ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, my sincere gratitude goes to God, who deserves the highest praise for all the love, guidance, and strength that enable me to complete this work. I know that without His strength this work would not be possible.

I am truly indebted and thankful to Prof. Jaunita War, Dean, School of Humanities, NEHU, for her unselfish and unfailing support as my supervisor. I would like to thank her for her patience, motivation, enthusiasm and immense knowledge. Her guidance helps me in all the time of research and writing of this thesis. I could not have imagined having a better supervisor and mentor for my Ph.D.

I would like to express my thanks to Dr. Umarani, Head, Department of Linguistics, Dr. S.K. Singh and B.L. Dhanwar who have helped and supported me throughout my research. I wish to thank my friend and colleague, Dr. S.A. Lyngdoh for her undivided support and interest, who inspired me and encouraged me in every possible way.

I owe a sincere and earnest thankfulness to my teachers (Retd) Prof. R. Sachdeva, former Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore, Prof. R. Gargesh, Department of Linguistics, University of Delhi, Prof. B. War, for broadening my linguistic knowledge and who have helped and inspired me.

My sincere thanks go to Prof. G. Diffloth, who generously offers his comments and suggestions for my thesis, particularly, in the analysis of Khasi approximants and diphthongs. The personal discussions with him during his short stay in Shillong, and his comments through internet has been an invaluable source of information and knowledge.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to (Retd) Prof. J. V. Sastry, Osmania University, for his valuable suggestions and comments. His wisdom, knowledge and commitments have inspired and motivated me to do my best.

I am grateful to Dr. Paul Sidwell for sending the translated vocabulary of Amwi (War-Jaintia), which has been a valuable source for cross-checking the War-Jaintia data.
I am sincerely and heartily grateful to my husband Peter, whose love, support and constant patience have taught me so much about sacrifice, discipline and compromise. A very special thanks to my kids, Lahun and Aiban, for their cooperation and their understanding.

I would also like to thank my nephew, Aneol, who has been my constant help during the final preparation of this thesis. I am also deeply thankful to Ton, who is a sister to me, for her moral support and for sharing my family responsibilities.

I am deeply obliged to my friends, Wanda, Bada and Solo, who are always there for me, be it academically or socially, and for their encouragement and help throughout my research. I would also like to thank Dr. C. Bareh, for his help and encouragement and for sharing his observations, resources and his ideas. Thanks are also expressed to Badaker, Chel, Chris, Aien, Vidya, Dr. Mark, Rupak, and to all the research scholars in the Department for their helping hand and cooperation.

I also express my thanks to all the non-teaching staffs in the department, their help had really smoothened my course of research.

I am also indebted to all the informants for their untiring efforts in providing me with the necessary data. Thank you for your valuable time and willingness to help!

Moreover, I express my deepest sense of gratitude to my relatives, friends and well wishers who have extend their valuable assistance in the preparation and completion of this thesis.

Last but not the least, I would like to place my deepest gratitude to my brothers and sister, whose support goes beyond my academic domains.

May God showers His blessings on all of you

Dated: Shillong
The 19th Oct. 2012

(Barika Khyriem)