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CIIL Dictionary Series—7



MISHMI-ENGLISH-HINDI DICTIONARY

Compiled By

GARIMELLA DEVI PRASADA SASTRY



CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES

Manasagangotri, Mysore-570 006

CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES
DICTIONARY SERIES—7

MISHMI-ENGLISH-HINDI

DICTIONARY

Editor

E. ANNAMALAI

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H. L. N. BHARATI



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FOREWORD

The Central Institute of Indian Languages, as an obligation under Article 350A of the Constitution of India, undertakes to study tribal languages in all their psycho-social relations and aid in their development and use in education and mass communication. The Institute produces a package of materials in each tribal language comprising a grammar, a dictionary, a volume on folklore, and literacy materials for adults and school children.

Tribal development is often vitiated due to presupposition. It is sometimes taken for granted that tribals are in the periphery of Indian society and outside the Indian psyche. It is also assumed that they need protection and that they must be integrated into the Indian mainstream. But tribal people have their culture and their language. They have to develop firmly rooted to their own culture and language, with education and enlightenment, to join the Indian mainstream. Any development, therefore, has to be through their culture and language only. Tribal languages are as complex and as complete as any of the major languages of India and neither are they 'dialects'. The 19th century use of the term 'culture of silence' has no relevance in today's context. Any tribal language is capable of expressing all the nuances of any aspect of present day society, given the necessary impetus and opportunity to do so. It is hoped that the work done by the Institute helps towards achieving this goal.

The Mishmi-English-Hindi Dictionary is the latest in our dictionary series. Mishmi is spoken in the two districts of Lohit and Dibang Valley in Arunachal Pradesh. The population is 22, 561 according to Census 1971.

Making a dictionary is a multi-disciplinary activity, from the data collection in the field, collation and analysis of the materials, to the preparation of entries for the dictionary. The dictionary contains around 3000 entries. I record my deep appreciation and congratulate the officers of the Institute in the difficult task that they have undertaken and successfully executed.

A. K. Srivastava

EDITOR'S NOTE

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 socio-economic 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 and the majority people of the region. For this purpose, the majority people, especially those who come in contact with the tribal people for various reasons such as civil administration, security, social service, trade, etc., should learn their language. The dictionary, which forms part of the package consisting of phonetic reader, grammar and instructional materials, is prepared to help them in their learning of the tribal language.

The preparation of a dictionary in a tribal language is an important step for the codification of the language. Keeping this in view, the entry in the tribal language is given in the script suggested for it. It is followed by phonemic transcription to aid pronunciation when the script is not based on Roman. The meanings are given in the language of the state where the tribal language is spoken and in English and, where

ver possible, also in Hindi. This will help the literate tribal people in their learning these languages. The dictionary is followed by appendices of special lexical classes in the language in some cases.

Though the dictionary is meant to be helpful for language learning, it is hoped that it will also be useful to linguists. The grammatical labels are based on the grammar of the language prepared in the Institute.

Data for the dictionary were collected in the field primarily from one informant by elicitation through the word list prepared in the Institute. They were then cross-checked with other informants. The list of words may not be exhaustive and we are trying to evolve methods to increase the words. Comments and suggestions passed on to us will be useful to improve our future publications in this series.

E. ANNAMALAI
Director

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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My thanks are due to

my informants, Ms. Bimla Chai, Mr. Bramting So Tayang and Mr. Lachab So Krong;

my interpreter, Mr. Akhil Chandra Boro;

Mr. I. A. Khan IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Mr. P. Bhaskara Rao, Executive Engineer, CPWD, Ms. Dici Mihu, DIPRO Mr. Zakharia, DSO, and others officials of the Lohit District Administration;

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G. DEVI PRASADA SASTRY

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INTRODUCTION

The Dictionary is based on the data collected from the Taraon (Digaru) dialect of Mishmi in two field trips during the winters of 1975 and 76, mainly in Tezu and Tafragam. The informants were Bramting So Tayang and Bimla Chai. The data on the Miju and the Idu dialects for the purposes of cross-checking and verification were provided by Lachab So Krong and Dici Mihu. An informant profile is given below.

Bramting So Tayang: He is the Cultural and Social Organiser for the Arunachal Administration at the Tafragam-Korliang Agricultural Project. He studied up to high school and knows, besides his mother tongue, Assamese, English and Hindi.

Bimla Chai: A high school drop-out housewife from the Hayuliang area, she knows Assamese besides her mother tongue.

The data were gathered through elicitation using word and sentence lists as well as from connected texts and folk material.

