Acknowledgements

First and foremost, I wish to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to my supervisor, Dr Elizabeth J Kuti, who helped me find my voice. Her ingenious advice, friendly guidance, and patience, gave me the confidence and strength I needed to set out on my long PhD journey. Without her unwavering intellectual and emotional support, this project would never have seen the light of day.

I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Dr Clare Finburgh for supervising my thesis during the first two years. I am unreservedly grateful to her for her constant encouragement and inspiration which started months before I came to the UK.

My thanks are also extended to the members of my board meeting, Professor Sanja Bahun and Professor Jonathan Lichtenstein, who motivated me in my subject. Their sound remarks and comments find their way throughout my thesis.

I would also like to register my thanks to Howard Barker for responding in a challenging and inspiring manner to my interview questions. His kind reception in his house in Brighton made me feel like I was standing in front of a proficient dramatist; a Shakespeare-like figure.

I am so grateful to Tom Stoppard and Timberlake Wertenbaker for answering my numerous emails.

I am indebted to Dr Sophie Bush for encouraging my interest in Timberlake Wertenbaker's plays through long hours of discussion. My interview with her, at Sheffield Hallam University, provided me with food for thought and ideas about Wertenbaker's works.

I am also profoundly grateful to Mrs Liz Parry who devoted her precious time to reading my research.

I would also like to sincerely thank the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research for supporting and funding my study here in the UK which was like a dream in the past.

My most heartfelt thanks, however, go to my teachers and colleagues at the Department of English, University of Anbar, Iraq, for their encouragement and spiritual support.

Last, but not least, my thanks and gratitude are due to my family for their unfailing help and support.