Linguistics

From the earliest surviving glossaries and translations to nineteenth-century academic philology and the growth of linguistics during the twentieth century, language has been the subject both of scholarly investigation and of practical handbooks produced for the upwardly mobile, as well as for travellers, traders, soldiers, missionaries and explorers. This collection will reissue a wide range of texts pertaining to language, including the work of Latin grammarians, groundbreaking early publications in Indo-European studies, accounts of indigenous languages, many of them now extinct, and texts by pioneering figures such as Jacob Grimm, Wilhelm von Humboldt and Ferdinand de Saussure.

Comparative Grammar of the Modern Aryan Languages of India

The Indo-Aryan language family is a branch of the Indo-European phylum, and includes Hindi, Urdu, Bengali, Punjabi, Kashmiri and Gujarati. First published in 1872, this three-volume comparative grammar of the family was written by the British civil servant John Beames (1837–1902). From 1866 he spent twelve years in India, during which he gathered data for what he intended to be the first comprehensive and accurate Indo-Aryan grammar. Volume 1 focuses on phonetics and phonology. Drawing on evidence from Indo-Aryan sound systems, it shows Sanskrit to be the languages' parent, while exploring some non-Sanskritic exceptions. It also gives a detailed historical background to the languages, provides careful descriptions of their vowel and consonant systems, and explores how Indo-Aryan phonology has changed over time. Beames' findings remain central to the work of general linguists, phonologists and language typologists.
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A

COMPARATIVE GRAMMAR

OF THE

MODERN ARYAN LANGUAGES

OF INDIA.
A

COMPARATIVE GRAMMAR

OF THE

MODERN ARYAN LANGUAGES

OF INDIA:

TO WIT,

HINDI, PANJABI, SINDHI, GUJARATI, MARATHI,
ORIYA, AND BANGALI.

BY

JOHN BEAMES,

BENGAL CIVIL SERVICE,
FELLOW OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA,
MEMBER OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, THE GERMAN ORIENTAL SOCIETY,
ETC., ETC.

VOL. I.,

ON SOUNDS.

LONDON:
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1872.
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TO

FREDERICK EDEN ELLIOT,

BENGAL CIVIL SERVICE,

IN MEMORY OF OLD HAILEYBURY DAYS,

THOSE FIRST-FRUITS OF THE STUDIES THERE BEGUN

ARE DEDICATED

BY HIS AFFECTIONATE FRIEND,

THE AUTHOR.
PREFACE.

It is with much hesitation, and with a deep sense of its many imperfections, that I now lay this volume before the public. Begun in 1866, it has for more than five years occupied my leisure hours; and if it should be remarked, as in justice it might, that the result is somewhat meagre for so long a period of preparation, I would reply that the duties of a magistrate and collector in Bengal are not only onerous, but so multifarious, and often so urgent, that he is never safe from interruption at any hour of the day or night. On an average, two hours a day has been the utmost time that I could devote to my amusements or private pursuits of any kind. Constant journeys, repeated attacks of sickness, and the “mollis inertia” inseparable from the climate during at least six months of the year, must also be taken into consideration. It may be asked, why under these circumstances I undertook the task at all? To this I answer, that to a hardworked brain change of labour is often a greater relaxation than absolute idleness, and that having always been a student of languages from my childhood, I had adopted this form of amusement in preference to any other, and had collected and grouped together many examples of the most salient peculiarities in the languages which I heard spoken round me long before any idea of writing a book entered my head.

It was, I think, in 1865 that I first saw Dr. Caldwell’s
Grammar of the Dravidian Languages, and it immediately occurred to me that a similar book was much wanted for the Aryan group. It was evident that no scholar in Europe could do the work, because the written productions in the modern vernaculars and the few dictionaries and grammars procurable are not only frequently quite wrong and utterly misleading, but are also very defective, so that no one could merely from books get a firm and certain grasp of all these languages. It is necessary to be able to speak all or most of them, and to live among the people and hear them talking daily. When, therefore, I turned to scholars in India, it did not appear that any of them contemplated undertaking such a task. Then I thought that it would be well for me to try; if I could not make a perfect book, I could at any rate gather together and set forth in order the main rules, and could give copious examples and illustrations, so that, while waiting for some Bopp or Grimm to arise, students might have a handbook of some sort to guide them, and might no longer be misled by the astoundingly false etymologies which occur in the ordinary grammars and dictionaries. I have, therefore, not called this book by any mock-modest title, such as “an introduction,” or “contributions to,” or “notes on,” or anything of the kind, because I have done my best to cover the whole ground of the subject; and whether I have done well or ill, the book was meant to be a Comparative Grammar, and I have called it so accordingly.

A residence of upwards of twelve years in India, during which I have held official posts in the Panjab, Bihar, Bengal, and Orissa, and have made long visits to
PREFACE.

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various parts of Hindustan Proper (the North-western Provinces), has rendered me familiar with Panjabi, Hindi, Bengali, and Oriya, all of which, at different times, I have had to speak, read, and write. The western languages, Marathi, Sindhi, and Gujarati, I only know from books and from such information as I have obtained from kind correspondents in Bombay, among whom my thanks are specially due to Mr. Flynn, translator to the High Court, whose notes have been of great value to me, and whose knowledge of the languages of his Presidency is both accurate and profound.

A great difficulty has been the want of good books of reference. Living in this remote wilderness, I have had only such books as my own scanty library contains; my best book has been the peasant in the fields, from whose lips I have often learnt more than I could find in dictionaries or grammars.

Such as it is, then, volume the first is now about to make its voyage home to be printed,

"Farve, nec invideo, sine me liber ibis in urbem."

