ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. T. B. Subba, Reader in the Dept. of Anthropology, North Eastern Hills University, Shillong, and to other teachers who guided me in this study. My special thanks also goes to Bristina Wanniang and Happiness Syiem who have accompanied me to the field and also to all the respondents who were very helpful.

Finally, words fail to express my debt and gratitude to my parents, who have encouraged me in completing this thesis.

Shillong,
The 30th November, 1993

Persara Lyngdoh
Dept. of Anthropology
NEHU
Shillong.

************