

S P E C I M E N S  
OF THE  
N A G A   L A N G U A G E   O F   A S A M.

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THE Nagas inhabit the extensive mountain-ranges lying on the eastern boundary of Asam, and separating it from the northern parts of Burmah. They have evidently sprung from a common stock, but are at present divided into a great number of independent tribes, often hostile to each other, and speaking a variety of dialects; which we can account for only by supposing them to have remained in their present scattered and disconnected state for many centuries. There is every ground for believing that, in origin and language, they are intimately connected with some of the most ancient and extensive tribes of Central Asia. Their language has a close affinity to the Burmese; to the Bhutan; to the Tibetan; and especially to that of the Miris and Abors, who inhabit the mountains between Asam and Tibet. The difference between this language and several of the Tartar dialects is scarcely greater than that existing between different dialects of the Nagas themselves.

The following specimens exhibit the most important varieties in the language of this people; extending from the Namsang Nagas near Jaipur on the North, to the Angamis at the farthest limit on the South. The first column is from a vocabulary taken by Rev. Mr. Bronson, during his residence on the Namsang hills; for the second and fourth columns, I am indebted to J. Thornton, Esq., Sub-assistant Commissioner for the district of Sibpur; and for the first column of Angami Naga, to a vocabulary prepared by an intelligent native, under the direction of Capt. J. Butler, of Nowgong; the others have been collected by me with considerable care, and will, I trust, be found free from any serious errors.

Leaving out of view, for the present, the Angamis of the extreme South, whose language has only a remote connection with that of the other Nagas, it will be seen, from an inspection of the table, that the language of the central tribes is divided into three distinct families of dialects; of which the Namsang, Muthun and Joboka, constitute the first; the Mulung and Tablung, the second; the Tengsa, Nogaung and Khari, the third. The tribes which speak these dialects may be arranged under the following divisions:

1. (1.) The *Namsang*, *Bor-Duor*, and *Pani-Duor*, represented in our first column; (2.) the *Bor-Muthun*, *Horu-Muthun*, and *Khulung-Muthun*; (3.) the *Joboka*, *Banfera*, and *Changnoi*. The last mentioned six tribes descend upon the plains near Sibsagor.

2. In this division we have, (1.) the *Mulung* and *Sima*; (2.) the *Tablung*, *Jaktung*, *Kongon*, *Geleki-Duor*, and southern *Namsang*. These tribes inhabit Tablung mountain and other hills in the neighborhood of Jorhat and Sibsagor. The Tablung Raja is considered the most powerful of all the Naga chiefs.

3. Our sixth and two subsequent columns represent a class of Nagas speaking a dialect considerably different from either of the former, (1.) the *Tengsa* and *Dopdor*; (2.) the *Nogaung*, *Hatigor*, *Haimong*, and *Asuring*; (3.) the *Khari*, a large and interesting tribe, whose dress and general appearance are more respectable than I have elsewhere seen among the Nagas.

Large companies from each of these tribes are found every cold season at Jorhat, which is their principal market. The Nagas connected with the Jorhat district have been roughly estimated at two hundred thousand; their real numbers are unknown.

In the following table, the vowels are used in accordance with their classical pronunciation: *a* as in *America*, and with a long accent, as in *far*; *e* as in *met* and *prey*; *i* as in *pin* and *police*; *o* as in *not*, and with a long accent, as in *robe*; *u* like *oo*; *ü* like the French *u*. Italicized *n* resembles the French nasal *n*; and Italicized *th*, the English *th*, as in *think*.\*

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\* We are happy to refer the reader to two valuable articles by Mr. Brown, on the Tai language, and on the Indo-Chinese languages generally, in the *Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal*, vol. vi.; and to information on the Abor and Khamti dialects derived from him, in the same Journal, vol. xviii.



