

**AN INTRODUCTION
TO THE
NOCTE LANGUAGE**

By
K. DAS GUPTA

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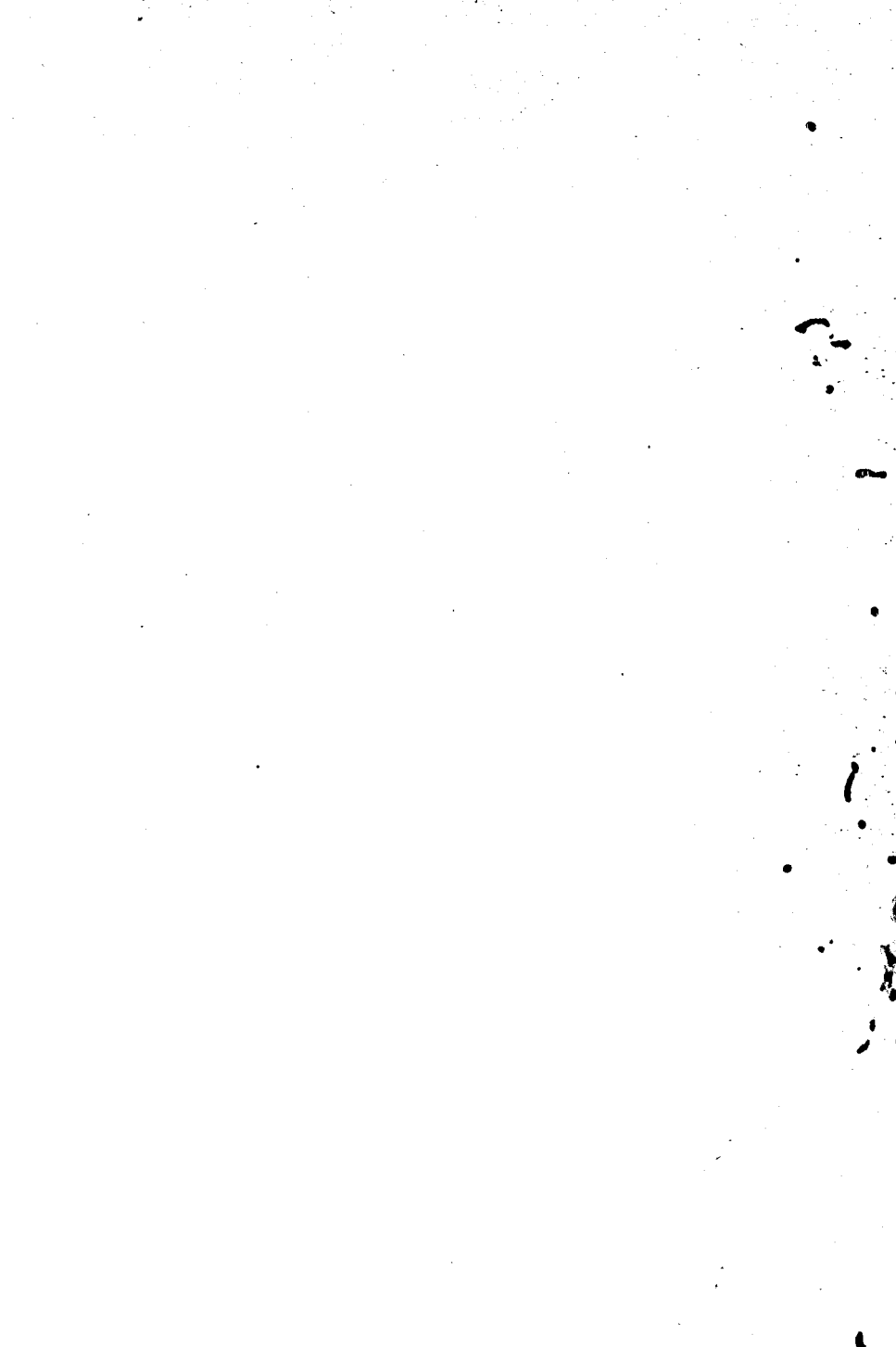
