2. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

History of Kannada literature which starts earlier than 5th century has a very strong and broad base. In the process of development of Kannada literature from that time to this day we find the inclusion of a variety of literary terms like "champu", "shaṇḍapi", "tripadi" "ragale" etc. At the same time we find different styles of languages as 'Dēsi' (Vernacular Kannada language) and 'Marga' (sanskritised Kannada language). We also find different temporal linguistic variation like the old Kannada, the new Kannada and Kannada of a transitory period. The protection and development of this rich Kannada language which was influenced and also sometimes adversely affected by the different rulers and different religions like Jaina. Vīraśaiva and Brahman requires a thorough linguistic study, like the study of literature. The studies were started in this direction by the missionaries who started an indepth study during the 19th century itself. From this point of view the contributions of Caldwell, Kittel, Rice and Spencer is immemorable. The study of Kannada literature in the light of modern linguistic principles started only during the third decade of the 20th century. An attempt is made here below to illustrate few instances of the same.
2.1 The study of the inscriptions:

Detailed study of the inscriptions in Kannada literature is mainly covered by A.A. Narasimayya, G.S. Gai, K. Kusalappa Gowda and others.

"A Grammar of oldest Kannada Inscription" by A.N. Narasimayya is said to be the first of its kind on Kannada inscriptions in the entire Dravidian field. This book is said to be an attempt to present the grammar of oldest Kannada on the basis of linguistic material available in the inscriptions of the 6th and 7th century. There are three parts in this work viz., phonology, grammar and text of the inscription and various appendices. A treatment of consonant and grammar on the base of their actual forms found in the inscriptions is made in the grammar part. The treatment is scientific and is based on principles of linguistics. Every aspect is supported by inscriptional evidences. He has referred to sixty six inscriptions.

The study of the inscriptions of 8th, 9th and 10th centuries are made by G.S. Gai and actually he continued the work of Narasimayya on inscriptional studies. The study is on two levels of the language i.e., Phonology and morphology. The consonants are treated in the phonology part and the morphology
section deals with gender, number, declension, pronouns, numerals, noun and verbs etc. The book deals with native and borrowed words separately. The syntax is not analysed here. A brief idea about the findings is given in the conclusion. Index is made here with grammatical importance of the forms found in the inscriptions.

Next three decades, there was a vacuum in the area of study. Later, Dr. K.Kushalappa Gowda, recognising the importance of the studies of inscriptions, studied more than four thousand inscriptions of 11th to 14th century of Coorg, South Kanara and North Kanara. He gave a detailed picture of the structure of Kannada language of that period. First chapter contains salient features of the language the sound change and phonemic variations with possible reason. The second and third chapter deal with morphophonemetics and nouns respectively and the fourth chapter deals with verbs in detail. The explanations are given in the form of footnotes at the end of each chapter.

2.2 The study of the texts:

The descriptive grammar of 'Vaddārādane' the thesis submitted to the Annamalai University for the M.Litt. Degree by Sri K.Kushalappa Gowda in the year of 1963, analyses a text of the 10th century A.D which is claimed to be the first prose work in Kannada.
The first part of the thesis comprises grammar of vaddaradane and the second a dictionary as an appendix. Some points pertaining to this have come in the analysis of the cases and verbs. In chapter 10 noun root, morphemes, their canonical forms and morphotactics are given. In morphology, separate subsections for gender and number are not made since both of them are described under five fold gender division.

'Pampa Bhārata' is the first great kavya in Kannada literature. Pampa, the author of 'Pampa Bhārata' is accepted as the best poet and adikavi. 'Pampa Bharatha' written in the literary Kannada of the 10th century is a good representation of old Kannada.

The descriptive grammar of "Pampa Bhārata" by Dr. B. Ramachandra Rao is also the first attempt to describe the language of an early literary work of kannada. The work was submitted for the award of the Ph.D Degree of Osmania University in the year of 1972.

The said work runs to 558 printed pages and contains two parts. The First part, (the grammar) deals with phonology morphology and morphemics. At the end of the part I the author has given the conclusions. The second part contains the concordance of pampa Bharata in 356 pages. The bibliography is given at the end.
Vacana literature which belongs to middle Kannada period forms an important part of Kannada literature. "A descriptive grammar of vacana literature" is a thesis submitted to Karnataka University, Dharwad for the award of the degree of doctor of philosophy by Shri. Bando Bhimaji Rajapurohit in the year 1964.

