PREFACE

South India has contributed substantially to the growth and development of dramatic literature in Sanskrit. The names of Saktibhadra, Kulasekharavarman in Mahodayapuram, Narayana Diksita of Tanjore, Purnasarasvati, and Kakkaseri Damodarabhatta are too well known to be mentioned. South India has produced a number of dramatists of remarkable originality and creativity. One of the most noteworthy but comparatively unknown dramatists is Narayana Diksita of Tanjore, the author of Adbhutapaijaram, who was patronised by King Sāhaji of Tanjore of the 17th century AD.

The only available work which can be indisputably assigned to Narayana Dīksita is the play “Adbhutapaijaram”. This work has not hitherto been critically evaluated. A closer study of Adbhutapaijaram reveals the importance of bringing
out a critical study of the work. Hence my endeavour is to bring out a critical study of the play.

This thesis deals with the life and work of Nārāyaṇa Dīkṣīta followed by a critical study of Adbhutapañjara. An index of verses and of metres is also appended to the text. This critical study is based on the edited text of Adbhutapañjaram by Dr. K. Raghavan Pillai, former Curator, Manuscripts Library, Trivandrum.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to my supervising teacher, Dr. (Mrs.) K. Leelamani Rtd. Sl. Grade Lecturer, Department of Sanskrit, Maharaja’s College, Ernakulam. I am also thankful to the Head of the Department of Sanskrit and the Principal of Maharaja’s College for their sincere help and suggestions. I thank one and all who have enabled me in preparing this thesis.

C.P. AMBIKA.