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A Dictionary of the Burman Language

This is the 1826 edition of the Burmese–English dictionary compiled from a grammar and other manuscripts written by the American Baptist missionary Adoniram Judson (1788–1850), with additional content by fellow missionaries Felix Carey and James Coleman. Prepared by the Baptist Mission Press while Judson was imprisoned on suspicion of spying in Ava, it is the fruit of his work towards making the written word an evangelistic tool. He was convinced from the first that the translation and publication of Christian scriptures and a familiarity with indigenous languages and customs was the most effective and enduring form of evangelism, and to this end he published a Burmese New Testament in 1832. Judson finished compiling his groundbreaking and comprehensive bilingual dictionary in 1849, shortly before his death. This earlier work, with headwords in Burmese script followed by English definitions, remains relevant in historical linguistics.



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A Dictionary of the Burman Language

With Explanations in English

ADONIRAM JUDSON





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A DICTIONARY

OF THE

BURMAN LANGUAGE.





A DICTIONARY

OF THE

BURMAN LANGUAGE,

WITH EXPLANATIONS IN ENGLISH.



COMPILED FROM THE MANUSCRIPTS

OF

A. JUDSON, D. D.

AND OF

OTHER MISSIONARIES IN BURMAH.



PROFITS DEVOTED TO THE SUPPORT OF THE BURMAN MISSION.

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1826.





PREPACE.

THE principal materials of the following work were originally furnished in MS. by the Rev. Dr. Judson, and designed for the use of the American Missionaries in Burmah.

The late war, however, having brought a number of gentlemen into that country who are desirous of acquiring a knowledge of the Burman language, the demand for a work of this kind has now become very extensive; and the Supreme Government of Bengal having promised most liberal patronage, it has been deemed advisable by the friends of the Burman mission, and of Dr. Judson, that the work should be immediately published, although he was not in circumstances to superintend the publication of it himself*.

It is allowed, that it would have been highly improper to follow this advice, had it not been fully known, that the only object which Dr. Judson had, in preparing his manuscript, was to promote the interests and designs of the Burman mission. To assure himself of the correctness of this assertion, the inquirer has only to refer to certain articles, already before the public, which were some time since drawn up by Dr. Judson and the Rev. Mr. Hough, (then his

^{*} Dr. Judson was one of those unhappy individuals at Ava who were put into confinement by the Burmans at the opening of the present war, and of whose fate, after 18 months anxious inquiry, nothing satisfactory has yet been learned.



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only associate,) wherein they bind themselves, that they will engage in no business or employment whatever, for the purpose of pecuniary benefit to themselves; and, that all monies arising from personal labour, shall be devoted to the funds of the Burman mission. Such being the fact, it would seem very unfriendly, in the present colleagues of Dr. Judson, not to second his views, by embracing the most favourable opportunity, that in all probability will ever be presented, for attaining the end for which he employed so much time and labour.

These materials are highly recommended by the Rev. Mr. Hough, in the Preface to an English and Burman Vocabulary which he has lately published. He says:-" A Burman and English Dictionary, both copious and correct, will hereafter, it is expected, be a desideratum. The American mission, having been established several years in Burmah, is provided with adequate means, in regard to materials and printing in that country, for producing it. One of the missionaries, the Rev. Mr. Judson, now in Ava, who has made the Burman language his study more than ten years, has had the opportunity of collecting materials for such a work, and has already arranged the greater proportion of them according to the most approved orthography and etymology of the language." But lest any errors should have been committed in transcribing the original, the present compiler has carefully collated two different copies; and, with the assistance of a learned Burman, critically examined every word in regard both to its meaning and orthography. When any word seemed doubtful, reference has been made to



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the Burman sacred books. By the assistance of the synonymous words also, which, as will be seen, accompany almost every definition, the different parts of the work have been diligently compared with each other.