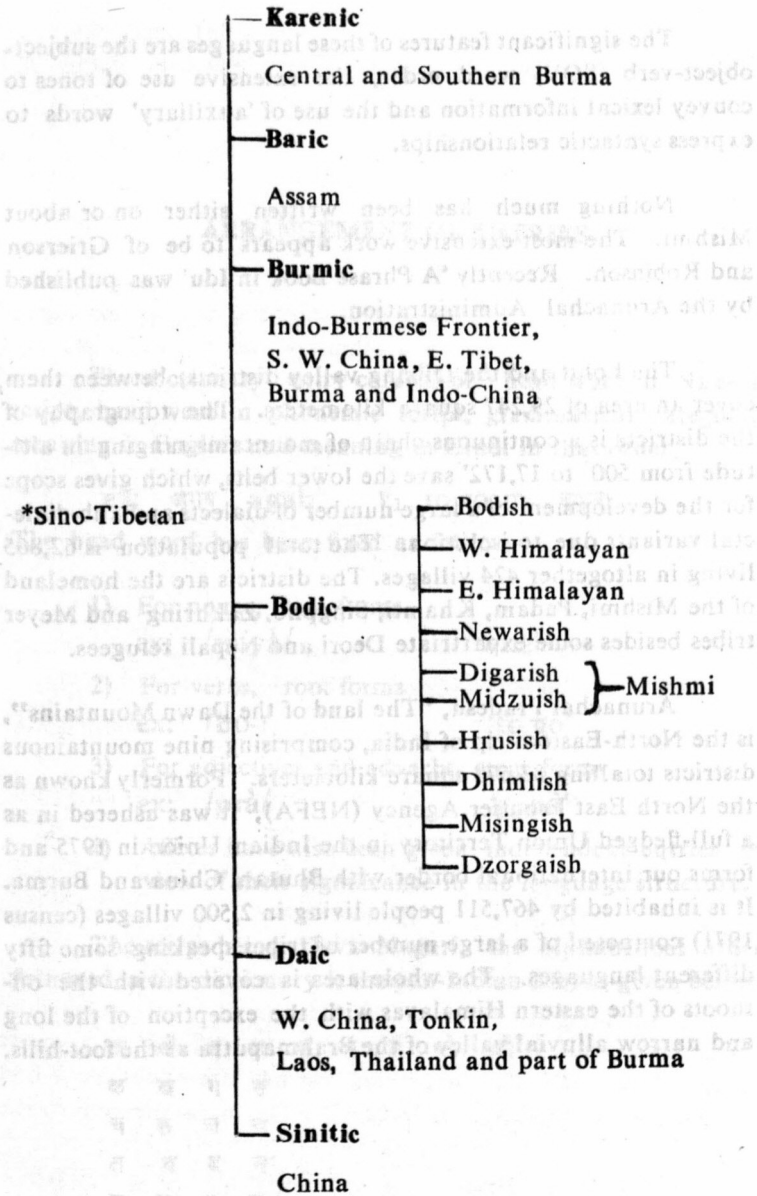
Mishmi is spoken in the Lohit and the Dibang valley districts of Arunachal Pradesh. The population is 22,561 (Census 1971). The other major language spoken in this district is Khamti, a Tai-Chinese language, with a well-developed written and literary tradition. Mishmi comprises three major dialects : Taraon and Miju spoken in the Lohit valley and Idu spoken in the Dibang valley.

Mishmi belongs to the 'Tibeto-Burman' family of languages. This family, considered by many to be a branch of a larger Sino-Tibetan family, is, in terms of number of languages, the largest of any spoken in South Asia. These languages cover a vast territory ranging from Jammu and Kashmir in the West to Assam, Indo-China and parts of China in the east. The groups speaking these languages are highly isolated. A comparative analysis of data from even a fraction of these languages, some 300 in number, is extraordinarily difficult. The inaccessibility of many of the groups speaking these languages makes it difficult to accept the comprehensiveness of the current classification of these languages. These groups of languages, commonly referred to as the 'Tibeto-Burman' languages, do not constitute an autonomous group of languages. Rather, they constitute two of a total of six primary divisions of a 'Sino-Tibetan' family.

It is to be noted here that there is neither an autonomous 'Tibeto-Burman' nor a 'Sino-Thai' family, but rather, a single Sino-Tibetan family branching off into the six divisions*. Three of these divisions have representatives in India, viz., Baric, Burmic and Bodic.

The Bodic division of Sino-Tibetan family is very complex. Shafer posits eleven sections of this division.

*Shafer 1955



*Shapiro and Schiffman (Sept. 1975)

The significant features of these languages are the subject-object-verb (SOV) word order, the extensive use of tones to convey lexical information and the use of 'auxiliary' words to express syntactic relationships.

Nothing much has been written either on or about Mishmi. The most extensive work appears to be of Grierson and Robinson. Recently 'A Phrase Book in Idu' was published by the Arunachal Administration.

The Lohit and the Dibang valley districts, between them, cover an area of 29,247 square kilometers. The topography of the districts is a continuous chain of mountains ranging in altitude from 500' to 17,172' save the lower belts, which gives scope for the development of a large number of dialects and sub-dialectal variants due to isolation. The total population is 62,865 living in altogether 424 villages. The districts are the homeland of the Mishmi, Padam, Khamti, Singpho, Zakhring and Meyer tribes besides some expatriate Deori and Nepali refugees.