I dismiss it with the hope that it may prove useful to those for whom it is intended.

My learned friend, Dr. R. Rost, Librarian of the India Office, has kindly undertaken to give this volume the benefit of his superintendence while passing through the press, thus conferring an inestimable favour, not only on the author, but on the public, by preventing the book from being disfigured by errors of printing; for all other errors I must remain responsible.

This volume contains only the Phonetics of the group. A second volume, on the noun and pronoun, is already on
the stocks, but I cannot say when it will be ready for the press. I hope, if life and health are spared, to complete the work by a third volume, containing the verb and particles; but our official work seems to get heavier, and leisure to be more unattainable, day by day. My progress is therefore of necessity slow and uncertain, and many years must elapse before my task is finished.

JOHN BEAMES.

BALASORE, ORISSA, September, 1871.

NOTE.

A list of the works which I have consulted is here inserted. Although, as I have said before, I have had comparatively little help from books, yet it is due to those living authors from whom I have derived any assistance to acknowledge the same.

Bopp: *Comparative Grammar.*


Grimm: *Deutsche Grammatik.*

Grimm: *Geschichte der Deutschen Sprache.*


Two most valuable essays. I have taken some examples from them, but most of those which are identical with Dr. Trumpp's I had already collected for myself before I became acquainted with his works.


My thanks are due to the learned author for the immense benefit I have derived from the study of these two important treatises.

Cowell: *The Prákrita Prakásá of Vararuci.*

This admirable edition of the leading work on Prakrit has been the basis of the present volume.

Bopp's *Glosarium Comparativum,* Westergaard's *Radiés Sanskriticoes,* Benfrey's *Sanskrit Dictionary* (I could not get Böhtlingk and Roth's), Monier William's *English and Sanskrit Dictionary,* Muir's *Sanskrit Texts,* vol. ii., and numerous articles scattered through the pages of the Journals of the various Asiatic Societies, have also been constantly referred to.

It is unnecessary to specify the dictionaries and grammars of the modern vernaculars. They are those in ordinary use, and for the most part very bad and defective, except Molesworth's splendid work and Shamacharan Sircar's very complete and useful Bengali grammar.
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ERRATA ET CORRIGENDA.

Page 12, line 3, omit the semicolon after “pronunciation.”
Page 14, line 25, for facinus read factiones.
Page 20, line 13, dele semicolon, insert comma.
Page 20, line 19, the second d in churand, baidand, etc., not to be in italics.
Page 20, line 3 from bottom of page, for áya write áya.
Page 25, line 18, for baseanda read baseanda.
Page 38, note, line 6 from bottom, for Duldī write Duldī.
Page 85, line 11, for (their) read (īts).
Page 89, line 17, for Kabir and other read the early Vaishnava.
Page 96, line 28, for Bhagulpur read Bhagalpur.
Page 112, line 12, for mon read mont.
Page 112, line 18, for tis, ti, tom, te, read is, i, em, e.
Page 112, line 3 from bottom, for eo ad, read eo ad (dele comma).
Page 130, line 2 from bottom, for short read shone.
Page 138, line 26, for माणी read माणी.
Page 139, line 22, for रेत read रेत.
Page 142, line 25, for रचाया read खारया (kh).
Page 142, line 25, for रचेचे read खेचे (kh).
Page 142, line 29, for आये read एये (eyye).
Page 146, line 7, for शिंघ read शिंघ (Singh).
Page 147, lines 13, 14, dele the ” after rain and the “ before blood.
Page 153, line 14, for faces; read faces, (comma for semicolon).
Page 153, line 15, for matter, read matter; (semicolon for comma).
Page 162, lines 5, 6, for uuld, pulld read uuld-puld, and so in all the couple of words which follow, as ds-pds, etc.
Page 176, line 9, for स. भिज read भिजय.
Page 182, line 19, dele दिसाजा; दिसाजा is from दीपाजाची, and is not a case in point.
ERRATA ET CORRIGENDA.

Page 184, line 2, for संग read संग.
Page 187, line 7, for with read into.
Page 199, line 8, for कोट read कोट.
Page 199, line 15, for G. वड read वड.
Page 201, line 4, for atyirjuka read atirjuka.
Page 201, line 22, for नवलो read नवलो.
Page 204, line 13, for rochetho read rochetha.
Page 210, line 22, for छपः, छप read छपः, छपः.
Page 211, line 17, for derivative read derivatives.
Page 214, line 22, for टपाच read टपाच.
Page 215, line 3 from bottom, for वृक्षः read वृक्षः; (semicolon for full stop).
Page 215, line 3 from bottom, the words The व is still preserved in B. वेट should be in parenthesis.
Page 223, line 4, for court did to the read day did of being.
Page 225, last line, and page 226, line 1, for peas read pease.
Page 229, line 7, for thrashing read threshing.
Page 231, lines 20, 22, for Brinjarides read Brinjaras. (The former is not wrong, but is less correct than the latter.)
Page 234, line 2, for ठी read ठी (dei).
Page 237, line 25, for ठेटेघा read ठेटेघा.
Page 240, line 2, for खेलता read खेलता (khehtā).
Page 243, last line but one, for ताल read पाल.
Page 244, line 6, for B. read M.
Page 250, line 26, after identical put a semicolon.
Page 250, line 27, after ड़ dele semicolon, put a comma.
Page 273, line 8, for महाग read महाग.
Page 285, last line but one, for खाना read खाना.
Page 316, line 6, for उपस्थित read उपस्थित.
Page 322, last line but one, for पय read परः.