

CIIL Grammar Series-1

HO GRAMMAR

K. S. GURUBASAVE GOWDA



CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES

MYSORE-570006

AO GRAMMAR

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES
GRAMMAR SERIES-1

Editor

E. ANNAMALAI

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Chaitra



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Foreword

The Central Institute of Indian Languages was set up on the 17th July, 1969 with a view to assisting and co-ordinating the development of Indian languages. The Institute was charged with the responsibility of serving as a nucleus to bring together all the research and literary out-put from the various linguistic streams to a common head and narrowing the gap between basic research and developmental research in the fields of languages and linguistics in India.

The Institute and its four Regional Language Centres are thus engaged in research and teaching which lead to the publication of a wide-ranging variety of materials. Preparation of materials designed for teaching/learning at different levels and suited to specific needs is one of the major areas of interest of the Institute. Basic research relating to the acquisition of language and study of language in its manifold psycho-social relations constitute another broad range of its interest. The publications will include materials produced by the members of the staff of the Central Institute of Indian Languages and its Regional Language Centres and associated scholars from universities and institutions, both Indian and foreign.

The Central Institute of Indian Languages has initiated the Grammar series in non-literate languages in general and tribal languages in particular presenting a description of every such language in the sub-continent. This is undertaken with a view to producing instructional materials necessary for learning and teaching the language concerned. It is also expected to be of

interest to research workers and scholars engaged in the field of synchronic and diachronic study of languages.

If these materials help solving problems, both individual and corporate, and help in understanding the people speaking the language, then our efforts will have been amply rewarded.

Debi Prasad Chattopadhyay

P r e f a c e

The tribal people in India have for long lived in isolation except to be exposed for exploitation. They have not participated to their benefit in the socioeconomic development of the country. To come out of their isolation, it is necessary for them to learn the language of the majority people around them and a number of them have done so. But this bridges the communication gap only in one way and the whole burden of building up this bridge is carried by the minority group. It is necessary, however, for developing mutual understanding and good-will, to increase bidirectional communication between the tribal people and the majority people of the region. For this purpose, the majority people, especially those who come into contact with the tribal people for various reasons such as civil administration, security, social service, trade, etc., should learn their language. The Grammar, which forms part of the package consisting of phonetic reader, bi- or tri-lingual dictionary and teaching manual is prepared to help them in their learning of the tribal language.

The organisation of the Grammar is based on grammatical functions rather than on grammatical forms. This will help the new learner to find easily how the different functions, which he already knows and wants to express, are formalised in this language. Since this Grammar is primarily meant for pedagogical purposes, theoretical discussions and justifications for a particular analysis are kept to a minimum. The Grammar is divided generally into two broad categories of noun morphology and verb morphology. A description of adjective follows noun morphology and a description of adverbs follows verb

morphology. The chapter on syntax describes the order of the constituents at the surface level. There is also a chapter on word formation, which describes the ways in which words are formed and new concepts are expressed.

Though the Grammar is primarily aimed at the language learner and the teacher, it is hoped that it will also be useful to Linguists interested in typology and universals.

Data for the Grammar were collected in the field primarily from one informant by elicitation through word and sentence lists. They were then cross-checked with some other informants. The description may not be exhaustive and there might be gaps. There might be possibilities for alternative analyses. Comments and suggestions passed on to us will be useful to improve our future publications in this series.

E. ANNAMALAI

Acknowledgement

When I was in Nagaland in 1970-71 in connection with the field work for collection of data for *Ao Naga Phonetic Reader*, a certain amount of material for this Grammar was also collected. Later, during my second trip to Nagaland in 1972, extensive data were collected, the result of which is this *Ao-Grammar*.

Mr. Takuwathi Jamir Ao and Mr. W. Nokden Ao were my primary informants in Nagaland, and Mr. L. Wathiyaden, who was undergoing sericultural training in Mysore, also helped me while I was preparing the final draft of *Ao Grammar*, deserve my special thanks.

