(1) The object of the present dissertation is to study a few important aspects of the language as represented in the Śrauta Sūtras which form the first part of the Kalpa, an important branch of the Vedāṅga literature.

(2) Owing to the large number of the Śrauta Sūtras I have restricted my study to two texts, viz. (1) The Āśvamālaya Śrauta Sūtra) of the Āśvaka Śākha of the Ṛgveda and (ii) The Apastamba Śrauta Sūtra) belonging to the Taittirīya School of the Black Yajurveda.

(3) The function of the Śrauta Sūtras is to give a systematic exposition of the Vedic or Śrauta sacrifices described in the Śamhitās and the Brāhmaṇas. This ritual aspect of these texts has been treated at great length in the works of such eminent indologists as Hillebrandt, Caland, Keith, Kane and others. The publication of the Śrautakośa recently undertaken by the Vaidika Samādhanamandala, Poona should be regarded as a valuable contribution in this respect.

(4) In the development of the Sanskrit language the Śrauta Sūtras occupy a position next to that of the Brāhmaṇas and the Upaniṣads, thus representing the concluding phase of the Vedic language. They mark the beginning of a new period in the history of the language which is generally known as the Sūtra Period. Though the proper language of
the Sūtras is described by Whitney as 'a true continuator of the language of the Brāhmaṇas' (Preface to the Roots, Verb-forms etc., p. viii) it presents such traits as are quite new to the Brāhmaṇas and hence distinctly characteristic of the new phase of the language. In fact the Sūtras contain a considerable stock of linguistic material which has not so far received full attention. Hence the importance of a linguistic study of these texts.

(5) Among the limited contributions to the linguistic study of the Sūtras mention must be made of a short estimate of the Āpastamba Dharma Sūtra by Bühler (Sacred Books of the East, Vol. II, Pt. I, pp. xl - xlii). Cüland discusses the peculiarities of the language of the Śrauta Sūtras in 'Über das rituelle Sūtra des Baudhāyana', 'Zur Exegese und Kritik der rituellen Sūtras' (ZDMG, Bd. 51 onwards), 'Vādulā Śrauta Sūtra' (ed. with German translation, Acta Orientalia, Vols. II, IV, VI), etc. Besides, the Vedaṅga Section of the Vedic Word-Concordance prepared by the Viśveśvarānanda Research Institute, Hoshiarpur serves as an indispensable book of reference. It is, however, to be admitted that in spite of admirable contributions of these scholars much work still remains to be done.

(6) In the preparation of this dissertation which is a new approach to the study of the above mentioned two Śrauta Sūtras I have made ample use of these and other works of my predecessors in this field which I have duly registered in the Bibliography. I must state here that I
I am highly indebted to them. In the treatment of the material which I have examined to the best of my ability I have recorded the old views and have endeavoured to offer new explanations wherever it was possible to do so.

(7) The present dissertation is broadly divided into two parts.

\textbf{Part I} consisting of 5 chapters forms an Introduction to the study which is chiefly based on the material selected from Part II. It deals with the language of the two Śrauta Śūtras which is the principal objective of the present dissertation.

A brief outline of the individual chapters of the Introduction is given below.

\textbf{Chapter I.} This chapter is devoted to the brief discussion of topics concerning the origin and the importance of the Śrauta Śūtras, §§1-2. It is stated that the Śūtra-style is naturally developed out of the prose of the Brāhmaṇas and that the knowledge of the Śrauta Śūtras is essential for the proper understanding of the Samhitās and the Brāhmaṇas. The probable age of the two Śūtras under study §§ 3-5. It is concluded that both the Āp. and the Āśv. belong to a pre-Pāṇinian period and that the Āp. is the earlier of the two. The domicile of the authors, §§ 6-7. It has been shown that Āpastamba belongs to the western part of the Āryāvarta viz. the Kuru-Pančalas while
Chapter II deals with Phonology. The principal topics discussed in this chapter are as follows: Lengthening of the final vowels of nominal stems, §§8 and of verbal prefixes, §9. Miscellaneous types of lengthening and shortening of vowels in various positions, §§10, 12. Lengthening and shortening of the final vowels of stems in nominal composition, §§14-15. In euphonic combinations are treated:- Remarkable instances of vowel-combinations, §§17-21; Probable cases of double Samādi, §22. Combination of the final -a with the following e-, §24. The loss of the Visarjanīya, §25. The euphonic change as represented by different types of conversions of vowels, §§26-28; by transitions of consonants of one type to those of another, §§29-41. Cases of metathesis, §42; of haplology, §43.