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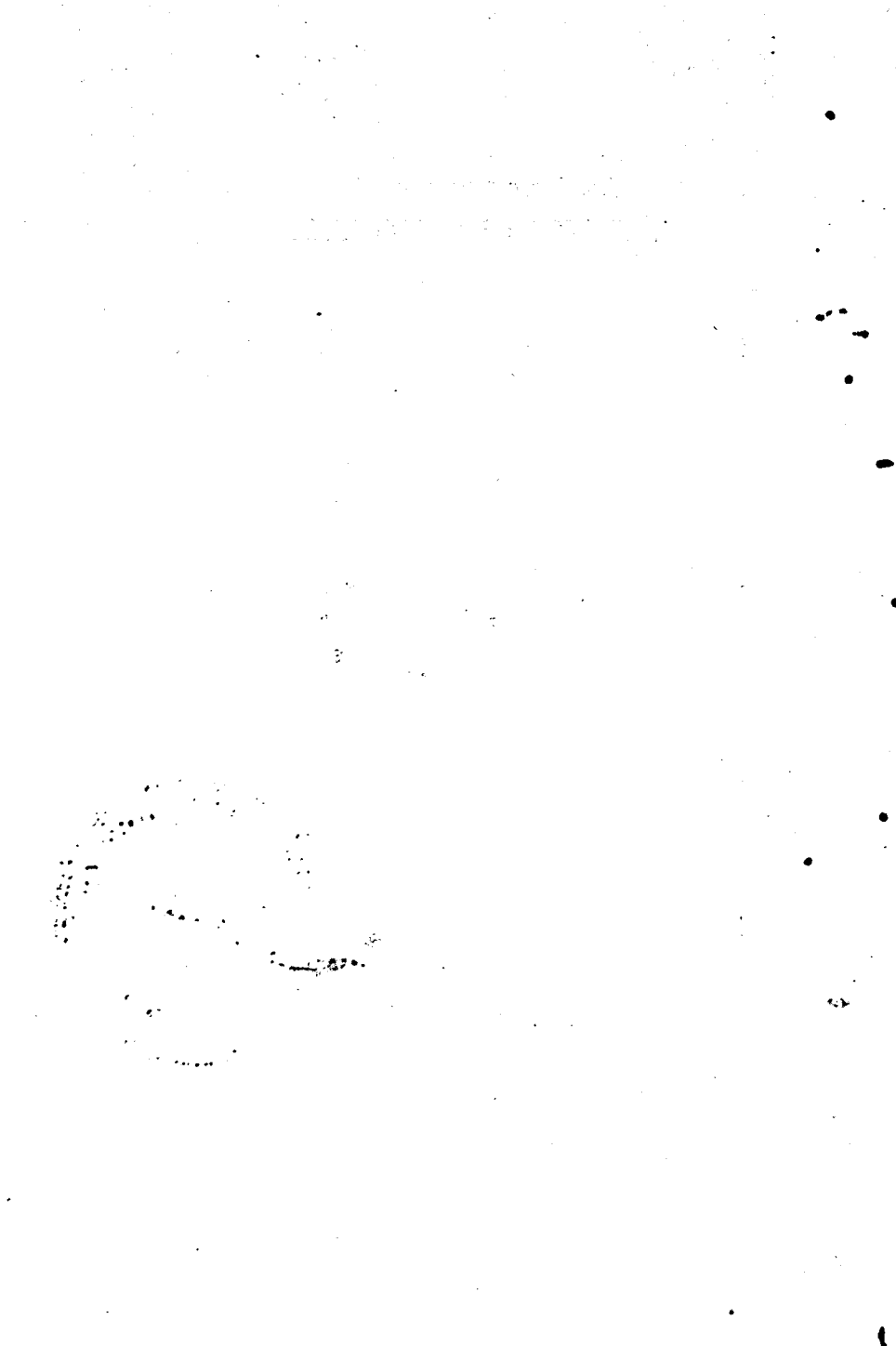
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AN INTRODUCTION TO
THE NOCTE LANGUAGE



