Meaning’ is the central problem of philosophy of Language. Philosophers of 20th century in the West, have been working much in this field of analysis of language. Bertrand Russell and early Wittgenstein presented the theory of meaning which is called referential theory. In Indian classical systems of philosophy we find *Nyaya* and *Mimamsa* to spend a great deal with the problem of meaning. Besides these two there are many philosophers in the west as well as some other systems in India contributing to philosophy of language. It is quite impossible to include all of them in a thesis and therefore, we have specially selected Russell and Wittgenstein from the west, *Nyaya* and *Mimamsa* from Indian tradition.

The basic objective of this thesis, as its title indicates, is to give an elaborate account of meaning as given by Russell and Wittgenstein, and *Nyaya* and *Mimamsa* system. In this connection we have discussed here the development of philosophy of language, the meaning of meaning, Frege’s notion of sense-reference distinction, philosophy of language in classical philosophy Indian and Western, and different theories of meaning. Special
attention has been given to the problem of meaning and the referential approach among different approaches to the problem.

In the introductory chapter, we first deal with the relation between language and meaning in general. Then we deal with meaning, sense and reference, Frege’s view on sense and reference, the meaning of meaning and theories of meaning. In all these discussions, our emphasis rests on the problem of meaning.

In our second chapter, we first give an introduction to Indian philosophy of language and the problem of meaning as found in different systems of Indian philosophy. In the same chapter, we have tried to do justice with the western philosophy also. A brief sketch of the development of the philosophy of language in the west has also been added.

The third chapter deals with Russell’s views about language and meaning. In this chapter, we have sketched the philosophical career of Russell, his philosophy of logical atomism and the challenges it has to face, and his referential theory of meaning. The fourth chapter deals with Wittgenstein’s view on language and meaning. Here we deal with both the early and the later Wittgenstein i.e. ‘Tractatus’ and ‘Investigations’.

The fifth chapter deals with the Nyaya view of language and meaning, where the problem of meaning appears as an epistemological issue. The sixth chapter deals with Mimamsa view of language and meaning. In these
two chapters, we have discussed the two theories of meaning put forward by Indian systems – abhihitanvayavada and anvitabhidhanavada.

Our concluding chapter is the seventh. Here we have included some of our observations made at the end of previous chapters. Moreover we have tried to make a comparative study of some concepts like Meaning: Russell and Sabara; Russell and abhihitanvayavada; Prameya and sense datum.

The whole discussion of the thesis has been divided into seven chapters as given below:

Chapter I. Introduction.
Chapter II. Philosophy of Language; Indian and Western
Chapter III. Language and Meaning; Russell
Chapter IV. Language and Meaning; Wittgenstein
Chapter V. Language and Meaning; Nyaya
Chapter VI. Language and Meaning; Mimamsa
Chapter VII. Conclusion

With a bibliography at the end we close the thesis.

Bhupesh Sarma
2009