Chapter III deals with Morphology. The following topics are discussed in this chapter: Declensional peculiarities of stems ending in vowels, §§44-47; of stems ending in consonants, §48 and of numerals, §49. Indeclinables, §50. Secondary derivatives, §51. Nominal composition - particularly the Samāhāra variety of Dvandva consisting of two members; other types, §52. In conjugation we have: Deviations from the normal class-system, §53. Survivals of roots peculiar to the older language, §55. The so-called potential medi, §56. The aorist, §§57-58. Secondary conjugation, §59. Participles, §60. Infinitives, §61. Gerunds, §62. The gerund in -am, §63.
Chapter IV dealing with Syntax contains the treatment of the following topics: The syntax of cases which includes the interchange of cases, §§67; the mixture of cases, §§68 and miscellaneous peculiarities, §§69; the use of pronouns, prepositions etc. §§70-73. The middle voice (Ātmānepada) §§74; peculiarities of its employment: employed when the action refers to a limb of the body, §§75; employed when the fruit or the result of an action is intended for the agent, §§76; the reflexive use of the middle voice, §§77; the semantic basis for the distinction between the active and the middle, §§78; indiscriminate use of the active and the middle, §§79; the passive voice, §§80-81. The tenses of compound verbs: the instances are arranged according to the nature of the words inserted between the verbal prefix and the verb form, §§82. The order of the members in a Dvandva compound; exceptions, §§83-84. Concord: disagreement between the adjective and the substantive regarding the gender, inconsistency in the use of the gender of an adjective, peculiar use of the neuter, §§85; incorrect use of the number, §§86; discord between the relative and the correlative pronouns, §§87; loose constructions, §§88; defective coordination of the clauses, §§89.

Chapter V deals with Lexicography. Herein are brought together words from the Ṛṣ. and the Ṛṣ. which bear lexicographical significance of some kind or another. It is hoped that their study will help, to some extent, to
supplement the previous dictionaries such as the two Petersburg Lexicons, Schmidt's Nachträge and Monier-Williams' Sanskrit-English Dictionary. The words which are discussed here are classified under the following heads:

(i) Words which are not so far recorded in the dictionaries, §91.

(ii) Remarkable meanings not found in the dictionaries. They are annotated in the light of the explanations supplied by the commentators, §92.

(iii) Remarkable words used in the ritual context, §93.

(iv) Words explained by the Sūtras themselves. These include, among others, interpretations of obsolete words, definitions and explanations of the technical terms of the ritual, etc. §94.

Part II contains an Index Verborum which aims at recording every inflected and indeclinable form occurring in the proper text of the Ṛg-p. and the Ṛg-sūv. and at the same time serves as a dictionary to these two works. The plan and method employed here are, with some variations, the same as those followed by Grassmann in his Worterbuch zum Ṛg-veda and are outlined in detail in the note which is prefixed to this part. The portion, extending up to the Sanskrit letter ja and covering 285 typed pages, has been included in the present dissertation.

Before concluding this Preface I must perform the humble duty of recording my debt of gratitude to my
revered teacher Dr. S. M. Katre. He suggested to me to take up this topic for investigation and gave me his scholarly and helpful guidance during the preparation of this dissertation. My sincere thanks are also due to Dr. M. A. Mehdendale who went through my work and made some useful suggestions.