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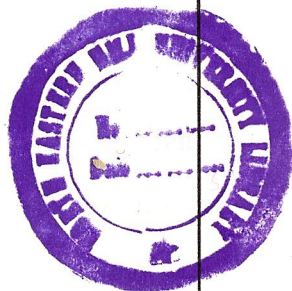
IDENTITY, CULTURE AND LANGUAGES

Col. (Dr.) D.S. Grewal (Retd.)

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TRIBES OF
ARUNACHAL PRADESH
Identity, Culture and Languages

IN TWO VOLUMES



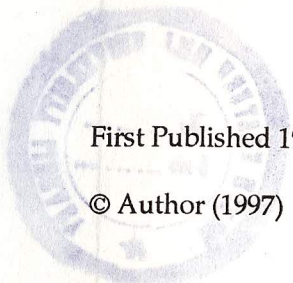
Col. (Retd.) Dalvinder Singh Grewal

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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.

Col. (Retd.) Dalvinder Singh Grewal

M.A. (Eng.); M. Sc. Tech.; M.B.A.; Ph. D.

LL. B, P.G.D.H.R.M, P.G.D.T.E

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Shri S. M. S. Choudhary and A. V. Choudhary DCs of West Kameng Districts and East Kameng Districts, Shri Kholi, Extra Assistant Commissioner of Manchukha (Along), Dr. B. B. Pandey and Dr. Shrutikar, District Research Officers of Arunachal Pradesh, have assisted me in arranging informants, guides, accommodation and transport which lessened my difficulties during the field study.

During collection of the data, Shri Wanjaw Ramdasow, District Election Officer, Bomdila, Shri A. Bora, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Thirizino, and Principals of Government Degree College, Bomdila and Government Higher Secondary School, Bhalukpong, provided me both guidance and assistance in the form of informants.

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Achambu Aka the political interpreter attached to me for the duration of the field work and Shri Panku Sidisow, an energetic and upcoming youth leader, deserve my special thanks for arranging informants and interpreting and filling up the gaps in informa-

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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.

Col. (Retd.) Dalvinder Singh Grewal

M.A. (Eng.); M. Sc. Tech.; M.B.A.; Ph. D.

LL. B, P.G.D.H.R.M, P.G.D.T.E

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	<i>v</i>
<i>Acknowledgement</i>	<i>vii</i>
5. Identification and lassification of Tribal Languages /Dialects	1
6. Bodic Languages	34
7. Arunachal Main-Group (North-Assam Group)	103
8. Kachin Group	214
9. Naga Group	230
10. Tai Group — Khamti	238
<i>Appendices</i>	248
<i>Bibliography</i>	287



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