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K. DAS GUPTA
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH
PHILOLOGICAL SECTION, RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
NORTH-EAST FRONTIER AGENCY



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PREFACE

The Noctes are one of the main tribes inhabiting the central part of the Tirap district. They number nineteen thousand and live in the vicinity of Khonsa, the Headquarters of the District. To the east of them are the Tangsas and to the south-east are the Wanchos. They practise *jhum* though they have taken to both terrace and wet rice cultivation. They are good traders and have had contact with the plains from early days. They are Vaishnavas by faith though they follow their traditional customs.

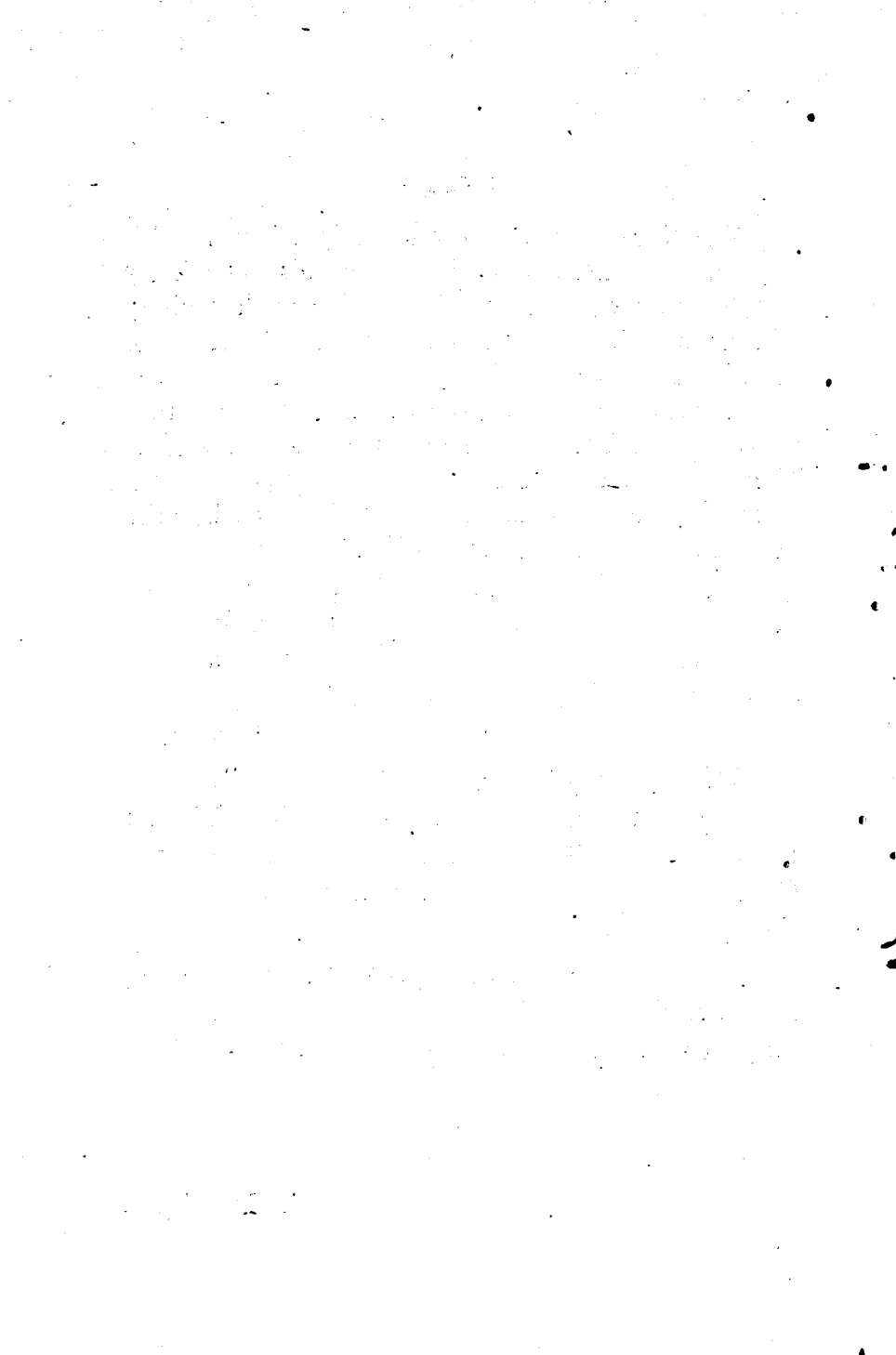
The dialects vary from village to village but they can be classified broadly into six groups : Hawa-jap, Phothung-jap, Kapa-jap, Tang-jap, Jope-jap, Laju-jap.

This book deals with the Hawa-jap dialects.

Hawa-jap is prevalent in Namsang, Borduria, Laptang, Kaimai, Paniduria, Notunkheti, Wathin, Khela, Khonsa, Kheti Thingsa, Dadam, Muktoa, Cinkoe, Laho, Kothin, Hongkah, Biara, Kapo, Cangnyiak (Kolagao).

Care has been taken to make the book easily understandable to the general reader, who will judge how far that effort has been successful.

