

DICTIONARY OF THE
GREAT
ANDAMANES
LANGUAGE

English – Great Andamanese – Hindi

ANVITA ABBI



Ramya Sagar

DICTIONARY OF THE GREAT ANDAMANES LANGUAGE

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ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION, the Great Andamanese language, one of the oldest in the world, had been crying out for concerted effort for salvage and documentation. This multilingual interactive dictionary is a maiden effort to capture the last remnant data. The dictionary comes with a meticulously designed CD-ROM of the entire dictionary backed by original sound recordings of Great Andamanese speakers.

The development of the Great Andamanese linguistic structures followed a completely different trajectory from the languages of agrarian and pastoral societies. Among a people whose distinct life pattern influenced the emergence and development of grammatical structures and vocabulary, the documented entities in this dictionary give an invaluable insight into the ancient cognitive world of the Great Andamanese people. The conceptual structures embedded in lexical items emerge as reflections of the collective mental representation of ideas and objects by the members of the speech community.

The grammatical structures, unique in their own right, force us to rethink about the universals of language. This dictionary documents the present form of the language, a koiné, drawing its resources from four great Andamanese languages, two of which, Khora and Bo have recently become extinct. This makes it an invaluable, first and last document of these extinct languages for not only the linguist and anthropologist, but also the ethnobiologist, natural scientist, botanist, zoologist, ornithologist and anyone who can make use of the scientific and Latin names for natural phenomena painstakingly researched and included.

ANVITA ABBI is Professor of Linguistics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. A distinguished researcher in languages of the Indian subcontinent, she has carried out first-hand field research on all six families of languages found there. She has occupied positions of Guest Scientist at the Max Planck Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany, and Visiting Professorships at universities in the USA, UK, Germany and Australia. At present, she is Leverhulme Professor at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, UK.

She has published 14 books and nearly 70 papers on linguistics, typology, language contact, field linguistics, ethno-ornithology, endangered and lesser-known languages of India.

FROM THE FOREWORD

The information contained in this volume is of great value not just to linguists and anthropologists, but also to natural scientists, and will be easily usable by botanists, zoologists, ornithologists and others because it contains not only scientific terms for natural phenomena in the body of the dictionary, but also listed under their Latin names in a handy appendix. For the general linguist, the language typologist, and the student of mankind's many different thought-worlds, this Dictionary is a treasure-trove.... This work is a testimony to the value of thorough and systematic language documentation. '

—CHRISTOPHER MOSELEY, Foundation for Endangered Languages
Editor, *UNESCO Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger*

पंखड़ियों के आकार वाला सफ़ेद मूंगा। □आ. समुद्री

• [k^herek^hutirk^huɖoi] खेरेखूतीरखूडोई



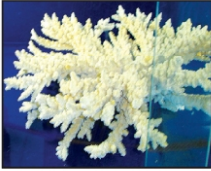
MORPH: k^herek^hu-tir-k^huɖoi. N. a kind of coral SD: marine. □सं. एक प्रकार का मूंगा □आ. समुद्री

• [limmeyo] लीम्येयो



MORPH: lim-meyo. N. a kind of coral SD: marine. □सं. एक प्रकार का मूंगा □आ. समुद्री

• [ɔɾɔɲara] औरौजारा



VAR: ɔɾɔɲara ~ ɔɾɔɲa. ◀ N. typical staghorn coral SD: marine. □विवि. औरौडारा ~ औरौजा

◀ □सं. हिरन के सींग जैसा मूंगा □आ. समुद्री

coral flower [erɔne] ऐरौने N. [SM] SD: flora.

