PREFACE

Ṛṣṇavatāra is the first work composed in the prakṛtiya style of treatment of the sutras of Astādhyāyī and is written by Dharmakīrti, a Buddhist philosopher. The work aims to bring within the easy grasp of the students of grammar, the accomplishment of the vocabulary of Sanskrit language by means of the Astādhyāyī of Panini. To secure this purpose, the method adopted by the author shows his originality and this is well acknowledged by the fact that his successors in the field of grammar began to copy his method of forming recasts of Astādhyāyī for the easy understanding of the parinisthitarūpa (fully furnished form). As one, who invented for the first time a new style of treatment of Astādhyāyī, Dharmakīrti no doubt occupies an enviable status among the Sanskrit grammarians and his work too, stands as a torch becoming a new path of approach in the study of the sutras of Astādhyāyī.

The present work was undertaken at the instance of Late Dr. S. Venkitasubramonia Iyer who had been the Professor and Head of the Department of Sanskrit, University of Kerala.
and was executed under the guidance of Dr. E. Baswaran
Hamoodhiy, Reader, Department of Sanskrit, University
of Kerala. In this dissertation I have given the results
of my close study of Rūpāvatara. The study has made me
to go into the depth of this work and has led me to the
conclusion that the study of Rūpāvatara is essential for
a beginner of Paninian grammar and we are to pay justice
to this work by introducing the same as a preliminary text
for the students of Sanskrit grammar.

It is to be pointed out here that the worn-out con-
dition of all the printed copies of Rūpāvatara available
at present, has made the present study more difficult and
in spite of the same, the work is carried out in all details
aiming at perfection of execution.

For the convenience of typing, the Sanskrit passages
are also given in Roman script with the usual diacritical
marks with the exception that the letter 'ṅ' is represen-
ted by 'n'. The practice of underlining Sanskrit words
has been sometimes dispensed with, especially in the case
of long passages and those given in the footnotes in
particular. Works referred to are indicated by their abbreviations, but the sutras of Astādhyāyī are indicated with their numbers also. Detailed references are given only where they are necessary and not where the contexts are clear enough.

In the preparation of this thesis, I have received valuable guidance and help from my supervising teacher Dr. E. Kaswaran Ramoorthy, who was always been a source of inspiration to me and I express my deep sense of gratitude for the interest he has evinced in the progress of this work. My thanks are also due to Dr. M.P. Unni, Professor and Head of the Department of Sanskrit, University of Kerala. I also take this opportunity to express my deep sense of gratitude to Late Dr. S. Venkitasubramonia Iyer who was kind enough to go through almost all the chapters of this thesis.

I am thankful to the authorities of the University of Kerala for providing me the necessary facilities for the conduct of my research work. Besides the Library of
the Department of Sanskrit, Kariavattom, I have made use of the University Library at Trivandrum, the Oriental Manuscripts Library at Kariavattom and the Sanskrit College Library and Manuscripts Library at Tripunithura (Ernakulam District) and I am beholden to the staff of these institutions also.