K. Das Gupta



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The primary material of the book was collected in Namsang and Borduria villages. It was subsequently checked and verified with the help of Sarvashri Wangkap, Wangpha and Thunwang. I take the opportunity to thank them. I am especially grateful to the Philologist (now Director of Research) for the valuable instructions I received from him.

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ooOoo

PART I—GRAMMAR



I. GRAMMAR

PHONOLOGY

Consonants :

Velar	—	k (क), kh (ख), ng (ङ),
Palatal	—	c (च), ch (छ), j (ज) ny(ञ)
Dental	}	— t (त), th (थ), d (द), n (न)
Alveolar		
Labial		p (प), ph (फ), b (ब), m (म)
and		r (र), y (य), s (स), sh (श)
		l (ल), h (ह), w (व), v (व्ह)

t and d are sometimes realized as dentalalveolar as in dang—dao, adap—Again. The voiced velar consonant g is absent though other voiced consonants are present. v is sometimes markedly aspirated as in vo—Bird, vun—Forest, in others very slightly aspirated as in vong—Rice.

Vowels :

o (अ), a (आ), i (इ), e (ए) u (उ)

Usually o is realized as o in 'not' but it is close at the end of the word like o in English 'note'. e is sometimes centralized with the mouth shaped for the ordinary e and the tongue drawn slightly backwards.

Nasal consonant ng occurs both in the beginning and end of words.

nga—I, hung—Mind,

Palatal n is a distinct sound : ni—We; nyi—Two

The unvoiced plosive k sometimes turns into corresponding voiced nasal when followed by a nasal consonant.

toak+ nyi > toang-nyi—seer two i.e. Two seers

Vowel harmony sometimes occurs [*e > i*]

