

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

An ordinary Indian never thanks people for the service rendered. He/She, when overwhelmed with gratitude, conveys the message with eyes filled with unshed tears. As this will not be able to let the world know the good work done by many, let me be a non-Indian for once.

The list begins with 'Him' whom I can never adequately thank with words, for, never can we glorify the Sun with our lamps.

Next come my "Teachers" from whom I learnt everything - my language, values of life, outlook of life, and most of my behaviour. The list is infinitely long and hence I have to restrict to whom I owe most. My parents and family members but for whose loving moral support my attempt would be impossible.

Late Dr.K.M.Shantha who made me take up Linguistics and Phonetics in 1981 and tirelessly prodded me on and tried to get others to help me,

Dr.M.V.Nadkarni, who taught me the nature of advanced research work,

Dr.Rani Rubdy, who, with a set of incisive questions and infinite patience showed me how to focus my research,

Dr.T.Balasubramanian, who was with me every second of my work when it became a marathon sprint in June 1990 and helped me finish my venture,

Dr.Ganesan, Geetha Durairajan and Lalrindiki who instilled hope in me and persuaded me to continue when I had almost given up,

Dr. Surabhi Bharati and Archana for their meticulous proof-reading and suggestions for modifications,

Dr. O.P. Shyma, Mrs. Lalitha Nair, Dr. K. Uma, Prof. Krishnaswamy, Dr.M.N.K. Bose, and Dr. T. Sriraman, who encouraged me constantly,

Dr. Ramesh Mohan and Dr. S.K. Verma, Director of the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages, Hyderabad, who sanctioned me CIEFL Teacher Fellowship,

Dr.P.V. Dhamija, Head of the Department of Phonetics and Spoken English, CIEFL, Hyderabad for permitting me to work in the Laboratory,

The Secretary of Education, Government of Pondicherry,

My Principals, Miss Catherine Sundaram, Late Mr.K.Narayana Sharma, Dr. Saroja Sundararajan who made my stay in Hyderabad possible by sanctioning me leave,

Mrs. Radha, my Head of the Department, Bharathidasan Government College for Women, Pondicherry and my colleagues who bore the burden of my classes during my absence,

Mr. K.S. Rao, Head of the Department of English, and his colleagues, Avvaiyar Government College for Women, Karaikal for encouraging me,

Mr. Rajkumar and Mrs. Surya Prabha Swarnakodi for enabling me to meet the informants in Karaikal,

My informants at Karaikal and Pondicherry for their whole-hearted participation,

Ananth, my brother and J.A. Rajan for spending hours with me discussing my topic and helping me mould it,

Miss Asha Kumar, an amateur artist for drawing the vocal cords,

The members of the staff of the Departments of Linguistics and Phonetics for equipping me to do this work,

Mr.Ramaiah, Librarian, CIEFL, Hyderabad, and his very helpful staff,

Mr.C.K.Vijaya and Mr.Gokhale, Technicians, Phonetics Laboratory, CIEFL, Hyderabad,

Mrs.Soundaravalli, Mrs.Manimegalai Jessy, J.V.D.Moorthy, Mrs.Usha Ganeshan, Rashmi, Meena and Indu, Arul Krishnamurthy, Hari Prasad, for being my morale boosters and for sparing time for me,

Mr.Sankar Rao and Mr.SRM Krishnan for their excellent painstaking and fast typing,

Mr.Babu Rao and his brother for xeroxing, and

Mr.Narasimha for doing the binding.

Thank you everyone!

-R.SEETHA