INTRODUCTION

This dissertation presents a description of Yerava based on Baniya Yerava speech, following the Neo Bloomfieldian model. Another and in all probability the only other, section of Yerava, with a distinct speech of its own is Panjiri Yerava. Both the sections of Yeravas are in Kodagu, Karnataka.

The first chapter on ETHNOGRAPHY has twelve sections in which the geographical description of area where Yeravas are living, the groups and subgroups of Yerava, the name of the tribe, the origin and migration, population and distribution, somatoscopic observations, anthropometric measurement, and racial affinity are described. The family descent, kinship, the naming pattern and material culture like house, dress, daily routine, entertainment are identified and described. In the section on life cycle, birth, puberty, marriage and death are explained along with some of the rituals connected with these ceremonies. The final section of this chapter discusses language, folk literature, bilingualism, literacy and communication pattern among Yeravas.
The second chapter on PHONOLOGY presents the phonemic inventory of vowels, consonants and suprasegmentals with phonemic contrasts and their distribution; all these contrasts and their distribution are illustrated. The other part of the chapter deals with Yerava phonotactics which includes types of clusters and types of syllables. In case of clusters, both identical and non-identical clusters are classified and illustrated. The description of Yerava syllable system presented here describes the initial, medial and final syllable types. The different types of syllabic structure are explained with examples.

The third chapter on MORPHOPHONEMICS gives formulae formulated and ordered to illustrate the morphophonemic changes taking place while the morphs juxtapose. Each formula is given a number. The same number is given in parenthesis in the other parts of the thesis to enable cross reference.

The fourth chapter on NOUN MORPHOLOGY is divided into ten sections. The first section presents an outline of the general classification of Yerava stems and the second section presents classification of noun stems. The simple, derived and compound nouns are
described in the next three sections. The sixth section deals with the inflection of nouns for gender and number. The eighth section identifies the case markers, and the eleven cases identified are illustrated. The ninth section of this chapter describes personal and derived pronouns. The last and the tenth section describes the cardinal and ordinal numerals along with formation of numerals of higher order and numeral stem alternants.

The fifth chapter on VERB MORPHOLOGY is divided into sixteen sections. In the first section, the Yerawa verb stems are classified on the basis of the past tense marker, they are also illustrated. The verbs are further classified into intransitives, transitives, derived transitives and non-transitivizable intransitives. In the following sections, the transitives, causatives, imperatives, hortatives, permissives and tense markers -- past, present and future -- are illustrated.

The non-finite verb forms, adverbial participle forms, adjectival participle forms -- form the content of the ninth section. The complex verb stems formed by
modal auxiliaries and aspectual auxiliaries are also identified and described in eleventh section. In the next four sections, conjunct verbs, modal verbs, appellative verbs and stem alternants are explained. In the last section of this chapter an illustration for inflection of verbs and suffixes is given.

The sixth chapter ADJECTIVES and ADVERBS deals with the modifiers of nouns and verbs. They are identified and illustrated in three categories - simple, derived and reduplicated.

The seventh chapter CLITICS and PARTICLES, has two sections. The first section deals with clitics - enclitics, pro-clitics and post clitics. The second section deals with the particles of three types - the one that occurs with nouns, the one that occurs with adjectives and one that occurs after the relative participle form of the verb.

The eighth chapter of the thesis is devoted to SYNTAX of Yerava. There are four sections in this chapter. The first section illustrates the simple sentence -- equational, copula, dative, modal, existential, imperative, intransitive, inherent transitive,
derived transitive, causative, interrogative and negative sentences. In complex sentences, the sentences of conditional, relative, infinitive and conjunctive types are illustrated. The compound sentences are also identified and described. Minor sentences form a separate section. In the section on phrases, noun, adjective, adverb and verb phrases are identified and described. The last section describes the concord relationship.

The ninth chapter provides a sketchy COMPARISON of the Yerava speech form of the present thesis with the speech of Panjiri Yeravas, and with Kannada, Kodagu and Malayalam, the languages of the geographical contiguity and with whose speakers Yeravas come into contact.

The APPENDIX has three sections. The first section presents a classified list of verbs. The second section contains a text with analysis. In the third section, the vocabulary collected during the investigation is listed.

The references are listed under References.