TRIBES OF ARUNACHAL PRADeSHE
IDENTITY, CULTURE AND LANGUAGES
Col. (Dr.) D.S. Grewal (Retd.)
Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh - Vol. II

Arunachal Pradesh — land of rugged grandeur, mighty gorges, turbulent rivers, ever-green forests, deep valleys, beautiful plateaus and snow-capped mountains, colourful tribes with their glorious heritage, their arts and crafts of magnificent beauty, their enchanting and lilting music and folk songs. Linguistically, they are the most diversified in the world, speaking as many as 25 major languages and 60 dialects which have not been amply described by any of the researchers so far.

Volume two of 'Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh' covers the details about identification, grouping, classification and detailed description of tribal languages of Arunachal Pradesh and is prepared keeping in mind both the researchers and the ordinary readers, with a hope that it will provide necessary impetus for future studies on the subject. A comprehensive up-dated vocabulary has been added to facilitate further research.

This is the only book available at present which covers identification, classification, phonetics and gramer of all the Arunachal Tribes in one volume, hence is strongly recommended as a reference book too.

Colonel (Dr.) Dalvinder Singh Grewal, presently a Vice President of Group of Companies at Bombay was born on April 4, 1945 in village Rattan, Layallpur. He started his career in Defence Services and retired as a 'Senior Officer' in 1995 after dedicated service of 32 years, during which he not only saw through two Wars but gained knowledge and experience about various people of the world. He developed special interest for the study of tribes of India whose identity, culture and languages, he deeply researched.

He is a Ph. D. from North Bengal University and has Post Graduate Degrees in English, Law, Management, Science and Teaching. He has been published widely and regularly in English, Hindi and Punjabi Journals with 8 books to his credit. He has given series of talks on All India Radio and often appears on T.V. He has been a member board of studies 'Weapon Systems' Poona University, and member reviewing 'Encyclopaedia Punjab (set of four volumes)’. He also assisted in preparation of “Punjabi Shabad Jor Kash (set of seven voulmes)”.

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Identity, Culture and Languages

IN TWO VOLUMES

Col. (Retd.) Dalvinder Singh Grewal

VOLUME TWO

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Preface

Linguistically Arunachal Pradesh is the most diversified area in the world; every small group having its own language/dialect. Languages/dialects are so numerous that there are cases where even sub-tribes speak different and distinct dialects. Cases in point are of Adis which have as many as 22 sub-tribes speaking different varieties of dialects; Tangasas having 11 different dialects and the like. But these languages/dialects of Arunachal Pradesh have neither been correctly identified, not classified nor there exists any detailed study of all these languages because of non-existence of any serious and detailed study in the field.

The author got interested in the systematic study of these languages/dialects during his posting to the region ten years ago. A research project proposal on ‘Classification of Tribal Languages of Arunachal Pradesh’ by him was accepted by Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages (CIEFL), Hyderabad but due to official commitments the researcher could not progress the proposal with the CIEFL. He registered himself for Ph. D. at North Bengal due to proximity where the subject was expanded to include identity and culture of these tribes. Primary interest of the researcher however, remained the languages/dialects for which a detailed study has been carried out by him since last 10 years. This volume is the result of the efforts of this detailed study.

The researcher stayed with the tribes for over three years, recorded their sounds, photographed and observed their culture deeply. The linguistics analysis was done under the expert advice of Dr. R. K. Sprigg.
For this work the author is grateful to Prof. B. P. Misra of Centre for Himalayan Studies and Prof. R. K. Sprigg, previously Head of the English Department, Oxford University and Prof. of School of Oriental Studies, who guided me through the path of near darkness.

Special thanks are to Dr. I. M. Simon and Shri K. Das Gupta, previously the Director and the Dy. Director Research, Arunachal Pradesh respectively. But for their valuable material/suggestions and guidance, I would have not been able to achieve the desired results. Shri A Tayeng the present Director Research, Arunachal and the researchers of his department as well as the researchers of CIIL, Mysore and CIEFL, Hyderabad, all deserve special mention as their work has provided the desired base for the present book.

The present work which consists of identification, grouping, classification and detailed description of tribal languages of Arunachal Pradesh is presented keeping in mind both the researchers and the ordinary readers, with a hope that it will provide necessary impetus for future studies on the subject.

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This work is a result of the assistance of all the above and many others, and once again I thank them all.

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