Acknowledgements

Four years have been devoted to the completion of my thesis and I have many people to thank for this.

I am deeply thankful to my supervisor Professor Dilip K. Das for constantly teaching, guiding, helping and correcting me with patience and sincerity throughout the course of my research. I share with him the success of this milestone in my academic career. It has been a blessing to work with him and I have learned far more than I could have thought when I first signed up for research – from learning theories to analyzing, critiquing, editing and even writing, it has been challenging but truly very enlightening. I am eternally grateful to him for his dedication and passion for teaching. This I hope to emulate someday.

I thank my advisor, Professor D. Venkat Rao, who first steered me towards cultural studies and whose interest in the Naga has been such an inspirational motivation for me. I thank him for believing in my work.

I also thank the entire Cultural Studies Department for being an active Department that allows the student to freely engage in academics through organization of workshops, seminars and discussions. During the period of my course work I have been taught by many dedicated professors in the Department whose enthusiasm for the subject and concern for social cultural issues was inspiring.

My friends on campus, with whom I share the bond of ‘seniority’ on campus as our EFLU history goes back to our MA years, have helped me through all the highs and lows of research through conversations and a silent but knowing understanding of what a fellow researcher
undergoes in this scholastic journey. I thank Ananya for the advice and timely conversations, Veena and Monal for the constant reminders and support, Ruth for the updates and moments of bonding, Annie for being my Department companion, Cholpon for the encouragement and goodwill, Elika for all the yummy lunches during my campus visits, Oren for the help with data collection and all my other EFLU friends whom I have recently met and come to know. All of them have been a part of my research journey.

Apart from the academic circle, I have a lot of people to whom I am indebted for contributing to this thesis. My field work was possible only because of the enthusiastic cooperation of some Naga elders who stayed back from work to provide me with whatever information they could remember. Thank you, Kegwayhun, Keshüga Keppen, Gwanyü Kesen, Jwenga Kent, Nichwenga Keppen, Nalo, Kathan.tsü, Gwanyule Lorin, Njathong Kent, Nophato Aser, Akentsü Lorin, R. Hilo Keppen, Kegwayhun Tep, Gwahile Tep, Gwasinlo Thong, Sajukha Kath and S. Mono Khiamniungan. It was heartening to engage and learn not only through interaction but observation of the familial bonding that cultural memories created. Thank you for rekindling my curiosity in the subject. I would also like to thank Hinile Lorin, Kegwayhun and Logubu Seb who offered their homes in the village to conduct the interviews and also helped me contact more interviewees.

My thanks are due also to the State Museum and its Assistant Curator Rongsen Pongener for the entertaining and engaging experience with Naga culture through display of artefacts and traditional objects. I also greatly appreciate the help I have received from the State Library in Kohima, the Directorate of Art and Culture, Kohima and the Council of Baptist Churches in
North East India (CBCNEI), Guwahati for allowing me to use their resources and collect important data that was required for my research.

Along the course of my research I have been fortunate to have another supportive group of working friends in Hyderabad who have helped me keep my sanity and shown me the other side of life beyond research. They have been a constant support, and along the way have in fact strangely strengthened my commitment to research work. Thank you very much, my dearest roommate Wati for ‘every little-big thing’. And of course, thank you to the rest of the gang – Yoyo, Mego, Salome, Yin, Atu, Among and my flatmate Tenzing. You are the added bonus that came along during my research work. I can’t imagine Hyderabad without you all. To my longtime friend Mhadeno, thank you so much for the genuine concern and encouragement till the very end.

I would also like to say a special thank you to the Naga Christian Fellowship (NCF) Hyderabad, along with the Pastor and his family, Venusa and its members for providing care and support to students like me living away from home. God bless the ministry.

I conclude with the warmest of all thanks to my family – my dad who has been such an inspiration and an indispensable aid to my research work as my translator, for all the strenuous interview sessions through which he sat with great patience and resolve to help me complete my work; my super mom who has never ceased to take care of my every need and also been a significant part of my field work in helping me find contacts and serving as my translator, too; my elder brother, Kvulo, to whom I look up for advice and inspiration and who helped me not give up towards the end of my research; and finally my little sister Losin, who scrambled around to send across research material whenever I suddenly needed it. Without a doubt, you have all
been the reason for a huge part of my research taking shape and I thank you all for the calm patience, necessary push and endless support throughout.

My thesis is truly the product of an enormous learning journey.