FOREWORD

As the Principal of a college for more than a decade, I began to feel the importance of translation for students of English Literature. College students, especially those at the pre-degree level prefer Malayalam translations to the original English works. It seemed that they were fond of reading about adventures and detectives. While going through different Malayalam versions of novels, I came across the translation, *Huckleberry Finninte Vikramangal* by Dr. Sukumar Azheekode. Discovering it to be a standard work, I made up my mind to concentrate on the study of Mark Twain in Malayalam with special reference to *Huckleberry Finn*.

Though translation may seem to be still in its infancy, a considerable research has been done on it during the last century, developing on the few earlier attempts. But we have to proceed with further study to attain the goal of a clearer understanding of the problems involved.

In this thesis, after dealing with the general problems and theories of translation, I have turned to the work done so far on prose translation. Next, the
reception of Mark Twain across cultures has been discussed in detail. Further, taking the catalogue of Malayalam translations of *Huckleberry Finn*, an attempt of evaluation has been made on the basis of a comparative study. Here the methodology and strategies adopted by the trio, Azheekode, Thayat and Vijayan have been explored. How far the translators have succeeded in conveying the message of Mark Twain, and how far they were influenced by their own personalities are matters that constantly intrigued me.

Of course, Mark Twain's greatest contribution is his use of different variants of language including dialects. Mark Twain found sources of novels in the American vernacular. Each character representing the class to which he belongs can be distinguished by his language. The humour & jokes in his novel is derived mainly from the exploitation of registers. So the language variations in the three translations of *Huckleberry Finn* seemed to merit serious study. Eventually, I have been led to recognize the important hypothesis in Azheekode's translation, relating to the equivalents for various American dialects in Malayalam.
However, more advanced study is essential for the discovery of potential equivalence in American and Malayalam dialects. Let this be food for thought and future research.

An interview with the pioneer Dr. Sukumar Azheekode was so inspiring that I consider it to be my greatest achievement during the course of my study, and I proudly attach the same as an Appendix of this humble work.

K.J. KURIAKOSE