PREFACE.

My first initiation in the concept of meaning was in Jadavpur University by my highly esteemed preceptors, Dr. Ramaranjan Mukherji and Dr. Gopikamohan Bhattacharya. In the year 1968, Dr. Mukherji suggested the subject and I began the research work under the feet of Dr. Bhattacharya. Under his able guidance and interest-creating encouragement I gradually entered into the intricacies of the subject. But, after a short period, I had to practically stop the work due to unavoidable adverse circumstances. I could not have any guidance for years due to Dr. Bhattacharya's long stay in the Continent and then for his joining the Kurukshetra University. At long last I was lucky enough to sit under the feet of Dr. Siddheswar Chattopadhyay of the University of Burdwan, who, at the request of Dr. Mukherji, gladly accepted me as his disciple in 1976. Dr. Chattopadhyay encouraged me very much to continue with the same subject. His loving and sympathetic encouragement at last enabled me to complete the thesis in spite of various difficulties. At times his open-minded suggestions on some problems came out as an intuitive flash and, as if, opened the gateway of new worlds of thought before my mind's eye. Dr. Ananta Thakur of the University of Burdwan also encouraged me and helped me verify the correctness of my treatment of some intricate philosophical problems.

I have freely utilized the research works of my predecessors and my debt to all of them is evident in my work. Last but not the least, my esteemed colleagues of Kalna College also encouraged and helped me in various ways, particularly in improving the lucidity of language. The esteemed librarian of Saṃskṛta Sāhitya Parisad and his assistants also helped me a great deal by their kind supply of reference books.

I cannot but express my deep gratitude from the core of my heart to all my esteemed preceptors, predecessors and friends.

Kamal Krishna Chakrabarti
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