Preface

In this work I attempt to discuss and examine some traditional and modern theories concerning the distinction between the subject and the predicate of a sentence, which occupies an important place in both grammar and logic. The work consists of nine chapters, including the introductory chapter.

In the Introduction, I have discussed the subject-predicate distinction in general and have tried to give a general picture of my procedure.

Chapter 1 deals with the doctrines of categories and of predicables as propounded by Aristotle.

In Chapter 2 the discussion is concentrated chiefly around the criticisms by John Cook Wilson against the traditional theory of the subject-predicate distinction and his own explanation of the distinction.

Chapter 3 deals with the subject-predicate distinction as held in Grammar. Here we are chiefly concerned with the interpretations and views of Otto Jesperson.

In Chapter 4 I proceed to discuss the sceptical view of Ramsey, who totally denies the validity of the subject-predicate distinction.
In Chapter 5 the discussion is about Geach's exposition of the subject-predicate distinction, who tries to explain it by means of the pair of words 'about' and 'stands for'.

Chapter 6 deals with the views of Strawson on the subject-predicate distinction. He supplies two criteria, namely, grammatical and categorial, for the subject-predicate distinction. In this chapter I discuss in detail these two criteria.

Strawson, moreover, tries to explicate the subject-predicate distinction by means of the concepts of 'completeness' and 'incompleteness'. In the seventh chapter I discuss these concepts and their importance in clarifying the subject-predicate distinction.

The discussion in Chapter 8 is distributed into two sections. In Section I, I discuss Frege's view on sense and reference, and some interpretations and criticisms of his view. In Section II I deal with Bradley's views on judgement and predication and also give a comparative study of Frege and Bradley.

Chapter 9, which is the concluding chapter, also consists of two sections. In Section I, I have tried to explain Dr. J. L. Shaw's theory and his exposition and criticism of Strawson. In Section II a reconstruction has been attempted following Navya-Nyāya theory of Gadadhara Bhattacharyya.

Although this subject has been considered important for logic, grammar and metaphysics since the time of Aristotle, there has been as yet no systematic work dealing with the classical and the contemporary thinkers. For example, there has been no
comparative study of Frege and Bradley and also no attempt at a comparative study of the Navya Nyāya theory and the Western theories. In this work I have attempted to fill up this gap and analyse the conceptual structure of the subject-predicate distinction in a different way.

In conclusion I express my sincerest gratitude to my teacher and supervisor Prof. Sibajiban Bhattacharyya, Acharya B.N. Seal, Professor of Philosophy, Calcutta University, for his encouragement and discussions on the topic on which I have worked. His criticisms, suggestions and advice were of inestimable value to me. I also thank the authorities of the University of Burdwan for granting me a U.G.C. Junior Research Fellowship and providing all facilities for my work.