After all, some errors have doubtless escaped notice; but it is confidently believed they are as few as could reasonably be expected in the first edition ever attempted of a work of this kind. Whatever errors there may be, none of them can with propriety be charged on Dr. Judson.

For that part of this volume which was not supplied by Dr. Judson, we are principally indebted to the late Mr. F. Carey, and the late Rev. J. Colman, who were both well acquainted with the Burman language.

It must be remarked, that, even in the best Burman writings, the orthography is far from being uniform. Some of the most common variations are as follows:—\omega\text{and } \omega\text{, (before another syllable in the same word,)} are very frequently contracted to \omega\text{; as \omega\text{o}} \omega\text{ for \omega\text{o}}\omega\text{o}\omega\text{, &c. } \omega\text{ and } \omega\text{, and } \omega\text{ and its symbol } \omega\text{, are also sometimes used interchangeably, as \$\omega\text{a}\text{ or } \omega\text{.} \omega\text{, the same may be said of } \omega\text{ and its symbol } \omega\text{. By keeping these variations in view, many words will be found in the work, which would otherwise seem to have been omitted.

In the arrangement of words, the compounds generally succeed their simple roots, even in those cases



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where the same root again occurs with a different signification. The definition of words in English is generally followed by synonymous words in Burman, which, both in writing and conversation, are very frequently combined with the primary word, and also with one another: but as in those cases they mostly retain the same signification as when used separately, every advantage which could be derived from writing them in all their compounded forms, and repeating their definitions, has been secured by the present arrangement; at the same time, the size and expense of the volume have been greatly lessened, without any diminution of its real value.

Pali words, and those derived from Pali, are generally noticed as such; but to this point, it being comparatively of little importance, particular attention has not been paid.

N. B.—1st. Words beginning with ∞ or ∞ , not found in their expected places, are to be sought under the roots which remain after these initials are dropped.

2d. &, when pronounced een, is distinguished by the mark (*); thus, & ee; & een.

The alphabet, symbols, combinations, final consonants, abbreviations, &c. are prefixed to the work for the use of those who may not be in possession of a grammar.

The grammatical construction of the language consists chiefly in the use of certain prefixes and affixes, most of which are noticed and defined in the body of this work.

CALCUTTA, Dec. 15, 1825.

J. WADE.

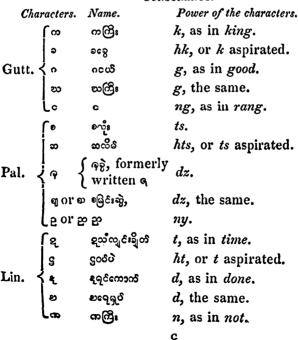


Alphabet, Symbols, Combinations, final Consonants, &c. taken from Dr. Judson's Burman Grammar.

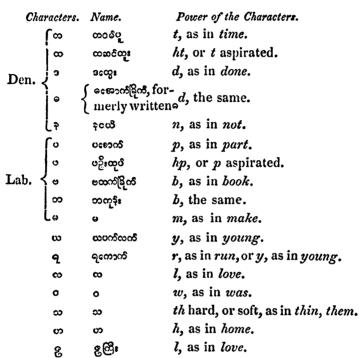
The alphabet consists of ten vowels, and thirty-two consonants.

```
Vowels.
Characters.
              Power of the Vowels.
             a short, as in an.
             a, as in father.
  ಣು
             i short, as in pin.
  ମ୍ବ
             e long, or double ee, as in feet.
  স্থ
           oo short, as in good.
  g or g
             oo long, as in food.
             a long, as in fate.
  G
  જે
              ay, as in mayor.
  can or a o, as in on.
              au, as in audience.
  ထြော်
```

CONSONANTS.



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N. B. The character, called excesses, is reckoned among the consonants by the Burmans. It is placed over the letter with which it is combined. It is used only at the end of a syllable, and has the power of s; thus s, (pronounced than.)

Remarks upon the Consonants.

