PREFACE

Since the publication of the Atharva-Veda by Roth and Whitney in 1856 it has been subjected to various types of studies such as interpretative, historical, religious and cultural as indicated in my select bibliography given at the end of my thesis. But a comprehensive study embracing all the important aspects of the language of the Atharva-Veda has so far remained a desideratum. In this treatise I have made a humble attempt to present a grammatical study of the language of the Atharva-Veda. I have tried to treat the language of the Atharva-Veda both from the ancient and modern point of view. I have referred to the views of Prātisākhya and Pāṇini in my grammatical analysis of the Atharva-Veda. The Atharva-Veda Prātisākhya or Saunakīyā Caturādhyāyikā edited by Whitney has been particularly helpful to me in this regard.

I owe a debt of gratitude to all the modern scholars whose grammatical works listed in my bibliography have been of help to me in my researches.

It is now my pleasant duty to express my thanks to Dr. Ram Gopal, Kālidāsa Professor of Sanskrit and Head of the Sanskrit Department, Panjab University, Chandigarh.
who has guided this research work of mine. Not only did he suggest this topic of research and hand over all the Vedic Grammatical material to me but also made available to me rare books, gave valuable instructions, and drew my attention to a lot of pertinent material which only a mind steeped into the subject could do. In fact I may unhesitatingly say that the credit for whatever merit there might be in this thesis is entirely due to him.

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