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OUTLINE GRAMMAR

OF

THE LHÔTĀ NĀGĀ LANGUAGE;

WITH

A VOCABULARY AND ILLUSTRATIVE SENTENCES.

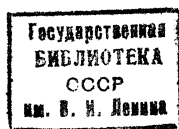
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PREFACE.

MY object in preparing this brief work has been to furnish some assistance to any who, either in the interests of good government or of the Christian religion, may wish to acquire the Lhōta Nāgā language.

With the exception of a few words collected by Captain John Butler, B.S.C., the following Outline Grammar, with a vocabulary and illustrative sentences, is the first presentation of the speech of the Lhōta Nāgās.

I gratefully acknowledge the interest taken in my labours by Mr. W. E. Ward, M.A., C.S., Chief Commissioner of Assam, through whose kindness this publication has been made possible; and also the assistance I have derived from the perusal of an article by Mr. John Avery, M.A., on the "Aō Nāgā Language of Southern Assam," reprinted from the American Journal of Philology, Volume VII, No. 3, and an "Outline Grammar of the Angami Nāgā Language" by Mr. R. B. McCabe, C.S.

I am especially indebted to my wife, who has travelled with me through the mazes of this new language and by many helpful suggestions has added much to the accuracy of the following pages.

W. E. WITTER.

WOKHA NAGA HILLS,
The 9th September 1887.

ALPHABET.

In preparing the following pages for the Government Press, I have followed the suggestions of Mr. C. J. Lyall, C.I.E., employing as an alphabet for the Lhōtā Nāgā language the Rōman chāracter with the help of diacritical marks, as follows:—

VOWELS.

- a*—unmarked, short as in “company,” like the sound of *u* in “but.”
- ā*—long, as in “father.”
- ā̃*—broad, as in “ball.”
- à*—sharp, as in “pan.”
- e*—unmarked, as in “then,” “met,” “bed.”
- é*—for the sound of *ey* in “they” or *ai* in “aim.”
- i*—unmarked, as in “thin.”
- ī*—long, as in “machine,” never for *i* in “shine.”
- o*—unmarked, a medium sound, neither so short as in “not” nor so long as in “naught.”
- ō*—long, as in “bone.”
- ö*—a peculiar sound, somewhat resembling the German *ö* in “schön.”
- u*—like *u* in “pull,” “bull,” never the sound of *u* in “hull,” “skull.”
- ū*—long sound of *oo* in English.
- ü*—a thin, light sound of *u*, about half-way between the sound of *u* in “but” and the sound of *u* in “bull.”

DIPHTHONGS.

- ai*—as *ie* in “lie.”
- au*—as *ow* in “how.”
- yū*—as *ui* in “suit.”
- oi*—as *oy* in “boy.”

CONSONANTS.

- b*—as in English.
- c*—is discarded, except in *ch* as in “church,” and *chh* a prolongation of the same sound, and when it follows the letter *s* in order to prolong or slightly aspirate that letter.
- d*—as in English.
- f*—as in English.