English.	Namsang and Bor-Dior.	Muthun and Kuitung-Muthun.	Joboka and Banfora.	Malung and Sina.	Telinga and Jakung.	Telinga and Dapod.	Noruang and Hatigor.	Khari.	Angami.	Mogome-Angami.
Horse	mök	man	mang	kowai	kuri	korr	kungrí	kirr	mitthu	cheekwir,
Cow (bos)	mán	máhu	mühu	máhu	mási	nasi	masü	rali	rali,	
Buffalo	lé	loj	luák	tekni	tyang	chang	shí	tsu	tsu	
Elephant	pook	loók	chanu	lakniu	stti	shí	akhü	takhu,	takhu,	
Tiger	sá	mainak	menak	sainu	khü	kayi	shisü	tekwi	takwi,	
Monkey	véh	kien	roan	simai	simai	shisü	naibong	tenu	thavu,	
Goat	vak	vak	vak	yón	yún	alk	aalk	thero	tasü,	
Hog	hú	hi	hi	ák	ak	arh	ai	theifú		
Dog	miang	miah	mesá	kui	azz					
Cat	júpu	jiu	yu	ami	meyau	tarii	mochi	nano		
Mouse	vó	ó	auhá	yu	phi	ahü	thezu			
Bird	vó	ó	auiuu	ovhá	usó	ozah	perá			
Hen	vó	ó	ausapa	auiuu	án	án	ahün	perá		
Crow	vakhá	ókha	pu	walo	waru	waru	varu	thevu.		
Snake	pú	nyá	pu	phalit	pür	pho	chejá	chejá		
Fish	ngá	ngiá	pu	angu	angu	phophí	thimbye.	thimbye.		
Butterfly	phámphe	phámphe	pu	phámphe	phámphe	sopro.	thi	thi		
Fly	mikchik	mikchik	pu	phámphe	phámphe	thevi	viru	viru		
Mosquito	mangdóng	mangdóng	pu	phámphe	phámphe	thi	hache.	hache.		
Ant	tsipchak	tsipchak	pu	phámphe	phámphe	thi	atsüü.	atsüü.		
Head	kiò	khángrá	tíksa	tíkbáuh	anjang	anjang	atsithá	atsithá		
Hair	kačkó	khó	khó	matháu	matháu	matháu	amhi	amhi		
Eye	mit	mit	mit	tako	tako	tako	anye.	anye.		
Ear	ná	ná	ná	kó	kó	kó	anicháhá	anicháhá		
Nose	khó	nakóá	nakung	tenok	tenok	tenok	amüü.	amüü.		
Mouth	tum	tum	tum	telanu	telanu	telanu	uhu.	uhu.		
Tooth	pa	vá	vá	tanako	tanako	tanako	ameku.	ameku.		
Back	tam	thök	thök	tablung	tablung	tablung	aradi.	aradi.		
Belly	vók	vók	vók	tapánu	tapánu	tapánu	abi.	abi.		
Hand	dák	dák	dák	talámu	talámu	talámu	abicheno.	abicheno.		
Finger	dáksú	chákkhí	chákkhí	tabulk	tabulk	tabulk	uphi.	uphi.		
Foot	dá	tchýá	tchýá	takhat	takhat	takhat	bikhár.	bikhár.		
Skin	akhun	khóan	khóan	tamé sing	tamé sing	tamé sing	uru.	uru.		
Bone	árakh	rhá	rhá	tachang	tachang	tachang	unbi.	unbi.		
Blood	hé	áji	áji	tagap	tagap	tagap	pokhye.	pokhye.		
Horn	rong	rong	rong	terap	terap	terap	pomi.	pomi.		
Tail	ame	cti	mekna	azii	azii	azii	podzü.	podzü.		
Egg	arang	lorang	rang	tih	tih	tih	pro.	pro.		
Feathers	nap	ókoi	authoi	tasong	tasong	tasong	ponáf.	ponáf.		

