Acknowledgements

First and above all, I praise God the Almighty, for providing me this opportunity and granting me the capability, knowledge, strength and determination to accomplish my Ph.D. Thesis.

This thesis would not have been possible without the guidance and help of several individuals and institutions who in one way or another contributed and extended their valuable assistance in the preparation and completion of this study.

I am heartily thankful to my supervisor Professor Dato’ Dr. Mohd. Zambri Zainuddin for the continuous encouragement, support and invaluable suggestions he provided from the beginning, throughout my studies in this field and especially during this current work. In this, I would also like to express my gratitude to my co-supervisor, Professor Dr. Mohd. Sahar Yahya for his motivation, valuable advice and ideas and also for the corrections and contribution to my papers and thesis. I would also like to express my warm and sincere thanks to Professor Peter P. Eggleton from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, USA, for offering me important guidance during my first steps into stellar evolution studies. Indeed, I am indebted for his thoughts, advice and suggestions, especially in the understanding of the stellar evolution process. The data presented here would not have been possible without collaborations and I owe my deepest gratitude to the professional, as well as the amateur astronomers, who had contributed their data to the BeSS database.

I greatly appreciate the scholarship given me by the Ministry of Higher Education of Malaysia and for the financial support from the University of Malaya during my Ph.D study.

I also want to express my deepest thanks to Dr. Hakim L. Malasan from the Astronomy Department of ITB, Bandung, Indonesia and Professor Tomokazu Kogure, a retired Professor Emeritus from Kyoto University, Japan, for their advice, comments and for the knowledge they imparted, especially in this field. I am grateful to the late Dr. Djoni N. Dawanas from the Astronomy Department of ITB who suggested the field of stellar
evolution to me and who introduced me to the expert, Professor Peter P. Eggleton. May he rest in peace and may God bless his soul.

Furthermore, I wish to address my special thanks and gratitude to all my colleagues and friends, especially to all the members in the Space Physics Laboratory, members on the course of Islamic Astronomy and Syariah, not forgetting all the members of TSMT for providing a good atmosphere, motivation and moral support in the completion of this study.

Finally, I want to thank my family. The encouragement and support from my beloved husband Sariful Aini and my joyful son Ahmad Fuad is a powerful source of inspiration and energy. A special thought is devoted to my parents, my sisters and brothers for their never-ending support.