A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

As a teacher of the Russian Language, I have always wondered as to how to make the teaching of the Target Language more meaningful and simple, especially in the context of the Multilingual Indian Classroom. While working on my MA dissertation on "Problems of teaching Russian to Bengali speaking students", I found it difficult to account for all the problems, as the topic was too vast at that time, and I decided to concentrate on aspects of it as my Ph.D. thesis. For this I needed more experience in teaching the Russian language to Bengali speaking students, especially to collect data from Bengali students, learning the Russian language in the Russian environment. The opportunity came in 1985 and again in 1991, when I was nominated by the University Grants' Commission to go to Moscow for the collection of data.

In Moscow I was also able to present papers on my work at the Institute of Linguistics, Academy of Sciences, (of the then USSR), The Moscow State University and Pushkin Institute. This gave me confidence to finish the work.

During the last eight years of my investigation, I have received generous assistance, guidance and encouragement from my former teachers, and from relatives, friends and colleagues. I should first and foremost like to express my gratitude to Professor Sumirmal Roy, Head, Centre for Advanced Studies in Education, MSU, Baroda, who always gave his valuable time whenever I had any problems regarding the Methodology of the study.

I am especially thankful to the M.S.University of Baroda for allowing me to work as a self guide for this thesis.

I thank Professor D.D.Mahulkar, formerly Head, Department of Linguistics, MSU, Professor Udaya Narayana Singh, Head, Centre for Applied Linguistics and Translation Studies, Central University, Hyderabad, Dr. Mrinal Kanti Nath, Reader, Department of linguistics, University of Calcutta; Ms.Yulija Gjorgijevna Ovsijenko, Author of the Text Book -- 'Russian for Beginners'; Professor Ol'ga Danilovna Mitrofanova, Director, Pushkin Institute, Moscow; Dr.Yeljena Viktorovna Tsvjetkova, teacher in the Pushkin Institute, Moscow for their valuable comments, assessment and suggestions.

My special thanks are due to my wife Pabitra Dasgupta; Professor Amar Basu, JNU; Professor R.Govinda, NIEPA, and Dr. N. Rajaram, Department of Sociology, MSU not only for their help and guidance in various ways, but also for constantly reminding me till very recently that I had not finished my thesis.

I would also like to thank my students, and students from other institutions, who gave me time for the approbation of the Phonetic Data and collection of Perceptual and Environmental Data for this study. I also thank the other teachers for their valuable comments.

I am also grateful to Dr. Upendra Nanavati, Reader, Department of English, MSU and my first student in Baroda, Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed, Department of History , MSU, Mr. Tanmoy Bhattacharya and Ms. Ara Shah, Department of Linguistics, MSU for

helping me edit the final version of this thesis, and my students Ms. Indrani Roy and Ms. Utpala Dubey for helping me with the correction work. I owe thanks to Shri Anantha Hamath, Shri Jayendra Sheth and Shri Ashish Pathak who trained me to work on the computer and type this thesis independently, as this could not be done on an ordinary typewriter.

The list of names of friends and well wishers to whom I am grateful is endless. I thank one and all. I owe special gratitude to the other members of my family for their forbearance and support during the entire period of this work.

I dedicate this work of mine to the memory of my late father and to my mother, to whom I owe all that I can be proud of today.

Vasant Panchami:15th February, 1994 (Debal Dasgupta)