Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to all who provided me their indispensable guidance and support in the successful completion of my doctoral research at Tezpur University, Tezpur, Assam. Without them, this journey to reach the current stage of my doctoral program would not have been possible. I would like to thank each one of them.

First and foremost, my sincere and heartfelt thanks go to my supervisor Prof. Utpal Sharma, for his constant guidance, valuable feedback and advice, encouragement and confidence in my capabilities. His vision and direction always helped me to take new approaches to solve my research problems. His meticulous approach to solving a problem, clarity in defining a problem and artful presentation of results, has helped me understand the nuances of research. Moreover, I am also most indebted to him for being readily available, any time, to discuss any problem that I faced during the period of my research work.

I would like to convey my sincere thanks to the members of my doctoral committee, Prof. D. K. Bhattacharya, Prof. S. K. Sinha, Dr. S. Saharia and Prof. U. Sharma, for their valuable comments and suggestions especially during the progress seminar sessions and in the synopsis presentation. I would also like to place on record the help and support received from the members of the faculty, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, Tezpur University, with special mention of a few - Prof. Shyamanta M. Hazarika, Prof. Nityananda Sarma, Prof. Malay A. Dutta, Dr. Sanjib Kr. Deka, Dr. Debojit Bodo and Dr. Arindam Karmakar. I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to other faculty members of the Department and to the members of the Departmental Research Committee. My sincere thanks to the anonymous reviewers for their precious comments and constructive feedback. My tea-time partners Dr. Debojit Bodo, Dr. Sanjib Kr. Deka and Dr. Rosy Sarmah and my close friend Dr. Runumi Das (from the Department of Business Administration), always cheered and rejoiced at the smallest of my successes and at the same time, supported, encouraged and enlightened my spirit during my trying times. I also extend my sincere thanks to the nonteaching staff of the Department, for their generous help in various ways towards the completion of this research work.

I extend my gratitude to DeitY, AICTE (NEQIP) and to MHRD, Centre of Excellence on MLBDA, Govt. of India, for financial support. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to Prof. S. R. M. Prasanna, Dept.of Electrical Engineering, IIT Dharwad, Prof. P. Bhaskararao, IIIT Hyderabad, Prof. P. K. Das, Dept.of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Guwahati and Prof. Jugal Kalita, Dept.of Computer Science, University of Colorado, for their invaluable advice on various topics of my research. I would also like to express my gratitude to Bidisha Sharma, Rajlakshmi Saikia, Indrajit Kalita, Nazrul Hoque, Pranjul Kashyap, Gautam Das, Himangshu Sarma, Trideep Baruah, Pranjit Baruah, Deba Chaliha, Anita Ghosh and Mancha Jyoti Malakar, for their kind support and help. Special thanks go to X, Y and Z who provided me speech samples and carried out evaluation of synthesized

speech, without whom this research work would not have been possible and to the Dr. Bhupen Hazarika Regional Government Film and Television Institute, Guwahati, for providing me the necessary recording environment and facilities.

My deepest and sincere gratitude is to my parents, family members and inlaws for their unconditional love, patience, encouragement and support, especially during the last five years.

Last, but not the least, I will be forever indebted to my husband- *Trideep*, who has been a constant source of inspiration and my morale booster, and my beloved daughter-*Pahi*, who has been patiently waiting for a vacation and her Mamma's time.

Sanghamitra Nath