PREFACE

It was my own experience of learning Hindi as second language at school and college that inspired me to explore the causes that always impeded the learning of Hindi with the fluency of a native speaker. The difficulties that I had in learning Hindi are faced by almost all the Malayalam speakers in one way or the other while learning Hindi. This, supported by the fresh advancement in the theories of language learning and language teaching developed a keen interest in me to explore and locate the areas of difficulties and to pinpoint their causes. When, with this inquisitiveness, I approached the Dept. of Linguistics, Deccan College Post Graduate and Research Institute and expressed my desire to carry out research in this field, the authorities of the Deccan College, especially my supervisor suggested me to work on the 'Error analysis of Hindi as spoken and written by Malayalam speaking students.' Consequently I got myself registered in the DCPRI, University of Poona and started the work. The DCPRI authorities were kind enough to support my study by granting me a research scholarship for a period of three years. I am highly grateful to them.
I owe much to my guide Dr. Amar Bahadur Singh, the then Reader in Indo-Aryan Linguistics, DCPRI, Poona (now Professor and Head, Dept. of Research and Material Production, Central Institute of Hindi, Agra) for the intelligent and insightful suggestions as well as constant moral support I have been receiving from him throughout the preparation of the thesis. Whatever I have been able to achieve by way of useful results is due to Prof. Singh's kind co-operation, encouragement and guidance. I am deeply indebted to him.

When I just began reading the preliminaries of linguistics and error analysis, Dr. Singh joined the Central Institute of Hindi, Agra as Professor and resigned his Readership at the DCPRI, Poona. But the authorities of the University of Poona very kindly allowed me to proceed with and complete my work under Dr. Singh's supervision. I am grateful to them all.

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In addition to the rich library of Deccan College I also took advantage of the libraries of the K.M. Institute, and Central Institute of Hindi, Agra. I am highly grateful to the respective librarians and their staff.

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N. Suresh