The study of loanwords in a language is of considerable socio-linguistic importance. Not much work has been done in this area of Tamil language except for three dissertations and a few articles. S. Vaidyanatha made a study of Sanskrit loanwords in Old Tamil and submitted a doctoral dissertation to Madras University in 1971. He deals with Sanskrit loanwords mainly of the Cañkam age. An M.Litt. thesis of T.S. Narukkan on loanwords in Tamil submitted to the Annamalai university in 1966, deals with the loanwords other than Sanskrit recorded in the Tamil lexicon. This study is confined to the phonological aspects only. S. Radhakrishnan's study 'English loanwords among uneducated Tamils' is an M.Phil. dissertation submitted to the Annamalai university in the year 1973. This dissertation is based on a field study of a few uneducated Tamil speakers of different professions and backgrounds. This also mainly dwells upon the phonology of English loanwords.

The number of loanwords in Tamil is far less than in any other Dravidian languages. In fact Tamil is a creative language unlike other Dravidian languages and therefore it restrict borrowing. During the later part of the 19th century A.D., some Tamil scholars such as Maṇimalai Atikal and Parimēr Aisker attempted to start a 'Tamil Purity movement'
seeking to prohibit the loanwords from other languages in Tamil writing. Among the languages that loaned their words to Tamil, Sanskrit occupies the first place and English, perhaps occupies the second place. Tamil also borrowed a good number of words from Urdu, Perso-Arabic and Turkish languages. Words borrowed from these languages are generally called Hindustani words. These words are borrowed even before the Tamils came into contact with English language and they are being used even today in speech and writing.

The present thesis attempts a comprehensive study of such loanwords recorded as Urdu, Perso-Arabic and Turkish words in the Tamil lexicon. Since the Tamil lexicon does not contain all such loanwords occurring in spoken Tamil or modern Tamil writing, newspapers etc., they are collected and included in this study. The total number of lexical item in this study is about 2,500. For the purpose of this study all the words of Urdu, Perso, Arabic and Turkish origin are called Hindustani loanwords.

The present thesis is divided into two parts. This first part contains six chapters. Chapter - I is an introduction providing a brief account of the historical background of the Tamil-Hindustani connection. Chapter No. II deals with the phonology of Hindustani loanwords. Suitable examples are given in discussing the phonetic changes of Hindustani loanwords in Tamil. Earlier no attempt has been made to record the pronunciation of the loanwords either in Tamil lexicon or in any other Tamil dictionaries. Most of the researchers tried to analyse the phonetic changes based on the written forms of the loanwords.
An attempt is made in this thesis to record the pronunciation of the Hindustani loanwords. Hence here the study of phonology is mainly based on the spoken aspect of the loanwords.

Chapter III is on the morphology of Hindustani loanwords and Chapter IV pertains to the formation of compound words with Hindustani elements. The formation of compounds from the point of view of the language is classified and suitable examples are provided. Chapter V deals mainly with the areas of borrowing in respect of Administration, revenue, judiciary and other socio-cultural fields. Semantic changes in the loanwords are discussed in Chapter VI and these changes are classified under various categories.

The second part of the thesis constitutes the Dictionary Part and deals with the Hindustani lexical items alphabetically. The various meanings with usage and derivation of the loanwords are dealt with in detail.

This study thus attempts at a comprehensive survey of the Hindustani loanwords in Tamil, recorded in the Tamil lexicon and also those found in the modern Tamil writing and speech.