Besides, I should like to thank particularly Mr. Yajen Aier, the then Director of Education, Kohima; Mr. R. K. Sharma, Special Officer, Textbook Production Branch, Kohima and Mr. J. Bendang, Transport Commission Office, Kohima, all of whom took personal interest and made my stay in Nagaland comfortable.

I deem it a privilege to record my sincere thanks to Dr. D. P. Pattanayak, Director, CIIL, Mysore, for his constant encouragement while preparing this Grammar.

I owe my gratitude to Dr. E. Annamalai, Deputy Director, CIIL, Mysore, for many valuable suggestions and improvements during the preparation of this Grammar.

I am indebted to my *Guru* Dr. H. S. Biligiri of the Deccan College, Poona, who was kind enough to review the manuscript in detail before sending it to press.

I may be at fault if at this juncture I fail to remember my friend and colleague late Mr. N. Ravindran, who took real pains in helping me, while I was preparing the first draft of the Grammar. My grateful thanks to him.

It is a pleasure to express my thanks to Mr. H. L. N. Bharati, Publication Incharge, for his kind co-operation while preparing the press copy and also for the help he rendered in proof reading. I should also like to thank Sri V. B. Satyan, Kapila Power Press, Nanjangud, for the neat printing.

March 1, 1975

K. S. Gurubasave Gowda

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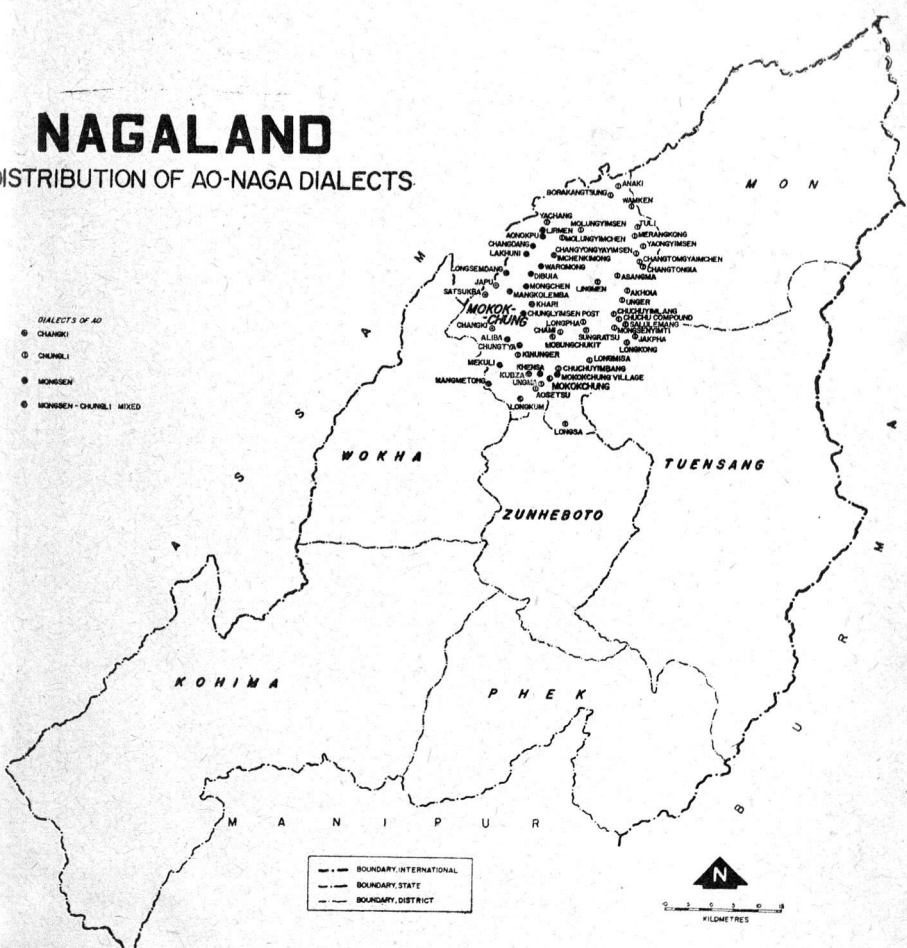
NAGALAND

