DECLARATION

I Farhad Hussain, bearing Registration Number Ph.D./1225/2010 dated 04/10/2010, hereby declare that the subject matter of the thesis entitled *Historical Dramas of Ali Ahmad Bakathir: A Critical Study* is the record of work done by me and that the contents of this thesis did not form the basis for award of any degree to me or to anybody else to the best of my knowledge. The thesis has not been submitted in any other University/Institute.

This thesis is being submitted to Assam University for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Arabic.

Place: (Farhad Hussain)

Date:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to take this opportunity to express my most sincere appreciation and gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Abdul Rasak T., Professor & Head, Department of Arabic, Assam University, Silchar. This study could not have been completed without the able guidance of him. I thank him a lot for his comments, advice and encouragement during the preparation of this thesis.

I am also grateful to my former supervisor Dr. Abdul Quddoos, presently Associate Professor & Head, Department of Arabic, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, who guided me from the beginning of my research project up to Ph. D final registration in Assam University, Silchar. I thank him a lot for his comments, suggestion and encouragement.

My thanks goes to respected teachers Prof. A. M. Bhuiya, Prof. Ashfaq Ahmad, Dr. Mostafizur Rahman and other teachers of the Department of Arabic, Assam University, Silchar and of the Department of Arabic, Gauhati University as well, who provided me advices and suggestions in different stages of this project.

I would like to express my gratitude to my school teachers, friends and colleagues, such as Mr. Madhushudhan Roy, retired Head Master, Belguri Sr. Basic School, Mr. Abdul Mazid, Principal, Belguri Higher Secondary School, Mr. Mazibar Rahman Prodhani, Principal, Dharmasala College, Dhubri, for their advices and wishes for the success of my work and to Dr. A. Rahman, Mr. A. R. Mullah, Mr. J. Abedin etc. for their help in editing and proof reading the thesis; I am really thankful to all of them.

I am grateful to all authors and writers whose works, writings and references I have consulted or quoted in my work, basically to Dr. Mohamed Abubakr Hamid, Riyadh University and Dr. Abd al-Hakim al-Zubaidi, web master, (www.bakatheer.com) who have provided many more

suggestions and relevant documents on this new topic through both soft and hard copies. As well, I would like to thank the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt. of India, who provided the Maulana Azad National Fellowship and helped me to complete the research work.

After all, I extend my heartfelt to my beloved mother, brothers, sister, nephews, nieces and all family members for their continuous support, encouragement, understanding and prayer to Almighty Allah for my success.

(Farhad Hussain)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Title Page	i
Certificate	ii
Declaration	iii
Acknowledgements	iv
Chapter-1 Introduction	**1-8**
Chapter-2 Arabic Drama: Origin and Development	**9-60**
2.1 Origin of Arabic Drama	10
2.1.1 *Ta'ziya* (passion play)	15
2.1.2 *Khayal al-Zill* (shadow play)	20
2.1.3 *Hikaya* (story telling)	24
2.2 Development of Arabic Drama	28
2.2.1 Historical Background	28
2.2.2 Arabic Drama in Lebanon and Syria	30
2.2.3 Arabic Drama in Egypt	34
2.2.4 Further Development in Egypt	37
2.2.5 Egyptian Drama after the 1952 Revolution	40
2.2.6 Arabic Drama in Different parts of the Arab World	45
2.3 Prominent Figures in Modern Arabic Drama	50
2.3.1 Tawfiq al-Hakim	50
2.3.2 Successors of Tawfiq al-Hakim	51
2.3.3 Post-Revolution Dramatist	54
2.4 Verse Drama in Arabic	56
Chapter 3: Life and Works of Ali Ahmad Bakathir	**61-97**

3.1 Bakathir's Life and Literary Development 62

3.2 The Literary Environment of Bakathir's Dreams 66

3.3 Bakathir in Aden and Hijaz 68

3.4 Bakathir in Egypt: Forging New Ways 70

3.5 Pioneer of Verse Drama 75

3.6 Prose as a Medium for Drama 77

3.7 Bakathir's Works and Philosophy 80

3.7.1 Plays Inspired by Events 83

3.7.2 Plays Inspired by Ideas 88

Chapter- 4: Ali Ahmad Bakathir as a Dramatist 98-138

4.1 The Social Dramas 99

4.2 The Political Dramas 104

4.3 The Historical Dramas 112

4.4 The Religious Dramas 112

4.5 The Epic Drama on 'Umar bin al-Khattab 118

4.6 The Impact of Shakespeare on Bakathir's Drama 131

Chapter 5: Theme and Style of Bakathir's Historical Dramas 139-173

5.1 *Ikhnatun wa Nefertiti* 140

5.2 *Ibrahim Basha aw al-Watan al-Akbar* 146

5.3 *Sirr al-Hakim bi Amrillah* 151

5.4 *Al-Fallah al-Fasih* 153

5.5 *Dar ibn Lukman* 156

5.6 *Harb al-Basus* 161

5.7 Bakathir's Trilogy on French Campaign 164

Chapter 6: A Critical Study of Bakathir's Historical Dramas. **174-239**

6.1 *Ikhnatun wa Nefertiti* 176

6.2 *Ibrahim Basha* 186

6.3 *Sirr al-Hakim bi Amrillah* 192

6.4 *Dar ibn Lukman* 199

6.5 *Al-Fallah al-Fasih* 209

6.6 *Harb al-Basus* 216

6.7 A Critical Appreciation to Bakathir's Trilogy. 221

6.7.1 *Al-Dudat wa al-Thu'ban* 221

6.7.2 *Ahlam Nabiliun* 227

6.7.3 *Ma'sat Zainab* 234

Conclusion **240-249**

Bibliography **250-258**