- 1st. The first twenty-five consonants are distributed into five classes. The first, or ∞ class, are gutturals; the second, or class, are palatals; the third, or € class, are linguals; the fourth, or ∞ class, are dentals; the fifth, or o class, are labials.
- 2nd. The first letter of each class is a simple articulation, smooth and soft; the third is the same, rough and hard; the second is the aspirate of the first; the fourth, according to the Burman

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pronunciation, is the same as the third; the fifth is the corresponding nasal.

3rd. The pronunciation of the linguals and the dentals is the same in the Burman, though different in the Sungskrit, whence the alphabet is derived.

4th. The seven remaining consonants are unclassed.

Compound Consonants.

These are formed by combining one or more of the letters ∞ , 9, 9, and ∞ , (under symbolic forms,) with simple consonants, according to the following table.

Table of Compounds.

Consonants. Symbols. Names of do. Junc. with . Powers.

ယ	1	ဃဝင်	ଧ୍ୱ	mya.
ବ୍	C	၅ ၅၆	8	mra, or mya.
0	٥	ဝဆွဲ	မွ	mwa.
ω and o	പ	ယပင်ဝံဆွဲ	မျှ	mywa.
ရ and ဝ	G	ဓု ရစ်ဝဆွဲ	ନ୍ତି	mrwa, or mywa.
ဟ	,	ပာထိုး	9	hma.
ယ and ဟ	3	တထိုးယပင်	မျှ	hmya.
ရ and တ	G	တထိုး ရရ §	୍ର	hmra, or hmya.
o and o	و	တထိုးဝဆွဲ	မွ	hmwa.

- N. B. 1st. The symbol of ∞ in the capacity of an aspirate, is combined with the nasals, and the letter ∞ only.
 - 2nd. When the symbol of ∞ is combined with ∞ or q, the compound has the power of sh, as in ship; for instance, \Re is pronounced she.
 - 3rd. A has the same power; and sometimes of also.
 - 4th. & is equivalent to z.
 - 5th. ω is equivalent to ω.

Vowels combined with Consonants.

Vowels combined with consonants, whether simple or compound, are represented by symbols, according to the following table.



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Vowels. Symbols. Names of do. Junc. with m. Power.

	အ		•		
,	ရာ၁	o or I	ચ	നാ, റി	kah, gah.
;	ا ل	σ	လုံးကြိုးတင်	ගී	ki, short i.
;	න්	•	လုံးကြီးတင်ဆီခပ်	్లో	kee.
í	B	L	တချောင်းငင်	ကု	koo, short oo.
i	ğ	L	ခွှစ်ချောင်းငင်	ကူ	koo.
(G	C	သ¢ဝထိုး	ကေ	ka, long a .
,	_{စေ} ဲ	`	နောက်လို့ ပြစ်	ကဲ	kay.
•	: ලා	 2	သဝေထိုးချ	ကော	kau, short.
•	:@ \$	e5	သဝေထိုးချင့်ရှထိုး	ကော်	kau.

- N. B. The vowel to has no symbol, but is understood after every consonant, unless superseded by the symbol of another vowel; or made quiescent by the mark (°) placed over the consonant, thus of; or by a consonant subjoined, thus of.
- 2nd. 7, the second symbol of the vowel \$\infty\$, is used when the use of the first would convert the consonant into another letter; also with \$\infty\$.
- 3rd. The symbols of the vowels & and &, when united and combined with a consonant, have the power of long o, as in note, (thus &, ko;) unless they are followed by another consonant in the same syllable, in which case they take the sound of ai.
- 4th. In case these two symbols close a syllable, & may optionally follow, without occasioning any alteration in the sense or pronunciation: thus & and & are perfectly equivalent.
- 5th. The symbol of any vowel may be combined with \mathfrak{S} , in which case the compound has the power of the vowel which the symbol represents; thus \mathfrak{S} is equivalent to \mathfrak{S} ; \mathfrak{S} is equivalent to \mathfrak{S} ; \mathfrak{S} c.



