ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me immense pleasure to express my gratitude and thanks to Dr. P.B. Gai, Professor, Department of Anthropology, Karnataka University, Dharwad who has guided me in bringing out this work with his thoughtful ideas and constant encouragement.

I humbly acknowledge my thanks to Dr. Khaja Naseeruddin, Professor and Head, Department of ENT, Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli who helped me in doing my field work in the ENT department.

I am thankful to Dr. Umesh Nagalotimath, Dr. Vikram Bhat, Dr. Nagaraj, Dr. Ravindra Gadag, Dr. Uday Shankar and the PG students of Department of ENT, Karnataka Institute of Medical Sciences, Hubli who willingly helped me in the course of my field work.

I am grateful to Dr. C.G. Hussain Khan, Chairman, Department of Anthropology, Karnataka University, Dharwad for his valuable suggestions and co-operation.

My sincere thanks are due to Dr. S.V. Hittalamani, Sri. R.M. Girji, Dr. P.P. Pavate, Dr. K.C. Tarachand, Dr. Murahari Naik, Dr. Basanagouda and staff members, Department of Anthropology, Karnataka University, Dharwad for their constant encouragement and support.

I owe my sincere gratitude to all those patients without whose cooperation this thesis would not have been possible.

I am thankful to Karnataka University, Dharwad for giving me financial assistance in the form of University Research Scholarship.
Also I extend my heartful thanks to all my friends who have helped me in achieving the same.

I am greatly indebted to my parents, brother and sister for their constant encouragement and support.

Last but not the least I thank to M/s. ANAND COMPUTERS, Dharwad who has neatly typed the thesis.

Place: Dharwad
Date: 12-2002

(P.A. KALASKAR)