CONTENTS

| | Acknowledgements | Page No. i-iii |
|-------------|--|-------------------|
| | Contents | iv-x |
| | List of Maps | xi |
| | List of Figures | xii-xix |
| | List of Tables | XX |
| | Appendices | xxi |
| | Synopsis | xxxiv |
| Chapter - 1 | INTRODUCTION | 1-10 |
| 1.1. | Previous studies on the memorial stone tradition in the | 2 |
| | Indian Sub-continent | |
| 1.2. | Scope of the current research | 7 |
| 1.3. | Major objectives of the current research | 8 |
| Chapter - 2 | METHODS OF STUDY | 11-21 |
| 2.1. | Literary survey | 11 |
| 2.2. | Field surveys | 12 |
| 2.3. | Classification of memorial stones | 13 |
| 2.4. | Chronology of the memorial stones | 15 |
| 2.5. | Sculptural art | 16 |
| 2.5.1. | Natyashastra and its contents for investigation in the present | 19 |
| | research | |
| 2.6. | Ethnographic surveys | 19 |
| 2.7. | Epigraphic studies | 20 |

| Chapter - 3 | ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND CULTURAL HISTORY | 22-50 |
|-------------|--|--------|
| | OF HASSAN DISTRICT, KARNATAKA | |
| | | |
| 3.1. | Environmental setting | 22 |
| 3.1.1. | Drainage systems | 24 |
| 3.1.2. | Climate | 26 |
| 3.1.3. | Temperature | 26 |
| 3.1.4. | Rainfall | 27 |
| 3.1.5. | Humidity | 27 |
| 3.1.6. | Vegetation | 27 |
| 3.1.7. | Fauna | 29 |
| 3.1.8. | Geology | 30 |
| 3.2. | Cultural history | 31 |
| 3.2.1. | Prehistoric period | 32 |
| 3.2.2. | Mauryans | 32 |
| 3.2.3. | Kadambas of Banavasi | 33 |
| 3.2.4. | Western Gangas | 34 |
| 3.2.5. | Kongalvas | 37 |
| 3.2.6. | Changalvas | 38 |
| 3.2.7. | Hoysalas of Dwarasamudra | 39 |
| 3.2.8. | Vijayanagara Empire | 43 |
| 3.2.9. | Balam Principality | 45 |
| 3.2.10. | Other <i>Palegars</i> | 46 |
| 3.2.11. | Religious conditions in Hassan District, Karnataka | 47 |
| 3.2.12. | Social conditions | 49 |
| | | |
| | | |
| Chapter - 4 | RESULTS | 51-235 |

| 4.1. | Veeragals | 51 |
|----------|--|-----|
| 4.1.1. | Chronological distribution of the veeragals in Hassan | 53 |
| | District, Karnataka | |
| 4.1.1.1. | Veeragals datable to the Ganga Period (c.800-1000 CE) | 54 |
| 4.1.1.2. | Veeragals datable to the Hoysala Period (1001-1350 CE) | 56 |
| 4.1.1.3. | Veeragals datable to the Vijayanagara and Nayaka Period | 60 |
| | (1351-1800 CE) | |
| 4.1.1.4. | Indeterminate varieties | 62 |
| 4.1.2. | Typological classification of veeragals | 63 |
| 4.1.2.1. | Veeragals datable to the Ganga period | 64 |
| 4.1.2.2. | Veeragals datable to the Hoysala period | 66 |
| 4.1.2.3. | Veeragals datable to the Vijayanagara and Nayaka period | 72 |
| 4.1.2.4. | Indeterminate time periods | 73 |
| 4.1.3. | Spatial distribution of the <i>veeragals</i> | 74 |
| 4.1.3.1. | Veeragals datable to the Ganga period | 76 |
| 4.1.3.2. | Veeragals datable to the Hoysala period | 78 |
| 4.1.3.3. | Veeragals datable to the Vijayanagara and Nayaka period | 87 |
| 4.1.4. | Epigraphic investigations | 89 |
| 4.1.4.1. | Mangalasloka | 90 |
| 4.1.4.2. | The political authority of the region and the qualities of the | 91 |
| | ruling elite | |
| 4.1.4.3. | Nature or event leading to the death of the hero | 94 |
| | commemorated, his genealogy and martial qualities | |
| 4.1.4.4. | Date of setting up of the memorial | 98 |
| 4.1.4.5. | Grants received by the family of the deceased from one's | 100 |
| | overlord | |
| 4.1.4.6. | Process of erection of the memorial | 101 |

