PREFACE

The title of my research work is "Bankim Chandra Chatterjee and Lakshminath Bezbaruah - a comparative study"

The 19th century Renaissance first came in Bengal and its wave reached the shores of Assam later. Influenced by this Renaissance, Bankim Chandra in Bengal, and Lakshminath in Assam, made tremendous achievements in Bengali and Assamese literature respectively. They also inspired and enthused the later generations by their great literary achievements. A comparative study of literary works of these two great writers is the subject matter of my thesis. Fortunately it was possible for me to collect the works of these two great writers, which have already discussed above, hence it became possible for me to take up this uphill task upon these two literary giants. As far as I know, no research work has been done, either in Bengal or in Assam, which is a comparative study of these two writers. So this can be said without any doubt that my thesis is an original work.

A detailed and painstaking study of the literary works of Bankim Chandra and Lakshminath Bezbaruah left me in no doubt that there are many similarities between these two writers in different aspects. Gradually an idea began to
form in my mind to attempt a comparative study of the works of these two writers. Bankim Chandra was the uncrowned king of Bengali literature and Lakshminath also was the "Sahityarathi" of Assam. Even to day they are highly respected writers in their native provinces. In their respective fields they greatly influenced the later generations of writers. It must also be mentioned they were also patriots and nation builders.

Here I take the opportunity to mention the names of those who enthused me and helped me in more ways than one, with heartfelt gratitude.

I took up this research project being inspired by my respected teacher Dr. Ajay Kumar Chakraborty. It was he who suggested to me to attempt a comparative study of the works of Bankim Chandra and Lakshminath Bezbaruah, and he also kindly agreed to guide me in the work. He also suggested the title of the thesis. Later in the matter of the comparative study, particularly that of the works of Bezbaruah, the name of Dr. Satyendra Narayan Goswami, the Rabindra Nath Tagore Professor of Gauhati University, was proposed. Though he is very hardly pressed for time for he is always engaged in different literary activities, he kindly agreed to shoulder the responsibility of being the joint
guide of my project. On grounds of a run down health it was not possible for Dr. Chakraborty to guide me for long. I shall remain ever grateful to this respected teacher of mine.

After this unexpected set back those who agreed to by my guide at the request of Dr. Chakraborty, and extended their kind, helping hands without a moment's hesitation were Dr. Nikhilesh Purkait and Dr. Satyendra Narayan Goswami, of Gauhati University. This research work would never have seen the light of the day without their kind and unstinted help. They are always extremely busy with their classes, contributing to magazines and periodicals and other constructive works. Inspite of these heavy responsibilities they advised me, guided me and always inspired me with selfless sincerity and for their invaluable help I express my gratitude with a humble heart. I shall remain indebted to them all my life. I humbly acknowledge my debt and offer my deep respect and reverence to them.

With gratitude and humility,

(REKHA DHAR)