□सं. मूंगा या मोती का फूल [SM] □आ. फूल-पत्ती

coral reef [burk^hujeo] बूरखूजेओ MORPH:

burk^hu-jeo. N. SD: marine. □सं. मूंगे की चट्टान □आ. समुद्री

cornea of the eye [erulutottɔɭɔ:ɪmo]

एरूलूतोतटौलौऽटमो N. [SM] /ɪ-erulutottɔɭɔ:ɪmo/ cornea of your eye. SD: body part term. □सं. आंख का तारा [SM] /डेरूलूतोतटौलौऽटमो/ तुम्हारी आंख का तारा □आ. शारीरिक अंग शब्दावली

corner [taɲɔ] ₁ ताडौ ₁ VAR: taɲo. N. SD:

space. SEE: taɲɔ ₂ proper name. □विवि.

ताडो □सं. किनारा □आ. अन्तरिक्ष □दे. ताडौ ₂ व्यक्तिविशेष नाम

correct [ercop] एरचोप MORPH: er-cop.

ADJ. SD: attribute. □वि. सही □आ. विशेषता

- [nɔɭ] नौल VAR: nol. ADJ. /peje i col ko nol ɬot ciɔ be/ Peje has the best bow. /inta-ole-nɔɭ/ good to look at, beautiful. /aɖese nol be/ ◀ Des is a good boy. /a^hiɾenu taole nol/ ◀ The child looks good. SD: attribute. □विवि. नौल □वि. सही /पेजे ई चोल को नौल टोट चीऔ बे/ पेजे का धनुष सबसे अच्छा है। /ईनताओलेनौल/ देखने में सुंदर /आडेसे नौल बे/ ◀ डेस अच्छा लड़का है। /आथीरेनू ताओले नौल/ ◀ बच्चा अच्छा दिखता है। □आ. विशेषता

correct (saying) [tɛk^hototɔ] तैखोटोत्वौ

MORPH: tɛk^ho-totɔ. N. SD: attribute. □सं. सही बात □आ. विशेषता

cough [ko:t] कौज N. [SM] SD: illness. □सं.

खांसी [SM] □आ. रोग

- [ko:tbe] कौजबे V. [SM] □क्रि. खांसना [SM]

- [kɔt] ₁ कौत ₁ VAR: kɔ:t. V. /kɔt-b-ɔm/ He coughs. SEE: kɔt ₂ roof; kɔt ₃ soil; statue of deity; kɔt ₄ tree. □विवि. कौज □क्रि. खांसना /कौत्वौम/ वह खांसता है। □दे. कौत ₂ छत; कौत ₃ मिट्टी; देवी की मूर्ति; कौत ₄ पेड़

count [elob] एलोब V. [SM] /t^hoyelobe/ I

counted. □क्रि. गिनना [SM] /ठोयेलोबे/ मैंने गिना।

countless [era:kkamu] एराक्कामू ADJ.

SD: quantifier. □वि. अनगिनत □आ. परिमाण वाचक

country [ara^himik^hu] आराठीमीखू MORPH:

ara-^himik^hu. VAR: ara-^himik^hue. N. /m-ara-^himik^hu/ ◀ our home or forest;

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COMMENTS ON THE DICTIONARY

'I have been enthralled reading this work.... It is difficult to over-state the importance of this Dictionary. Anvita Abbi has here fulfilled the promise of her earlier writings on the Andamans. These had introduced their languages to the wider world of linguistics, identifying and relating the many languages of this tiny archipelago, and opening up important questions, not only on the grammar of the languages, and how many distinct families they represent, but on the ancient history of the islands, and the original spread of humanity round the Indian Ocean. Now she moves from the cosmic to the microcosmic. For this, she picks out the family of languages that was once the most widespread, but now tragically closest to extinction.... Braving considerable perils, Abbi has snatched the language from oblivion, just as the encroaching disaster (initiated by Britain's siting of a penal colony on the islands in 1858, and aggravated by resettlement policies of India since independence) seemed about to consummate the extinction of the Great Andamanese: 700 centuries of unique experience terminated in just two.'

—NICHOLAS OSTLER
Chairman, Foundation for Endangered Languages

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