Preface

Comparative linguistics had its origin in the background of the West coming to know about the Sanskrit language. In depth study of this language gave birth to this branch of science in the 18th century. The Indian Theories of Meaning by Dr.K.Kunjunni Rāja published in 1964 shed new light on the semantic concepts latent in the Sanskrit classics on the subject. Thinking about the same subject after four decades it is the result of a humble attempt to analyse the same in a different way that is presented in this thesis.

Dividing the Indian knowledge system into three classes as philosophy, aesthetics and grammar, the relevance of theories of meaning in each of these is analysed here. The thesis comprises of five chapters. The first chapter is a general introduction in which the importance of the concept of meaning, a brief history of
linguistics and general concepts of Indian theories of meaning are discussed.

The second chapter deals with the śabda pramāṇa in Indian philosophy. The concepts of meaning according to the āstikā and nāstikā darśanās are discussed at length in this chapter. In the third chapter under the heading meaning in Indian aesthetics, the concepts of meaning in different Indian literary theories are described. Sanskrit grammar and the approach of grammarians to the semantic aspects are discussed in the next chapter. In the fifth chapter modern theories and how they are related to the Indian theories are discussed. After these the thesis is concluded with the observations arising from the discussions so far.

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Kalady. It is my first duty to express my indebtedness to him for his valuable guidance and constant encouragement throughout the preparation of this thesis.

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