The influence of Persian on Indian languages and literature has evolved out of centuries of Muslim rule and has become deeply rooted in the lives of millions of people, who have been brought up in the Indo-Persian tradition. Upto the year 1837, it was the court language and enjoyed the privileges of this position. After the year 1837, Urdu replaced Persian as the court language of British India, but because of its deep affinity with the Urdu language, Persian continued to assert itself through literature, culture and education. It, therefore, remained the language of the elite and its knowledge was considered to be a mark of refinement and noble birth among all the communities of India, irrespective of caste and religion.

Like other languages of India, Indian has also been influenced by the Persian language and its culture. Perse-Arabic vocabularies used in Assamese seem to be so much a part of everyday life that few would have suspected to their foreign origins. A large part of what we call or identify as our culture, i.e., language, art, dress, tool, architecture and social customs were originally borrowed from Persian or Iranian culture, but since these have been assimilated beyond recognition. To find out the linguistic and other aspects of Persian influence, researches have been done on most of the Indian languages,
My interest for this thesis 'Influence of Persian on Assamese' was roused chiefly out of that.

On account of the dearth of materials written or unwritten, I have to carry out my thesis under certain limitations. I had to rely mostly on Old Persian and Assamese Chronicles, modern works written in English and Assamese, Encyclopaedia, Journals, Gazetteers and Dictionaries etc.

In presenting this 'Thesis', I deem it to be my pleasant duty to acknowledge my grateful thanks to my guide and teacher Dr. Ata Karim Burke, M.Litt., D.Litt., Sir Asutosh Professor of Islamic Culture and former Head of the Department of Arabic and Persian, Calcutta University, who kindly agreed to guide my work and without whose able guidance and encouragement I could not present this work in the form of 'thesis'.

I must also acknowledge my gratitude to Dr. Manzeer Alam, former Head and Dr. A.Q. Jaffri, the present Head of the Department of Persian, Gauhati University, for their very kind advice and valuable suggestions regarding my work.

My thanks are also due to Robin Goswami, Lecturer in English, Cotton College, who took the responsibility of examining the proofs and to all my colleagues for their advice and encouragements.

I convey my grateful thanks to Mrs. Rita Das, Reference Librarian and staff of the State Central Library of Assam, Gauhati,
Shri Dilip Choudhury, Shri Pranab Talukdar and the staff of the Cotton College Library, Gauhati, staff of the National Library, Calcutta, Director and staff of the Department of Historical Antiquarian Studies, Assam, Gauhati, and also to the staff of the Gauhati University Library, for having always readily helped me with books, journals, manuscripts and Gazetteers etc., which facilitated research and offering me all opportunities for work in their respective Libraries.

Lastly, I sincerely acknowledge my thanks to Iltaf Hussain and my wife, for seeing the proofs and whatever other help I received in various ways and encouragement immensely contributed to the progress of this long drawn thesis.

The influence of Persian on Assamese have been discussed in details and comprehensive manner in this thesis. The subject discussed, I must admit, is neither complete nor perfect. I shall consider my endeavours rewarded if this subject is completed and perfected by fresh researchers in years to come.