CHAPTER-IX
Conclusions

From the foregoing study it can be observed that the ancient Andhra tract has bequeathed to us a vast treasury of place-names occurring in inscriptions right from the early centuries of the Christian era and representing many aspects of human life. As the centuries rolled by, the frequency of their occurrence steadily increases and by their variety and variations they are found to embrace almost all fields of human civilization. In all more than 3000 such place-name forms have been taken up for the present study.

For the purpose of effective and easy administration the Andhra country was divided into units which are referred to in the present work as Administrative divisions. The size and nomenclature of some of these divisions underwent changes from time to time due to various reasons. The territorial division Vengi is referred to at different times as Vengi-1000, Vengi-12000, Vengi-14000 and Vengi-16000. The division Nolambavadi was renamed as Nigrailisolamandalam by the Chola conquerors. In all 12 Administrative divisions, referred to in the ins. of the Nalgonda (upto the 13th century) have been taken up for the present study. The names of the Administrative divisions fall under five main heads viz. Geographical, Historical, Ethnological, Faunal and Religious. The most natural mode of naming a division was after the name of the town which served as its headquarters or chief town. As many as 12 divisions were so named. Eight divisions were named taking their location into consideration. Five divisions were referred to with a prefix denoting a hill, sometimes simply by using as appellation meaning ‘a hill’ and sometimes by giving the proper name of the hill to the division. Four divisions were named after rivers, viz., Kalvachedu-40 kampana, Kollipakanadu-Desa. The characteristic soil type of the region gave names to two divisions, viz., Kondapalli-nadu and Kan-nadu.

Historical names of the Administrative divisions are classified into three subgroups viz (A) Divisions which owe their names to the names of royal houses; (B) divisions which were named after the kings or chiefs who ruled over them; and (C) divisions which were named after the epithets of those kings or chiefs. The first group containing 5 names while the second and third groups contain 3 and 7 names respectively.
Two divisions were named after certain water sources of geography, while the same number of divisions owe their names to the pet animals.
Eg:- Aleru-40 Kampanamu, Kodada 12,

It is significant to note that fauna appears to have exerted influence in the naming of division, viz., Anne-marga, Kodada-12, Aleru-40, Kampana

Regarding the influence of other language, on the names of the territorial divisions of the Telugu country it may be noted that about 35 divisions bear their names in Sanskrit while the names of two divisions betray the influence of Prakrit language. Tamil and Kannada also played a significant role in influencing the Nalgonda Administrative divisional names.

A noteworthy feature of naming the Administrative divisions, which came into vogue from about the 7th cen. onwards, is the adoption of the decimal system. The duodecimal arrangement also is met with. A study of inscriptions upto the 13th cen. reveals the fact that there existed in the Nalgonda District Administrative divisions which were made up of villages varying in number from ‘eleven’ to ‘fifty lakhs’. It must—be conceded that, while numerical suffixes in the names of smaller divisions definitely referred to the number of villages included in such divisions, the correct import of the numerical suffixes in the names of the bigger divisions is yet to be understood. In all we find 7 divisions with different numerical suffixes in the Nalgonda district upto the 13th cen.

Coming to the place-names proper, it may be observed that a detailed classification of the pns would help us in understanding their origin and cultural significance to a great extent. In this context it should be noted that pns, more oftenthant not, lend themselves to two or more meanings and that it becomes almost impossible to decide the intended connotation. However, keeping the vastness of the data available for the present work in view they are classified into the following nine groups : I. Pns which pertain to geographical and physical features (About 25 pns); II. Places denoting flora (About 15); III. Places denoting fauna (about 17); VI. Religious place-names (about 25); V. Ethnographical names (about 5); VI. Pns of historical significance (about 4); VII. Pns of commercial
The present study reveals the fact that, except for some phonological changes, many pns have retained their original meaningful some of the pns are completely changed and reasons for this change are manifold. In some instances the pns are replaced by similar sounding names which are mere familiar to the common man. Further, some pns are changed due to religious influence and some merely to give a pleasant meaning. The places lying contiguous to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu mostly betray the influence of Kannada arid Tamil respectively. It is interesting to note that the number of pns influenced by Kannada is more than the number of pns influenced by Tamil. In some instances such place names are partly influenced and in some instances the entire name is influenced by Kannada or Tamil as the case may be. It is significant that in contrast to the appearance of Dravidian place names in the Sanskrit and Prakrit inss. of the early period, Dravidian place names in their Sanskritized forms start occurring in the inss. from the 6th cen. onwards. These attempts to Sanskritize a common and native pn betray the influence of Sanskrit during that period. Sanskritization can broadly be divided into two groups: (A) Pns fully Sanskritized on the basis of the meaning and (B) Pns influenced by Sanskrit as by the addition of an expletive or pns partly Sanskritized. In about 5 cases the pns were Sanskritized, About 6 important phonological changes in the pns are noted in the present work.

A place-name normally consists of two units, specific and generic. The specific stands for the proper name of the place while the suffix may be taken, in a very loose way, to suggest the type of settlement which the place referred to happens to be. However, out of about 130 place names forms taken up for study in the present work, their are about 5 place names which do not have any suffix. It is not improbable that the sufjj||s in these pns have been dropped or that they never and any. About 55 suffixes have been isolated and arranged in 10 groups, taking their meaning into consideration; I. Suffixes which denote mere habitation (16); II. Suffixes which denote water resources (10); III. Suffixes denoting rocks, hills, etc (15); IV. Suffixes which denote location (4); V. Suffixes which denote religion (32); VI. Suffixes which denote 16 trading centers (3); VII. Suffixes denoting the type of soil (18); VIII. Suffix possibly denoting rehabilitation (1); IX. Miscellaneous Suffixes (14); and X. Suffixes the meaning of which is obscure (6).

It is a point of great significance that of the 100 suffixes, only 21 are in Sanskrit, the rest belonging to the group of Dravidian languages.
About 32 pn forms have got more than one suffix. It can be seen that in 85 pns the original suffixes have been replaced in their modern forms. The replacements have occurred due to more than one reason: (1) due to the general tendency either to simplify the form or to replace it by a more familiar form; (2) to suggest a possible rehabilitation; (3) in some instances the existing pn suffixes are seen replaced by palem which is found appended in the post-13th cen. ins. to places which were of military importance, etc. In some instances one and the same pn is found mentioned in the ins. with different suffixes. In this case it can be observed that Sanskrit suffixes like puramu, pattanamu and nagaramu were, in particular, used indiscriminately. In at least 42 instances the pns contain only suffixes in both the units. Eg. Aramatirtham; Chernuru; Cherumballi, Manchikonda etc. By far the most popular pn suffixes in Telugu are Cheruvu, Kallu (<kal), padu, paka, palli, parru, pattana, prolu, puramu, vada. The suffixes chedu, cheri, muti, mutra, paka, vadi are etymologically related to Tamil while the suffix kuruke is of Kannada origin. It appears that some suffixes like polamu, Kond^ occur in Bengali pns also.

On the whole it may be noted that though the study of Telugu place-names is an uphill task, yet if it is pursued in the correct and scientific way the student is bound to be amply rewarded. As a matter of fact, every place-name has got its song to sing and its story to narrate.