Arunachal Pradesh, "The land of the Dawn Mountains", is the North-Eastern tip of India, comprising nine mountainous districts totalling 83,578 square kilometers. Formerly known as the North East Frontier Agency (NEFA), it was ushered in as a full-fledged Union Territory in the Indian Union in 1975* and forms our international border with Bhutan, China and Burma. It is inhabited by 467,511 people living in 2,500 villages (census 1971) composed of a large number of tribes speaking some fifty different languages. The whole area is covered with the offshoots of the eastern Himalayas with the exception of the long and narrow alluvial valley of the Brahmaputra at the foot-hills.

*Subsequently, it became a state.

ARRANGEMENT OF ENTRIES

The dictionary entry consists of a head word in Nagari script, head word in phonemic script, grammatical category, meaning in English and meaning in Hindi in that order.

ex: अगब् agab v₁. to roam घूमना

The head word has been fixed as follows :

- 1) For nouns, stem forms

ex: /míyà/ 'wife'

- 2) For verbs, root forms

ex: /bó-/ 'to go'

- 3) For adjectives and adverbs, stem forms

ex: /prà/ 'good'

- 4) Affixes have also been given independent entries in view of their significance in the language structure.

The script being Deva Nagari, the alphabetical order followed in the dictionary is the pan-Indian one, as given below:

अ	आ	इ	उ	ऋ	ए	ऐ	ओ	औ
क	ख	ग	ङ					
च	छ	ज						
ट	ठ	ड	ण					
प	फ	ब	भ					
य	र	ल	व	श	स	ह		

Related meanings are given under one entry and are numbered. The order of meanings is empirical, the more common meaning given first followed by the others in the ascending order of rarity.

ex: अखु **akhú** *n.* 1. straw 2. thatch
1. खर 2. छप्पर

For entries under lesser known flora and fauna, a taxonomic gloss is given both in English and Hindi. Such entries employ in part a formal codified vocabulary of New Latin names that have been developed and used by biologists in accord with International Codes of Botanical and Zoological Nomenclature for the purpose of identifying and indicating the relationships of plants and animals. The genus is the fundamental taxon. It names a group of closely related kinds of plants (as *Ficus*, which includes the banyan, pipal, fig, wild fig and other trees) or animals (as *Felis*, which includes the domestic, the wild and the big cats). It is a capitalized singular name. The name for a species consists of a single capitalized genus name combined with an uncapitalized specific epithet. Taxa are used here to provide precise technical identification.

(Source for taxa in Hindi : Raghu Vira. 1976. *A Comprehensive English-Hindi Dictionary of Governmental & Educational words & Phrases*. New Delhi : the International Academy of Indian Culture.)

Culture-bound words have been given explanatory equivalents so as to explain the cultural background.

ex: मोवदु **mówàdrù** *n.* wife who was previously brother's widow पत्नी जो भाई की विधवा थी*

In the case of a few entries, illustrative examples or given to elucidate the use of the lexical item in the particular context.

ex: त्यु **tyu** *v₂*. to set a trap जाल लगाना [बुम्.....]

As the gender of Hindi glosses is unpredictable, the gender is marked in Hindi by asterisking the feminine forms. Masculine forms remain unmarked.

ex: अचिक्रु **acigkru** n. scab कुकरो*

The dictionary contains a selection of appendices. The appendices contain

- 1) highly language-specific semantic classes ;
ex: types of baskets
- 2) species of a genus appearing in a single lexically productive compound form;
ex: mushroom
- 3) parts of artefacts not usually found outside the ethnolinguistic area;
ex: parts of a loom
- 4) proper names;
- 5) reckoning of time.

(Source for the Hindi glosses: Rangan Vira, 1976, A Comprehensive English-Hindi Dictionary of Governmental & Educational Words & Phrases, New Delhi: the International Academy of Indian Culture.)

Culture-bound words have been given explanatory equi-

valentia to explain the cultural background.

ex: भ्रातृश्री **mowādrū** n. wife who was previously brother's widow
In the case of a few entries, illustrative examples or given to elucidate the use of the lexical item in the particular context.

[.....] ex: [.....]

ABBREVIATIONS

The following terms have been abbreviated as noted against each in the entries.

adj.	Adjective
adv.	Adverb
x	Antonym
colloq.	Colloquial
i.	Intensifier
lit.	Literally
n.	Noun
p.	Particle
pl.	Plural
pref.	Prefix
pron.	Pronoun
sg.	Singular
spp.	Species
suf.	Suffix
vo.	Ambient Verb
v ₁ .	Intransitive Verb
v ₂ .	Transitive Verb
v ₃ .	Recipient Transitive verb
vaux.	Auxilliary Verb