ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I avail the opportunity of expressing my hearty gratefulness to my supervisor and one of my most honourable teachers, Dr. Ashok Kumar Goswami, M.A., Ph.D., Reader in the Department of Sanskrit, Gauhati University for his most inspiring guidance and sympathetic help offered to me during the period of my preparation of the thesis. But for his extra-ordinary care and affection, I could not have completed the work.

I also extend my sincere gratitude to my honourable preceptor, Dr. Mukunda Madhava Sharma, M.A., Ph.D., D. Lit, Kavyatirtha, Professor and Head of the Department of Sanskrit, Gauhati University for his inspiration and good will offered to me during the period of my research.

I must remain obliged to the authorities and employees of the K.K. Handique Library of Gauhati University, J.B. College Library, and the District Library of Jorhat and the Jhanji H.N.S. College Library, Jhanji for permitting and helping me in making use of those libraries in course of my investigation. I also extend my gratefulness to late Prof. Atul Chandra Hazarika, who helped me by way of providing me with the only available copy of his
drama "Rukmini-haran" for sake of my investigation. Similarly, I shall always remember the kind help of Sri Jiban Chandra Goswami, M.A., M.Com., B.L., of Gauhati with sincere gratefulness as he offered me his only manuscript copy of the work Rukmini-haran which is now out of print.

I also remain ever grateful to Dr. K.C. Sahoo, Prof. and Head, Department of Oriya, Utkal University who helped me with valuable information from Oriya literature in respect of my work. Similarly, I extend my gratefulness to B.L.S. Vara Prasad, a modern Telugu writer of Andhra Pradesh, who helped me by supplying materials from Telugu literature connected with the Rukmini-haran legend, the subject of my investigation.

I also express my respectful gratitude to Dr. Mohammed Taher, Professor, Department of Geography, Gauhati University as he helped me with valuable suggestions in respect of matters of ancient Indian Geography connected with my work. I shall also remain grateful to Prof. (Mrs.) S.Nazarika, one of my colleagues and Head of the Department of Sociology, Jhanji H.N.S. College as she helped me by way of procuring a valuable magazine from Bombay where she had been for the treatment of a serious ailment. I further extend thanks to Miss Binu Lahiri, Jhanji, for the service she extended to me by way of making copies of some original books essential for
my pursuit.

I am also extremely thankful to my friend Prof. K.K. Handique, Head of the Department of Sanskrit, Jhanji H.N.S. College and to Prof. J.N. Mahanta, Jhanji H.N.S. College who inspired me all the time for the completion of the work. I, further, extend hearty thanks to my colleagues, friends, relatives and beloved students who were very liberal in their help and good will to me for my speedy recovery from the obstinate disease which stood in the way of my progress in the research project.

I must remain ever grateful to Dr. Rajen Sarma, M.A., Ph.D., Reader, Dept. of Sanskrit, Gauhati University for his sincere help offered to me at the cost of his valuable time in preparation of the type scripts of the thesis. Furthermore, I also owe indebtedness to my honourable madam, Mrs. Beena Devi Goswami, M.A. (the wife of my supervisor) who took affectionate care of me whenever I had to stay in the G.U. Campus for sake of the work. I am also really thankful to Sri Kalicharan Das who did the typing of the thesis in a very short period inspite of his personal difficulties.

Lastly, I must remain ever obliged to my wife Srimati Mamoni Saikia for her all care and concern and especially for relieving me from all domestic responsibilities during the busy period of my preparation of the present work.

(Akon Chandra Saikia)