ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation toward my Burushaski informants, who worked with me patiently to help me complete my dissertation.

My most sincere gratitude goes to my supervisor, Professor Shinjiro Kazama. His strictly scientific attitude, academic expertise, and immeasurable advice were what encouraged me and enabled me to continue this study. Till the very end, he kept up a stream of concrete suggestions to help me improve the content of this dissertation.

I would also like to express my deep appreciation toward Professor Toshihide Nakayama for the extensive linguistic information on grammar writing that he had to offer. He also provided me with a great deal of advice with regard to consistent thinking.

Likewise, I am highly indebted to Professor Honoré Watanabe, who provided me with valuable technical comments and suggestions for writing this thesis.

I equally would like to address my cordial thanks to Professor Prashant Pardeshi and Associate Professor Masato Kobayashi for their valuable comments and instructive suggestions mainly from the point of view of linguistic typology and the Indian sprachbund.

I need to express my gratitude to Professor Hiroshi Nakagawa for being extremely helpful in the drafting of Chapter 1, "The Sound System", in particular.

I am equally thankful to two Wakhi researchers, Professor Koji Kamioka and Associate Professor Satoko Yoshie, for their instructive suggestions. I have obtained valuable information about the Wakhi and Persian languages, the Hunza culture, and events in Hunza from them. That they sometimes visited and asked me to luncheon in Karimabad was a great form of mental support.

Finally, I am very grateful to Alice Mitchell, Jay Stallings, Derry Moore, and Karl Sarvestani, students of University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, who worked as a team to proofread this dissertation under the guidance of Hiroto Uchihara. I deeply appreciate his effective supervision as well.

This research has been financially supported by the Support Programme for Young Researchers, which has been provided by the Global COE programme of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies: "Corpus-based Linguistics and Language Education" (2007–11).

Without the valuable assistance of all these respectable scholars and collaborators,

this work could never have become a reality. I cannot help but thank all of them from the bottom of my heart once again. Needless to say, I take full responsibility for all the content and descriptions in this dissertation.