenure, I am also grateful to the previous deans of the Faculty of Technology and Engineering, **Dr. Murthy, Dr. Arun Pratap, and Dr. S. Bhattacharya**, for their support in Ph.D.-related administrative concerns. In addition, I appreciate The Maharaja Sayajirao University's financial aid, in the form of a travel grant, to present my research paper at the conference.

Mr. Priyank Makwana helped me generate the initial speech data, for which I am

grateful. One of the highlights of this research journey has been the domain related discussion I had with him. I am thankful to the Department of Applied Mathematics students who so kindly gave their contribution to provide crucial speech data for this study.

I would especially like to thank **Dr. Salma Pirzada** and **Dr. Ashish Jani** at Navrachana University for their unwavering support. I would also like to thank the **Registrar**, the **Provost** and the **Dean** of Navrachana University for supporting me in the conclusive days of my research.

My father, **Mr. Umang Chhotalal Bhatt** and mother, **Mrs. Hemangini Umang Bhatt**, whose steadfast support has been the cornerstone of my academic path, have my sincere appreciation. Only because of their motivation and financial support, I could do this. I also express my gratitude to my parents-in-law, **Mr. Deepak Bhatt** and **Mrs. Dikshanti Bhatt**, for their invaluable motivation during my research. Achieving this milestone has been made possible by the understanding and supportive atmosphere my parents and parents-in-law have given, as well as the sacrifices and encouragement from them. Moreover, I am deeply grateful to my maternal aunt, **Jyoti Bhatt**, for her indirect support and kindness, which made my academic journey smoother and more fulfilling.

My wife, **Mitali Bhatt**, has my sincere gratitude; her tolerance, comprehension, and unwavering support have been the main sources of my persistence. Her consistent encouragement throughout the hard times and joy after the achievements have made this journey emotionally as well as academically worthwhile. She has been a pillar of my support.

My son, **Mishv Bhatt**, inspired me and serves as a daily reminder of the value of perseverance and hard work. His contagious excitement and limitless energy have brought joy to the process, making the pursuit of knowledge a family affair.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shardav', with a large, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the signature.

Shardav Umang Bhatt