PREFACE

The thesis offers a descriptive picture of Marathi as spoken by Leva Patidars of Bhusawal. Not only am I a native of this area but I am also a native speaker of this language. It is generally believed that the language spoken in this area, covering the northern border of eastern and western Maharashtra up to Burhanpur, is a sub-dialect of the Ahirani or Khandeshi dialect of Marathi. A comparison of the speech described here with the picture of Ahirani given by Dr. Miss Vijaya Chitnis will make this point clear.

Sir George Grierson has not mentioned this language in his Linguistic Survey of India Vol.7. Mr. D.S. Barhate has written a booklet on "Leva Patidarāñci Boli" in 1932, this being the only booklet written so far about this language.

Leva Patidars, who share the vast culture and heritage of Maharashtra, speak and study Marathi. Their speech may be somewhat different from Standard Marathi as regards grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation, but it can be easily understood by any Marathi speaker. That is why Leva Patidars believe their speech to be a dialect of Marathi.

No scholar has given until now, a good descriptive picture of this language. The Leva Patidar's language possesses
certain peculiarities which distinguish it from standard Marathi. That is why I undertook to do a systematic study of it.

I have not entered into the niceties of the phonology because it is very much similar to that of standard Marathi. In the same way, I have given a base outline of the Syntax, describing only the basic syntactical constructions with examples.

On the contrary, I have described the morphology in detail. At the end of this thesis I have given a word-index, in which each word is given with its English meaning, the grammatical category, references and frequencies.

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T. N. Chopde.