

FOREWORD

Manipuri is one of the important languages of northeastern India belonging to Tibeto-Burman family. This language is spoken by nearly 1.3 million (1991) people. Among them 19.31% are bilinguals. The language is very rich in its structure and vocabulary. As such there are many good modern linguistic descriptions on it. However, lexicographical activities did not receive similar attention of the scholars. In that perspective the present dictionary is an important contribution to Manipuri Lexicography. This dictionary has been compiled by a well-trained linguist Dr. Surmangol Sharma, who is also a native speaker of this language. He was fortunate to have got two years of post-doctoral fellowship at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo, Japan. There he could get very good training in lexicography and also had interaction with many famous scholars. This has enhanced the quality of this work. This dictionary has been targeted for students. For development of languages dictionaries also play a major role. To appreciate this fact one can look at the number and variety of dictionaries available for English language. Similar activities need to take place for all languages if they have to develop. In this light I congratulate Dr. Surmangol Sharma for taking this challenging and tedious work and completing within a reasonable time and also getting it published. I hope the educated people of the state and more particularly the Manipuri students will find this dictionary immensely beneficial.

This dictionary has many interesting easy-to-use features, like using of roman script assists any Manipuri speaker with some English knowledge to read and understand. Taking into account the needs of the modern world, particularly the demand for using one's own script in schools, etc., the compiler has appropriately provided head-entries in Meitei Mayek (Meitei script). This is an innovation and it directly responds to the present needs of the students and educated class. Also, Manipuri being an agglutinative language each morpheme need to be identified and classified appropriately. This dictionary does this systematically and effectively. This assists greatly in understanding the structure of words. I am sure that the students will find this feature to be highly innovative as well as useful. The value of a work of this type cannot be overestimated at the present time, time will itself mark it. Undoubtedly this dictionary is a well-deserved contribution to Manipuri Language and Linguistics. I again congratulate Dr. Surmangol Sharma for this excellent work and also hope that he will be able to bring out many more scholarly works in years to come. I wish him all the best.

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PREFACE

The tradition of Manipuri lexicography goes back to some fifty years or so. A kind of English-Manipuri bilingual dictionary is popularly used as a help for learning English by the Manipuri speakers. On the other hand, the lexicographical work on Manipuri-English or Hindi, initially, attracted less audience because of the misconception that this kind of dictionary does not help in learning a second language. However, a bilingual dictionary serves more than a single purpose.

The pioneer work of Padmashree N. Khelchandra Singh entitled *Manipuri to Manipuri and English dictionary*, first published in 1964, is a landmark in the history of Manipuri lexicography. The entries in this dictionary are made in Manipuri and definitions are given in both Manipuri and English or in English only in some places. There has been a long gap since the publication of the first Manipuri bilingual dictionary until Dr. Imoba's work entitled *Manipuri to English Dictionary*, published in 2004, sets a new trend with an attempt to reflect the agglutinative nature of this language, correct pronunciation of the words with phonetic transcription using IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet), bound nature of the morphemes that is rich in Manipuri.

The *Learner's Manipuri Dictionary* is a Manipuri-English bilingual dictionary, targeting the audience as the non-Manipuri speakers. The entries are presented differently from the above mentioned dictionaries. First, the user may directly access it without learning Manipuri writing system in Bengali script as the entries are made in roman transliteration. Secondly, the users may as well take the opportunity of learning the resurgent Meitei Mayek (Meitei script), which is written just after the transliterated entries of every Headword. The presentation of morpheme segmentation of the Head and Sub-head entries in the dictionary is also a main highlight of the dictionary. There are areas where the gloss of morphemes are opaque, so are left with the abbreviation (id.) meaning 'the same'.

The present dictionary is based upon the computerized database of Manipuri Lexicon which I prepared during my 2-year post-doctoral fellowship awarded to me by the *Japan Society for the Promotion of Science* (JSPS) from May 2002 to April 2004. I would like to record my gratitude to JSPS, Institute for the Study of Languages and Cultures of Asia and Africa (ILCAA), Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, for being the sponsor and the host institute during my stay in Japan. I thank Prof. Koji Miyazaki, director of ILCAA, for accommodating and allowing me to use all the facilities in the Institute. It will be a great pleasure for me to convey my gratitude and appreciation to Prof. Peri Bhaskararao who was my host professor, for his guidance, co-operation, inspiration, collaboration and for any kind of help he extended. I am also very much indebted to convey my thanks to Prof. Kazuhiko Machida, Dr. Junichi Oda, Dr. Hideo Sawada, Dr. Shintaro Arakawa, Dr. Terry Joyce, Dr. Susan E. Oehler for their co-operation and help during my JSPS fellowship. I thank the faculty member of the Department of linguistics, Manipur University, for sharing their knowledge about the structure of Manipuri Lexicon with me, and that ultimately helps to arrive at the present shape of the dictionary. My warmest thanks are due to Khaidem Sanajaoba, a former lecturer in the department of English, Lilong Haoreibi College, Manipur, for spending his valuable time in going through the final draft of the dictionary and making commendable suggestions.

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3. Phonemic transcription. A broad transcription is given for each entry. The high tone is marked while the level tone is unmarked, e.g. *un* ீᵀ /un/ 'snow' ீᵀ /ún/ 'skin'.