DISTRIBUTION OF AO-NAGA DIALECTS

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

DIALECTS OF AO

- CHANGKI
- CHANGLI
- MOMSEN
- MOMSEN - CHANGLI MIXED



---	BOUNDARY, INTERNATIONAL
---	BOUNDARY, STATE
- - -	BOUNDARY, DISTRICT

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 KILOMETRES

Introduction

1. The People :

The Ao-Nagas are largely found dwelling on the high hills of the Mokokchung District of Nagaland. They are the dominant group in this district and the second largest linguistic group in the State of Nagaland. The total population of Aos is about 64,462 (Census : 1971). The principal villages of the Ao community are Melongyimsen, Longpa, Mopangchukit, Ungma, Tuli and Changki. The Ungma village is the largest Ao settlement. Most of the Aos are Christians. The Impur Christian center near Mokokchung (District Headquarters) is their main religious centre. Illiteracy is relatively low among the Aos.

2. The Language :

Ao is one of the Naga group of languages of the Tibeto-Burman language family. It has several dialects of which Chungli, Mongsen and Changki are the prominent ones. The Chungli dialect is spoken in Melongyimsen, Mopangchukit and Longpa more or less exclusively. The Mongsen dialect is spoken in the Mokongtsü village (about 2 km from the Mokokchung town). The Changki dialect is spoken in the Changki village. In some villages like Longsa, Longkong, Ungma, Tuli, Chakpa, etc., both Chungli and Mongsen dialects are spoken. All the three dialects are spoken in the Mokokchung town.

The Chungli dialect is accepted as the standard dialect of Ao. All the printed works of the Ao language are in this dialect. The present analysis is based on this dialect.

3. Status of Ao :

The Ao community is one of the 14 Major communities recognised by the State. Ao is taught as mother-tongue upto SSC. It is used as medium of instruction upto 6th standard. Besides religious books and textbooks, other kinds of books are also written now in Ao. There is a weekly news magazine called '*Ao Milen*'.

4. Informants :

All the informants who rendered their service are bilinguals (Ao and English). All of them are over 25 years and below 60 years, and belong to both the sexes. Some of them are teachers and others are in Government service. Most of the informants are from the Chungli dialect area. However, some informants who speak the Mongsen dialect and know the Chungli dialect very well were also consulted for cross checking the data.

5. Data :

The data were collected during two field trips to Nagaland one from October, 1970 to January, 1971, and another from February to April, 1972. The data consist of over 2,000 words and over 1,000 sentences.

6. Earlier works :

The following is a list of earlier writings on the Ao language.

- Avery, J. — '*The Ao-Naga Language of Southern Assam, Proceedings of the American Oriental Society, May, 1886.*
- Clark, Mrs. E. W. — *Ao Naga Grammar with Illustrative Phrases and Vocabulary.* Shillong, 1893.
- Grierson, G. A. — An Account of Ao in *Linguistic Survey of India.* Vol. III, Part II, Calcutta, 1903, (Reprinted 1967).

Marrison, G.A. — Section on Ao in *The Classification of the Naga Languages of North-East India*. (Unpublished doctoral thesis, University of London, 1967).

The earliest linguistic account of Ao is probably that of Mr. Avery, which was followed by Mrs. Clark's *Grammar*. The present author could not consult these two works since they were not available to him. Mr. Grierson's account of this language in LSI was largely based on Mrs. Clark's *Grammar*. These earlier works provided the source for Mr. Marrison's classificatory account of Ao and other Naga languages.

7. The Present Analysis :

The present work is a descriptive study of the structure of the Ao Naga language. The description covers Phonology, Morphology and Syntax of Ao. It also gives some sample texts. The vocabulary is published separately.