The thesis contains 437 pages. Out of this 210 pages are appendices in which the words and meanings with the name of the vacanas where they occur are mentioned. More than 200 pages are meant for descriptive grammar of the language of vacanas.

The analysis is based on modern linguistic principles. The thesis contains four chapters viz introduction, phonemics, morphology and syntax. The treatment is adequate. It is an useful addition to the stock of linguistic descriptions in Kannada language.

"A linguistic analysis of the Kirtanas of Haridāsas in Kannada " is a thesis submitted to the Mysore University for the award of Doctor of Philosophy in linguistics by C.S. Ramachandra in the year 1984.

This is a work of a very rare quality. We have to depend on this work for a thorough understanding of the language of 'Kirtanās'. The work containing more than 500
pages is a representation of Kannada medieval period. The native words, non native words and borrowed words are identified in the lexicon. The study concentrates on the kirtanas of "Shripāda Rāya", 'Purandara dāsa', 'Kanakadāsa', 'Shri Mahipati rāya', 'Jagannata dāsa'. The language studied is that the 15th century A.D. The study of the language and the vocabulary of Kirtanās is useful for understanding the social and cultural facts of that period.

Hariharadeva of Hampi popularly known as Harihara recognised as one of the four major poets in the history of Kannada literature - that is spread over a period of two thousand years. "The Descriptive Grammar of Harihara's Ragale" is a Ph.D. thesis submitted by Dr. Sangamesh Saundattimath to the Karnatak University. It has seven chapters. First five chapters like other descriptive studies of this kind deal with phonology, morphology, morphophonemics, noun morphology, verb morphology and clitics. Sixth chapter deals with linguistic peculiarities of Ragale and Chapter VII contains the conclusion and notes relevant to the studies. Appendix is given in the end.

The study containing one hundred sixty pages deals with the grammar of the language of 13th century A.D. In the Introduction to the study, the significance of Hariharas
different works and the characteristic of Ragale are given. It is one of the important studies in the area.

"Rāmāyanadārṣṭāna - A Linguistic study" is a thesis submitted by R. Ramakrishna to the University of Mysore for the award of degree of Ph.D in Linguistics in the year 1986. It contains 293 pages of which 266 pages constitute the descriptive part.

Kuvempu is the first modern Kannada poet. His "Ramayana Darshanam" is unparalleled in the epics of kannada. The Linguistic study of this text is very useful for students of linguistics.

The latest study "Darmāṁrita" of Nayasena is a linguistic study by Shri.Kalegouda submitted in the year of 1993, to the Mysore University.

Nayasena Dharmāṁrita is an important epic which throws light on the language, literature and social life of the twelfth century. It is written in "Champu" style. The study of this kind is very much necessary for the Kannada language of the future.

A work of this kind can be easily felt to be necessary for the study of Kannada language. It is hoped that these investigations in the diachrony of Kannada language, be carried
out further upto modern times, taking into consideration both inscriptions and literary works to reveal the linguistic relationship at diachronic level which are the fixed points in historical process of Kannada language as reflected in inscriptions and literature.
The structural model has been followed for the analysis. However, the syntax has been attempted to work for transformational model. The thesis is divided into nine chapters.

The first chapter introduces the poet and his work. It gives an account of the language of the text. The opinions of literary scholars about 'Mudramanjusa' and also the purpose of the study are given in this chapter.

The earlier studies on Kannada inscription and Kannada literary texts are enumerated in the second chapter.

Third chapter deals with the phonology including phonemic inventory, contrasts and distribution of various vowels and consonants of Kannada as used in 'Mudramanjusa'. The clusters and syllables are also explained with examples in the said chapter.

Morphophonemics is dealt in fourth chapter. Various sandhi rules which are found in 'Mudramanjusa' are studied.

Noun morphology is analysed descriptively in the fifth chapter. A detailed study of classification of nouns, gender and number, cases, pronouns, numerals and derivations along with illustrations is done in this chapter.
Verbs, classification of verbs and their construction is studied in sixth chapter. Tense, pronominal terminations and moods are analysed with examples in this chapter.

The seventh chapter deals with both the verb and noun modifiers. Simple and derived adjectives and adverbs are given with examples in this chapter.

Types of clitics and particles are discussed with examples in the eighth chapter.

The chapter nine deals with the syntax on the transformation model. Phrase structure and major syntactic types have been presented with details in this chapter.

Lexicon and the bibliography are given at the end of the thesis.