| 4.1.4.7. | A cautionary note to ensure posterity of the memorial | 102 |
|------------|---|-----|
| 4.1.4.8. | The composer of the inscription and/or the sculptor of the | 104 |
| | memorial | |
| 4.1.4.9. | Remuneration made to the sculptor of the memorial | 104 |
| 4.1.5. | Analysis of the sculptural art | 105 |
| 4.1.5.1. | Heroic death | 106 |
| 4.1.5.1.1. | Rasa and bhava | 107 |
| 4.1.5.1.2. | Dhrishti or eye glances | 115 |
| 4.1.5.1.3. | Representation of the mind | 116 |
| 4.1.5.1.4. | Gestures of the movement of the arms, waist, belly and legs | 116 |
| 4.1.5.1.5. | Representation of weapons | 117 |
| 4.1.5.1.6. | Nayaka | 118 |
| 4.1.5.2. | Transitional journey to heaven | 118 |
| 4.1.5.2.1. | Rasa and bhava | 119 |
| 4.1.5.2.2. | Gestures of major and minor limbs | 121 |
| 4.1.5.2.3. | Charis | 128 |
| 4.1.5.2.4. | Aharya (costumes) | 130 |
| 4.1.5.2.5. | Atodyavikalpanam (classification of instrumental music) | 132 |
| 4.1.6. | Ethnographic investigations | 132 |
| 4.1.6.1. | Oral traditions | 132 |
| 4.1.6.1.1. | Local legends | 134 |
| 4.1.6.1.2. | Beliefs (<i>nidhi</i>) | 137 |
| 4.1.6.2. | Contemporary practices | 139 |
| 4.1.6.2.1. | Objects of worship | 139 |
| 4.1.6.2.2. | Temple premises | 142 |
| 4.1.6.2.3. | Building materials | 143 |
| 4.1.6.2.4. | Town gate | 145 |
| 4.1.6.2.5. | Museums | 145 |

| 4.1.2.6.2.6. | Artifact movement within the settlement | 147 |
|--------------|--|-----|
| 4.1.2.6.2.7. | Other uses | 147 |
| 4.2. | Mastikals | 150 |
| 4.2.1. | Chronological distribution of the mastikals in Hassan | 151 |
| | District, Karnataka | |
| 4.2.1.1. | Mastikals datable to the Hoysala period (1001-1350 CE) | 154 |
| 4.2.1.2. | Mastikals datable to the Vijayanagara and Nayaka period | 156 |
| | (1351-1800 CE) | |
| 4.2.2. | Typological classification of the <i>mastikals</i> | 157 |
| 4.2.2.1. | Typological classification of mastikals datable to the Hoysala | 158 |
| | period | |
| 4.2.2.2. | Typological classification of mastikals datable to the | 158 |
| | Vijayanagara and Nayaka period | |
| 4.2.3. | Epigraphic investigations | 162 |
| 4.2.4. | Ethnographic investigations | 163 |
| 4.2.4.1. | Oral traditions | 163 |
| 4.2.4.1.1. | Local legends | 163 |
| 4.2.4.1.2. | Beliefs (<i>nidhi</i>) | 164 |
| 4.2.4.2. | Contemporary practices | 165 |
| 4.2.4.2.1. | Objects of worship | 166 |
| 4.2.4.2.2. | Location of the memorial | 171 |
| 4.2.4.2.3. | Other uses | 172 |
| 4.3. | Nishidhis | 173 |
| 4.3.1. | Spatial and temporal distribution of <i>nishidhis</i> | 178 |
| 4.3.2. | Social stratification of the deceased commemorated | 185 |
| 4.3.2.1. | Social stratification of the deceased commemorated in the | 186 |
| | vicinity of Shravanabelagola | |
| 4.3.2.2. | Social stratification of the deceased commemorated | 188 |

| | elsewhere in the study area | |
|-----------|--|-----|
| 4.3.3. | Typological distribution and the sculptural art of the nishidhis | 192 |
| 4.3.3.1. | Rock memorials without sculptural art | 192 |
| 4.3.3.2. | Rock memorials with sculptural art | 194 |
| 4.3.3.3. | Memorial pillars | 197 |
| 4.3.3.4. | Memorial columns | 198 |
| 4.3.3.5. | Memorial columns within a pavilion | 209 |
| 4.3.3.6. | Memorial slabs without sculptural art | 218 |
| 4.3.3.7. | Stepped platforms | 219 |
| 4.3.3.8. | Samadhi mantap | 221 |
| 4.3.4. | Epigraphic investigations | 222 |
| 4.3.4.1. | Mangalasloka | 224 |
| 4.3.4.2. | Pontifical genealogy of the deceased commemorated and | 224 |
| | their qualities | |
| 4.3.4.3. | Genealogy of the deceased | 227 |
| 4.3.4.4. | Qualities of the deceased commemorated by the setting up of | 227 |
| | the memorial | |
| 4.3.4.5. | Ritual content and the process of submitting oneself in the | 230 |
| | pursuit of 'ritual death' | |
| 4.3.4.6. | Date of achievement of 'ritual death' | 231 |
| 4.3.4.7. | Patron of the memorial | 232 |
| 4.3.4.8. | Grants made in memory of the deceased | 233 |
| 4.3.4.9. | The composer of the inscription and the sculptor of the | 233 |
| | memorial | |
| 4.3.4.10. | A cautionary note to ensure the posterity of the memorial | 234 |
| | and the grants made in honour of the deceased | |

| Chapter - 5 | THE MEANING AND RELEVANCE OF MEMORIAL | 236-299 |
|-------------|--|---------|
| | STONES IN HASSAN DISTRICT: AN ASSESSMENT | |
| | | |
| 5.1. | Veeragal tradition in Hassan District, Karnataka | 238 |
| 5.2. | Mastikal tradition in Hassan District, Karnataka | 256 |
| 5.3. | Nishidhi tradition in Hassan District, Karnataka | 267 |
| 5.4. | An overview of the memorial stone traditions in Hassan | 277 |
| | District, Karnataka | |
| | | |
| Chapter - 6 | CONCLUSION | 300-314 |
| | | |
| 6.1. | Lacunae and future scope of the current research | 311 |
| | | |
| | REFERENCES | 315-324 |
| | | |
| | APPENDICES | 325-411 |
| | | |