The contribution of women to the socio-cultural life of a nation may be realized only when their creative activity is analyzed with proper care. The counterpart of male plays a vital role as creator and active bearer of oral traditions. The marriage song is an important genre of oral traditions that may be regarded as the fullest expression of the women's heart. The genre is a fine exposure of identity crisis of women folk in our male governed society. Through their songs the experienced elderly women try to warn the bride code of conduct of our society. These songs are the rich cultural heritage of our nation. It needs to be preserved for future generation.

The present work is a humble attempt to study the Assamese marriage (Hindu) songs of Assam. Further, the researcher is eager to study the sentiments associated with the marriage songs prevalent among the Assamese Hindu community of the state. The work is a result of the researcher's keen interest in these types of songs. From childhood days, the researcher has witnessed such singing performances in various marriage ceremonies held in the locality. The researcher has been impressed by their living personalities, enthusiasm, manners and behaviour. The materialistic outlook and modern tendency have affected the
traditional identity of the communities of Assam. To some extent majority of women of the community have changed their manners, attitudes, mode of living. But, some portion of women have retained their old tradition and feel very proud of their own culture.

The present study is a data-based one. The data were collected during fieldwork conducted by the researcher in different villages of the region. The researcher has attended various marriage ceremonies, ten out which are observed in depth from the beginning of different activities prior to the nuptial ceremonies. The current shape of the work is a result of support, admiration and help of different persons. I hereby, acknowledge my sincere gratitude to all those who have offered their helping hand and encouraging words at different aspects. Here, I take the opportunity to acknowledge my indebtedness to all of them. I am highly indebted to all the women folk who took part in the singing activities in all the marriage ceremonies I have observed.

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(Homen Baruah)