Acknowledgements

In all human affairs there are efforts and results. These efforts may not bring desirable results every time if some individuals don't offer their helping hand in the hour of need. This thesis would not have been possible unless the support, blessing and inspiration of some persons showered on me at various stages of the work. In particular, I am thankful to:

- **My Supervisor Prof. Anvita Abbi:** Ma'am I have no words to show my gratitude for your continuous support, flawless guidance, and microscopic observations on each and every linguistic aspects of my thesis. I really feel lucky to have been supervised by you. I am extremely grateful to you for being so much open to the new ideas and giving enough liberty to the researchers and yet reminding us to follow the rubrics of linguistic research. Without your direction this research work would not have been possible. Ma'am, you have always been the source of inspiration to accomplish this task within stipulated time.

- **Other faculty members of our centre:** viz Prof. Pandey Sir, Ayesha Kidwai, Franson Manjali, Vaishna Narang, Hari Madhav Ray, Yankee Modi and office staffs- Rawatji and Navin for their timely support and also the library staffs of the central library specially Mullick Sir for his ever altruistic nature to help students anytime.

- **To my ever-supporting parents (Ma and Deuta):** I owe my deepest gratitude to you for always standing with me by not objecting anything whatever I wanted to do regarding my career.

- **To Barasa:** You are my best Friend Philosopher and Guide. I fondly remember all the support and encouragement shown to me in troublesome moments. You have always been my consistent source of inspiration.

- **To my siblings Mrinal and Maina, Dada-Bou and other family members, cousins, uncle-aunts, Haripriya Maina, all my maternal uncles, Mahi, Damodarda, Prabhatda and others who are concerned about my research** (for their persisting question: 'when are you going to submit your thesis?') Truly speaking, it was a big driving force to finish off my work in time).
To all my informants from both the linguistic communities and others: Few faces immediately come to my mind who provided me relevant information and other logistic support during the time of my field survey: Tulshi Bordoloi, Chandra Singh Deori, Maneswar Deori, Rimal Amsi, Sarsingh Amsi, Guren Deori, Singmon Mithi, Prilu Amsi, Robert Lumphui, Minutda, Basantada, Prabin Deori, Phisu kumar Deori, Hemchandra, Jintu, Minki, Badal Muni, Jurosing Bordoloi, Dhanai Baro and many more. I am also grateful to Prof. Jyoti Tamuli of Gauhati University and Deepakda, Dimpal, Bidyut, Ranjit, Ganga, Santosh, Majoni, Pulu, Shailen, Sasindra, Trilochan, Jitendada, Amritda, Chittada, Lakhida and Mukutda for their kind help.

To all my friends and seniors from the Centre for Linguistics: Hemanga, Deepa, Sharmistha, Shreyaba, Arunima, Tulshi Bhaiya, Bidishadi, Sanjeet, Narayan, Shekhar, Mansi, Pramodji, Ajit Naik, Dipima and many for their help, feedback and comments.

At last, but not the least, all the software engineers who are behind the creation of two awesome internet tools of our time--the Google books and the Microsoft Word: without which my effort would have been tripled.

With Regards
Arup Kumar Nath
New Delhi.