ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am indebted to my Professor Dr. K. KARUNAKARAN, Professor and Head of the Department of Linguistics and Dean - Faculty of Arts, Bharathiar University for giving me a good opportunity to undertake this research. I am grateful to him for the help and encouragement given to me which have been a real source of inspiration for me during the course of this research study.

I whole heartedly thank my guide Dr. O. SHUNMUGOM, Reader in the Department of Linguistics, Bharathiar University Coimbatore for his untiring and relentless guidance all through the period of this research but for his constant help and guidance this thesis would not have taken the present shape.

I express my deep sense of gratitude to Dr. E. ANNAMALAI and Dr. M. S. THIRUMALAI, Deputy Directors, CIIL, Mysore, for their useful suggestions which were drawn through the valuable discussions that I had with them on this research.

My thanks are due to Dr. C. SIVASHANMUGAM and Dr. V. THAYALAN, Lecturers in the Department of Linguistics, Bharathiar University,
Coimbatore, Dr. (Mrs.) Rajashree Subbaiah (CIIL, Mysore) for their help during the course of my study.

My thanks are also due to Dr. K. S. KAMALEESWARAN, Professor of Tamil, P.S.G. College of Arts & Science, Coimbatore and to Dr. S. BOOPATHY, Associate Professor of Linguistics, Tamil University, Thanjavur for their useful suggestions to improve the quality of this research.

I extend my thanks to Mr. M. BALAKUMAR, CIIL, Mysore, and Dr. L. RAMAMOORTHY, Pondicherry Institute of Linguistics and Culture, Pondicherry for their suggestions for solving some of the problems concerning my research.

My thanks are also due to Mr. C. SIVAKUMAR, Mr. P. PERUMALSAMY, Ms. K. KANCHANA, Mrs. R. BAGYALAKSHMI, Mr. K. S. RAJA and other Research Scholars of the Department for having helped me in one way or the other during the period of my research.

I express my utmost gratitude to my cousin Mr. S. MURUGAN, who had been helping me during my research.

Last but not least I thank my family members, mother-in-law and wife
for their kind co-operation and encouragement in successfully completing my research work.

I am thankful to Mr. R. BALAVARTHI RAJU and Mr. M. MARI who undertook the work of typing the thesis.

[ S MEENAKSHISUNDARAM ]