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This is to certify that the thesis entitled: **The Problem of Meaning: A Fregean Account**, submitted by Reshmee Sarkar for award of the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy** of University of North Bengal is a result of research work under my supervision.

She has fulfilled all the requirements as laid down in the Ph.D. Regulations of University of North Bengal and to the best of my knowledge, this work has not been published either in part or in full, nor has it been submitted to any University or Institution for award of a degree or distinction.

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Prof. Kanti Lal Das
(Prof. Kanti Lal Das)

Supervisor

Date: 04/08/22

Place: NBU

Supervisor
Department of Philosophy
University of North Bengal

Declaration

I, Reshmee Sarkar, do hereby declare that the thesis entitled: **The Problem of Meaning: A Fregean Account**, submitted by me for the award of the degree of **Doctor of Philosophy** of University of North Bengal, is my original work and has not been submitted for any degree or diploma of this or any other university.

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THE PROBLEM OF MEANING: A FREGEAN ACCOUNT

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A THESIS SUBMITTED FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHILOSOPHY) UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL By RESHMEE SARKAR Under the Guidance of Dr. KANTI LAL DAS Professor, Department of Philosophy University of North Bengal DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL RAJA RAMMOHUNPUR, DIST. DARJEELING 2022 5

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7/20/22

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Reshmee Sarkar
04/06/22



*Dedicated to My
Parents Chandan Sarkar
And Purnima Sarkar*

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PREFACE

The main contention of this thesis is to explain the problem of meaning in the light of Gottlob Frege. Frege has been recognized as the father of modern analytic philosophy. His account of the problem of meaning is associated with his semantic account where an artificial language has been constructed to solve the problem of meaning. As language Frege invokes in favor of Concept-Notation (*Begriffsschrift*). The central issue of the problem of meaning is deeply associated with his landmark paper ‘On Sense and Meaning’ (*Sinn* and *Bedeutung*) published in the year 1892. In this paper, Frege has claimed to resolve two philosophical problems, such as *the problem of identity* and *the problem of empty proper names*. The thesis begins with a general introduction and then enters into the nature of proper names concerning Frege, Mill, and Russell. After that, the central issue of the problem of meaning is proposed to explain with the twin concepts of *sense and reference*. The thesis claims that the semantic problems of truth cannot be resolved after Frege without bringing the concept of thought. Therefore, a threshold discussion about Frege’s thoughts is proposed to discuss in this thesis. Even though Frege’s interpretation of the problem of meaning is revolutionary but still it is not free from question-begging. There we witness a considerable contemporary debate regarding Frege’s interpretation of the problem of meaning. Having said that, it may be concluded by saying that Frege’s interpretation of the problem of meaning opens up a new vista in the realm of semantics. This thesis is proposed to develop in this direction.

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