English.	Namang and Bor-Duor.	Muthan and Khulung-Muthun	Joboka and Baniera.	Milung and Sima.	Tabling and Jattang.	Tengsa and Dopior.	Neguang and Hattgor.	Khari.	Angami.	Mozone-Angami.
Tree	bang	pan	pan	peh	sangtung	sundóng	sí	pomi	sí	pomi.
Root	aring	pauchak	hunsing	phunyak	tariú	sungriú	ponye	ponye	ponye	ponye.
Leaf	nyáp	maipóa	huchak	chupang	ám	sungriú	nhopu	nhopu	nhopu	popu.
Flower	chóngpó	pangshi	pampung	pilek	nolong	taben	rosi	rosi	rosi	post.
Fruit	ari	huiják	huiják	wong	tachang	tasang	thaié	thaié	thaié	tekvasi.
Plantain	kielé	ingo	vong	hum	mongo	mango	shiko	shiko	shiko	shiko.
Rice (uncooked)	róng	sum	tsamti	hum	wong	atsang	metsá	metsá	metsá	metsá.
Salt	sun	tsamto	tsamti	tsamti	hum	machi	matsu	matsu	matsu	ponutzü.
Milk	tsamto	tsamti	tsamti	tsamti	tsamti	mamatsu	mamatsu	mamatsu	mamatsu	lakizü.
Oil	tsamti	manga	manga	manga	tam	tsüsi	gakidzü	gakidzü	gakidzü	khwü.
Cloth	tanthi	ngi	ngi	ngi	chi	chi	khe	khe	khe	tsokü.
Knife	khát	nei	changkóe	yangkoi	yangkoi	ashé	tsuko	tsuko	tsuko	zhe.
Sword	mitchéá	bithsá	changló	saiyang	saiyang	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	rangu.
Spear	dangló	changló	pá	ngo	ngo	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	poriü.
Bow	ba	pá	hap	lah	lah	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	thiwrü.
Arrow	doakháp	hap	san	lahhan	lahhan	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	ki.
Horse	lachán	san	ham	nok	nok	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	liká.
Door	lum	ham	ham	takap	takap	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	arame.
Village	lás	ting	ting	ting	ting	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	ru.
Boat	khuonkhó	khoa	ku	yesang	yesang	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	á.
I	ngá	ngá	ngá	helam	helam	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	no.
Thou	nangma	nangma	nangma	nang	nang	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	me.
He, she, it	á té	á té	á té	tau	tau	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	awe.
We	nimá	nimá	nimá	helan	helan	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	notoleli.
Ye	némá	némá	némá	helan	helan	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	tothete.
They	seenig	seenig	seenig	helan	helan	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	.
Mine	ngá	ngá	ngá	helan	helan	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	.
Thine	má	má	má	helan	helan	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	.
His	á té	á té	á té	helan	helan	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	.
Me	ku	ku	ku	tewai	tewai	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	.
Who?	ove	ove	ove	owai	owai	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	.
Which?	mapá	mapá	mapá	hangsi	hangsi	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	.
What?	chena	chena	chena	modh	modh	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	.
This	ára	ára	ára	thoi	thoi	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	.
That	irapá	irapá	irapá	thoi	thoi	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	.
Other	abán	abán	abán	thoi	thoi	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	.
Anything	arórang	arórang	arórang	tepiem	tepiem	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	.
Such	kháté	kháté	kháté	ililang	ililang	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	.
Somebody	phangtang	phangtang	phangtang	ovebule	ovebule	tsung	tsung	tsung	tsung	.
All	nókwi	nókwi	nókwi	pangrai	pangrai	tsin	tsin	tsin	tsin	phapinu

English.	Nansang and Bor-Dhor.	Muthun and Khulung-Muthun	Joboka and Banteria.	Mulung and Sina.	Tahlung and Jaktung.	Tengga and Doppor.	Nogaung and Hatgor.	Kuai.	Angami.	Mozone- Angami.
One	v. nthé	attá	utá	chá ih	khátnat	katang	po kena she	po. kane. stú.	po.	kane.
Two	ványi	anyí	anyí	ih	ášam	auna	anne asam	anne	deh.	sú.
Three	váuram	azam	azam	lem	phale	pazz	pangu.	pangu.	sóru.	sóru.
Four	belf	ali	ali	pili	phungá	pungu	phengú	phengú	thene.	thene.
Five	bangá	ágá	ágá	ngá	tarok	tarok	tarok	tarok	thethá.	thethá.
Six	irok	azok	azok	vok	thanyet	tanet	tanet	tanet	thakú.	thakú.
Seven	ingit	annat	annat	nith	thuth	thesep	thesep	thesep	kttr.	kttr.
Eight	isat	achat	achat	thu	thu	tekú	tekú	tekú	kürpoktr.	kürpoktr.
Nine	iklu	aku	aku	pan	pan	tari	tari	tari	ktrokane.	ktrokane.
Ten	ichi	ban	ban	.....	.....	tararhket	tararhket	tararhket	ktrost.	ktrost.
Eleven	ichiranthé	banbátá	banbátá	.....	.....	tarahánet	tarahánet	tarahánet	ktrrode.	ktrrode.
Twelve	ichiranyi	banbani	banbani	.....	.....	tarahasan	tarahasan	tarahasan	makdu.	makdu.
Thirteen	ichiranram	banbuzam	banbuzam	.....	.....	taraphali	taraphali	taraphali	sor.	sor.
Fourteen	ichiranbeli	banbali	banbali	tsá	.....	tarapzú	tarapzú	tarapzú	lhidá	lhidá.
Twenty	ruakngi	tsában	tsában	tha	.....	matusi	matusi	matusi	ripang.	ripang.
Thirty	ruakram	panyi	panyi	thichá	.....	machilithelu	machilithelu	machilithelu	kre.	nye.
Forty	ruakbelli	puga	puga	thingacha	.....	mésungannat	mésungannat	mésungannat	ripang.	ripang.
Fifty	chatthe	hánden	hánden	.....	.....	thingacha	thingacha	thingacha	ripang.	ripang.
Hundred	ckhichi	hánap	hánap	.....	.....	wanghongching	wanghongching	wanghongching	ripang.	ripang.
Thousand	sánhóng	osen	osen	.....	.....	wangkong	wangkong	wangkong	ripang.	ripang.
East	sányap	hosén	hosén	.....	.....	hethok	hethok	hethok	ripang.	ripang.
West	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	ap	ap	ap	ripang.	ripang.
North	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	ripang.	ripang.
South	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	ripang.	ripang.
Right	cha	tachi	tachi	taisi	angtau	achichi	achichi	achichi	ripang.	ripang.
Left	hik	nongchi	nongchi	kah	kah	íbalans	íbalans	íbalans	ripang.	ripang.
Far	haló	chun	chun	osinohei	oh	talang	talang	talang	ripang.	ripang.
Near	therkó	atsai	atsai	tau	tau	tatsaka	tatsaka	tatsaka	ripang.	ripang.
High	achitung	chuok	chuok	.....	.....	talang	talang	talang	ripang.	ripang.
Low	amán	ase	ayah	.....	.....	tatsúka	tatsúka	tatsúka	ripang.	ripang.
Much	ájá	loi	helan	eselá	.....	ayúka	ayúka	ayúka	ripang.	ripang.
Little	achá	hi	hi	echingha	.....	ishila	ishila	ishila	ripang.	ripang.
Treat	adóng	chóng	chóng	yongnong	.....	talulu	talulu	talulu	ripang.	ripang.
Small	aring	hi	hi	sui	.....	tilaha	tilaha	tilaha	ripang.	ripang.
Long	alo	lo	lau	lau	.....	lángkolo	lángkolo	lángkolo	ripang.	ripang.
Short	atcon	mau	mau	so	so	tañang	tañang	tañang	ripang.	ripang.
Broad	kháldong	kháudong	kháudong	phá	.....	tabe	tabe	tabe	ripang.	ripang.
Narrow	kháring	kháting	kháting	.....	.....	tiluka	tiluka	tiluka	ripang.	ripang.
Round	átum	átum	átum	.....	.....	tilaka	tilaka	tilaka	ripang.	ripang.
Straight	átung	átung	átung	.....	.....	tarang	tarang	tarang	ripang.	ripang.
ating	átung	átung	átung	.....	.....	tumutum	tumutum	tumutum	ripang.	ripang.

