Preface

My interest in Mamoni Raisom Goswami was triggered by my reading of her Adhā Lekhā Dastābej during my college days. The attractive language and appeal to the emotions, combined with the autobiographical strain of the narrative easily made the autobiography a striking novel. The writer’s experiences of her life were arguably tragic and even extraordinarily dramatic: something that not many fictional works could naturally be erected upon.

My curiosity and quest for possible research on her translated works was generated when I began reading her works more seriously and later with more academic intent. My attention to the area of Translation Studies was drawn by Dr. Aparna Bhattacharjya, Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Gauhati University. Eventually, I found the area to be worthy of research as I have access to both the languages in which Mamoni Raisom Goswami’s works mostly appear. The other reason being that no substantive work had been undertaken by scholars on this area. I also, significantly enough, understood translation studies has the potentiality for different socio-cultural linkages other than academic. Hence my hypothesis was built enthusiastically on the promise that many things would get discovered in my research. Dr. Bibhash Chaudhury, Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Gauhati University encouraged me to work on my proposed topic i.e. on the English translations of Mamoni Raisom Goswami. I gathered it was to be a cross-disciplinary study and approached Dr Rakhee Kalita Moral, Associate Professor of English, Cotton College, with my topic requesting her to be my supervisor. Ma’am Rakhee Moral, my former teacher, liked my research idea and agreed to guide me for my PhD. Subsequently, after many thought-provoking and fertile discussions with her several avenues for looking at the area unfurled. A most memorable part of these deliberations was the actual meetings that my supervisor organized with the author Mamoni Raisom Goswami who herself offered interesting clues to her writings and vital confirmations of some of my early hunches about them. The thesis is, in effect, a result of my investigations into the socio/ psychological and cultural aspects of translation studies coached and broached by my supervisor.*

Purabi Goswami

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*I have used Sanskrit Phonetic Transliteration for the Assamese words in the chapters and in the translation. A question may arise regarding the applicability of Sanskrit Phonetic Transliteration for the Assamese words as all the Assamese letters do not have a one to one relation with their sounds. However it has been, in principle, used as a workable methodology for the present thesis.