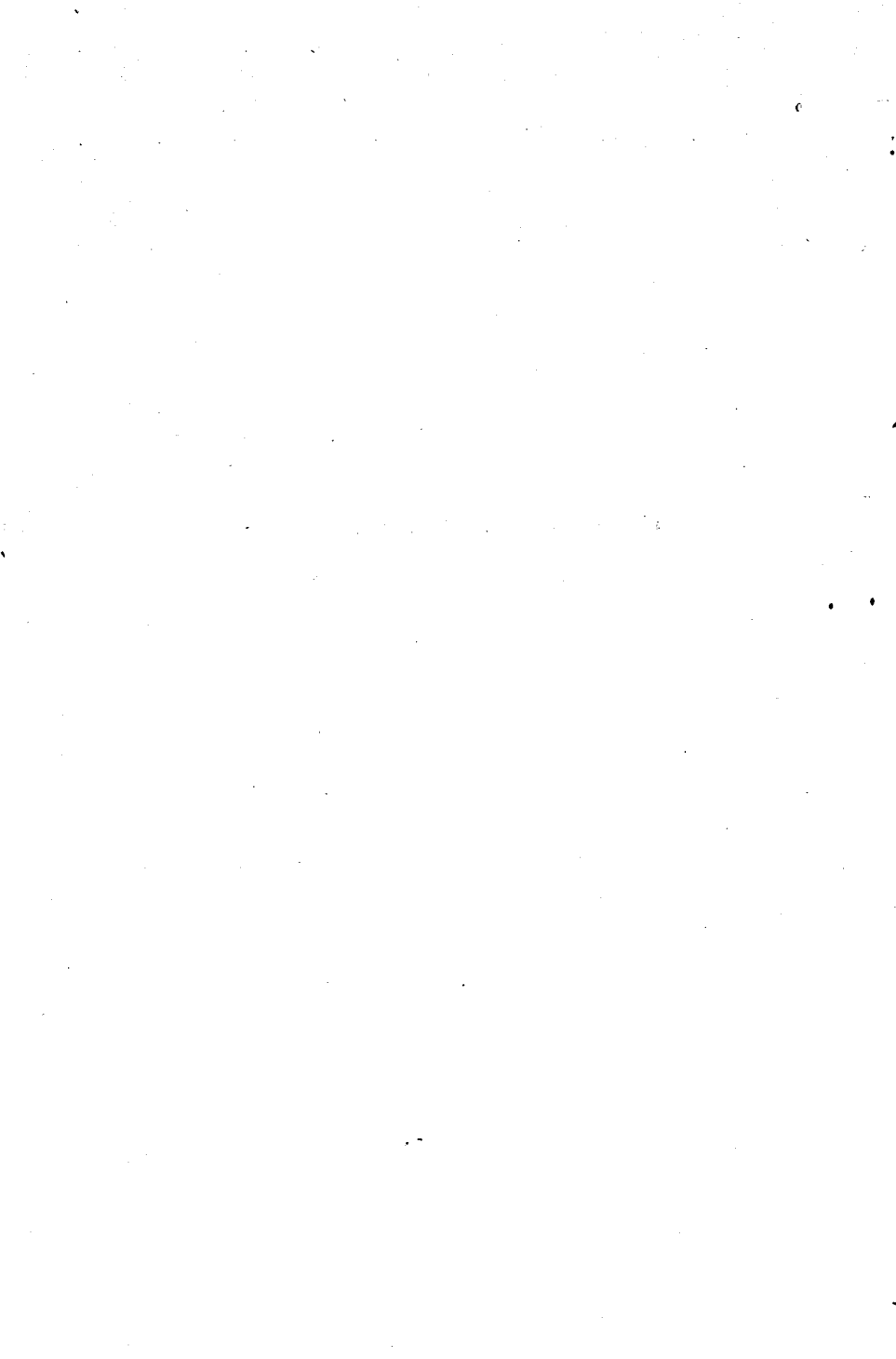
ka—e—ki > ka—i—ki

cha—e—ki > cha—i—ki

la, li, lo preceding ta, ti, to,

kha-la-ma choan-ta

PART II—VOCABULARY



II. VOCABULARY

MAN AND SOCIETY

General:

Man	— minyian	— मि-ञिअन्
Woman	— dehiak	— देहिआक्
Male	— dala	— दाला
Female	— dehiak	— देहिआक्
Family	— hum-tang	— हुम्-ताङ्
Clan, Tribe	— jat	— जात्
Village-chief	— lowang-dong	— लवाङ्-दङ्

Relationship:

Husband	— tang-wa	— ताङ्-वा
Wife	— tang-niu,	— ताङ्-निअु
Son	— dala-cha	— दाला-छा
Daughter	— dehiak-cha	— देहिआक्-छा
Father	— wa	— वा
Mother	— nyiong	— ञिअङ्
Elderbrother	— pho-pho	— फ-फ
Grandfather	— te(i)	— ते(अि)
Grandmother	— vi	— व्हि
Grandson	— chu	— छु
Granddaughter	— chu	— छु
Nephew	— cha	— छा
Niece	— cha	— छा
Husband's father	— hopa, hapa	— हपा, हापा
Mother-in-law	— nipa	— निपा
Brother-in-law	— me:mat	— मे:मात्
Sister-in-law	— me:mat	— मे:मात्
Friend (general)	— ru-wa	— रुवा
of same age	— pha-na	— फा-ना
of any age	— lam ru-cha	— लाम्-रु-छा
Enemy	— ran	— रान्

PART III—SENTENCES



SENTENCES

Visit to a house

- I have come from Shillong — nga shillong-wa wang-thang
 I Shillong-from come
 डा शिलाङ्ग-वा वाङ्ग-थाङ्ग
- I am glad to see you — nga nang khe-li-ma
 I you see
 hung-san-e-kang
 mind-good
 डा नाङ्ग खे-लि-मा हुङ्ग-सान्-ऐ-काङ्ग
- I am a visitor — nga ha-sok-te
 I vill.-seer
 डा हा-सक्-ते
- How are you ? — nang maro-a?
 you how
 नाङ्ग मार-आ ?
- How is your family? — ma-hum-te maro-a?
 your family how
 मा-हुम्-ते मार-आ ?
- I wish to write a Nocte book — nga nocte nyinap
 I Nocte paper
 ra:ng-hun-e-kang
 write wish
 डा नक्ते जिनाप् रा:ङ्ग-हुन्-ऐ-काङ्ग
- I want your help — nga-nang-ma
 I you-by (your)
 toan-siet-hun-e-kang
 help wish
 डा नाङ्ग-मा तआन्-सिअत्-हुन्-ऐ-काङ्ग
- Will you help me? — nang-ma nga toan-siet hang-a ?
 you me help
 नाङ्ग-मा डा तआन्-सिअत्-हाङ्ग-आ ?
- What things will you give me to eat? — phak-cha-rang celi-celi-ko-hang-a?
 crunch-eat-for what-things give
 फाक्-छा-राङ्ग चेलि-चेलि क-हाङ्ग-आ ?