English.	Namsang and Bor-Dnor.	Murhun and Khulung-Mutnum	Joboka and Banfera.	Minung and Sima.	Tabling and Jaktung.	Tengsa and Dondor.	Nogung and Hatiger.	Khari.	Angami.	Mozone-Angami.
Crooked Old	akuang ato	kom	kóm	kom	koy	tikrik	tikhing	kergui	krewi.	
New	ányán	mípá	mípá	pyong	petá	tachin	tachin	petá	ponhye.	
Ripe	áchum	hozan	hózan	ela	kasá	tachóng	tachin	kasá	kastá.	
Green	áhing	jum	hóyung	ejum	ta	táman	tening	ta	me.	
Sweet	átu	ti	ezang	weng	.....	.....	tachin	.....	memó.	
Sour	ási	shí	.....	si	.....	.....	.....	.....	che.	
Bitter	ákha	khá	.....	urang	.....	.....	.....	.....	khye.	
Hot	ékhám	khám	.....	si	.....	.....	.....	.....	chásí.	
Cold	aki	háhing	rangkham	khá	.....	.....	.....	.....	khakwu.	
Good	asan	mai	wangsam	shem	.....	.....	.....	.....	si.	
Bad	achi	maián	maián	wangsam	.....	.....	.....	.....	vi.	
Handsome	asaná	manmai	maián	maián	.....	.....	.....	.....	so.	
Ugly	pangtsí	manmai	manmai	manmai	.....	.....	.....	.....	vizu.	
Fat	atat	nut	nut	nut	.....	.....	.....	.....	shupur.	
Lean	dram	achiú	achiú	achiú	.....	.....	.....	.....	pmojoa.	
Thick	achá	tat	tat	tat	.....	.....	.....	.....	sponorú.	
Thin	áli	pak	pak	pak	.....	.....	.....	.....	si.	
Heavy	áresé	fiú	fiú	fiú	.....	.....	.....	.....	malá.	
Light	áché	chia	tsáku	chia	.....	.....	.....	.....	peleho.	
Hard	ányen	tsáku	tsáku	tsáku	.....	.....	.....	.....	poshe.	
Soft	ana	nai	nai	nai	.....	.....	.....	.....	kharr.	
Sharp	atók	anná	anná	anná	.....	.....	.....	.....	kaprr.	
Dull	apo	mananá	mananá	mananá	.....	.....	.....	.....	polovi.	
White	anyal	che	che	che	.....	.....	.....	.....	poloswo.	
Black	áham	nak	nak	nak	.....	.....	.....	.....	kekyá.	
Blue	ahing	nak	nak	nak	.....	.....	.....	.....	ketí.	
Green	aching	hing	hing	hing	.....	.....	.....	.....	losü.	
Red	achien	khí	khí	khí	.....	.....	.....	.....	kepje.	
Yellow	dóng	nan	nan	nan	.....	.....	.....	.....	miní.	
Be	ré	tai	tai	tai	.....	.....	.....	.....	kamnae.	
Do	ri	mok	mok	mok	.....	.....	.....	.....	be.	
Live	sá	azang	azang	azang	.....	.....	.....	.....	serve.	
Eat	singhá	sang	sang	sang	.....	.....	.....	.....	riileto.	
Drink	jók	tiling	tiling	tiling	.....	.....	.....	.....	sete.	
Sleep	jup	jip	jip	jip	.....	.....	.....	.....	chi.	
Wake	ching	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	dzirkret.	
Laugh	ngi	nyi	nyi	nyi	.....	.....	.....	.....	zü.	
Weep	sap	sap	sap	sap	.....	.....	.....	.....	sire.	
					.....	.....	.....	.....	nü.	
					.....	.....	.....	.....	krá.	



