

CIIL Dictionary Series—7



TANGKHUL-ENGLISH HINDI DICTIONARY

S. AROKIANATHAN

Hindi Gloss by
REKHA SHARMA



CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF INDIAN LANGUAGES

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TANGKUL-ENGLISH
HINDI DICTIONARY

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FOREWORD

The Central Institute of Indian Languages is concerned with the development of Indian languages. The development of Indian languages can take place by their use in new domains, which requires development of materials and methods of manpower for work in the areas of codification, standardisation and modernisation. The work of the Institute encompasses basic research, material production and inservice training. The Institute is also entrusted with the special responsibility of assisting the development of tribal and other minor languages. The work of these languages include preparation of grammar, dictionary and learning materials besides providing training to teachers in tribal schools in the use of tribal languages in a bilingual model of education.

The dictionary in any language is an important instrument for its codification and standardization. It is more so in the case of tribal languages with very recent literacy practices and with variations in language use, particularly in spelling. The dictionaries in tribal and minor languages therefore are an important step in their development. They are also a tool for learning language. The speakers of these languages have to learn the dominant language of the State and also to some extent the official languages of the Union. Therefore the dictionaries are in some cases quadrilingual and in most cases trilingual. The dictionary should also be useful for the speakers of the State language to learn the tribal language.

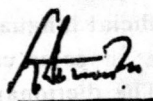
The entries of the tribal language are given in the script adapted for the language following the spelling system developed for it. This is followed by phonemic transcription when the

script is not Roman to guide pronunciation as well as to make the dictionaries usable to linguists.

There are special lexicographic problems in compiling a dictionary for pre-literate and neo-literate languages. The data are to be collected primarily from spoken sources and word boundaries are to be established by the linguist. The meanings are to be obtained not from the context of use of words but from the statement of speakers. These have their own limitations. It is hoped that this dictionary will initiate interest in further lexical studies of the language to help to enlarge and enrich it.

The dictionary is not only a description of the lexicon of a language but is also a description of the culture of its speakers codified in the words. The tribal language dictionaries are particularly useful from this point of view for culture studies, though cultural information is kept to the minimum in this dictionary, which is primarily meant for linguistic and pedagogical purposes.

A major objective of the Institute is to preserve and promote multilingualism in the country. We hope that codification and teaching of the tribal and other minor languages will contribute towards achieving this objective. We hope that not only the tribals become bilingual, which they normally are, but also non tribals become bilinguals by learning the tribal language for better communication and understanding of each other.



(E. ANNAMALAI)

Director

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 people 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 wherever 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 some 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

NING KASHI
(Acknowledgement)

Tangkhul-English-Hindi dictionary is the result of my two field trips of each of three months duration in Ukru, Manipur in 1973 and 1974.

I express my thanks to Dr. D. P. Pattanayak, Former Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore for his encouragement and guidance.

I express my indebtedness to Dr. E. Annamalai, Director, Central Institute of Indian Languages, who guided the field work, analysis and the preparation of this dictionary. He read the manuscript and gave invaluable suggestions for its improvement.

I am grateful to Dr. R. A. Singh, former colleague of the Institute for scrutinizing the dictionary meticulously and improving its value with his specialized knowledge of lexicography.

The officers of the Education Department of the Govt. of Manipur especially Shri Ranbir Singh, Secretary, Education and Shri L. T. Singh, Director, helped me to make contact with local people and get accommodation. I am grateful to them.

I am grateful to Shri Zimmik Marasan my language consultant, who volunteered to help me out of his interest in the development of his language. I am greatly touched by his interest in this work.

Many local people volunteered to render their help during my stay in Ukru. Their brotherly affection was stimulating and consoling. Special mention must be made of Mr. Y. K. Shimrey, Late Mr. T. Luikam, Mr. Yangmasao Shaiza, Mr. Tuizar, Mr. S. Kanrei, Rev. Fr. Mathews, Mr. Pawan Kumar Jain, Mr. Honrei, Mr. Silas, Mr. Bob T. Hmar, Mr. Leishishang, Mr. David Shimrey, Mr. Asni, Mrs. Ayung and Mrs. Marasan.

My colleagues Dr. K. Rangan, Miss Joy Reddy and Mr. M. Anandaraj gave me the benefit of their discussions. I am grateful to late Mr. Balram Prasad for correcting the press copy. My thanks are due to Miss N. K. Rukmini for her neat and quick typing.

Needless to say I am alone responsible for any short-coming remaining in the book.

S. AROKIANATHAN

INTRODUCTION

Tangkhum, phonemically/tan khul/, belongs to the Naga subgroup of the Tibeto-Burman sub family. It is spoken by Tangkhum Nagas numbering about 61898¹. The Tangkhuls are Mangoloids and they are well built and tall. Their population is concentrated in the east district of Manipur spread over 1823 sq. miles of hill ranges. The Tangkhum nagas live on the hills. There are 219 Tangkhum villages in the district. This district has nearly six villages of Kuki speakers also. This district is bounded in the north by the Mao hills of Manipur state and Nagaland, in the South by the Sadar hills and Imphal, the capital of Manipur and in the east by the Kobo valley of Burma and in the west by the Tengnoupal hills.

