Acknowledgement

During the course of this research work, a number of individuals and well wishers have lent their helping hand. I take this opportunity to testify my deep sense of gratitude to them all.

Foremost among them is Prof. C.L. Imchen, Supervisor, who is also the Head of the Department of Sociology, North Eastern Hill University, who rendered me unreserved help and guidance throughout my venture. Without his help, the research work submitted in its form would not have been possible.

I am also indebted to the former Head of the Department of Sociology and Prof Niklesh Kumar, Dr Lanu Aier, Dr A.K Nongkynrih, Dr D.V Kumar, Dr P. Panda and Dr Rekha Shangpliang of the Department of Sociology, NEHU, who gave me every possible academic inspiration while undertaking the course of research of this work. My gratitude also goes to all the staff of the Department of Sociology who have assisted and helped me during the course of this work.

I would like to thank Dr. (Fr.) Domnic T.S. for going through my manuscript before my pre-submission seminar. I owe special thanks to all my informants of Ukhrul and Imphal, for promptly responding to my queries and the irreplaceable co-operation and friendliness they extended to me in the course of my investigation among them.

I am also thankful to Vareshing Zingkhai of Ukhrul, who enlightened me on the traditional practices of the Tanghuls and on the number folk songs and tales. I am also grateful to P.Solomon, Y.R. Ningyui, A.S. Ramlung, K.S.V. Hangphui, K.Thimashung and C.S. Nungrei of Hungbung village and K.A. Ringshi, S.C. Shimnaohei, K.A Matuiching of Kanhlguli Khullen village, who had provided me with valuable knowledge through their untiring singing of the folk songs during my field work.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to Mr. Angelus Shimreingam, the then Information and Publicity Officer in the office of the Deputy Commissioner,
Ukhrul, for helping in the translation work of the folk songs sung in the local dialect of
the informants into English.

My gratitude also goes to Dr. V.R Rao Director, and Dr. PBSV. Padmanabham
of Anthropological Survey of India, for facilitating my access to the publications and
reports of the Library of Anthropological survey of India, Kolkata.

I would also like to place on record my sincere thanks to the ICHR for the
fellowship provided in the initial stage of my research and the UGC (Rajiv Gandhi
National Fellowship for SC/ST for M.Phil and Ph.D Programme) for the fellowship
which took me to the end of my research work, without which I would have never been
in a position to complete my Ph.D Thesis, and to the ICSSR for facilitating the visit to
various libraries with financial assistance.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to my parents (though my mother
passed away before the completion of my research work), sisters and brothers for their
constant help and support during the course of my research. I am also grateful to my
husband Nanshai Shatsang who has been a source of inspiration and encouragement to
take up the research work and persist till the end.

Above all and everyone else, I thank God who makes all these possible.

SHILLONG

THE MAY 2010

(APEM K.H)