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Final Consonants.

When a consonant ends a syllable, or is final, it is distinguished by the mark (°) placed over it, thus ∞ ; or by another consonant subjoined, thus ∞ .

N. B. It sometimes happens that two consonants, one placed under the other, are both initials, and therefore an exception to the preceding rule; thus \$25 is equivalent to \$250: this is to be regarded as a mere abbreviation.

A double ϱ is written ϱ , the same as one form of the single. ϱ , with ϱ subjoined, is written ϱ , or simply ϱ . A double ϱ is written ϱ or ϱ .

Final consonants generally assume a new and peculiar power, and also modify the preceding vowel.

These permutations are exhibited in the following table.

Table of Finals.

As an appendix to the foregoing table, note:-

lst. Linguals, when final, are the same as dentals.

2nd. The third letter of each class is the same as the first.



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3rd. The 2nd and 4th letters of each class never occur as finals, except in some words derived from the Magadha, where they are mute; as, প্তঃ (from ভেড্ড, a cloud.) is pronounced as প্.

4th. & is the same as & throughout.

5th. Sand Sare mute.

6th. so before a final, gives the syllable the same sound as so; thus sos is pronounced an.

Sth. The sound of a final consonant is frequently lost or absorbed, in the initial consonant of the following syllable or word, as the pronounced ekara, not etkara; and sometimes it is modified thereby, as the pronounced thembau, not thengbau; but these permutations, being dictates of nature, will be naturally acquired without rule.

Accents.

There are two accents, namely, the short and the heavy. The short accent, () called & of the letter thus, of. It is used with the vowels c, of, of, and of, and the nasal consonants.

The heavy accent (:) called specilos, is placed after the letter thus, wsi. It is used with the vowels so, gi, g, c, and sq, and the nasal consonants.



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The heavy accent is considered as inherent in the vowel , (unless superseded by the short accent;) also in the final consonant s, when combined with the vowel so. It is therefore omitted in these cases, as superfluous, by correct writers.

Numerical Figures.

o, j, e, e, g, e, q, o, e, oo.
-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10.

Punctuation.

The mark (*) is used to separate sentences, and sometimes the clauses of a sentence.

() Is used to divide paragraphs.

Abbreviations.

တ္တိ	§ is	used			for	• •	••	 වේ
ලි	တို	• •			for	• •	• •	හළු
\$ for	သွ	• •	• •		for	• •	• •	න ည်
ရွာ	ଉ	••	• •		for	• •		ලුණි
c6s for cmoods cē for cmoods qē or çã for cmoods ç or ce for cmoods (over a letter) for cmoods cmoods for cmoods cmoods for cmoods cmoods for cmoods	క్రి	• •		• •	for	• •		<u>క</u> ్జిగ ్
c	ญ	• •	• •		for	• •	• •	•.କ୍ଷ
ရင် <i>or</i> ဇို	ငင်း	• •			for	• •	• •	ကောင်း
ေ or ေ ေ	•	•••			for	• •	• •	ලොදී
' (over a letter) for	gê d	or g	• •	• •	for	• •		လည်းကောင်း
ကျွန္ပပိ	6 0	r ϵ 6	• •	• •	for	• •	• •	သော
ထူက	. (ver a	lette	r)	for	• •	• •	က်
თენ for თეთან	ကျွန့်	S	• •	• •	for	• •	• •	ကျွန်ခူပီ
თენ for თეთან	ထူက်	• •	• •	• •	for	• •	• •	လက်ခုက်
သွော် သွေသောက်	လုင်	••	• •	• •	for	• •	• •	လုံလင်
	သွော်	• •	• •	, 	for	• •	• •	သွေသောက်

- യ is sometimes represented by its symbol 4, after ൽ, as ധോന്യാം for ധോന്ധാം; യന്യാ for യന്ധാ, &c.
- ê is frequently removed from its natural situation in the line, and placed over the following letter, as ως δ, for ωδς ως.