Tangkhum has many dialects. It is found that each village has its own village dialect named after the village. The intelligibility among the village varies according to the distance between them. That is, farther the village more the unintelligibility. Ukrul is the district headquarters and due to its importance with regard to administration, commerce and education most of the Tangkhuls know this dialect which is considered to be the (standard dialect of) Tangkhum language. There are elders in some interior villages who do not speak the standard Ukrul dialect. It must nevertheless be mentioned that there is tonal and other pronunciation variation in the speech of the Ukrul variety by other villagers. Still there is lack of communication and transport facilities between villages. The literacy level of the east district 26.02% according to the 1961 census of India.

1. Govt. of Manipur. Annual Administration Report, 1969-70.

The Tangkhuls are bilinguals. They are bilingual in Meitei, also called Manipuri, the lingua franca of the state. The villagers speak their village 'tui' (language) with the people of their own villages, Tangkhul (The Ukrul variety) to the Tangkhuls from other villages, and Meitei to other tribes and Meiteis. The Tangkhul language is written in the Roman script.

The Tangkhuls are shift cultivators. Their pastime is hunting. They are lovers of music and dance.

The main informant for this study is Mr. Zimick Marasan living in Ukrul. He is a retired high school teacher aged 61 years and was a student of Rev. Fr. Pettigrew, the first Christian missionary to visit this district. Besides his mother tongue, he knows Manipuri and English. He is a well informed and insightful person about his language. He has written many books in Tangkhul, one of which is "Tangkhul English Translation and Composition". Data were collected from informants hailing from different villages like Hundung, Siroi, Langdang, Lamlang Gate, Litan and Yangangpokpi to check the data. The data were collected during three field trips of about two months' duration each time in 1973, 1974 and 1975.

The study of Tangkhul language was initiated by Rev. Fr. N. Brown in 1837 with the publication of three short vocabularies in North Tangkhul, Central Tangkhul and South Tangkhul. Major N. Mc. Culloch and G. H. Damant also made some general remarks about Tangkhul language in their works. Later in 1918, Rev. Fr. Pettigrew brought about "Tangkhul Naga Grammar and Dictionary". Though these pioneering works are of much value, they are not linguistically sophisticated. Dr. D. N. Shankara Bhat published "Tangkhul Naga Vocabulary" with a brief grammatical description on modern linguistic lines. James Marrison's

(1967) "The Morphology and Syntax of Tangkhul (Ukrul dialect)" by Rev. Fr. Mathews is also available. It is a very brief sketch meant to introduce the language to the missionaries.

Many Tangkhul scholars are now engaged in the development of their language, "Tangkhul (Wung) dictionary" by T. Luikam (1975) needs special mention for listing nearly 8000 words. Y. K. Shimery, S. Karnei, Z. Marasan and Ayo Wolleng, who are local scholars and executive members of the Tangkhul Literature Committee, are presently engaged in standardising the script of the language, in writing a grammar in Tangkhul-Manipuri-English dictionary. They have written many textbooks in Tangkhul which have been approved by the Education Department of Manipur for use in schools. The missionaries have translated most of the christian literature into Tangkhul. A bimonthly journal 'Sira' is published from Hungdung Catholic Church. It describes the activities of the church and its school. A monthly political journal "Ungre thot" in Tangkhul is also published from Imphal.

DICTIONARY ORDER OF THE ALPHABET

Following is the dictionary order of the alphabet :-

Vowels: ā, i, u, e, a, o

Consonants: k, kh, ng, ch, t, th, n, p, f, ph, m, y, r, l, v,
s, z, sh, h

Pronunciation Guide

Following is the list of Grapheme—Phoneme correspondence as a guide to pronunciation. The phonetic details and justification for grapheme representation may be obtained from the Tangkhul Phonetic Reader published by the Institute.

<i>Grapheme</i>	<i>Phoneme</i>
ā	a
i	i
u	u
e	e
a	ʌ
o	o
k, g	k
kh	kh
ng	ŋ
ch	ç
t, d	t
th	th
n	n
p, b	p
f	f
ph	ph
m	m

y	y, i
r	r
l	l
v	v, w
s	s
z	z
sh	s
h	h

'g' is written in medial position to represent /k/ when the preceding sound is a semivowel, nasal or a vowel and the following sound is a vowel

'v' is pronounced as /w/ medially and finally after a vowel and as /v/ elsewhere.

'b' is written in medial position to represent /p/ when the preceding segment is a vowel or a nasal and the following segment is a vowel.

'd' is written in medial position followed by a semivowel, nasal and preceded by a vowel.

There are three tones viz., rising, falling and level tones. But the tones are not marked, although it is suggested in the Tangkhul Phonetic Reader that the following symbols could be used as marked tones,

- rising tone - vv
- falling tone - vh
- level tone - unmarked

List of abbreviations

- adj. - adjective
- conj. - conjunction

n	-	noun
pp.	-	post position
pron.	-	pronoun
v.	-	verb
vi.	-	verb intransitive
vt.	-	verb transitive
