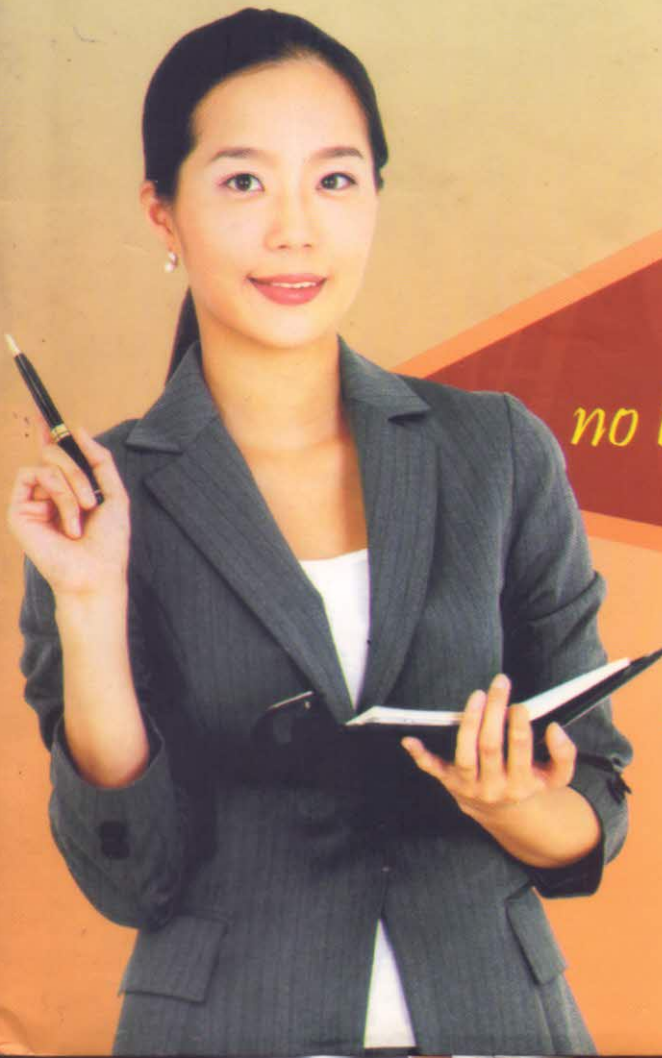




A Grammar **OF ADI LANGUAGE**



*Where is your village?
I am fine.
no kapela?
How are you?*

**Tamo. Mibang
P.T. Abraham**



A Grammar OF ADI LANGUAGE



University Book House (P) Ltd.
79, Chaura Rasta, Jaipur-302003
Ph. : 0141-2311466, 2313382
Mob. : 9983075242 Fax : 0141-4013697
E-mail : uni_bookhouse@yahoo.com

ISBN : 978-81-8198-274-2

9 788181 819827 42
PRICE : Rs. 395/-

Contents

Preface

The Adi Alphabet

Abbreviations

1. Introduction	1
2. Phonology	3
3. The Noun Phrase	11
4. The Adjective	40
5. The Verb	45
6. The Adverb	76
7. Syntax	81
8. Word Formation	109
Appendices	114

Language games

Numerals

Body parts

Kinship Terms

Common Food Items

Dress and Ornaments

Beads for Ornaments

Festivals

House and Household Articles

Domestic Animals

Different kinds of metal pots

Introduction

Adi language, spoken by the Adis, who were also known as Abor earlier, belongs to Tibeto-Burman stock of Sino-Tibetan language family. Grierson, in his Linguistic Survey of India, has grouped it with Nyishi, Apatani, Mising, Mishmi and labeled it North Assam group of languages (Grierson, 1966, p.568). His observation on the closeness of Adi, Mising and Nyishi languages is much insightful. He states, "The Abor-Miri and Dafla speak dialects which are so closely related that they can be justly considered as one and the same speech form". The names Abor, Miri and Dafla, believed to be given by outsiders, have already been discarded by the ethnic groups and are presently called Adi, Mising and Nyishi respectively.

All those languages, except Mising, are spoken in the central region of the state of Arunachal Pradesh. The dialects/languages spoken in the central region of Arunachal Pradesh like Adi, Apatani, Galo, Hill Miri, Nyishi and Tagin are closely related and a high degree of mutual intelligibility is found across those languages. The speakers of those languages share many characteristic features not only in their linguistic codes but also in their cultural codes and belief system and trace their ancestry from Abotani.

The Adis inhabit the districts of West Siang, East Siang, Upper Siang and Roing circle of Dibang Valley. Certain dialectal variations at phonological and lexical (vocabulary) levels are found in the dialects

Phonology

Adi language has a phonological system that contains contrasts at the segmental and supra-segmental levels. Though there are tonal contrasts in the language, there are instances where it is not manifested prominently in the performance of the speakers of the language.

VOWELS

The vowel system of Adi consists of seven vowels as in the following:

	Front	Central	Back
High	i	ɨ	u
Mid	e	ə	o
Low		a	

As already stated, the presence of tonal contrast is one of the important characteristics of Adi language.

Tones: Adi maintains a three-way contrast in its tonal system as illustrated below:

Rising Tone	Level Tone	Falling Tone
<i>mónam</i> 'dense forest'	<i>Mōnam</i> 'to cook/to make ready'	<i>Mònam</i> 'to fight' (physical combat)'
<i>móruk</i> 'dry land'		
<i>móngku</i> 'old settlement'		
<i>kónam</i> 'to dig'	<i>kōnam</i> 'to sell'	<i>kònam</i> 'to ask'
<i>íg</i> 'scraper'	<i>ĩg</i> 'louse'	