A DESCRIPTIVE GRAMMAR OF LOLO

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PREFACE

In the spring of 1938, with the transfer of the University of Peking to Yunnan, I came into contact with the Lolo people and became interested in their language. Since that time I have travelled in some of the other provinces bordering Yunnan in order to study other dialects of Lolo. The description which follows is based upon the dialect of Pei-shan which is situated in the Hsi-ch'ang district of Sikang, but I have endeavoured as far as I am able to compare this dialect with others which I have studied at first hand or that have been described by other scholars.

As many dialects still remain to be studied in a scientific manner and the phonetic structure of Lolo words in general has degenerated to a considerable degree, I cannot undertake an etymological study of the language in this work. Although I have tried to arrange my material according to modern phonetic and linguistic science I can lay no claim to completeness. I have no doubt that further studies will improve and correct this first sketch.

I cannot express sufficient gratitude to Professor G. Haloun under whose supervision this dissertation was written. He has read the whole work in manuscript and has offered many valuable suggestions and much acute criticism as to both arrangement of the material and the analysis of the language structure. Without his encouragement I should probably never have undertaken this task; and without his help the work would not have achieved its present form.

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