English.	Nomsang and Bon-Buon. Khulteng-Muthun.	Muthun and Khatlung-Muthun. Khatlung-Muthun.	Joboka and Panfera. Panfera.	Mulung and Sina. Sina.	Tahing and Jatking. Jatking.	Tenga and Dondor. Dondor.	Nogung and Haugor. Haugor.	Khari.	Angmi.	Mizoma-Augani.
I go	ngálikékang	...	ngolekungaypue	...	...	ngachéhula	...	inwáro	atote	totsache.
Thou goest	átiéáléká	...	nangpanuale	...	...	pangchénula	...	páwágó	nototawe	hanupitowe.
He goes	ngálatákitaak	...	uchupanuale	...	...	pachébó	...	páwágó	haúritoe	dutothowe.
I went	ngézakátréang	...	kungolle	...	...	uganaisobo	...	auwa	iauwau	thequwoto.
I will go	...	...	pawéhe	...	...	ngaičhenlo	...	nyauatsü	nyauatsü	tholohowe.
I go not	...	...	nanpaupu	...	...	ngaimachenlobe	...	nyamautsü	niatmoh	noioche,
Go thou	kauo	...	nangpaulá	...	...	nangfúchenlo	...	nautsü	hangwang	nobache.
Go not	nakkáuo	...	tapau	...	...	machenlobe	...	tólyenü	tawa	akifirohe.
Come here	maktnao	...	haman	...	...	etakílli	...	hinerang	chesibale.	chusibale.
Be silent	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	tilkúrá	...	hapičhe.
Look!	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	atisong	...	nguwe.
Do you see?	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	hungoshi	...	pimanosi.
Give me	ngaranangkoo	...	...	...	...	nananggáhái	...	nangfürmo	...	pehucha.
Give him	áteñangkoo	...	...	...	...	ugailik	...	hungshli	...	...
Bird's wing	To	...	...	...	...	kalang	...	paniumandang	...	...
With	danñang	...	...	...	...	palhotang	...	palikhang	...	...
In	humanyu	...	...	...	...	uzzishikang	...	ozachá	...	...
Above	akhónang	...	...	...	...	usofíká	...	...	...	...
Below	akhannang	...	ding	...	...	tan	...	...	...	...
Between	...	...	hopháng	...	...	suga	...	...	...	...
Within	...	...	hótán	...	...	sah	...	...	...	...
Without	váká	...	kwóhá	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yes	idangga	vai,	changpu	...	...	karang	...	...	...	...
No	má	elangpu	changpoe	...	...	ophang	...	...	...	...
Why?	yetó	mantai	machanje	...	...	ulam	...	...	...	...
How?	...	...	timilaṅg	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
How much?	chento	...	balapía	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Thus	árañgrang	...	obota	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Here	arang	...	inyung	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
There	dinang	...	iya, ivai	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Where?	malkoa	...	uchuá	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Now	dökko	...	ózanghe	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Then	...	...	ethá	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
When?	matu,	suania	achá	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
To-day	tajá	...	onegai	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yesterday	maya	...	anyi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
To-morrow	minap	...	manyí	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	maini	...	nganyi	...	...	...	...	...	...	...