TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREFACE</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF FIGURES</td>
<td>xi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chapter

I. INTRODUCTION                                                                1
   Oral and Oral-derived Literature                                          3
   Evolution of the Study of Oral Verse Forms                                6
   Studies in Verse Forms of the Native Americans and Assam Tribes          14
   Aim of the Study                                                         18
   Methodology                                                              19
   Selection of the tribes                                                  19
   Sources and methods of data collection                                   20

   Library research                                                        20
   Collaboration                                                           21
   Fieldwork                                                               22
   Data processing and analysis                                            23
   Limitation of the Study                                                 27
   Relevance of the Study                                                  27
PART ONE

II. NATIVE AMERICAN ORAL-DERIVED VERSE FORMS:

POETRY AND CULTURE ................................................................. 29

Navajo World and Poetry ............................................................. 29

Songs of healing ........................................................................ 33

Songs of blessings ..................................................................... 49

Hunting and war songs .............................................................. 53

Invoking the rains ...................................................................... 58

Game songs ............................................................................... 60

Anishinabe World and Poetry .................................................... 63

Midewiwin: songs and pictures .................................................. 66

Incantations for bravery ............................................................. 77

Contemplating death ................................................................. 79

The love songs .......................................................................... 80

Game and children’s songs ....................................................... 84

Inuit World and Poetry ............................................................... 86

The hunting chants .................................................................... 92

The healing chants .................................................................... 95

The dance songs ....................................................................... 97

The drum songs ....................................................................... 100

Children’s songs ..................................................................... 104

Varied musings ....................................................................... 105
III. THE NATIVE AMERICAN POETIC VISION: CONTOURS OF APPRECIATION

The Dialectics of Translation

Total translation

Problem of the context

Mediating total translation and literal translation

Reworkings

Towards an Oral-derived Poetics: the Native American Example

Fidelity of language: the power of the word

Silence: the sanctuary of sound

The Sacred Hoop: quest for balance and proportion

Metaphor and synecdoche

PART TWO

IV. MISING ORAL-DERIVED VERSE FORMS:

POETRY AND CULTURE

Mising World and Poetry

Mising Verse Forms

Songs of rituals and ceremonies

Songs of festivities

Songs of marriage
Songs associated with childhood activities ............. 192
Songs of love and yearning ........................................... 198

V. BODO ORAL-DERIVED VERSE FORMS:
POETRY AND CULTURE ...................................................... 207
The Bodos ................................................................. 207
Bodo Oral-derived Verse Forms .................................... 208
Songs of patriotism and valour .................................... 208
Work songs .............................................................. 211
Songs associated with childhood activities ................ 215
Songs associated with love and courting ..................... 220
Marriage songs ......................................................... 228
Songs of festivities .................................................... 234
Songs of rituals and ceremonies ................................ 243
Songs of creation: the first hymns .............................. 249

VI. THE ASSAM TRIBAL POETIC VISION:
INFERENCES FROM THE STUDY ........................................... 259
An Approach to Translation and Retranslation:
An Experiment in the Presentation of Assam Tribal
Verse Forms .............................................................. 259
Elements of Assam Tribal Poetics ................................ 278
The individual and the community ............................ 279
The spoken word ....................................................... 281
Harmony and balance ................................................ 283
The minimal style, the socio-cultural metonymy

and immanence ................................................................. 288

Versions and variations .................................................. 292

VII. CONCLUSION .............................................................. 298

BIBLIOGRAPHY ................................................................. 319

General Background to Oral Literature ............................ 319

On Oral Literatures of the Native Americans .................... 322

On Oral Literatures of the Assam Tribes ............................ 330