4. Grammatical category. The entries are assigned to the relevant word-class. They are written in abbreviations.

5. Gloss, illustrates the core sense(s) of the headword. Glosses are divided from one another by semicolons or comas. Glosses are numbered wherever necessary. Prominent meanings of headwords are entered before less prominent meanings.

6. Morph. This part shows morpheme segmentation of the headword or sub-head word provided the corresponding gloss is given in square brackets. In cases where the morphophonemic change is less explicit, the source of the altered form is presented in brackets after the resultant form, e.g. *sā-m(<ma)-tu* [*animal-NM-hair*]. If the meaning of a morpheme is found opaque, this is represented with 'id.' meaning the same. There are instances where the gloss of a morpheme is not possible to be given as a single word in English. In such a situation, semi-colon (;) is used to mark the end of the gloss for the corresponding morpheme, e.g. *a-ing a-sā* [*Att-to be cold; Att-to be hot*].

7. Variant. This part deals with the common spelling variation prevalent in Manipuri orthography. As there is free variation between 'l' and 'n' in the final position in Manipuri phonology, the tendency is still reflected in the orthography as the variants of spelling of the same word, e.g. *lān* or *lāl* 'war'.

8. Sub-head. This part comprises compound or complex forms, phrasal verbs which are related to the headword.

SIGNS AND ABBREVIATIONS

SIGNS

- stands for the bound stem, affixes
- (-) stands for the stem is either bound or free
- < (is) derived from
- ~ stands for the headword of an entry

ABBREVIATIONS

1pp	first person pronominal prefix	2pp	second person pronominal prefix
3pp	third person pronominal prefix	adj.	adjective
adv.	adverb	astrol.	astrology
Att	attributive	conj.	conjunction

derog.	derogatory	det.	determiner
euph.	Euphemism	FSO	for the sake of others
idm.	idiom	interj.	interjection
Math.	mathematics	Md	mode or manner
myth.	Mythology	n.	noun
NF	noun formatter	NFP	noun forming prefix
Nom	nominalizer	pron.	Pronoun
QWFP	question word forming prefix	Redpf	reduplicating prefix
sb	somebody	sth	something
usu	usually	v.	verb
WFP	word forming prefix		

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Meitei Mayek (Meitei Script)

1. Mapum Mayek: Meitei Mayek is a semi-syllabic or alpha-syllabic script. Each consonant letter is usually characterized with an inherent vowel, which is called schwa /ə/. The main chart of Meitei Mayek consists of twenty-seven letters in which twenty-four are consonants and three vowels. The letters are arranged in the following fashion -

Meitei Mayek	Names of the Letters	Pronunciations	Meitei Mayek	Names of the Letters	Pronunciations	Meitei Mayek	Names of the Letters	Pronunciations
ⓘ	Kok	kə	☉	Sam	sə	☺	Lāi	lə
☋	Mit	mə	☌	Pā	pə	☍	Nā	nə
☎	Cil	cə	☏	Til	tə	☐	Khou	k ^h ə
☑	Ngou	ŋə	☒	Thou	t ^h ə	☓	Wāi	wə
☔	Yāng	yə	☕	Huk	hə	☖	Un	u
☗	I	i	☘	Pham	p ^h ə	☙	Atiya	ə
☚	Gok	gə	☛	Jham	j ^h ə	☜	Rāi	rə
☝	Bā	bə	☞	Jil	jə	☟	Dil	də
☞	Ghou	g ^h ə	☠	Dhou	d ^h ə	☡	Bham	b ^h ə

Chart – 1. Mapum Mayek

2. Lonsum Mayek: The alternant forms of seven consonant letters without their vowels are presented as follows –

Allographs	Names	Pronunciations
☋	Kok Lonsum	k
☍	Lāi Lonsum	l
☋	Mit Lonsum	m
☌	Pā Lonsum	p
☍	Nā Lonsum	n
☎	Til Lonsum	t
☑	Ngou Lonsum	ŋ

Chart – 2. Lonsum Mayek

3. Vowel Symbols: The corresponding symbols of vowel letters and their relative positions when attached to a consonant letter are presented as follows –

Vowel Symbols		Roman Equivalents	Pronunciations
1	⊘	ā	a
2	⊘ ⁱ	i	i
3	⊘ ^u	u	u
4	⊘ ^o	e	e
5	⊘ ^{ei}	ei	əi
6	⊘ ^o	o	o
7	⊘ ^{ou}	ou	əu

Chart – 3. Vowel Symbols

4. Formation of Vowel Letters: ⊘ (Atiya) is taken as the base form to which different vowel symbols are added to derive the corresponding vowel letters and this is shown in the chart given below –

Base	Symbols	Vowel Letters	Roman Equivalents	Pronun- ciations
⊘	'	⊘	ā	a
⊘	°	⊘ [°]	e	e
⊘	[°]	⊘ [°]	ei	əi
⊘	°	⊘ [°]	o	o
⊘	[°]	⊘ [°]	ou	əu

Chart – 4. Formation of vowel letters

5. Numerals: The Meitei numerals from 0-9 are presented as follows:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
⊘	⊘ ¹	⊘ ²	⊘ ³	⊘ ⁴	⊘ ⁵	⊘ ⁶	⊘ ⁷	⊘ ⁸	⊘ ⁹

Chart – 5. Meitei Numerals